



(L to R): Stephanie Slack-Allen, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC; Chris Blount, PA-C; Elly Riley, DO; Lori Holladay, NP; Jill Bennett, NP; Katharine Bullock, FNP; and Emily Ezell, DO.



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Tuesday, December 2, 2025

McKENZIE, TENNESSEE

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STATE BOUND



Above, Class 1A Finalist McKenzie High School. Below, Class 2A Finalist Huntingdon High School. File photos



Rebels, Mustangs, Chargers Headed To TSSAA Football Championships

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

CHATTANOOGA — Three area high school football teams will compete for state championships this weekend in the TSSAA's Blue-Cross Bowl. The McKenzie Rebels, Huntingdon Mustangs and Westview Chargers will face teams from

east Tennessee at Finley Stadium.

The Class 1A title game between McKenzie and South Pittsburg is Friday, December 5 at 3 p.m. EST.

The Class 2A championship bout between Huntingdon and Marion County is Saturday, December 6 at 3 p.m. EST.

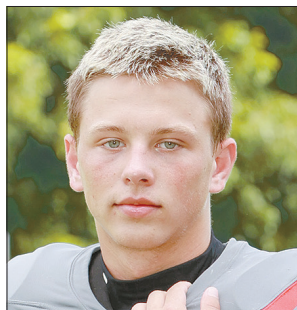
The Class 3A finale between Westview and Gatlinburg-Pittman is

Friday, December 5 at 11 a.m. EST.

The 1A and 2A games each feature teams from Carroll County and Marion County.

McKenzie High School hosts a pep rally Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. in the gymnasium.

See STATE on Page 3



Class 1A Mr. Football finalist Cole Brown. File photo

Rebel Cole Brown is Mr. Football Finalist

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

NASHVILLE (November 25) — Finalists for the 2025 Tennessee Titans Mr. Football Awards were announced Tuesday, and for the fourth time in five years, a McKenzie High School player is among the three Class 1A finalists.

See BROWN on Page 3

McKENZIE



Daisy Dudley is 2025 Christmas Grand Marshal

McKENZIE (December 1) — Daisy Dudley is the grand marshal of the 2025 Hometown Christmas Parade on Saturday, December 6, 4 p.m. in McKenzie.

See DUDLEY on Page 3

Huntingdon Considers Limit On Liquor Stores

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (November 25) — The Huntingdon Town Council met Tuesday night with a long list of ordinances to consider, including one that sparked

See LIQUOR on Page 3

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McKenzie Hometown Christmas Schedule

McKenzie Hometown Christmas starts Thursday, December 4, kicking off four packed days of holiday events throughout the city of McKenzie.

Thursday, December 4

Carroll Arts presents "A Mistletoe Christmas" at the Park Theatre beginning at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

Friday, December 5

McKenzie's Mistletoe Market is from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the Farmer's Market at 2431 Cedar Street. Admission is free.

Bethel University presents Christmas with Renaissance Friday night at 7 p.m. in the Bouldin Auditorium in the Dickey Fine Arts Building, located at 71 Bethel Court #25.

See McKENZIE on Page 3

Huntingdon Main Street Christmas Schedule

The Town of Huntingdon and The Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center presents Main Street Christmas Saturday, December 6 through Monday, December 8. The three-day event promises holiday magic, family fun and community spirit.

Saturday, December 6

Food trucks will line Court Square from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. There will be pop-up vendors inside the First Baptist Church Family Life Center from 1-5:30 p.m.

Mudslingers hosts holiday ornament-making classes from 10 a.m. to 2:15 p.m. Attendees will make 4-5 custom Christmas ornaments using slab-cut techniques and hand-painting.

The Dixie hosts "Christmas at The Dixie" from 7:30-9 p.m. This year's cast includes Annh Browder,

See HUNTINGDON on Page 3



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Above Left, TCAT McKenzie students, faculty and alumni are encouraged to sign the building’s focal wall before January demolition. Here, Joel Washburn, alumnus and past faculty member, signs the wall. Above Center, Zach Adams, a member of TCAT Henry/Carroll’s maintenance team, moves a door out of the 60-year-old administrative building. Above Right, TCAT Henry/Carroll President John Penn Ridgeway assists maintenance workers with the move-out process. Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner Below, An aerial view of TCAT Henry/Carroll’s new administrative office building in McKenzie. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

TCAT Building Sees Final Days as Move-In Begins Inside New Facility

PLUS: An Exclusive First Look Inside the New, 20,000 Square-Foot Facility (Online Only)

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE — The clock is ticking on the Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) Henry/Carroll’s administrative office building, scheduled for demolition in early January 2026.

The new, 20,000 square-foot administration and academic facility, which sits adjacent to the current building, opens to students and faculty in January — just in time for the school’s spring semester.

TCAT Henry/Carroll President John Penn Ridgeway and members of the TCAT maintenance team began moving miscellaneous office furniture into the new building in late November, preparing for the strenuous move-in process.

TCAT’s fall semester ends December 17, and all of the rooms in the front half of the current TCAT building need to be vacated by December 19 in preparation for the January demolition start date.

The 60-year-old building is scheduled to be completely demolished by May 2026, according to Ridgeway.

Included in the demolition are the current Administra-



tive Office Technology (AOT) classroom, the Information Technology Systems Management (IT) lab and all administrative offices.

The IT lab has already been moved into another room in the original building’s instructional wing, where it will remain.

Also in the instructional wing are welding, automotive technology, heat and air conditioning, industrial maintenance/integrated automation technology and machine tool technology classes.

The new building will house TCAT Student Services, an AOT classroom, an AOT lab, several administrative and business office spaces, a bookstore and a community event room. It will also be the home of a new Allied Health Program, expanding TCAT Henry/Carroll’s academic offerings.

The Allied Health Program has a classroom and a separate lab room inside the new building and will be available for student registration by fall 2026. In the spring, a walkway will be constructed

to connect the instructional wing to the new administrative/classroom building.

The new building has a deep blue and white interior, representing the blue and white in Tennessee’s state flag. Each classroom has large windows, bringing ample natural light into the classroom spaces.

The Allied Health Program rooms face Highland Drive, and the AOT rooms face the back of TCAT’s campus.

The community room also has large windows and a balcony facing Highland Drive.

As TCAT Henry/Carroll students and faculty prepare to leave the building, TCAT Henry/Carroll Vice President Jan Latimer encourages students, faculty and alumni to sign the building’s focal point wall, which she said will be preserved in some way despite the building’s demolition.

The new academic and administrative facility is part of a larger \$1 billion investment in TCAT campuses across Tennessee and represents a major step forward for the McKenzie campus, accord-

ing to a BELL Construction representative.

The new facility stands in front of McKenzie’s current TCAT campus at 16940 Highland Drive.

A HISTORY OF TCAT-McKENZIE

The construction of the McKenzie school began in the spring of 1964 and was completed in 1965. It began operation under the local direction of Guy R. Kirk, who was appointed superintendent of the school by then Assistant Commissioner of Vocational Education in Tennessee, Charlie Dunn.

The School enrolled its first students in July of 1965 in Automotive Mechanics, Drafting and Office Occupations. The first students to graduate from the Center did so in 1966.

In 1999, the Center underwent a two-million-dollar renovation project. This project included building new shop classrooms, installing a new heat and air system and an electrical system in the industrial building, renovating the administrative building, and connecting the two shop buildings to the administrative building by adding two new classrooms.

Huntingdon Town Council Hears Request from Friends of The Dixie

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (November 25) — Before discussing new business at Tuesday night’s town council meeting, the Huntingdon council members listened as Krista Martin, president of the Friends of The Dixie, spoke about the organization’s comprehensive involvement at the Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center (DPAC) since April 2025.

Martin, also a doctor at Huntingdon’s Southern Chiropractic and Acupuncture, said the Friends of The Dixie is an organization made up of business owners of past and present, people who manage large teams, former school directors and a past state commissioner — all of whom volunteer many hours to help The Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center (DPAC) grow.

The organization assumed operational control of DPAC in April 2025. Since then, the organization’s volunteers have researched and utilized ways to build DPAC’s concert lineup from the ground up, without using taxpayer dollars.

“We’re finally seeing what the future of The Dixie can look like,” Martin said. “Just this past week, we sold out a show in a few hours bringing a younger crowd, many of whom have never been to The Dixie before. And that’s our goal. The new audience is to help sustain the future.”

But bringing in new performers isn’t cheap, nor is maintaining and improving the venue, according to Martin.

“When you’re the one writing the checks, you can quickly learn how many unknown expenses each show



Dr. Krista Martin appeals to the Huntingdon Town Council. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

has,” said Martin.

Martin cited a lighting director, an extra stagehand, an artist, hospitality, catering, travel, backline and rental fees as costs “that a city does not need to bear.” She said the organization also paid for internet and phone bills, all stage hands, lighting and monitoring engineers, house managers, artists, hospitality office and janitorial supplies, marketing and advertising and extra helpers for city employees when they needed it.

“We weren’t asked to pay these,” said Martin, “but we voted to do so to show our commitment to alleviating the financial burden of the city. We also paid nearly \$15,000 for the Heritage Day Festival artists at no cost to the town and no return on investment to us.”

The Friends of the Dixie is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and is therefore eligible for grants, but many grants require documentation — including a memorandum of understanding and a lease agreement.

Because the nonprofit does not own the DPAC building or have formal oper-

ating control, Martin requested a formal memorandum of understanding, a written confirmation clarifying the organization’s relationship with the town of Huntingdon.

“We’re not asking for relief or responsibility, just the written clarity that the city supports the role that we’ve been fulfilling and that the Friends of The Dixie can continue using the space for programming, operations and education,” said Martin. “This also tells the citizens clearly that their tax dollars are not funding The Dixie and they can support the arts through a nonprofit instead of burdening the city.”

Martin said The Friends of The Dixie presented the council with a memorandum of understanding in August and it had since been revised by both parties. She asked that councilmembers sit down with the organization and address leftover concerns, finalize the documents and move forward with clear responsibilities.

Huntingdon Town Council meets for the last time in 2025 on Tuesday, December 16.

Area Angel Tree Programs Benefit Local Families

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

As Christmas day inches closer, many people begin to feel a desire to give back to their community. This time of year is considered the season of giving, after all. Several area businesses and organizations have set up ways in which the community can help out this season, including by setting up Angel Tree donation spots.

The Angel Tree campaign, often led by the Salvation Army, is a way for donors to send Christmas gifts to “angels” in need — typically children or senior citizens. The Salvation Army Angel Tree program provides new clothing and toys to more than one-million children in need each year, according to the Salvation Army website.

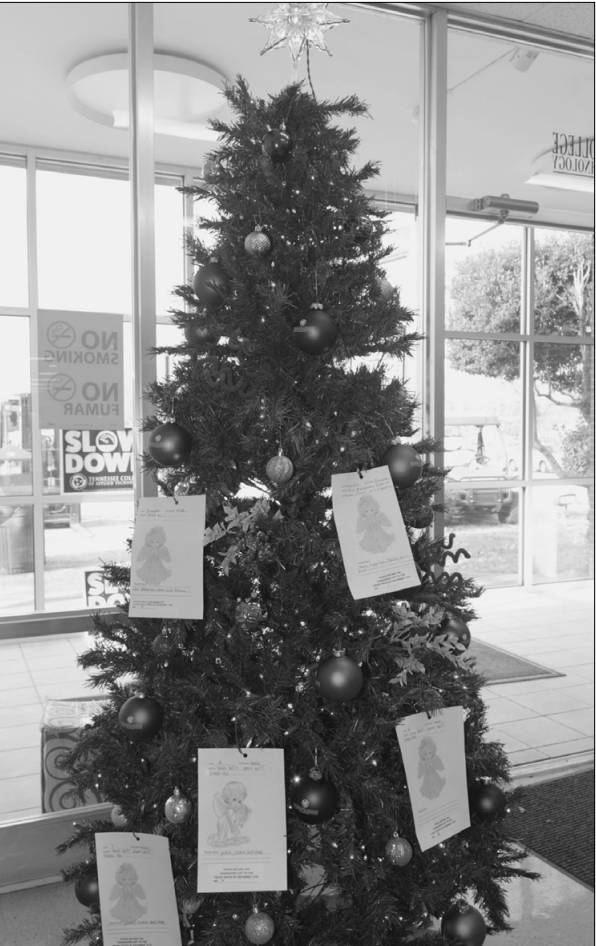
To donate to local angels, people may pick a tag off the Angel Tree located inside an establishment. The tags usually list the recipient’s age, his or her gender and a brief wishlist. The Angel Tree coordinator distributes the donated gifts to the families in need, allowing parents and caregivers to place the presents under their tree on Christmas morning.

Locally, there are several establishments that have set up Angel Trees.

The Tennessee College of Applied Technology (TCAT) - Henry/Carroll campus in McKenzie has an Angel Tree set up in its front lobby.

This tree’s angels are children and direct family members of TCAT students. The deadline to donate to TCAT-Henry/Carroll’s program is December 12.

McKenzie’s Beta Sigma



TCAT-Henry/Carroll’s Angel Tree supports the children of TCAT students. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Phi organization is also accepting Angel Tree donations this month. For more information, contact Beta Sigma Phi representative Jennifer Waldrup at McKenzie City Hall.

Partnering with the Salvation Army, Walmart stores in Huntingdon and Paris each have an Angel Tree set up inside on the front wall facing the checkout lines. Through Walmart, donors may give gifts to children and/or senior citizens in need. Donors may also visit the Salvation Army website

to find additional participating Walmart stores or to donate online.

The Carroll County Humane Society introduced an alternative Angel Tree program, called “Shelter Angel,” this year, asking for donations for their pets. These tags identify the gift recipients by their animal type and ask for donations of food, treats, toys, collars and more.

There are many ways to give this season, and donating to your local Angel Tree program is a start.

Huntingdon to Rezone Cashesaver Property to Allow Beer Sales

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (November 25) — In Tuesday night’s meeting, the Huntingdon Town Council voted in favor of two ordinances — amendments to the official Zoning Map of Huntingdon and the Huntingdon Municipal Code — that would allow Huntingdon Cashesaver to sell packaged beer for off-premises consumption.

The amendments followed a petition from Cashesaver store supervisor Jackie Streetman, who appeared before the council in August requesting their consideration to allow packaged beer sales at the Huntingdon grocery store.

At the time, the Town of Huntingdon’s municipal

code prohibited businesses located within 1,000 feet of a school, church or public gathering place — including public playgrounds and parks — from selling beer for on- or off-premises consumption.

Cashesaver, situated across the road from Thomas Park and zoned as R-2 (Medium Density Residential), was legally unable to sell beer, causing a competitive disadvantage according to Streetman.

Following Streetman’s request, the council voted to review footage between the store and Thomas Park and consider amending the municipal code ordinance’s language.

Three months later, the council decided to amend

the Alcoholic Beverages section of the municipal code, allowing issuance of a permit within 300-foot distance within B-1 (Neighborhood Business District) and B-2 (General Business District).

Upon review of the store, the council also discovered that the store was incorrectly zoned as a residential building. Only its parking lot was zoned B-1 (Neighborhood Business).

Tuesday night, the board agreed — upon first reading — to amend the official Zoning Map of Huntingdon to rezone a portion of James Realty (Cashesaver) property, located at 20150 Main Street, to B-1 zoning designation from its existing designation of R-2.

Both amendments will have a second reading and a final vote in Huntingdon Town Council’s next meeting Tuesday, December 16.



Class 3A Finalist Westview High School. Photo courtesy Mirror-Exchange

State

...From Front Page

Huntingdon High School’s pep rally is 2 p.m. Friday afternoon, also in the school’s gym.

The community is invited to attend these rallies and cheer on their respective teams.

The Huntingdon Quarterback Club is gauging interest in a fan bus. Watch their Facebook page for updates and instructions.

McKenzie is not planning to facilitate a fan bus.

Tickets for the BlueCross Bowl are \$13 per day if purchased in advance on GoFan during the presale period, \$15 per day on GoFan after the presale period, or \$20 per day if purchased with cash at the gate.

Teams will receive a percentage of the tickets presold for their school on GoFan as part of their revenue share. The Division I presale period is until Wednesday, December 3 at 11:59 p.m. EST. Fans should use the following link

and select the their school’s ticket for your school to receive presale credit: <https://gofan.co/event/4578322>

All teams, coaches and fans are subject to the stadium policies of Finley Stadium. The stadium has a clear bag policy that will be enforced. Only one clear plastic bag no larger than 12 inches by 6 inches by 12 inches or a one-gallon, transparent, resealable plastic storage bag per person will be permitted. Fans will also be allowed a small clutch purse not to exceed 4.5 inches by 6.5 inches. No other bags will be allowed inside Finley Stadium. All items, including clear bags and clutch purses, are subject to search at the gates. Fans will be required to empty pockets and pass through metal detectors before entering the stadium.

The following items are strictly prohibited from entry: -Anything that would obstruct another patron’s view or cause a disruption (noisemakers, selfie sticks, fireworks, speakers)

-Professional cameras with detachable lenses
-Pop-up tents and folding

chairs

-Drones (Finley Stadium’s campus is a No-Fly Zone)
-Weapons of any kind
-Animals, except those performing a service
-Bags larger than 4.5” by 6.5”

-Outside food or drinks
-Stadium chairs with armrests/pockets
-Full umbrellas (collapsible umbrellas are acceptable)
-Radios without headphones or speakers/amplifiers

-Noisemakers: Finley Stadium will not allow any artificial noisemakers, including airhorns. They will allow items that make “manual noise”, which would include cowbells, blowhorns, rocks in jugs, etc.

-Any other item that Finley Stadium security personnel deem a public safety risk, public nuisance and/or otherwise negatively impacts the game or the spectator experience

-Tents are not allowed in the stands.

Weather delays will be determined by TSSAA personnel.

Brown

...From Front Page

Junior Cole Brown follows in the footsteps of recent finalists Tate Surber, Jackson Cassidy and Marquez Taylor. Surber and Cassidy were named Mr. Football in 2024 and 2022, respectively, and Taylor was a finalist in 2021.

Brown is a three-way player for the Rebels who

took over at quarterback this year. He led the team to a 9-1 regular season record and a region championship with 2,784 total yards of offense and 44 touchdowns.

He passed for 2,125 yards and 26 touchdowns with a 74.5 percent completion rate. Brown has rushed for 659 yards and 18 touchdowns.

On the other side of the ball, he has 52 tackles, including eight for a loss and two sacks.

As the team’s punter, he has averaged 45.6 yards per punt.

Other finalists in Class 1A include Coalfield’s Jaiden Bunch and South Pittsburg’s DaYon Cooper.

Other area finalists include Milan’s Jaydon Peete in 2A and Westview’s Graham Simpson in 3A.

The Mr. Football awards will be presented on Tuesday, December 9 at Nissan Stadium.

McKenzie

...From Front Page

Saturday, December 6

Breakfast with Santa, presented by Beta Sigma Phi, is from 8-11 a.m. at The Depot, located at 85 E. Bruce Street. Ticket prices vary at the door.

McKenzie’s Mistletoe Market continues Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Farmer’s Market. Admission is free.

The Happy Book Stack hosts Gingerbread House Decorating from 11 a.m. until 3:30 p.m.

McKenzie City Florist hosts Ornament Making from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m. Each ornament is \$5.

Bethel University presents Christmas with Renaissance Saturday at 2 p.m. and again at 7 p.m. in the Bouldin Auditorium in the Dickey Fine Arts Building, located at 71 Bethel Court #25.

The City of McKenzie’s Christmas Parade is Saturday at 4 p.m. in downtown McKenzie. Mrs. Daisy Dudley is this year’s grand marshal.

The City of McKenzie hosts the annual Christmas Tree Lighting at 5 p.m. at

Veteran’s Park, featuring a performance by McKenzie Elementary School’s Rebel Singers.

The Happy Book Stack hosts Sweets and Stories with Santa from 6:30-8 p.m. Hot cocoa and cookies are \$5.

Sunday, December 7

The Happy Book Stacks hosts the book launch of Jennifer Glass’ memoir “Little Miss McKenzie” at 2 p.m.

Bethel University presents Christmas with Renaissance Sunday at 2 p.m. in the Bouldin Auditorium in the Dickey Fine Arts Building, located at 71 Bethel Court #25.

The Holbrook Headliner Season Ticket packages. Tickets for this show are \$15-25, plus taxes.

Sunday, December 7

The Dixie presents “The Wizards of Winter” — a holiday rock opera featuring world-class musicians from TSO, Def Leppard, Blue Oyster Cult and more — from 3-4:30 p.m. Tickets

include a digital photo with Santa before the show (1-2:30 p.m.), a hot cocoa and goodie bar, and a goodie bag with each child’s ticket, given out after the show. Tickets are \$30.

Monday, December 8

Huntingdon’s annual Christmas Parade is Monday at 6:30 p.m. on Main Street.

Dudley

...From Front Page

Dudley has provided a lifetime of service to education, her church, and to her beloved alma mater, Webb School.

Reprinted from a February 2025 issue of The Banner

Daisy Nolen Dudley, a 1957 graduate of Webb High School, has left an indelible mark on the McKenzie community through her decades of service as an educator. She was honored at a ceremony marking Webb School’s addition to the National Register of Historic Places in 2024, Dudley’s career reflects a lifelong devotion to teaching, mentorship, and community leadership.

Dudley’s journey into education began in childhood. Every week, she traveled with her aunt from McKenzie to Yuma, where she was immersed in the one-room schoolhouse environment. It was in this setting that her passion for teaching first ignited.

“I have always wanted to be a teacher,” she shared, reflecting on the profound influence of those formative years.

Her early classroom experiences with her aunt, who taught all subjects, left a lasting impression on her.

“I would leave with her on Sunday and come back on Friday,” she recalled. “I cherished being in that space with other children, learning and observing.”

Raised in a family that valued perseverance, Dudley’s parents set strong examples. Her mother worked for many years as a cook at Bethel College before transitioning to social services, while her father, a butcher by trade, later became a long-haul truck driver.

Education was highly valued in the Nolen household, and Daisy followed her siblings’ footsteps to Webb School. There, she learned the importance of excellence, instilled by teachers who demanded the best from their students.

“All the teachers expected the best from us,” she said, a sentiment that would guide her own teaching career.

“I remember asking my students, ‘Is that your best?’ If it was, then that’s it.”

Upon graduating from Webb High School, Dudley pursued a degree in education at Lane College in Jackson, Tenn., earning it in 1961.

Her teaching career began at MTA in Atwood, where she taught third grade. MTA was the result of a consolidation of three local Black schools, serving children from McLeomoresville, Trezevant, and Atwood.

Two years later, she returned to Webb School in McKenzie, where she taught first and second grades until 1966, when integration began. She then transitioned to Huntingdon Elementary, later moving to Huntingdon Primary, where she continued her work until her retirement in 2001.

Dudley’s teaching philosophy was shaped by a belief that personal experience plays a central role in learning.

“Children learn what they live,” she noted, emphasizing that the challenges and triumphs in students’ lives influence how they engage with their education.

As a teacher, she recognized the importance of mentorship in shaping students’ academic and personal growth.

“Sometimes, you can reroute their thinking in a way that encourages learning,” she explained.

This belief fostered deep connections with her students, many of whom confided in her about their struggles.

“Children are honest,” she said. “They will tell you what has been said and what’s been done. I always felt happy that they were comfortable enough with me to share those things in their home lives.”

Throughout her career, Dudley found strength in the encouragement of her own mother. When she faced challenges with students who seemed difficult to reach, her mother’s support was a constant source of motivation.

“I would come home and share with her things about some kids I wasn’t getting through to or who were acting rebellious,” Dudley recalled. “She would always encourage me to keep trying to reach them, and I always did.”

Dudley also recalls that, while Webb taught her the fundamental skills of reading, writing, and arithmetic, it was the life lessons that stuck with her.

“We learned how to live,” she said, emphasizing that her teachers at Webb provided not only academic instruction but also guidance that shaped her worldview and teaching style.

In 1963, Dudley married Robert Dudley, whom she met at school. Robert, originally from Trezevant, moved to McKenzie at age 12.

Together, they have one son, Duvonn, and celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in October 2024.

Outside of her classroom work, Dudley has been deeply involved in the Webb Alumni Association since its founding in 1969. She served as national treasurer and contributed to various finance committees over the years.

Her dedication to the organization reflects her long-standing commitment to Webb School.

“Whatever needed doing, I did,” she said, underscoring her readiness to serve wherever necessary.

Her involvement was not just about maintaining connections to her alma mater, but also about preserving and strengthening the legacy of Webb School.

“The pride we Webbits feel for Webb is what I hope others come to know about us,” she said.

To her, Webb School is not just an educational institution; it is a symbol of shared history, tradition, and pride.

As Dudley looks to the future, she is confident that the legacy of Webb School will continue.

“Webb meant a lot to those who came before us,” she said, noting that even among alumni who did not personally attend the school, the connection to its history remains strong.

“Even though they didn’t attend Webb themselves, those whose families did are doing a great job continuing the tradition and purpose of the group,” she remarked.

Dudley is certain that the alumni community will ensure that the traditions and values of Webb School live on for generations to come.

Daisy Nolen Dudley’s contributions to education, mentorship, and the Webb community are a testament to her commitment to service.

Her work continues to impact the lives of students and fellow alumni, and her legacy will undoubtedly shape the future of Webb School for years to come.

Liquor

...From Front Page

discussion among council members: a limit on the town’s permitted number of liquor stores.

The ordinance to limit the town’s number of licenses for the sale of packaged liquor to two is meant to protect store-owners from failure, explained Huntingdon Mayor Chad Edwards.

After reaching out to neighboring towns, Edwards said, “Two [stores] is pretty much what will survive.”

Council member Chad Barnhart disagreed with the ordinance and said he believed a store’s potential to survive depends on its owners’ drive and ability to market a product.

Citing his conservative platform, Barnhart said, “This puts the government in the way, reduces operator supply and eliminates competition.”

Council member Lori Dillahunty cited the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and said, “The one thing that stood out to me is that when you limit it you prevent excessive alcohol use and related harms.”

Councilpeople Will Atkins, Dillahunty, Daniel Eubanks and John Sanders voted in approval of the ordinance on its first hearing. Barnhart voted against the ordinance. Councilperson Kelly Eubanks was absent from the vote.

In other new business, the council voted to rezone Cashesaver from R-2 to B-1, allowing it to be zoned as a Neighborhood Business, and to amend Huntingdon’s Municipal Code to allow businesses the issuance of a beer permit if they are within 300-feet within a Neighborhood Business District and a General Business District (See: “Huntingdon to Rezone Cashesaver Property to Allow Beer Sales”).

The council also voted to amend Huntingdon’s Zoning Ordinance to revise provisions governing single-family residential uses allowed in B-3 (Central Business Districts), on first hearing. The change will allow single-family residential uses in the rear of a building (on the ground floor), so long as the front of the building remains being used commercially.

The amendment also revises the minimum square footage for B-3 single-family residential uses from 1,000 square

feet to 900 square feet, so the minimum size matches Huntingdon’s criteria for tiny houses.

On first hearing, the council voted to establish a separate employee probation period of 12 months for newly-appointed firefighters in the Town of Huntingdon.

On the second and final hearing, the council voted to amend the Huntingdon Municipal Code relative to building and utility codes, and they voted to amend the Americans with Disabilities Act Program in the town’s municipal code, adding language protecting disabled people from discrimination.

The council also considered bid awards for the purchase of one 2025 Ford F-150 4x4 Supercrew truck for the Huntingdon Police Department, accepting Steve Marsh Ford’s low bid offer of \$49,343.73.

Mayor Edwards informed the council that the Huntingdon Fire Department received its new fire engine on November 24. The fire engine was on display outside of Huntingdon City Hall before and after the meeting.

The Huntingdon Town Council meets Tuesday, December 16, for its final gathering of the year.

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HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

Talk About a Special Friend

To an entire community!
I discovered the real Walter Wilder on a cold, wind-swept, Tennessee mountain top baseball field in early March of 1966. I was a freshman shortstop, barely hanging on....

With the bases loaded, the batter cracked a hard grounder back up the middle, I instinctively moved to my left, lost sight of the ball as our pitcher leaped in front of it, it reappeared momentarily and then disappeared again as the umpire jumped into view trying to avoid it. The ball magically reappeared just as it bounced UNDER my outstretched glove....

The error cost us two runs, and left runners on first and third.

“Colbert,” Coach Majors had left the bench and was almost to the first base line, yelling, “you don’t wanna play baseball! If I had anyone else, you wouldn’t be out there!”

One more run, two outs, a broken heart, and a vow to quit this game AND this university later, the worst inning of my entire life ended. I was thinking about hitchhiking to Alaska when Coach Wilder put his hand gently on my shoulder....

“Kes, you didn’t even see the ball, did you?”

“Coach, I have to make that play—” I was trying to give the all-American answer. Coach Wilder was having none of that. He cut me off, “Don’t worry about one very difficult ground ball. You’re one the best freshman players I’ve ever seen. Coach Majors knows that or he wouldn’t have you out there.”

He was exaggerating a mite, but you talk about a breath of fresh air when I was suffocating!

He invited the team to his house. He, and his beautiful wife, would feed us. Coach

Wilder went the extra mile to get to know us. He asked questions and LISTENED when we answered. He cared about us. And good golly, you ought to have seen him hit a baseball!

It took a while but one day Coach Majors began treating me like I was part of the team. I have always felt that Coach Wilder had a hand in that.

My heart took a nosedive when he left after my sophomore year. He had taken a job back in his hometown somewhere in Florida. I didn’t remember the name. I would never forget him, of course. My life had been enhanced by his presence. And if I perchance ever did any serious coaching, I would want to be just like him.

It was another early March, this one in 1969, when I got a rare call on the dormitory phone. I was surprised to hear Coach Wilder’s voice, “Kes, I’d like for you to come to Port St. Joe and teach history and coach football and baseball for us.”

Honesty compels me to report. I immediately thought, “No way.” I am a Tennessee guy. I am not going to Florida. BUT this was Coach Wilder speaking to me!

“Kes,” he continued, “come down for a visit. I want you to meet Coach Taylor and Gene Raffield. Get to know some of our people. I believe you will like it here. And if you don’t, I will move you back to Tennessee myself.”

I took the job...and stayed for the next 57 and a half years, and I’m still counting!

Anything, and everything, I have accomplished in life I owe in large part to Walter Wilder.

I stayed with Coach and Mrs. Wilder when I first came to town. Mrs. Wilder, who was way nicer than we even imagined in college, told me a hundred times over the

years, “Call me Diana.”

I never did. Too much respect for her, and Coach.

They were already friends. He became my boss, mentor, and a great ear to listen to the ups and downs of my budding career. He was one of the most intelligent, thoughtful, and yet, down to earth guys I’ve ever known. And I can guarantee you, you rarely find all three of those traits in one person.

I went into his office once and told him I was thinking about running for a political office. He laughed. And then Coach Wilder stopped everything he was doing for two hours and went over in minute detail all that I was getting into. And all I needed to do to be successful.

He didn’t have to pledge his full and unconditional support. He had been giving me that since I was eighteen years old.

The greatness of Walter Wilder was that he treated everyone exactly like he treated me. He was a genuine blessing to his family, to his friends, and to anyone lucky enough to cross his path. He worked relentlessly for, and loved dearly, our whole community. You talk about a life well lived!

My heart paused in mid-beat when I heard the news of Walter Wilder’s passing. I thought immediately of the impact he had had on the town he loved so much. I mourned for, and with, Todd, Lesley, Tim, and all who had been touched by him.

And I found myself transported back to a cold, wind-swept, Tennessee mountain top baseball field of long ago where a scared, lonely, struggling freshman baseball player was about to get the break of a lifetime....

With Utmost Respect,
Kes
kesley45@aol.com

Living at Lakeside News

BY SHEILA WILLIS

We saw our way into November even though Daylight Savings Time ended. It got dark so early it felt like 10 p.m. at 7 p.m. A few days into the month, and we were back on track. November 3 was Color the World Orange day, and we had a pumpkin game with a Grand Prize of a beautiful fall-inspired orange wreath donated by Lisa Ellis. The winner was Cornelia Pugh. On November 4, we loaded up our fun bus and headed to the Senior Citizen Dance at the Civic Center in Huntingdon. The Dept. of Aging, along with McKenzie Senior Center, joined forces, and we had a great turnout. Lakeside is partnering with these organizations in December for a HUGE Christmas Party for Seniors. We will have a holiday meal, door prizes, and an ugly Christmas sweater contest, all while dancing to songs by The Trailblazer Band. All Seniors are invited to attend this free community event on December 3, with doors opening at 5:00.

A Special activity this month was An Afternoon Tea with Mark Twain, portrayed by Gus Radford. Evans Clinic sponsored the event. We were greatly entertained and feasted on an array of sweet treats, Sweet Tea and Lemonade. Our guest speaker posed for photos with many of the residents, and it was enjoyed by all.

Our Veterans Day Program was also a special event as we took the opportunity to not just recognize our Veterans but their spouses. We have so many widowed wives of Veterans who know the sacrifice firsthand of a military tour. We mentioned each by name and recited poems for the ladies. Kersten Hendrix sang America the Beautiful and The Star-Spangled Banner. We recited the words to Taps and had a moment of silence as we played the haunting tune. We recognized Harry Walch, Elbert Hatley, and Chris Thomas for their service with a poem for Veterans. Each Veteran received a flag pin along with a blue throw. We served fresh fruit, cupcakes, cheesecake bites, cheese, and crackers.

Residents were invited to the First Baptist Church in Huntingdon to hear the Men in Ministry Choir. What a talented group of men serving with their gifts. We saw many friends, and we were served a great lunch.

We had a visit from our therapy pet, Calvin. He had not been in for a few weeks, and he had really grown. He is 8 months old now and is taking weekly training in 3 specialized areas to be a source of comfort and a resource in trauma situations. He is such a loving and smart dog. We are so happy to be part of his learning journey.

Ladies gathered in the Activity Apartment for a cooking class on National Bread Day. We made 10 sweet loaves that were served with the evening meal. We made 3 varieties: Carrot, Banana and Peter Paul Mounds. When the bread started to bake the sweet aroma filled the whole place and fresh out of the oven we topped them with a cream cheese glaze. We also celebrated National Gingerbread Day with a race of sorts were “Gingy” moved around the room to the classic tale, and when The End was said, the winner received a Thanksgiving Décor Plaque. Our winner was Lonnelle McMillen. Everybody really won because we had a great time, and everyone got a gingerbread man cookie to enjoy afterward.

We had a few turkey-themed games as well. Becky Bates with Cherrywood Post Acute brought her Turkey with feathers to be pulled and after you followed the command on the feather, you were rewarded



with a gift. This was so much fun, and we look forward to her coming back to visit. We also did a Turkey Dice Game to fill in your turkeys’ feathers and Julie Garner won a Thanksgiving basket.

With Winter fast approaching, we took advantage of one of the nicer days and took a long country drive with a stop by the Amish grocery store and visited Levi’s produce stand. We bought so many goodies. A few favorites were canned tomatoes, some jellies, fresh apples and oranges and fresh cheeses. The drive was beautiful with the last days of Autumn still showing all her colors.

We were honored to be one of the meal sponsors for the McKenzie Rebels Football Team, feeding them the 1st week of play-offs. The ladies got out the pots and pans and fixed a meal of Garden Salad, Chicken Alfredo, Roasted Broccoli, Rolls and Oreos. We want to wish them continued success. Quarterback Cole Browns great great-grandmother is a resident and Avery Browns grandmother is Lakesides Activity Director, so on Friday nights our radios and TVs have been tuned in to cheer on The Rebels.

The focus of the month has been on all the things that we are thankful for. When we gathered in groups, we were quick to bring up our blessings. Residents at Lakeside took a couple of opportunities to give to those who may not be feeling as blessed during this season and we hope we will be able to be a blessing to some. At the Hometown Medical Centers Monday Breakfast Club, we put together back-packs of items to be received by children who, for whatever reason, are unable to be in their homes. We were surprised to learn the statistics of this within our region. On another Monday, we put together over 50 food boxes to be given to people who had reached out in need. For our residents to be able to contribute to these causes was very touching. We prayed over these boxes, hoping that each family that received one would be blessed, and we counted our blessings, too.

On Thanksgiving, some residents went out to be with their families or had their families join them for our holiday meal. Lakeside staff stood in the gap for our residents who were unable to be with their families and our Kitchen staff outdid themselves with a traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. The rest of the day was spent enjoying 3 Thanksgiving traditions: Parades, Football and Naps.

We had 4 birthdays this month: Steve Jackson, Clark Brown, Lena Morgan, her family treated us to a beautiful birthday cake and Harry Watch who was surprised with a fishing themed cake to be shared at lunch, given by his friend Peggy Work. We welcomed 3 new residents into our Lakeside family: Eloise Baumgardner and James & Nellie Wright.

Until Next Time....

Bethel Launches Fund to Support Students

MCKENZIE (December 1) — Bethel University is launching the Wildcat Assistance Fund to support students facing unexpected financial hardships that could interrupt their education. Each year, students encounter sudden challenges such as medical emergencies, housing instability, transportation issues, childcare needs, job loss, or urgent family situations. These challenges can disrupt students’ lives, impact their mental health, and make it difficult to stay enrolled and complete their degree.

Bethel President Perry Moulds said, “Our students face real-life challenges that can arise suddenly. When these moments occur, the right support at the right time can make all the difference. The Wildcat Assistance Fund allows us to step in quickly, offer meaningful help, and ensure that a temporary setback doesn’t prevent a student from reaching the finish line.”

The Wildcat Assistance Fund will provide one-time

assistance to students dealing with temporary setbacks. Depending on their situation, students can apply for an interest-free micro-loan that must be repaid or a micro-grant that does not require repayment. Any currently enrolled Bethel student can apply after exhausting their available financial aid options.

The fund will help cover a wide range of expenses, including but not limited to tuition or fees, required books or supplies, short-term housing or utility expenses, childcare or dependent-related needs, one-time medical or mental health costs, safety-related expenses, and replacement of essential items lost due to fire, theft, or natural disasters. Each request will be reviewed individually based on the student’s circumstances and the availability of funds.

The Wildcat Emergency Fund will operate through donor support. These contributions enable Bethel to provide timely assistance when students encounter unex-

pected hardships. The fund offers a clear, direct way for supporters to help students remain enrolled, stable, and on track to complete their degrees.

Interim Provost Joe Hames said, “Student success is about more than just academics. When emergencies arise, students need stability and support. This fund provides a way to respond to those moments with compassion and practicality so that students can stay focused on their goals.”

Vice President of Enrollment & Advancement Lougan Bishop said, “We hear from students every day who are balancing school with jobs, families, and unexpected challenges. The Wildcat Assistance Fund ensures that when life gets chaotic, they don’t have to give up on their education. This initiative relies on donor support. Every contribution strengthens our ability to assist students during their moment of need.”

ters, not libelous or harmful, will be published. The editorial staff may restrict the number of letters dealing with the same subject matter. The signature of the writer must be affixed to the letter with a verifiable address and phone number. The address and phone number will not be published at the request of the writer, however the name will be published. Tri-County Publishing does not publish unsigned letters of opinion.

The McKenzie Banner reserves

the right to refuse any item deemed libelous, not of public interest, or commercial in nature. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit the material while preserving the intent of the letter. Upon receipt in the offices of Tri-County Publishing, Inc., the letter becomes the property of the newspaper and will be retained in the files. Tri-County Publishing may solicit contrary opinion concerning the content of the letter.

THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

Go Ahead, Have a Panic Attack

The worst thing about having a panic attack is that it makes you believe you’re going to die.

Emergency room physicians are very familiar with patients showing up thinking they’re having a heart attack, but after a bundle of very expensive tests, the diagnosis is anxiety or panic attack.

Remember the first thing I told you in this little anxiety series? ANXIETY IS A LIAR. The truth is, a panic attack can’t kill you; it just makes you think you’re going to die.

My suggestion? Go ahead, have a panic attack. Sounds crazy and counter-intuitive, doesn’t it? All I ask is that you hear me out.

If your anxiety spikes and none of the previous suggestions I’ve made have

worked, you and I both know a panic attack is sure to follow. What everyone does in that situation is grit their teeth, tense their body, and silently scream, “I’m not going to have a panic attack! I’m not going to have a panic attack!”

Unfortunately, this will only make the panic attack more certain and more severe, because your body is already on the cusp of the Flight/Fight/Freeze mode and you stiffening your body and screaming in your head will trigger the release of adrenalin. When that happens, you are done for. The Panic Train is going to run you over.

It’s much like standing waist-deep in the ocean and bracing yourself for the incoming waves. You tell yourself, “I’m not going to

let these waves knock me down.” But, eventually, you will lose that battle.

To lessen the severity of the panic attack, tell yourself these things:

1. I’m going to have a panic attack.
2. A panic attack won’t kill me.
3. I’ve had panic attacks before and survived every one of them. I will survive this one, too.

4. A panic attack only lasts 10-20 minutes. Only 10-20 minutes!

5. I’m going face the beach and body surf to the shore. Then, I’ll get out, rest, catch my breath and get on with my day.

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



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CARROLL COUNTY E911 BOARD TO MEET

The Carroll County Emergency Communications Board of Directors meets Thursday, December 11 at 6:30 p.m. at 125 Court Square, Huntingdon. Citizens desiring to publicly comment at the meeting on an agenda item must register with the district at

731-986-8911. A copy of the Public Comment Policy may be obtained at the district office at 101 Dillahunt Lane, Huntingdon.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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! Ad-

mission \$5. For more information, please email carrollartsinc@gmail.com.

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.

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.

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. 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 HUMANE SOCIETY EVENTS

Cat Vouchers
Cat spay/neuter vouchers are always available for \$60. To purchase by phone for use at Paris Vet Clinic, call 731-514-0878 and leave a message. These are available to anyone regardless of residency. We now offer cat vouchers to Carroll County residents for use at the Huntingdon Animal

Clinic for \$60. These must be purchased in person at the shelter with cash or card and proof of residency required. However, Carroll Co. residents can still use Paris Vet Clinic if preferred.

Dog Vouchers
Dog spay/neuter vouchers are still available for \$60 and must be purchased in person at the shelter using cash or card. We have lots of neuters available so those are available regardless of residency. Spay vouchers are currently for Carroll Co. residents only and appointments are backed up into November. Must be purchased at the shelter during business hours Tuesday-Saturday 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Appointments will be made at the time of purchase. The participating vet clinic is Huntingdon Animal Clinic. We do recommend that you have your pet vaccinated due to exposure to other animals. Puppies must be a minimum of four months of age (older if small breed) at the time of surgery.

CARROLL DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEETS

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

CARROLL REPUBLICAN PARTY MEETS

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

McKENZIE 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.

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.



Mama T's
WHAT'S COOKIN'
By Teresa Washburn
Call 731-352-3323

Mashed Potatoes Supreme
1 (8oz.) package cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup sour cream
2 tablespoons butter, softened
1 (.04oz.) packet ranch salad dressing mix
6-8 cups cooked warm instant mashed potatoes
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Beat cream cheese, sour cream, butter and dressing in a bowl. Add po-

tatoes and stir well. Transfer to 2 quart baking dish and bake for 25 minutes or until thoroughly hot. Serves 6

Turkey Casserole
1 (6oz.) package herb-seasoned stuffing mix
1 cup canned whole cranberry sauce
6 (1/4-inch thick) slices deli turkey
1 (15oz.) jar turkey gravy
Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Prepare stuffing according to package directions. In medium bowl, combine prepared stuffing and cranberry sauce and set aside. In buttered 9x13 inch baking dish, place slices of turkey and pour gravy over turkey. Spoon stuffing mix-

ture over casserole. Bake about 15 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Serves 4.

Fantastic Fruit Salad
2 (11oz.) cans mandarin oranges
2 (15oz.) cans pineapple chunks
1 (16oz.) carton frozen strawberries, thawed
1 (20oz.) can peach pie filling
1 (20oz.) can apricot pie filling
Drain oranges, pineapple and strawberries. Combine all ingredients and fold together gently. (If you like, add 2 sliced bananas to salad.) Serves 8 to 10.

Wishing you a

Merry Christmas

from all of us at



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Avery Williamson, right, is pictured with David Hensley of McKenzie at the Happy Book Stack.

Former Titan Williamson Launches Tennessee Crush Water Ice

MCKENZIE (November 30) — Avery Williamson, a former Tennessee Titans player, was at The Happy Book Stack in McKenzie

on Sunday to launch his new product, Tennessee Crush Water Ice.

The downtown business launched the new

product with Williamson serving the frozen product and also visiting with fans and business patrons.



West Carroll Students of the Week — (L to R) Jax Simmons, Malia Moore and Jacob Powers.

West Carroll Spotlights Students of the Week

WEST CARROLL (November 25) — 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 — Jax Simmons, Malia Moore and Jacob Powers — were each nominated for their kindness and willingness to help others.

Kindergarten student Jax Simmons is West Carroll Primary School's student of the week, nominated by Ms. Brandi.

"Jax is always happy and smiling. He loves to bring a smile to everyone's face," said Ms. Brandi.

Third-grade student Malia Moore is West Carroll Elementary School's student of the week, nominated by Ms. Brianna.

"Malia has stood out be-

cause she has been especially involved in our class discussions and consistently offers thoughtful contributions. She is always willing to help both teachers and classmates whenever she can, and her kindness and initiative make a positive difference in our classroom each day," said Ms. Brianna.

Eighth-grade student Jacob Powers is West Carroll Jr/Sr High School's student of the week, nominated by Ms. O'Bryan.

"Jacob is a consistently excellent student who is very wise and mature for his age," said Ms. O'Bryan. "In class, Jacob is always helping his peers understand content in a way that makes sense to them as an individual, even when he hasn't been asked to. He is always willing to do anything that

is asked of him, and he does it with a smile. Jacob is a genuinely kind human, and he understands the value of hard work. After almost every marching band rehearsal, Jacob would come to me and ask, 'Ms. O'Bryan, is there anything in particular that you want me to work on tonight?' After a full day of school, a 2.5 hour rehearsal, and tending to his lawncare business, he was always ready to go the extra mile."

The West Carroll Special School District also recognized West Carroll Primary School pre-kindergarten teacher Olivia Bryant 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 District Spotlights Teacher Olivia Bryant

WEST CARROLL (November 25) — West Carroll Special School District staff is proud to shine this week's Teacher Spotlight on Ms. Olivia Bryant, a dedicated Pre-K educator whose passion, kindness, and enthusiasm help shape the district's youngest learners.

Ms. Olivia is in her fifth year in education, and all who know her describe her classroom as a place filled with warmth, joy and curiosity. A graduate of Freed-Hardeman University, she earned her degree in Early Childhood Education, preparing her well for the fast-paced, high-energy world of Pre-K at West Carroll Primary School. Originally from McKenzie, Tennessee, she has always been rooted in the community she now serves.

Ms. Olivia says she became a teacher because she wanted "to make a positive impact on children in their community." Choosing elementary education was an intentional decision—she wanted the opportunity to help students build a strong academic foundation from the very beginning.

Her favorite part of the job is the joy she sees in her students each morning. "I love seeing the smiling faces coming into school ev-



ery day! As a Pre-K teacher, I get to be their introduction to school, and I strive to make their first year a positive experience full of fun." She loves watching her students learn new skills, make friendships and grow in confidence as the year goes on.

When asked about a favorite classroom memory, Ms. Olivia didn't hesitate: Polar Express Day.

"It's one of my favorite Christmas books, and I love getting to share it with my students! Getting to wear pajamas and drinking hot chocolate makes the day so much fun," she said. Her

excitement for building magical moments is one of the many reasons her students adore her.

More than anything, Ms. Olivia hopes her students leave her classroom with a lasting mindset: "I hope students take away a love for school and learning that will carry them through their academic career."

West Carroll is grateful for educators like Olivia Bryant—teachers who make learning joyful, nurture a lifelong love of school and help each child begin their educational journey with confidence and excitement.

McKenzie's Shop With A First Responder is December 15

McKenzie's annual Shop With a First Responder event is Monday, December 15, beginning at 5:30 p.m. The first responders will meet the children at Long Heights Baptist Church, from which they will travel to Huntingdon Walmart, giving the children the opportunity to ride in police cars and fire trucks and even speak over the vehicles' P.A. systems. Thanks to the many dona-

tions sent to City of McKenzie's Christmas for Kids program, the first responders are able to shop with 61 children and donate gifts to 20 additional children in McKenzie.

This year, the first responders will also provide holiday meals to Christmas for Kids families, thanks to donations from E.W. James & Sons Supermarkets. The meals include hams paid for by the city's Christmas

for Kids donation funds.

The City of McKenzie is still accepting monetary donations for the Christmas for Kids program. Checks must be made to the City of McKenzie Christmas for Kids and can be dropped off at McKenzie City Hall.

If you know a child or family in need this Christmas, contact the City of McKenzie for Christmas for Kids arrangements.

McKenzian Launches Wedding Vendor Platform to Serve Rural Tennessee Brides

BY LYNDESEY SUMMERS
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While planning her December 2024 wedding in northwest Tennessee, Mikayla (Boucher) Patterson and her fiancé, Caleb, ran into a slight problem: they couldn't find local vendors. Popular wedding-planning websites sent her straight to Memphis and Nashville listings, leaving entire pockets of rural Tennessee nearly invisible.

"I was having so much trouble finding all the vendors that I needed," Patterson said. "I kept thinking, there's probably so many [vendors] that I missed because they don't have the budget to pay for some of these wedding vendor websites."

She was able to cast the thoughts aside and continue wedding planning, focusing on her big day and finding vendors from a mix of online research and word of mouth.

She and Caleb got married, and her frustration with finding vendors returned after the honeymoon — eventually becoming the seed of a new business.

Ten months after her wedding, following rigorous planning and execution, Patterson and a small team of web developers would launch AllVeil, a Tennessee-based digital vendor hub designed to make wedding planning more accessible for rural brides and more affordable for small businesses. The platform opened to vendors October 23 and launches for brides in February 2026.

Patterson, the daughter of Trey and Gretchen Boucher, received enthusiastic encouragement from both her father and her husband to explore this business idea, but she wanted other opinions. As a full-time marketing manager and executive assistant for Mighty Lube in Columbia, Tenn., Patterson reached out to a web developer she had previously worked with — Wes Talley — and gave him her elevator pitch.

"When Wes said it was a great idea, I felt comfortable moving forward," she said. "If a developer thinks it's good, you know you've got something."

The team — made up of Patterson and web developers Talley, Addison Go-forth and Zachary Parson — began branding and concept development in March. By early August, they were deep into building the platform. For five months, Patterson and the developers met twice a week, refining the design, updating features, and turning Patterson's rural-friendly vision into a fully-functional site.

AllVeil's mission is to give every bride in Tennessee—whether she lives in McKenzie, Martin, South Fulton or Sevierville—the ability to

find local vendors who reflect her budget, style and location.

While competitors charge vendors "hundreds to thousands of dollars a month," according to Patterson, AllVeil aims to be accessible from day one. Vendor accounts are currently free to create, and no credit card is required until February, when the subscription fee officially launches at \$7.99 per month.

"Vendors shouldn't have to sign contracts they aren't comfortable with, and they shouldn't have to spend a fortune just to be seen," Patterson said. "We wanted it to be affordable for vendors of all sizes."

AllVeil also introduces optional, low-cost add-ons, including a \$5.99 monthly marketing package and a \$19.99 one-time events package for vendors who want AllVeil to promote a specific event across social media platforms.

Until February, however, Patterson is providing all vendor marketing for free. Using her professional marketing background, she has been creating Instagram Reels, TikTok videos, and Facebook posts for each new sign-up.

"Vendors upload their content on the backend, and then we create the public-facing marketing," she said. "They approve it, and we push it out. It's been a great way to help them grow before brides even arrive on the app."

AllVeil functions as two distinct but interconnected platforms: one for brides and one for vendors. The vendor side feels like building a social media profile — complete with photos, videos, descriptions, and filters for style and specialty. Vendors are grouped by categories such as photography, videography, live art, beauty services, florals, day-of coordination, and more. Stylistic filters include clean, vintage, documentary, and other aesthetics that help brides pinpoint their exact vision.

On the bride-facing side, Patterson wanted some-

thing entirely different. "I wanted it to feel like you were online shopping," she said.

From the moment a bride enters the site, she's prompted to choose her location and what type of vendor she's seeking. From there, she can choose her filters: budget, event size, style, radius, and more.

This careful focus on user experience is also why the bride-facing platform won't open until February. Patterson wants to build her vendor database before inviting brides to use the platform as a wedding resource.

So far, AllVeil has attracted a strong number of beauty and photography vendors, including hair stylists, makeup artists, nail technicians, tanning specialists, estheticians, and numerous photographers. Venues, caterers, florists and day-of coordinators have also joined. Patterson wants AllVeil to be a hub to find any business who supports weddings.

"We're constantly making the app better by listening to feedback, trying to get everything perfected with the vendors and making sure that it's exactly what they need to market themselves," said Patterson.

Although Patterson frequently fields the question of whether AllVeil will expand nationwide, she's staying focused.

"Right now, Tennessee is the priority," she said. "Once we feel like we have a good reach in Tennessee, then we'll look to Kentucky, Georgia, Alabama—the whole South." For now, Patterson is balancing a full-time job, the demands of a start-up, and the responsibility of building a platform she hopes will transform rural wedding planning.

"It's been a lot of work—basically two full-time jobs—but it's worth it," she said. "If brides can find what they need and vendors can be seen, then we've done what we set out to do."

AllVeil is live now for vendor registration and will open to brides in February 2026.



AllVeil founder Mikayla Patterson married Caleb Patterson in December 2024. The wedding-planning process inspired her to start the wedding vendor platform AllVeil. Photo by Paige Ramage Photography

Without newspapers, where would you search to find the information on this page?

We do the legwork to keep you informed.



HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL



Left, Lady War Eagle Chloe Rimmer fires a three. Rimmer led all scorers with 24 points. Right, Rocket Garrett Bartholomew scores on a fast break. Bartholomew had seven points. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Lady War Eagles, Rockets Claim Wins

BY BRAD SAM
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ATWOOD (November 25) — West Carroll High School hosted Clarksburg Tuesday for a pair of basketball contests. The Lady War Eagles coasted to a 62-35 victory. The Rockets took a big lead early and held off a War Eagle rally for a 56-50 win.

West Carroll Lady War Eagles 62, Clarksburg Lady Rockets 35

The Lady War Eagles jumped out to a 24-5 lead after the opening frame, led by Chloe Rimmer with 12 points, including a pair of three-pointers. Aubrey Hammett scored seven with a three. Gracelyn Vernon had three points, and Hailey Mitchell had a pair. Carlie Swinford scored all five Clarksburg points, including a three.

The Lady Rockets cut the deficit with a 14-9 edge in the second quarter, led by Molly Williams with six points. Swinford scored five, and Addison Milam hit a three. Mitchell led West Carroll with seven points, and Rimmer added a pair. At the half, the Lady War Eagles led 33-19.

West Carroll doubled up Clarksburg 16-8 in the third, led by Rimmer with ten points, including a pair of

threes. Hammett scored four points, and Mitchell added a pair. Swinford led the Lady Rockets with four, including a three-pointer. Milam and Cari Glosson each had a pair. Entering the final frame, West Carroll led 49-27.

The Lady War Eagles capped the win with a 13-8 tilt in the fourth, led by Alayna Lovelace with four points. Kinsley Poff hit a three-pointer, and Taylor Robinson, Abbi O'Bryan and Marissa Mueller each had a pair. Milam and Glosson each scored four for Clarksburg.

West Carroll's Chloe Rimmer led all scorers with 24 points, including four three-pointers. Aubrey Hammett and Hailey Mitchell each scored eleven, Hammett with a three.

Carlie Swinford led the Lady Rockets with 14 points, including a pair of threes. Addison Milam scored nine with a three-pointer.

Rockets 56, War Eagles 50

Clarksburg stormed out to a 27-8 lead after the first frame, led by Erin Dickson with 15 points, including a three-pointer. Trae Cobb scored six points. Jake Miller hit a three, and Clay Glosson also scored three points. Skyler Wilhite led West Carroll with four points. Mason Taylor scored three, and Trey

Williamson hit a free throw. The War Eagles cut the deficit with a 20-13 advantage in the second quarter, led by Bryler O'Neal with eight points, including a pair of threes. Taylor scored five, Chandler Rimmer had four points, and Damarion Gilbert hit a three-pointer. Cobb led the Rockets with four points. Garrett Bartholomew hit a three. Dickson, Reagan Halter and Gabriel Derryberry each had a pair. At the half, Clarksburg led 40-28.

The third was an 8-8 wash. Taylor led West Carroll with five points. O'Neal added a pair, and Gilbert hit a freebie. Bartholomew led Clarksburg with four points, and Miller and Glosson each added a pair. Heading into the final frame, the Rockets led 48-36.

The War Eagles' rally came up just short in the fourth, 14-8, led by Gilbert and O'Neal with five points each, both with a three-pointer. Taylor and Rimmer each added a pair. Cobb scored five Rocket points, Glosson added a pair, and Dickson hit a freebie.

Clarksburg's Erin Dickson led all scorers with 18 points, including a three. Trae Cobb scored 15.

Bryler O'Neal and Mason Taylor led West Carroll with 15 points each, O'Neal with a trio of three-pointers.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

McKenzie Splits Season Opener

BY BRAD SAM
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McKENZIE (November 24) — McKenzie High School tipped off the basketball season Monday, hosting Peabody. The Lady Rebels were dominant from start to finish for a 67-30 victory. The Rebels were short-handed, dressing out just six players due to eight still playing football. The Golden Tide, at full strength, coasted to an 87-43 win.

McKenzie Lady Rebels 67, Peabody Lady Tide 30

The Lady Rebels doubled up Peabody 14-7 in the opening frame, led by Jaycee Stafford with eight points. Ava Hastings hit a three-pointer, Braylin Auvenshine had a pair, and Alleigh Britt hit a free throw. Azariah Wells led Peabody with four points, and Jayci Browning hit a three.

McKenzie had a 22-10 advantage in the second quarter, led by Stafford with 14 points, including a three-pointer. Hastings and Gracie Aird each hit a three, and Madeline Gottshall and Addyson Littleton each hit a free throw. Lady Tide Paislee Walls scored five with a three. Jayda Ramos also hit a three-pointer, and Avery Olson had a pair. At the half, McKenzie led 36-17.

The Lady Rebels enjoyed a 16-5 tilt in the third, led by Stafford with eight points, including a three. Auvenshine and Kynadie Brown each hit a three-pointer, and Hastings added a pair. Olson and Wells each added a pair for Peabody, and ZaKaysea Skinner hit a free throw. Entering the final frame, the Lady Rebels led 52-22.

McKenzie sealed the win with a 15-8 fourth, led by Hastings with five points, including a three. Britt and Brown each hit a three, and Ashley Dunavant and Molly French each had a pair. Walls scored five for Peabody, Ol-



Left, Rebel Eli Vinson finds an open lane to the basket. Vinson scored 13 points. Right, Lady Rebel Jaycee Stafford draws contact and follows through for a three-point play. Stafford led all scorers with 30 points. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

son added a pair, and Ramos hit a freebie.

Lady Rebel Jaycee Stafford led all scorers with 30 points, including a pair of three-pointers. Ava Hastings scored 13 with a trio of threes.

Paislee Walls led the Lady Tide with ten points, including a three.

Golden Tide 87, Rebels 43

Peabody stormed out to a 34-13 lead after the first frame, led by Emmanuel Cannon with eleven points, including a three-pointer. Jayden Jennings scored ten, and Noah Woolfork had six points. Onterio Agnew, Jamarcus Haynes and Edward Agnew each had a pair, and LaTaveah Cannon hit a free throw. Nolan Fawcett and Eli Vinson led McKenzie with six points each, Fawcett on a pair of threes and Vinson with one three-pointer. Ethan Bradberry hit a free throw.

The Golden Tide had an 18-7 advantage in the second quarter, led by E. Cannon with nine points, including a three-pointer. Woolfork scored seven with a three, and E. Agnew added a pair. Fawcett hit another three for the Rebels, and Bradberry and Vinson each added a pair. At the half, the Tide led

52-20. Peabody had a 17-11 edge in the third, led by Woolfork with six points. E. Agnew scored five with a three-pointer. Jennings hit a three, and Haynes also scored three points. Fawcett led McKenzie with six points on a pair of threes. Quniton Jones hit a three-pointer, and Vinson added a pair. Heading into the final frame, Peabody led 69-31.

The Golden Tide closed out the win with an 18-12 tilt in the fourth, led by L. Cannon with six points, including a three-pointer. Ja'haziah Smith scored five with a three. Destin Wells also hit a three-pointer, and Max Hammond and Camelo Tyler each had a pair. Bradberry led the Rebels with six points on a pair of threes, and Fawcett and Vinson each hit a three.

Peabody's Emmanuel Cannon led all scorers with 20 points, including a pair of threes. Noah Woolfork scored 19 with a three-pointer. Jayden Jennings had 13 points with a three.

Nolan Fawcett led McKenzie with 18 points on six three-pointers. Eli Vinson scored 13 with a pair of threes.

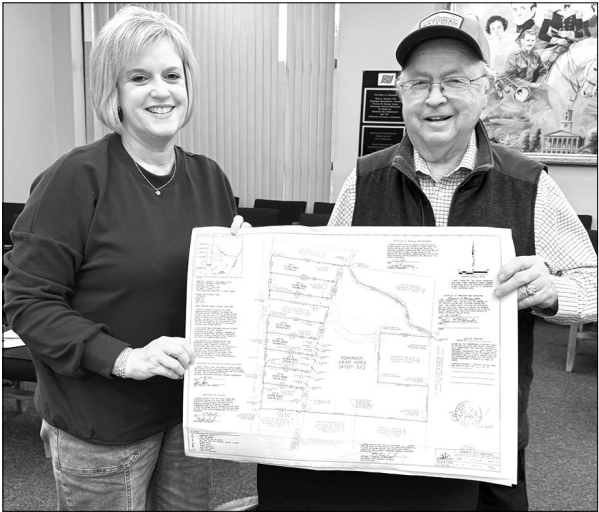
Two Residential Subdivisions Approved in McKenzie

BY JOEL WASHBURN
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McKENZIE (November 26) — Two subdivisions were approved by the McKenzie Municipal-Regional Planning Commission on Wednesday, November 26.

The first subdivision is known as the Deerwood Hills Subdivision, owned by Marvin Alexander of Martin. Mr. Alexander, a real estate broker and auctioneer, purchased 14.887 acres that fronts Como Street and backs up to McKenzie City Park. The Commission approved the residential development of five land parcels along Como Street from Joy Drive nearly to the pickleball courts. Daniel Mueller recently constructed two homes on parcels adjacent to the pickleball court.

Alexander has additional parcels to develop in the rear of the property.



Carol Nanney, chairperson of the McKenzie Municipal-Regional Planning Commission and Marvin Alexander hold the plat approved for development along Como Street.

The property was once owned by the Moore family, for which Moore Subdivision was named. The McKenzie City Park was part of the Moore farm.

The second minor subdivision was approved for Daniel and Amber

Mueller along Kencindot Street. They plan to construct three homes along Kencindot on property recently purchased from the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4939. The land is located at the intersection of Kencindot and Cherrywood.

Derek Horne Joins Bethel as Vice President of Athletics

McKENZIE (November 25) — Bethel University President Dr. Perry Moulds is pleased to announce the appointment of Derek J. Horne as Vice President of Athletics. Horne is set to take over guiding the Wildcats' athletics department on December 8.

As a member of the university's senior leadership team, Horne will lead all aspects of athletics and be responsible for the performance of programs, coaches, staff and student-athletes in addition to ensuring the athletics department continues to embrace the NAIA model of academics, character development and community involvement.

"I am thrilled to welcome Derek and his wife, Sheila, to the Bethel University family. Athletics plays an important role in our campus culture, and the majority of our undergraduate students participate in collegiate sports," said President Moulds. "Derek's three decades of experience in athletics administration, and as a student-athlete himself, will benefit our student-athletes and our entire campus community."

"I am honored to lead Bethel Athletics into its next chapter of championship growth and success," said Horne. "I want to thank Dr. Moulds for allowing me to bring my experiences and perspective to this wonderful campus and develop and create opportunities for our student-athletes, coaches and staff to succeed on and off the fields of play and emphasize and encourage them to continue to be positive role models in the McKenzie community."

Horne comes to Bethel from Temple University in Philadelphia, where he was executive senior associate director of athletics for strategic initiatives and sports for three years. In this role, he provided high-level counsel to the director of athletics to develop strategic initiatives and enhance the university's overall mission, with a focus on proactive approaches to develop programs and initiatives to achieve and maintain an effective and efficient environment within the athletics department.

A member of the athletics executive leadership team, Horne managed and supervised the administrative units of marketing and promotions, fan engagement, ticket sales, ticket operations, digital strategy, creative services, video production



and the spirit groups.

The college athletics veteran comes to Bethel having served as director of athletics at two NCAA Division I institutions – Florida A&M University (2010-13) and Alcorn State University (2014-21) – in addition to time in a senior athletics administrator at his alma mater, the University of Mississippi, and a leadership role with KLLM Transport Services.

In his seven-plus years at Alcorn State, the Braves experienced success across numerous sports and in the classroom.

Athletics highlights included:

Football captured the Southwestern Athletics Conference East Division crown and appeared in the SWAC Football Championship game a conference-first six times. The Braves took home the conference title four times (2014, 2015, 2018, 2019) and were tapped as the Black College National Champions in 2014.

Women's tennis won the SWAC Championship in 2016 and appeared in the title match in back-to-back years (2018, 2019). Men's (2017, 2018) and women's tennis (2019) combined to claim three SWAC Player of the Year awards.

Softball went five consecutive years in conference play (2016-19, 2021) without a losing record, which had never been done in program history, with back-to-back SWAC East Division titles in 2017 and 2018 and a SWAC Championship game appearance in 2021.

Men's golf student-athlete Daniel Racioppa made school history in 2017, becoming the first Alcorn student-athlete to win the individual title at the SWAC Championship and the first to compete in an NCAA Men's Golf Championship Regional.

Five different head coaches earned SWAC Coach of the Year honors under his watch –Anthony Dodgen (men's tennis, 2016), Josef Rankin (softball, 2016), Montez Robinson (men's basketball, 2016-17), Danny For-

shey (men's golf, 2017) and Fred McNair (football, 2018, 2019), who was also an Eddie Robinson Award finalist in back-to-back years.

In the classroom, Alcorn student-athletes reached new heights during Horne's tenure, highlighted by 203 student-athletes earning degrees. The department saw its most successful two-year graduation totals among its student-athletes with an all-time high of 74 graduates in 2017-18 and 65 graduates in 2018-19. Horne helped Alcorn secure the NCAA Accelerated Academic Success Programs Grant in 2014-15, which made an immediate impact on the department's academic progress.

During his time at Florida A&M, the Rattlers' men's and women's programs consistently finished in the top three for the Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Talmadge Layman Hill Men's All-Sports Award and Mary McLeod Bethune Women's All-Sports Award. He oversaw capital planning for athletics facilities, including a renovation of the track & field facility, and served on the President's strategic planning council and executive leadership team and the university's athletic advisory committee.

Beyond his impact as an athletics and campus leader, Horne is also a respected leader nationally. He is an active member of NACDA and Minority Opportunities Athletic Association (MOAA). His experience in event management and operations in the sports industry extends across a variety of events and organizations, including the NCAA, Southeastern Conference, MEAC, SWAC and American Conference. Horne is active in church and has been involved with numerous philanthropic organizations, including the American Cancer Society, Boys & Girls Club, Make-A-Wish Foundation, YMCA and Special Olympics.

The Quitman, Ga., native is a 1987 Ole Miss graduate with a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration. Horne was a standout student-athlete for the Rebels on the basketball court during his time in Oxford. He earned a Master of Arts degree in Sports Administration from Belhaven University in 2023. He is married to the former Sheila Mosley of New Albany, Miss., and they have one son, Christopher.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL



Left, Bulldog Ashton Morgan scores on a fast break. Morgan scored seven points. Right, Lady Bulldog Hylan Leach fires a corner three. Leach scored 16 points with a trio of three-pointers. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner

Gleason Sweeps Central

BY BRAD SAM
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GLEASON (November 25) — Gleason High School hosted Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central Tuesday for a pair of basketball contests. The Lady Bulldogs pulled away in the third quarter and held off a Lady Tiger rally for a 46-35 win. The Bulldogs stormed out to a big lead and coasted to a 74-37 victory.

Gleason Lady Bulldogs 46, Central Lady Tigers 35
The Lady Bulldogs had a 9-4 lead after the opening frame, led by Hylan Leach with a three-pointer. Ahmyre Allen, Ava Bennett and Karlie Wilson each had a pair. Lady Tigers Olivia Scott and McKenzie Castleman each scored two points.

Gleason had a 10-8 edge in the second quarter, led by Leach with six points, including a three-pointer. Bennett and Brinley Lehmkuhl each had a pair. Makayla Bass scored five for Central, and Lilly McGee hit a three. At the half, Gleason led 19-12.

The Lady Bulldogs pulled away with a 19-9 advantage in the third, led by Allen with ten points. Leach scored seven with another three-pointer. Wilson and Kadence Witherspoon each hit a free throw. McGee, Castleman, Emy Olds and Ava Finley each had a pair for Central, and Scott hit a freebie. Entering the final frame, Gleason led 38-21.

A Lady Tiger rally in the fourth came up short at 14-8, led by Castleman and Alayah Hill with four points each. Olds and Finley each hit a three. Allen scored five for Gleason, including a three. Wilson added a pair, and Bennett hit a free throw.

Lady Bulldog Ahmyre Allen led all scorers with 17 points, including a



Tiger Parker Finley pulls up in the paint for two points. Finley led Central with ten points. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

three-pointer. Hylan Leach scored 16 with a trio of threes.

McKenzye Castleman led Central with eight points.

Bulldogs 74, Tigers 37
Gleason jumped out to an 18-2 lead after the first frame, led by Drake Lehmkuhl with seven points, including a pair of threes. Kade Sawyers, Parker Morgan and Brock Dilday each hit a three-pointer. Miami Woolridge had a pair. Sal Sala scored Central's two points.

The Bulldogs had a 16-15 edge in the second quarter, led by Sawyers and Dilday with five points each, each with a three-pointer. Lehmkuhl also hit a three, Woolridge added a pair, and C.J. Reed hit a free throw. Parker Finley led the Tigers with five points, including a three. Junah Smith hit a three-pointer, and Nic King also scored three points. Brady Roberts and Liam Piersol each had a pair. At the half, the Bulldogs led 34-17.

Gleason pulled away with a 35-13 tilt in the third, led by Sawyers and

Lehmkuhl, both with eight points, each with a pair of threes. Ashton Morgan scored seven, also with a three-pointer. Brody Sanders had five points. Woolridge hit a three, and P. Morgan and Dilday each added a pair. King led Central with six points, including a three. Smith also hit a three, and Parker Boyd and Finley each had a pair. Heading into the final frame, Gleason led 69-30.

Central had a 7-5 edge in the fourth, led by Gage Weatherly with four points. Finley hit a three-pointer. Brycen Cooper scored all five Bulldog points, including a three-pointer.

Gleason's Drake Lehmkuhl led all scorers with 18 points, including five threes. Kade Sawyers scored 16 with four three-pointers. Brock Dilday had ten points with a pair of threes.

Parker Finley led the Tigers with ten points, including a pair of threes. Nic King scored nine with a three-pointer.

MCKENZIE
Rotary Welcomes Three New Members

McKenzie (November 25) — The Rotary Club of McKenzie inducted three new members during its Tuesday, November 25, meeting.

The local club, part of Rotary International, continues to grow its membership and expand its service in the local community.

President Ricky Price, left, stands with new members Zack Cox, owner of Central Refrigeration, Alyse McMinn, director of the Carl Perkins Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse in Carroll County, and Gary Hillard, a recent retiree who returned to live in his hometown of McKenzie.

The local club meets each Tuesday at noon for lunch and an informational program at the Vera Low Center on Bethel University's campus.

McKenzie Rotary supports Rotary International's humanitarian efforts. The club also places significant emphasis on working with and supporting the local



community.

Recently, the club donated food to clients of the Carl Perkins Center in Carroll County, purchased winter jackets for children whose families are budget-constrained, and donated \$1,000 to the Christmas for Kids event sponsored by the McKenzie Police and Fire departments and Beta Sigma Phi social sorority in McKenzie.

The club also hosts the annual academic Honors Banquets at McKenzie High School and McKenzie Middle School.

Visitors are encouraged to attend the weekly meetings and to consider

joining one of the most active service organizations in the county.

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.

R26668/45-4

McKenzie Police Reports

Simple Assault — Michael A. Smith, 28, Walnut Avenue, McKenzie, was cited for Simple Assault on November 30.

According to a report by Officer Daniel Pollard, Smith approached a subject in a threatening manner while the subject was in his car. Smith had a clenched fist and grabbed the subject's shirt collar. The subject displayed a knife to defend himself.

A lady resident at the house insisted that Smith leave, which he did.

Vandalism — Dillon Edward Ray Gregory, 31, Park Cove, McKenzie, was charged with Vandalism on

November 25.

Officer Matthew Cunningham took a report from a female who stated that Gregory was her boyfriend. The two had a verbal dispute. She had left the house and when she returned, Gregory reportedly exited the house, rushed to the victim's automobile, grabbed the window, and broke it. Gregory was cited into Carroll County General Sessions.

Driving on Revoked License — Casey Charles Hilliard, 37, Winchester Street, McKenzie, was charged with Driving on Revoked License and Failure to Maintain Lane on November 25.

Sergeant Cody Coleman stopped Hilliard's vehicle after witnessing the driver's failure to maintain the lane. A check of the license revealed it was revoked. Hilliard was cited into Carroll County General Sessions Court.

Driving on Revoked — Kieyren A. Jordan, 23, Drew Court, McKenzie, was charged with Driving on a Revoked License and Speeding on November 28.

Officer Dalton Rasberry stopped Jordan's vehicle for speeding and then determined his license was revoked. He was cited into Carroll County Jail for booking.

Property Transfers

Linda M. Thomas to Lindsey M. Thomas in District 24.

Teri aka Terry Thomas and others to Terry and Lindsey M. Thomas in District 24.

Linda Sue Townes to Linda Sue Townes in District 16.

Travis F. and Kimberly A. Rosenberg to Kelby Brooke and Jason Lee Kernodle in District 4.

Slade and Riley, Elizabeth Lynn Little to Barry Lynn and Lavonda Kay Wallace in District 7.

Thomas K. Schwettman and others to Janice Vinson in District 5.

Jimmy and Brenda Carol

Pinson to Stacey Keith and Cindy Annette Cole. No District listed.

Jaclyn Ruth Mayo to Dylan Wayne Hart and others in District 9.

Preston and Morgan Carter to Haunalaya and Bryson Lawson in District 17.

Donna F. Rawls to Melissa G. Hinton. No District listed.

Donna F. Rawls to Melissa G. Hinton. No District listed.

Taylor Rental, LLC to Keith C. Eatman and others in District 11.

Donald R. Willey to Jonathan and Christopher Adam Kee in District 16.

Kelley E. Wilhelm to Mei Ying Zhao in District 11.

Wesley Andrew Robbins to Presley Robbins in District 16.

Matthew and Hayle Fuller to Clark Family Holdings LLC. No District listed.

Carroll Bank & Trust to Randall Scott Posey. No District listed.

Travis L. and Miranda Coleman and others to Robert P. Solomon in District 22.

Martin Thomas Vaughn and Mikki Vaughn Napier to Andrew Semirosum in District 22.

Freddy Dailey to John A. Gurschick. No District listed.

John A. Gurschick to Roger Birdwell and others. No District listed.

Carroll County General Sessions Report

The following cases were heard in Carroll County General Sessions Court on November 26:

Bobby Johnson, Enoch Cemetery Road, Huntingdon, bound over, Unlawful Possession of Weapon; bound over, Unlawful Possession of Weapon; bound over, Possess Firearm Intent to Go Armed - Dangerous Felony; bound over, Possess Firearm Intent to Go Armed - Dangerous Felony; bound over, Possess Firearm Intent to Go Armed - Dangerous Felony; bound over, Possession of Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia Uses and Activities; bound over, Meth - MFG, Deliver, Sell, Possess with Intent.

Jerry Lee, Thompson Avenue, McKenzie, bound over, Possession of Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia Uses and Activities; bound over, Meth - Possess or Casual Exchange; bound over, Casual Exchange - Adult/Minor - Schedule VI.

Tasha Marie Simmons, Winchester Street, McKenzie, bound over, Meth - Possess or Casual Exchange.

The following cases resulted in a guilty plea or finding:

Rashaad M. Bryant, Wells Road, Millington, Tenn., guilty, Financial Responsibility Law; dismissed, Driving While License Suspended; dismissed, Reckless Driving; dismissed, Failure to Yield to Emergency Vehicle; dismissed, Failure to Appear.

Jeffery Keith Goodrum, Rolling Hills Lane, McKenzie, guilty, Failure to Appear, no fine, 10

days, litigation taxes only; guilty, Probation Violation - Booked, no fine, 11/29.

Candis Highsmith, Enoch Cemetery Road, Huntingdon, guilty, Aggravated 911 Calls in Non-Emergency Situations Prohibited, no fine, 30 days, unsupervised probation for 30 days.

Robert Anthony Lusk, Carlton Terrace, Gleason, guilty, Drivers License to Be Carried and Exhibited, no fine, 30 days, unsupervised probation, forfeit weapon to Carroll County Sheriff's Office; dismissed, Prohibited Weapons - Knuckles.

Westley Dale White, St. Johns Church Road, McKenzie, guilty, Possession of Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia Uses and Activities; \$150 fine, 11/29, supervised probation for sentence, alcohol drug evaluation and counseling.

The following case resulted in pre-trial diversion:

Darwin Vega Santiago, Dodd Street, Hollow

Rock, pre-trial diversion, Violation of Sexual Offender Registration Requirements, six months pre-trial diversion, six months unsupervised probation.

The following cases were dismissed:

Cody Allen Bradley, Cotham Drive, Huntingdon, dismissed, Disorderly Conduct.

Clinton Dale Mann, Highway 22, McKenzie, dismissed, Prohibited Weapons - Knuckles, forfeit guns to Carroll County Sheriff's Office; dismissed, Possession of Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia Uses and Activities; dismissed, Possession Without Prescription Unlawful.

William Andrew Reeves, Napier Lane, Wildersville, Tenn., dismissed, Assault - Physical Contact.

Candice Kay Wilson, Old Stage, Huntingdon, dismissed, Allowing Dog to Run at Large.

The following case was rescheduled:

William Hollowell.

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.

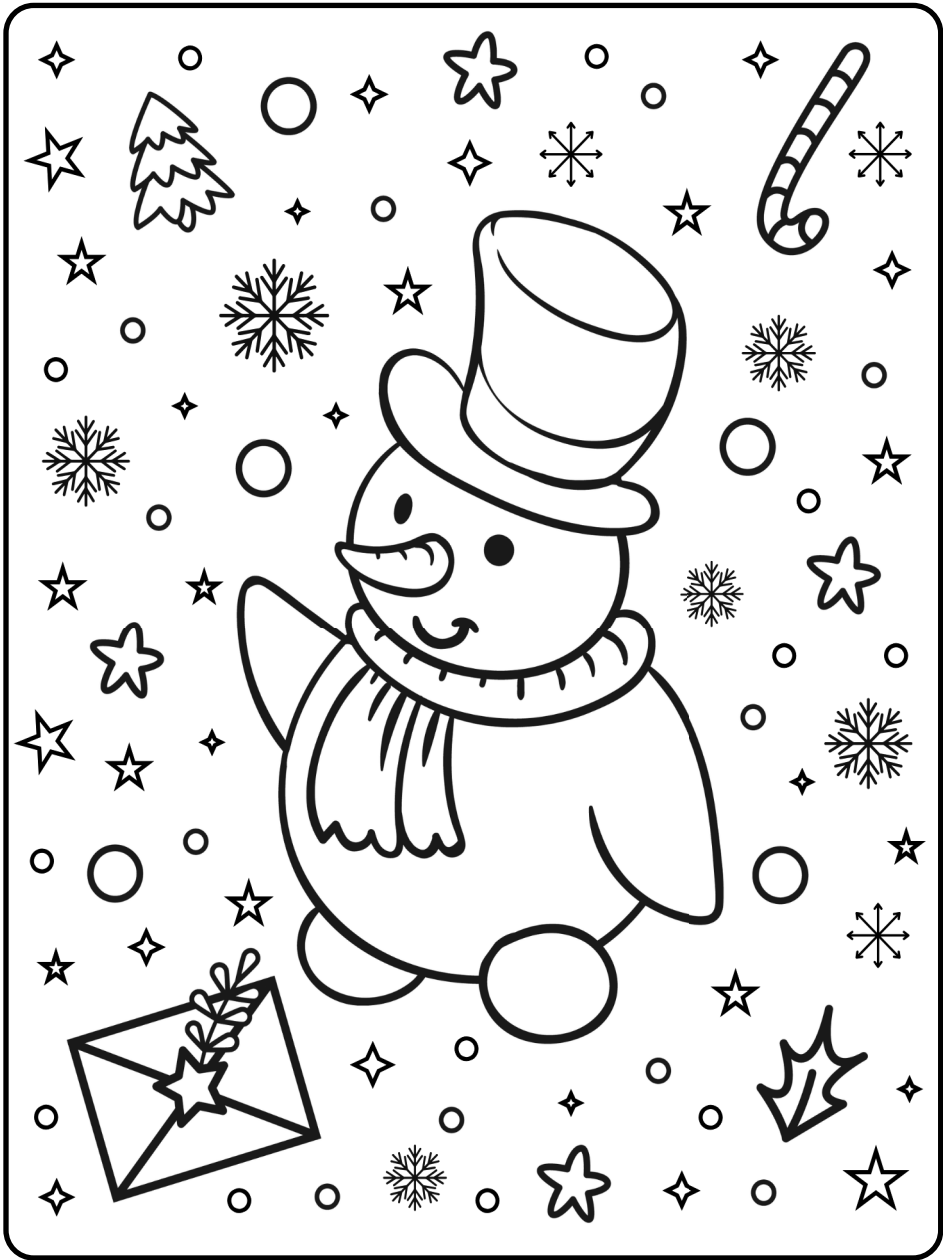
This 19TH day of NOVEMBER, 2025.
THIS NOTICE WILL RUN TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

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

A561/R26750/47-2

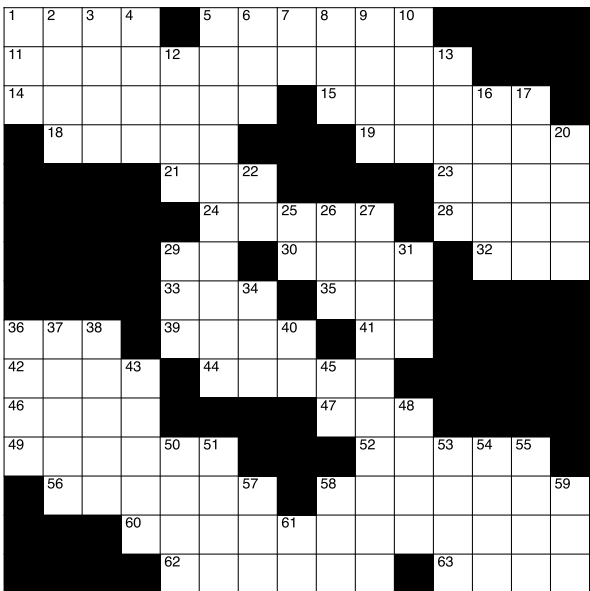
Color A Masterpiece



Weekly Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Dough made from corn flour
- 5. Rise
- 11. Gratitude
- 14. A low wall
- 15. Kidnap
- 18. A cup golfers want to win
- 19. Outgoing
- 21. "Partner" to flow
- 23. Former Michigan coach Brady
- 24. Proverb
- 28. Gasteyer and de Armas are two
- 29. Helps a body recover
- 30. Baseball Cy Young winner
- 32. Very fast airplane
- 33. Offensive baseball stat
- 35. Body of water
- 36. Record of one's heartbeat
- 39. Signs a contract
- 41. Atomic #24
- 42. Bind securely
- 44. French Jesuit theologian
- 46. Fragrant brown balsam
- 47. Post office box
- 49. Sells tickets at inflated prices
- 52. Places to hang coats
- 56. Jewish salutation
- 58. Yellow fruits
- 60. Poorly educated
- 62. Microorganism
- 63. Talk show host Barrymore



CLUES DOWN

- 1. A way to plan
- 2. Three-banded armadillo
- 3. Mobile
- 4. Romanian city
- 5. Making sour
- 6. Take a seat
- 7. "The Golden State"
- 8. When you hope to arrive
- 9. Pointed ends of pens
- 10. Extinct flightless bird
- 12. Sharp-pointed dueling sword
- 13. Nape of neck
- 16. Problems (Spanish slang)
- 17. Narrow carpet
- 20. To avoid the risk of
- 22. Spiritual academic degree (abbr.)
- 25. Equally
- 26. Traditional cars still need it
- 27. Eligible voters
- 29. Greek alphabet letter
- 31. Body part
- 34. Referee-declared outcome
- 36. Means to moving money
- 37. Popular footwear brand
- 38. Cockatoo
- 40. NFL's big game
- 43. Botswana currencies
- 45. News-reporting organization
- 48. Batman villain
- 50. Urgent request
- 51. Not all
- 53. Hallmark's specialty
- 54. Knot in a tree
- 55. Satisfy
- 57. Notable space station
- 58. Baby's dining accessory
- 59. Stitch clothing
- 61. ___ and behold

Week 48

See solution in next week's edition.

Business Word Search

A 15x15 grid of letters for a word search puzzle. The letters are: Row 1: D, Q, S, M, W, H, T, M, U, V, O, Y, W, O, P, E, P, F, P, T; Row 2: A, S, G, L, C, O, M, E, A, S, T, I, N, F, U, I, R, V, M, R, I, S; Row 3: I, U, N, I, C, W, Y, F, R, E, Q, N, R, N, Q, U, A, Y, F, B; Row 4: S, T, Y, I, S, O, S, R, H, A, I, U, E, P, I, T, L, G, I, H; Row 5: E, S, E, R, A, Y, M, C, E, S, H, T, I, M, A, E, U, A, T, Y; Row 6: Q, O, T, R, A, H, L, M, A, D, A, S, I, S, T, R, E, M, M, T; Row 7: D, U, Y, Y, S, T, C, A, U, L, L, C, T, L, I, S, U, T, Y, I; Row 8: E, R, W, F, V, T, M, Y, N, N, A, O, P, E, I, T, E, B, O, U; Row 9: M, C, L, N, B, L, E, I, L, A, I, B, H, L, K, B, I, V, N, Q; Row 10: I, I, N, A, W, M, M, S, N, P, S, T, I, E, A, R, A, O, N, E; Row 11: L, N, T, A, B, M, K, F, S, N, P, A, Y, L, K, E, A, I, N, I; Row 12: W, G, B, M, M, O, M, A, H, A, O, U, D, B, I, A, L, M, L, D; Row 13: R, C, K, O, S, R, L, Y, U, C, T, V, S, N, L, T, T, Y, L, C; Row 14: R, U, D, I, E, H, O, G, D, N, I, T, A, P, A, N, Y, S, A, G; Row 15: W, E, G, E, O, E, S, F, M, E, H, F, N, T, Y, R, E, F, C, C; Row 16: F, W, E, N, T, R, E, P, R, E, N, E, U, R, I, S, B, N, O, G; Row 17: W, T, Q, T, E, I, R, F, Q, E, V, W, D, W, F, O, N, V, L, U; Row 18: E, U, N, E, V, E, R, H, R, Y, P, R, M, L, N, H, N, D, A, B; Row 19: E, G, G, W, P, G, E, M, E, R, G, E, R, L, D, E, T, T, F, D.

Acquisition
Analysis
Assets
Brand
Cash Flow
Community

Entrepreneur
Equity
Global
Innovation
Investment
Liabilities

Local
Market Share
Merger
Outsourcing
Performance
Profit

Return
Revenue
Scalability
Stakeholder
Supply Chain
Value

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1884: The Washington Monument in Washington, D.C., is completed.

1897: London becomes the world's first city to host licensed taxicabs.

1967: Adrian Kantrowitz performs the first human heart transplant in the United States.

SUDOKU

WEEK 48

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

Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

See solution in next week's edition.

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to business. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 16 = s)

A. 2 10 16 24 5 14 16 16

Clue: A company

B. 13 18 18 15 10 5 22 16

Clue: Records or statements

C. 14 3 21 4 15 26 14 14

Clue: Worker

D. 21 4 13 5

Clue: Map of how to proceed

Answers: A. business B. accounts C. employee D. plan

LETTER MIX-UP

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

STAKEHOLDER

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

Riddle Me This

Why do mummies like Christmas so much?

Answer: Because of all the wrapping.

WORD SCRAMBLE

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

LPAOLRY

Answer: Payroll

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actor born on December 3, 1968 in Indiana. I made my acting debut in a crime reenactment for "America's Most Wanted." I'm a star who made it big in the 1990s with various action movies, including a trilogy about mummies. After a hiatus, I made a strong comeback and even won an Academy Award.

Answer: Brendan Fraser

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PUZZLE SOLUTION

Week 47 Crossword Puzzle Solution

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION WEEK 47

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

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TSSAA CLASS 1A STATE FOOTBALL SEMIFINAL



Above Left, Rebel quarterback Cole Brown checks his passing options, then runs through a hole for a 72-yard touchdown. Above Right, Rebel Lelan Gordon makes a catch for a first down. Below, Rebel Jacobi Melton looks back as he jets for one of his two long touchdown catches. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Rebels Dominate Tigers, Advance to Title Game

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (November 28) — For the fourth time in five years, the McKenzie High School Rebels will compete for the TSSAA Class 1A State Football Championship after a convincing 39-0 drubbing of Fayetteville in Friday's semifinal round.

McKenzie will face South Pittsburg at 3 p.m. Friday, December 5 at Finley Stadium in Chattanooga. The Rebels and Pirates have a storied championship history with three previous meetings. South Pittsburg has won each of the three: 52-20 in 2007, 24-21 in 2021 and 14-7 in 2023. The Pirates exited the playoffs early in 2022, when McKenzie claimed its first title. The Rebels lost in the semifinals last year to MASE, who defeated South Pittsburg in the championship the following week.

In Friday's semifinal, McKenzie won the toss and elected to defer possession.

Fayetteville returned the opening kickoff to near midfield, but the Rebel defense forced a quick three-and-out. The punt was downed at the McKenzie 24.

Timmy Arline started the Rebel drive with a short gain, then quarterback Cole Brown found Jacobi Melton for a 74-yard touchdown. The PAT missed, and McKenzie led 6-0 with just under ten minutes remaining in the first frame.

The Tigers began their second drive at their 34 and earned a pair of first downs to get across midfield. Then, quarterback Nyles Barnett's deep pass was intercepted by Rebel Kason Brown. A block in the back penalty on the return backed McKenzie to their 5.

McKenzie mixed up their attack on the 15-play, 95-yard drive, and Arline punched it in from the 1. A two-point attempt failed, but the Rebels had a 12-0 lead with half a minute remaining in the first quarter.

A ten-play, 66-yard Fayetteville drive ended at the Rebel 5 with an incomplete fourth-down pass.

Taking over at the 5 again, C. Brown started with a short pass to Jayden Callis, then, two plays later, he found



Rebel Kason Brown makes his lone offensive catch of the game, a 38-yard touchdown, to go along with three interceptions. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Melton again for a 92-yard score. Aiden Mason kicked the PAT, and McKenzie led 19-0 halfway through the second quarter.

The Tigers managed a first down before punting. Rebel Xander Johnsey blocked the punt, and McKenzie took over at the Fayetteville 38.

C. Brown passed to K. Brown on the first snap for a touchdown. Another two-point attempt failed, but the Rebel lead was 25-0 with three minutes left in the first half.

Fayetteville earned three first downs before facing a fourth-and-long with two seconds left. Barnett took a shot downfield, but C. Brown came up with the interception and made a short return to end the half.

An unexpected onside kick attempt by the Tigers to start the second half was successful, and they started their drive in Rebel territory.

Fayetteville managed four first downs, but back-to-back penalties made it third-and-long. Barnett passed it deep, and K. Brown came down with his second interception of the night.

Taking over at the 14, C. Brown threw to Melton, then Arline ran twice to move the chains. C. Brown tossed to Arline for another short gain, then kept the next snap for a 72-yard touchdown. Mason hit the PAT, and the Rebels led 32-0 with three minutes remaining in the third quarter.

On their third play of the ensuing drive and the final play of the third quarter, Barnett tossed a lateral pass to Quasean Black, who made a pass downfield. K. Brown made it three interceptions in the game.

Taking over at the McKenzie 34, Callis did most of the

legwork in an eight-play drive and capped it with a one-yard score. Mason kicked, and the Rebels led 39-0 halfway through the final frame.

Fayetteville made a long kickoff return, then converted a fourth down to get inside the Rebel 20 before time expired.

McKenzie had 445 yards of total offense, 268 yards passing and 177 yards rushing. Fayetteville had 202 total yards, 42 in the air and 160 on the ground.

Rebel quarterback Cole Brown was ten of 12 passing for 268 yards and three touchdowns. He also rushed four times for 80 yards with one touchdown.

Timmy Arline had eleven carries for 58 yards with one touchdown. Jayden Callis rushed six times for 39 yards and a touchdown.

Jacobi Melton had three catches for 169 yards and two touchdowns. Kason Brown caught one pass, a 38-yard touchdown. Jayden Callis had four catches for 30 yards, and Lelan Gordon had a 29-yard catch.

Xander Johnsey led the defense with seven solo tackles, two assists and a blocked punt. Aiden Legens had six solo and one assist, including one tackle for a loss. Cole Brown had five solo and three assists with one for a loss and an interception.

Cayden Gordon had five solo and four assists. Maddox Shiell had five solo tackles and one assist. Kason Brown had four solo and four assists along with three interceptions. Mason Batten had four solo and two assists. Cooper Davidson had four solo and one assist. Lelan Gordon had three solo and one assist. Ethan Batton had two solo tackles.



Top, Braylin Dearmon finds running room against Milan. Above Left, Kenton Smith meets a Milan tackler head on. Above Right, Braylin Dearmon is tackled just short of the goal line. Below Left, Taylin Strayhorn forces an offbalance throw for Milan. Below Right, Broox Bennett flies through the air for a Huntingdon tackle. Photos by Russell Bush/The Banner



Huntingdon Defeats Milan

Advances to State Championship Game

BY RUSSELL BUSH
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MILAN (November 28) — The Huntingdon Mustangs exorcised some demons Friday night with a 35-34 win over Milan. The win earned the Mustangs a spot opposite Marion County in the Class 2-A TSSAA BlueCross Bowl title game. Huntingdon will take the field on Saturday, December 6 at 2 p.m. at Finley Stadium in Chattanooga.

Coming into Friday night's game, the Mustangs had lost to the Bulldogs three consecutive times, including a 34-9 loss on September 5 this season. Since 1996, the Mustangs have played a semifinal round 11 times, including Friday, and three of those matchups were against Milan. Since 1996, the Mustangs and Bulldogs have met eight times in the playoffs, and the Mustangs have won five of those matchups.

The appearance in the state title game will be the second for the Mustangs since Eric Swenson became head coach in 2008, with the first appearance in 2012 when the Mustangs lost to Gordonsville 21-20. This marks the fifth time the Mustangs have reached the title game. The Mustangs finished runner-up in 1999, 2003, 2004, and 2012, having won the championship in 2003.

The Mustangs gained revenge against the Bulldogs after the 34-9 loss in September, after not scoring an offensive touchdown in the first match-up, and were held to 120 yards total offense. Friday, the Mustangs scored on their first five possessions of the game and were never real-

ly slowed down by a Bulldog defense that had been allowing fewer than ten points a game this season.

Even with the offensive success by the Mustangs, the game came down to its defense and an unfortunate bounce of the football on an onside kick. The Bulldogs, who trailed 35-21 entering the fourth quarter, scored with 2:04 left in the game to trail 35-34.

The Bulldogs decided to go for two to win the game and gave the ball to Mr. Football finalist, Jaydon Peete, who ended the game with 248 yards rushing on 28 carries and scored all five touchdowns for the Bulldogs. The Mustang defense had different ideas and led by linebacker Broox Bennett, who had 14 tackles in the game, stopped Peete a yard short to preserve the one-point lead.

The Bulldogs tried an onside kick, and the ball seemed to bounce around the playing surface at Johnnie Hale Stadium for several minutes with both teams trying to recover the kick until Kenton Smith pounced on the ball at the Mustang 39. On third-and-one, Smith picked up nine yards and a first down, allowing the Mustangs to run out the clock for the win.

Huntingdon scored first in the game on a 13-play drive from their 25 and posted the first points on a Smith one-yard run. Greyson Anderson PAT to lead 7-0.

Milan answered with a 38-yard touchdown run by Peete and an Aiden Pennington point after to tie the score at 7-7.

The Mustangs, with 1:43 left in the first quarter, took the lead back with

an 11-yard run by Braylin Dearmon. Dearmon led the Mustangs with 176 yards for the game on 17 carries and three scores. Anderson gave Huntingdon a 14-7 lead with the point after.

Milan tied the game at 14-14 on a two-yard run by Peete with 8:54 left in the half.

Huntingdon punched right back with an eight-play drive that covered 63 yards and ended in a 16-yard run by Smith. Anderson's point after to take the lead back 21-14.

The Bulldogs tried a 31-yard field goal by Pennington on the last play of the first half, but the kick was wide left. The Mustangs led by seven at the half.

After a Bulldog punt began the third quarter, the Mustangs took a two-score lead on a four-yard run by Dearmon with 3:22 left in the third. Anderson tackled on the extra point, and the Mustangs led 28-14.

Peete then scored from 27 yards with 11:10 left in the game, and Pennington cut the lead to 28-21.

Dearmon then seemed to put the game away for the Mustangs as he sprinted 62 yards for a touchdown, and Anderson upped the lead to 35-21 with 10:33 left in the game.

Peete scored on a 54-yard run with 9:41 left and a five-yard run with 2:04 left to set up a dramatic final two minutes of the game.

The Mustangs rushed for 309 yards, and Smith added 88 yards to Dearmon's 176. Tyreke Hutch ran for 45 yards on nine carries. The Bulldogs ran for 330 yards and passed for 51.

The Mustangs face the defending state champs, Marion County (13-1), in the Class 2-A title game.

Mustangs Jump to Top of 2A Poll, Rebels Fall to Second in 1A Ahead of Championship Weekend

BY BRAD SAM
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NASHVILLE (December 1) — The Tennessee Sports Writers Association and USA Today Network released on Monday morning their final high school football rankings before the championship round this weekend.

In Class 1A, South Pittsburg (13-1) overtakes McKenzie (13-1) for the top spot with nine first place votes

to the Rebels' six. The two teams meet Friday for the state championship.

South Pittsburg had yet to play a game when they last held the number one spot, following McKenzie's Week One loss to Huntingdon. When the Pirates also lost their first game in Week Two, the Rebels moved up and have held the top spot since.

In Class 2A, Huntingdon (13-1) claims the top spot with eight first-place votes

to Marion County's (13-1) seven votes. Those two teams meet Saturday for the title. Milan (12-1) swapped places with the Mustangs (third last week) after Huntingdon's one-point semifinal win Friday night, avenging their only loss earlier in the season.

In Class 3A, Westview (13-0) remains the unanimous number one over Gatlinburg-Pittman (14-0). The two teams meet Friday for the state championship.

Gleason's Sawyers Honored for 1,000th Point

GLEASON (November 25) — Gleason High School senior basketball standout Kade Sawyers was welcomed to the 1,000-point club during Tuesday's games against Hollow Rock-Bruceton. Sawyers achieved the milestone on March 1 of this year against Halls, during last season. He is pictured (left) receiving a commemorative ball from Head Coach Mike Riggs. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

