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COMING NEXT WEEK

• Christmas Special Edition

• STATE Special Edition

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

McKENZIE, TENNESSEE

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BLUECROSS BOWL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Mustangs Bring Home Gold Ball, Rebels Silver



Top, The TSSAA Class 2A Football State Champion Huntingdon Mustangs. Photo by Russell Bush/The Banner
Above, The TSSAA Class 1A Football State Runner-Up McKenzie Rebels. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

State Special Edition Coming Next Week

Huntingdon Earns Second State Title

CHATTANOOGA (December 6) — The Huntingdon Mustangs are the TSSAA Class 2A Football State Champions after a 20-7 win over Marion County Saturday at Finley Stadium.

The Mustangs scored once in each of the first three quarters and held the Warriors scoreless until the fourth.

See TITLE on Page 3

Rebels are Class 1A Runner-Up

CHATTANOOGA (December 5) — The McKenzie High School Rebels are the TSSAA Class 1A Football State Runner-Up after a 42-14 loss to South Pittsburg Friday in the BlueCross Bowl at Finley Stadium.

The Pirates, led by game MVP Ja'Mychal Buckner, were explosive on offense in the first half, while the

See REBELS on Page 3

McKenzie School Board Extends Dr. Barden's Contract by Four Years

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (December 2) — The McKenzie Special School District (MSSD) Board of Education voted to extend Dr. Justin Barden's superintendent contract by four years during Tuesday night's regular meeting. The board also approved four high school teachers for tenure, adopted a budget amendment regarding security purchases and granted Dr. Barden's request to find a new vehicle for McKenzie High School's drivers education classes.

Dr. Barden joined the school district in May 2023 after dedicating nearly two decades of service to schools across Tennessee.

See BARDEN on Page 3

Huntingdon School Board Learns Schools' Needs, Wants

HUNTINGDON (December 3) — Members of the Huntingdon School Board spent a day in the schools, visiting with administrators, teachers, and students to better understand the needs and wants at each of the three school sites.

Convening at 7 a.m., board members first conducted their monthly business session, which included a required public notice to discuss the renewal of Jonathan Kee's contract in January. Kee is the director of schools.

In other business, the board approved several personnel changes. Rebecca Anderson was hired as a Primary School Educational Assistant, while Jeri Shands and Rachelle Baldwin joined Primary School Food Service.

See NEEDS on Page 3

PAID ANNOUNCEMENT



Ryan White

Ryan White Announces Candidacy

Ladies and gentlemen, family, friends, neighbors, and fellow citizens of Carroll County — My name is Ryan White.

It is with great honor, humility, and commitment to service that I officially announce my candidacy for Carroll County Sheriff.

I was raised with a deep belief that a strong community is built on trust, respect, and a shared responsibility to care for one another. Over the years, I've had the privilege of serving as McKenzie Police Chief and witnessing firsthand the resilience and pride that make our county such a remarkable place to call home.

But like many communities across our nation, we face challenges—challenges that require leadership rooted not in politics, but in integrity, transparency, and accountability.

I am running for Sheriff because I believe:

- ✓ Our families deserve to feel safe in every corner of

See WHITE on Page 3

WEAKLEY COUNTY
Circuit Court Clerk Resigns After Improper Expungements

An investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller's Office has found that the Weakley County Circuit Court Clerk Courtney McMinn (R-Martin) improperly processed expungements for an individual who did not meet the eligibility requirements under Tennessee law. The investigation began after officials in the 24th Judicial District raised concerns about improper expungement activity.

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McKenzie City Council Meets Thursday

The McKenzie City Council meets December 11, 2025 at 6 p.m. with the following items are the agenda: Resolution honoring Dennis Coleman for his time with the Industrial Board; Resolu-

tion honoring Ricky Price for his time with the Industrial Board; Proclamation honoring MHS Cross County Team; Discussion/Approval for the appointment of John Hodgson to the IDB

Board; Discussion/Approval for the appointment of Chris Nelson to the IDB Board; Discussion/Approval for the appointment of Elizabeth Owen to the Planning Commission Board.

Downtown Parade a Big Draw to McKenzie's Hometown Christmas



McKENZIE (December 6) — Santa Claus headlined the big parade during McKenzie's Hometown Christmas Saturday. For full coverage of this and many other local holiday events, check out the special Christmas Greetings section in next week's edition of The Banner. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner



'A Mistletoe Christmas' concluded with an audience sing-along led by all of the night's performers. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Carroll Arts' 'A Mistletoe Christmas' Kicks Off McKenzie Events

McKENZIE (December 4) — Carroll Arts, Inc. presented 'A Mistletoe Christmas' Thursday at the historic Park Theatre. The annual show featured musical performances by local entertainers, including McKenzie Elementary School's Rebel

Singers (directed by Joanna Turner), Melissa Herris with Dr. Keith Herris, Gina Rainey, Veronica Giaimo Davis, Dana Wyatt with Larry Bullion, Isaac Stephen Walker and Brittany Washburn Martin. The event concluded with an audience sing-along

led by all of the performers and an appearance by Santa Claus. For full coverage of this and many other local holiday events, check out the special Christmas Greetings section in next week's edition of The Banner.



Above, Students, faculty, staff, and community members joined for the tree-lighting ceremony on Bethel University's campus. Below, Attendees enjoyed cookies, hot cider and hot chocolate following the lighting ceremony.



Bethel Hosts Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony

McKENZIE (December 3) — On a cold winter evening, Bethel University hosted the first of its planned annual Christmas tree lighting ceremonies near the historic log cabin on campus. Bethel President Dr. Perry Moulds, along with Vice President Lougan Bishop, Renaissance Executive Director Matthew Holt, and McKenzie Mayor Griffin, welcomed students, faculty, staff, and community members to the event. Dr. Moulds remarked that this ceremony marks another milestone in establishing annual traditions at Bethel University. Attendees enjoyed Christmas carols, a prayer, and a welcoming message



Dr. Perry Moulds, president of Bethel; Lougan Bishop, Vice President of Enrollment & Advancement; Matthew Holt, Executive Director of Renaissance, and McKenzie Mayor Ryan Griffin.

from Mayor Griffin. The nationally recognized fiddle player, Mary Parker, from the Renaissance Bluegrass Quartet, also performed during the ceremony.

After the tree was lit, guests celebrated with cookies, hot chocolate, and cider, provided by Bethel's Dining Services and served inside the log cabin's dogwalk.



Top, The Bluegrass Quartet. Above, Renaissance Band. Below, Renaissance Choir.



Christmas With Renaissance

McKENZIE (December 7) — Approximately 3,000 people attended the four performances of Bethel University's Renaissance on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, December 5-7. Actors, musicians, and vocalists provided a dynamic performance to kick off the Christmas season. Bethel's Christmas with Renaissance is a tradition with members of the audience coming year after year to enjoy the highly talented performers. Inside the Bouldin Auditorium on the Bethel campus, performers in the band, Bluegrass Quartet, Renaissance Theatre, Renaissance Choir, and a special treat provided by the percussionist delighted audiences. The magic of Christmas was truly exhibited through the talents of Bethel University's Renaissance.



The drumline provided a high-energy performance, including this photo, where a percussionist is hanging upside down and continues to perform.



Above, Bethel University Alumni, who performed at Christmas at The Dixie are: Brandon Powers, Katie McGill, Chelsea Fuller Brown, Mitchell Brown, Lindsay Johnson, Hannah Eaton, and Nathan Eaton. Below, The spirit of Christmas was evident with wonderful musical performances by (L to R) Katie McGill, Lindsay Johnson, Hannah Eaton, Nathan Eaton, Chelsea Fuller Brown, Dr. Lee Carter, Mitchell Brown, Jessica Tucker, Madilyn Dudley, and Annh Browder.



Christmas at the Dixie Brought Local Talent for Fantastic Show

HUNTINGDON (December 6) — This year's cast featured Annh Browder, Chelsea Fuller Brown, Dr. Lee Carter, Madilyn Dudley, Hannah Eaton, Nathan Eaton, Lindsay Johnson, Katie McGill, and Jessica Tucker — all vocalists who brought classic and contemporary Christmas favorites to life in a heartwarming celebration of local talent. The event was at The Dixie Carter

Performing Arts Center on Saturday, December 6. The show was produced by Chelsea Fuller Brown, who created a high-energy musical showcase featuring vocalists and musicians from the local area. WLJT-TV, Channel 11, videotaped the show for airing on the local PBS affiliate. WLJT has produced a marathon of Christmas specials at The Dixie dating back to 2013.

The marathon on Channel 11 airs Christmas Eve at noon for the 2025 show; 1 p.m. 2013 show; 2 p.m. 2015; 3 p.m., 2016 show; 4 p.m., 2017 show; 5 p.m., 2018 show; 6 p.m., 2022 show, and 7 p.m., Christmas at the Dixie Pledge Drive. The series repeats on Christmas Day, with all the above shows starting two hours earlier than the Christmas Eve schedule.



Above, Food Services Director Greg Jones, left, retired from his position after eight years serving MSSD. Laura Martin, right, is the new food services director, bringing almost three decades of food service experience into her new role. Right, McKenzie Board of Education Chairman LaShonda Williams signs Superintendent Dr. Barden's (left) contract, confirming a four-year extension. Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner



Barden

...From Front Page

“As a whole, we have been very pleased with Dr. Barden,” said Board Chairman LaShonda Williams. “He has done great things in our system. He’s worked extremely, extremely hard.” Dr. Barden accepted the contract extension. “It’s a blessing to work in this district and work alongside [the board] and all of our teachers,” he said. “We’ll continue to do good things.”

Dr. Barden also recommended four high school teachers for tenure, supported by Principal Kelly Spivey: Ashley Lowe, guidance counselor; Jordan Jowers, Biology I and physics teacher; Janet Esch, English I teacher; and Lindsey Parham, agriculture teacher.

Lowe and Jowers were each recommended after completing their five-year probationary period with the high school.

Esch and Parham previously received tenure with the district under the old tenure laws, but they lost tenure after relocating to other schools. While the new tenure laws allow for a two-year probationary period for the two educators, Dr. Barden requested shortening this period based on both teachers’ achievements in the classroom. He recommended granting them tenure now rather than waiting another year.

The board approved all four tenure recommendations.

Dr. Barden informed the board of a Tennessee Public School Security Grant that gave the district \$25,204.67. He said the district already used this

money to purchase security film for windows and doors at the elementary, middle and high schools and fifty bleeding control kits for classrooms.

The board adopted the budget for the Public School Security Grant.

In a last-minute addition to the agenda, Dr. Barden requested the board’s approval to purchase a new vehicle for the high school’s drivers education classes.

The current vehicle, purchased used in 2021, has needed several costly repairs in four years after brake issues, electrical issues and tire issues according to Barden.

“We are in a position to potentially put \$10,000 more into these repairs, and it’s only at around 60,000 miles,” Dr. Barden said. “So we’re disappointed.”

Dr. Barden said he felt like the purchase of a new vehicle is the district’s best approach moving forward. Because the school van was in the shop for a \$4,200 repair, it was unusable by the current class. There are two drivers education classes next semester, and these classes typically start driving within the first few weeks of school.

The current vehicle does not have a warranty, but Peppers Ford offered the district a trade-in offer of \$8,500. Dr. Barden said the district wants to purchase a vehicle that’s near the \$20,000 range, so they would need to pay a maximum of \$13,000. The district would also need to install a dual-control brake on the purchased vehicle, adding a few hundred more dollars to the overall price.

Dr. Barden informed the board of several available options at Peppers Ford:

a Honda Santa Fe with about 26,000 miles left on its Powertrain Warranty, a Chevy Trax with about 10,000 miles left on its Powertrain Warranty and a Trailblazer with more than 30,000 miles left on its Powertrain Warranty.

None of the vehicles have total warranty coverage.

Board member Misty Aird agreed that the high school needed a new vehicle. “I think it’s a safety issue,” she said.

The board approved of Dr. Barden’s search for a new driver’s education vehicle.

Adding to the night’s celebratory items, the board recognized a recent retiree in the district. Food Services Director Greg Jones retired from his position after eight years serving MSSD. Dr. Barden wished Jones and his wife, Mrs. Kay, the best as they embark on their new stage of life. The board presented Jones with a gift for his service.

“I thoroughly enjoyed being here and working with everybody,” Jones said in a short thank-you speech.

Laura Martin is the new food services director, bringing almost three decades of food service experience into her new role. Previously, she served as the cafeteria manager at McKenzie Middle School.

The board also approved overnight stays for McKenzie High School football players and cheerleaders during the TSSAA State Championship. Both groups were permitted to leave McKenzie Thursday and stay overnight in Chattanooga both Thursday and Friday.

The school board’s next regular meeting is Tuesday, February 3, 2026.

White

...From Front Page

this county—day and night.

✓ Our deputies deserve strong leadership, proper training, and support to do their jobs with excellence.

✓ Taxpayers deserve responsible stewardship of resources and clear communication from their Sheriff’s Office.

✓ And every person—no matter who they are—deserves to be treated with fairness, dignity, and respect.

My vision is simple: To uphold the law with

honor.

To protect our communities with compassion.

To build a Sheriff’s Office that works with the people, not apart from them.

We will strengthen community policing, improve drug prevention and enforcement efforts, enhance school safety, and ensure that victims of crime are never left without a voice. We will modernize our tools and training—without losing sight of the values that make us who we are.

This campaign isn’t about one person.

It’s about all of us.

It’s about building a safer, stronger future for Carroll County.

I am asking for your support, your prayers, and your involvement. Together, we can create meaningful change. Together, we can ensure every family in Carroll County feels protected, supported, and proud of the sheriff’s office that serves them.

From the bottom of my heart—thank you. Let’s move forward—united and determined—to make a difference.

My name is Ryan White, and I’m running to be your next Carroll County Sheriff.

Paid for by Ryan White for Sheriff. Carrie Hollowell, Treasurer.

Title

...From Front Page

The victory caps a 14-1 season for Huntingdon, their lone loss coming to Milan in the regular season, a loss they avenged in

the semifinals to reach the title game.

It’s the fifth finals appearance and the second championship victory for a program that has missed the playoffs just once since 1993.

Quarterback Kenton Smith was named MVP as

he ran for 111 yards on 21 carries and a touchdown. He was one of three passing for 41 yards and a TD.

For full, in-depth coverage of the Mustangs’ championship, check out the special section in the December 16 edition of The Banner.

Rebels

...From Front Page

Rebels struggled to find momentum. South Pitt led 35-0 at the break.

The Rebels never quit, battling hard on both sides

of the ball to hold the Pirates to one score in the second half while breaking through for a pair of touchdowns.

The Rebels end the season at 13-2, with 13 straight wins bookended by losses to the Class 2A and 1A state champions, Huntingdon and South Pittsburg.

It’s the fifth finals ap-

pearance for McKenzie and the fourth against South Pitt. The Rebels won the title in 2022 against Clay County.

For full, in-depth coverage of the Rebels’ runner-up finish, check out the special section in the December 16 edition of The Banner.



Huntingdon School Board Members and Student Representatives — Student Representative Madison Dill, Board Members Clay Nolen, Dr. Morgan Butler, Brittany Foster, Dr. Lee Carter, Shawna Smith, Kennedy White, and Student Representative Paige Costello.

Needs

...From Front Page

Emily Cole and Jennifer Briscoe resigned from food service, and Katie White stepped down as an HMS Educational Assistant.

Dr. Kee, board members, and two student representatives — Madison Dill and Paige Costello — toured each of the three school buildings.

The group learned about innovative programs in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math), the JAG program, a student-run concession area, and agriculture initiatives including local livestock and greenhouse operations at the high school. After visiting all three schools, the group returned to the central office to discuss needs and wants before evaluating the institution’s progress.

Among the top infrastructure priorities identified were tennis and pickleball courts, an additional HHS greenhouse, inclusive playground equipment for HPS and HMS, and renovation of the HPS old gym.

Items for future consideration included baseball and softball field lighting,



Above, Morgan Rovey spoke about HHS’s sale of meat from livestock raised at the school. Below, HHS Principal Porsche McClerking and student Gage Foster speak about the student-run coffee shop.



additional school transportation, and additional

storage and STEM workspace at HHS.

Clerk

...From Front Page

Investigators found that the clerk signed the name of an individual, who had criminal convictions in four separate counties, on multiple expungement petitions, even though the person did not meet the eligibility requirements under Tennessee law. The clerk later emailed other county clerks and shared misleading information with one of them about the individual’s eligibility, prompting that clerk to move forward with the expungements.

The expungement orders were ultimately signed by judges in two counties and submitted to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI). The clerk failed to serve the petition on the District Attorney’s Office in Weakley County as required by law, and the judges involved were unaware that the individual had been convicted in multiple counties. The expungements were later reversed.

The clerk submitted her resignation on December 2, 2025, with an effective date of December 31, 2025.

“This case underscores the importance of following the law when processing court records,” said Comptroller Mumpower. “Clerks must act with honesty and transparency, especially when handling legal documents that carry serious consequences.”

In June or July 2023, the clerk prepared four petitions for an individual who was convicted of crimes in Weakley, Obion, Henry, and Carroll counties. Court

records also revealed that the individual committed the offenses of forgery over the period of approximately 45 days in the above counties. The clerk admitted to investigators that she signed the individual’s name on each of the petitions. Investigators confirmed with officials from the DA’s Office for the 27th Judicial District that the clerk was told that the individual did not qualify for expungement due to the multi-county convictions. On July 20, 2023, the clerk emailed the petitions to the Obion, Henry, and Carroll County Circuit Court clerks (court clerks) and inquired about the clerks’ fees to process the conviction expungements. One of the court clerks questioned the eligibility of the individual due to the convictions in multiple counties. After the court clerk’s inquiry, the clerk subsequently contacted a supervisor with TBI via email and asked about the individual’s eligibility.

The clerk then informed the court clerk who questioned the individual’s eligibility that the TBI supervisor stated the individual’s convictions were considered a single criminal episode, and that if the judges agree, the individual would be eligible for expungement. After the judge signed the order, it was sent to the TBI, and the expungement was completed. Investigators confirmed that in Weakley County, the order was signed by the judge on June 9, 2023, and was completed by the TBI on June 13, 2023. Investigators discovered that the petition was not served on the DA in accordance with Tenn. Code Ann. § 40-32-101(g)

(3), and the order was not signed by the DA or ADA. In her email, the clerk also told the court clerk that if the judges agree that the offenses were a single criminal episode, the individual should be eligible. Investigators confirmed with the respective judges that they were not aware that the individual had convictions in multiple counties. Investigators confirmed that the Obion County expungement was signed by the ADA and the judge; however, it was never sent to the TBI. After the improper expungements were discovered, an Agreed Order was filed on October 6, 2023, in Henry County to stop the expungement from being processed. In September and October 2023, motions to set aside petitions to expunge were filed in the two counties where the improper expungements were completed, and investigators confirmed these expungements were reversed. The petition states that the “petitioner has no other conviction in this or any other jurisdiction other than the one(s) to be expunged.” The petition also states, “petitioner further understands that statements made in the petition...are made under penalty of perjury in connection with an official proceeding.” When the clerk signed the individual’s name on the petitions, she affirmed that the individual had no other convictions. However, investigators determined that the clerk was aware that the individual had convictions in multiple counties when she prepared and signed the petitions.

WEST CARROLL

School District Spotlights Erin Lewis

West Carroll Special School District administrators proudly recognize Ms. Erin Lewis as this week’s Teacher Spotlight, celebrating her passion, dedication and commitment to empowering students in grades nine through 12 at West Carroll Jr/Sr High School.

Ms. Lewis teaches Human Services and Business Education, and although she is only in her third year of education, she has already made a meaningful impact on the high school’s community.

A native of Milan, Lewis brings creativity, compassion and a strong academic background to her classroom. She earned her Bachelor’s degree in Fashion Merchandising from Lipscomb University and went on to receive her Master’s degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Tennessee Tech, blending her industry knowledge with strong instructional expertise.

Lewis says she became a teacher because she wants her students to leave her class “with confidence in themselves and their abilities to accomplish whatever they set their minds to.”

She believes deeply in the power of resilience and personal growth, reminding her



Erin Lewis

students that “no matter their circumstances, they have the chance to create a meaningful future.”

Above all, she strives to ensure every student knows how much she cares about their success and well-being. One of the things she loves most about teaching is helping students discover connections between their passions and the course content. She also values the relationships she builds with her students and the excitement she helps foster around school activities. For Lewis, each day brings new challenges, possibilities and opportunities for growth—for both her and her students.

When reflecting on a favorite classroom memory, she fondly recalls the big,

exciting projects from Mrs. Becky Reeves’s METS classes during her own middle school years. Those experiences continue to inspire her teaching today.

Lewis hopes that students leave her class with unwavering confidence in themselves and their abilities. She reminds them often that every day is a new opportunity and that they have the power to shape their own futures. Most importantly, she wants them to always know how deeply she cares for their success and prosperity.

A fun fact that makes her time at WCHS even more special: she works just down the hall from her mentor, her biggest inspiration and her grandmother—Mrs. Linda Hatfield, affectionately known as Mama Linda.

Her favorite quote, one that guides her leadership in the classroom, is by John Quincy Adams:

“If you inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader.”

West Carroll staff are grateful to have teachers like Erin Lewis who lead with heart, inspire with purpose and help students see the possibilities within themselves every single day.

Bethel to Hold Graduation on Saturday

MCKENZIE — Bethel University will hold its December Commencement ceremony on Saturday, December 13 at 10 a.m. in the Rosemary & Harry L. Crisp, II Arena. President Perry Moulds will preside over the ceremony.

The event will celebrate 214 graduates from Bethel’s College of Arts & Sciences and the College of Professional Studies. This semester’s graduating class represents 17 associate’s degrees, 140 bachelor’s degrees, and 57 master’s degrees. Each graduate now joins the growing community of Bethel alumni who carry their experiences, growth, and accomplish-

ments into the world beyond campus.

Brad Hurley, President of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, will deliver the Commencement address.

Families, friends, and members of the broader Bethel community who cannot attend in person will be able to watch the ceremony live on the University’s YouTube channel.

Bethel University proudly celebrates each graduate crossing the stage this December. Your commitment, resilience, and hard-earned success have led you to this moment, and the University looks forward to seeing where your

journey goes next.

Hurley is a graduate of Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School and the University of Tennessee at Martin. He served with the Tennessee Department of Education during the Governor Ned McWherter administration.

He has served as president of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce for more than 20 years and as a TSSAA football officials administrator in northwest Tennessee.

He and his wife, Marty, reside in Bruceton. They own Carroll County Trophies in McKenzie.

McKenzie Receives Reward School Designation

In November, the Tennessee Department of Education announced state school and district designations for the 2024-25 school year, including Reward Schools, Exemplary Districts, and In Need of Improvement Districts. These designations are based on various performance indicators, including student achievement and growth. Several Carroll County schools received Reward School designations, with McKenzie receiving its third designation in five years.

McKenzie Special School District was recognized as an Advancing District for the 2024-25 school year, and McKenzie High School received a Reward School designation. In the past five years, the school has received the Reward School designation three times: in 2020-2021, 2022-2023 and 2024-2025.

“We are extremely proud of our staff and students for the recognition and hard work,” said McKenzie High School Principal Kelly Spivey.

In the county, West Carroll, South Carroll and Hollow Rock-Bruceton special school districts also had Advancing District Reward Schools. Huntingdon Special School District was a

Satisfactory District.

Across the state, the number of Reward Schools increased from 377 in 2023-24 to 459 in 2024-25, representing a 22 percent increase. The complete list of district and school designations is available on the department’s accountability webpage.

“Because of the dedication of Tennessee district, charter and school leaders, along with our outstanding educators, we are proud to see their hard work demonstrated in these results,” said Lizzette Reynolds, Commissioner of Education.

Each year, schools and districts are eligible for designations based on their overall performance across indicators that are essential to student success, including how they prepared students to be proficient (achievement), accelerated student learning (growth), encouraged students to attend school regularly (chronically out of school), prepared students for postsecondary success (graduation rate and Ready Graduate) and supported English learners acquiring language skills.

Schools are recognized as a Reward School when they demonstrate high levels

of performance and/or improvement in performance by meeting objectives across performance indicators and student groups, and the Reward School distinction places significant emphasis on performance and improvement across all indicators from the prior school year.

Across the state, fourteen districts received Exemplary designation. Districts designated as “Exemplary” received an overall score equal to or greater than 3.1.

100 districts received Advancing designation. Districts designated for “Advancing” received an overall score equal to or greater than 2.1 but less than 3.1.

Twenty-one districts received Satisfactory designation. Districts designated as “Satisfactory” received an overall score equal to or greater than 1.1 but less than 2.1.

None of the districts received Marginal designation. Districts designated as “Marginal” received an overall score of less than 1.1.

Eight Tennessee districts received In Need of Improvement designation. Districts receive an “In Need of Improvement” determination if their overall score falls in the bottom five percent of all districts.

THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

Focus On What You Know

An anxious brain is a busy brain. It can’t sit still and be quiet.

Instead, it scurries around picking up any tiny thing it can find and starts picking it apart, looking for something to worry about.

The anxious brain makes mountains out of molehills by telling you lie after lie.

So, here’s today’s suggestion: focus on what you know rather than on what you suppose.

Back when COVID was running rampant and everyone’s anxiety was high, I kept my focus on what I knew:

- 1. I am alive.
- 2. I feel fine.
- 3. I have enough food in the house to satisfy my appetite.
- 4. My wife, my children, and my grandchildren are alive.
- 5. I have toilet paper!

But my anxious brain

wanted to take me by the hand and drag me around in search of trouble by saying:

What if something happens to you? What will happen to everyone who depends on you? Who will take care of them? How will the funeral be handled? Can everyone come who wants to? Will they have to cremate my body to destroy the virus?

You feel fine right now, but that virus takes days before it shows symptoms. What if you have the virus right now and are infecting everyone in the house? What if you get sick and have to go to the hospital? Will you need a ventilator? Will there be a ventilator available? Will there even be a bed available in the hospital?

What if the food in the house runs out? Will there be food available at the store? Will someone read

this post and decide to break in your house and steal your food? What if you catch them? Will you shoot them? Will they shoot you? Will they kidnap your wife? What will they do to her? Will you ever see her again?

You heard your wife cough during the night. Does that mean she’s getting sick with the virus? Is she going to die? How will you survive without her? Will you ever marry again? Would she be upset with you if you did? What would your children and grandchildren think of you if you remarried? And what if the new marriage doesn’t work out and they divorce you? What will people think about you?

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

HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

Way More Than A Head Warmer

You talk about Black Friday! Cathy chose that day to do some serious cleaning out. It seemed anti-cultural to me. Maybe even illegal. Weren’t we supposed to be shopping...adding things to what we have. Not throwing them away!

She’s been mumbling about my hats for 51 years. You can probably hear her from where you’re sitting, “Way too many. Why do you have all these hats? You can only wear one at a time...”

I think what pushed her over the edge last Friday was the 15 hats resting innocently on the desk in the Stan Musial room. My only defense is we don’t use that desk very often.

I did point out that she boxed up 100 hats back in ’04 and put them in the attic. Wasn’t that enough? This time she was taking them straight to the garbage can. One of those hats I’d worn when we visited Pebble Beach. Another one I had picked up at a Porter Wagoner concert. Where is her sentimental side?

My first hat was a baseball cap.

Now, I am not counting that multicolored knitted toboggan looking thing that Mom posed me in for my very first picture. And I have spent a lifetime trying to forget that gosh awful fake fur insulated hat Mom made me wear to my first snowman building outing. It had ear flaps for goodness sakes!

I looked like Admiral Byrd trying to find the South Pole.

One of the first rights the American colonists fought for in the freedom seeking years of the 1770’s was the civil liberty of every individual to select his own headgear. Only a rare oversight by Thomas Jefferson kept that “truth” out of the Declaration of Independence.

Collecting head covers is

a patriotic thing.

That’s why my first one is so important. It was green. With no insignia, catchy phrase, or lettering on it. There was no magic affiliated with it. You couldn’t fly when you put it on. There was no secret code emanating from deep inside the thing. It didn’t change you into Babe Ruth, Mickey Mantle...or even Jim Brideweser.

Oh, but at the time, it was so very special. It had the required six panels, a green button on top, and a genuine leather sweat band. It matched our Little League uniforms that were sponsored by the Lions Club.

I wasn’t a good enough player to earn a cap with the “L” factory stamped on the front like the older kids. Mom had to hand sew mine on. The important thing was I had made the team!

I worked for hours bending the bill of that cap “just right.” I practiced rounding a base at full speed and lifting my chin slightly so the wind would catch under the bill and blow it off my head.

That’s the way Willie Mays did it.

I slept with that cap. It was the beginning of my “capology” journey.

Bobby Jack Cantrell was the master hat guru in our little world. The first money I ever earned I bought a genuine New Era St. Louis Cardinal cap. I’m sure you remember the one; it was blue, with a red bill, and a red button on top. I immediately ran the mile and a half out to Bobby Jack’s house on Fields Street.

He laid the front carefully over the bill and ironed a permanent crease in my hat. I wore it proudly everywhere I went. As you sweated on the leather band inside, it would automatically “shape” to fit

your head.

We’re talking the real deal here.

I had a Toledo Mud Hens cap that was the envy of everyone in town. My Golden Flow granary hat kept the sun out of my eyes in many ‘a hay field. That tall girl down in Huntland had my first college baseball cap. I had to slip through the window in the bathroom when no one was home and steal that one back.

The cowboy hat I picked up in Nashville the summer I worked at the Grand Ole Opry.

I have an old Cleveland Indians cap that I drenched with sweat a thousand times pitching batting practice all over Gulf County. It’s so stiff it might break like a China tea cup if you dropped it on the floor. I especially love all three John Deere hats.

The torn, worn out, and still a bit soggy purple and gold cap means the world to me. It doesn’t look like much today. But I was wearing it the night Steve Bass, Rodney Nobles, and Phil Earley threw me in the locker room shower...after we won the football state championship in 1971.

Every hat has a special story, unique and memorable. I can give you the rundown on every one of them if you’ve got a spare month and a half...and you bring the barbeque.

Cathy is right, of course. As always. But each hat that gets tossed out is like losing a piece of me. I’d rather throw out the refrigerator. Dump the TV. Get rid of the living room furniture.

Then, just maybe, we’d have enough room to put in a new hatrack...or two....

Respectfully,
Kes
kesley45@aol.com

LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

Letters to the editor bear the opinion of the letter writer, and not necessarily that of the newspaper management or staff. Letters of opinion are not verified for accuracy of fact and truly stand only as the writer’s opinion.

Letters to the editor of public interest are solicited. Most letters, 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

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Obituaries



DONNA LACEY
1956 – 2025

MCKENZIE — A Celebration of Life for Donna Harvey Lacey is Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 3 p.m. at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home. The family will receive friends on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at 2 p.m.

Mrs. Lacey, 69, of McKenzie, died peacefully at her home after a long illness on November 8, 2025. She was born in Lowell, Mass., on January 6, 1956, to the late Donald Harvey and Pauline Boutin Harvey. She spent her early life in Massachusetts and graduated from college at the University of Massachusetts, Lowell. Following that, she married her husband Frank, and they relocated to McKenzie in 1984. Many trips were made between McKenzie and Massachusetts to visit her family, whom she loved very much. In McKenzie, she was able to stay at home and raise her children, who, along with her husband and grandchildren, were the most important things in her life.

Once the children were all in school, she returned to college and received her master's degree in special education at Bethel University. Education was important to Donna. She then got a job as a special education teacher at McKenzie Middle School, where she worked for 19 years. All the kids knew the colorful Miss Donna! She worked tirelessly to support her special education students.

After retirement, Donna and her husband enjoyed making regular trips to see their three children and four grandchildren who live

in Tampa, Fla., Chattanooga, and Boulder, Colo. She is survived by her husband, Frank Lacey; her daughter, Ryan (John Paul - husband) Hampstead; sons, Rory (Jennifer - wife) Lacey, and Randy (Hannah - wife) Lacey; four grandchildren, Cyrus, Hilary, Elle, and Poppy; a sister, Doreen (John - husband); and niece and nephews, Hans, Marla, and Zachary.

Please consider making a memorial gift to McKenzie Middle School's Special Education Department. Checks can be mailed to: McKenzie Middle School, 80 Woodrow Ave, McKenzie, TN 38201. Please make the checks payable to MMS Special Education Dept.

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



WILLIAM 'BILL' MOORE
1937 – 2025

MCKENZIE — Funeral services for William "Bill" Moore were Saturday, December 6, 2025, at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home. Interment was at Cairo Cemetery, Alamo, Tenn.

Mr. Moore, 88, died at his residence on Wednesday, December 3, 2025.

He was born on May 4, 1937, in Steele, Mo., to William Roy and Earlene Whitaker Moore. A graduate of Harding University, Mr. Moore was a devoted member of McKenzie Church of Christ. He retired after 28 years with Watson Hardware House in Huntingdon and previously owned Moore's Ace Hardware in Caruthersville, Mo., before moving to Tennessee. He will be remembered for his dedication to his work and his community.

He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Moore of McKenzie; two daughters, Lisa and Randy Jackson of Bentonville, Ark., and Laura and Graham Gillis of Conway, Ark.; seven grandchildren, Mary Beth and Andrew Polk, Reece and Ellen Jackson, Ryan Jackson, Stuart Jackson, Drew and Lindsay Gillis, Jennifer and Tyler Eatherton Kelley Gillis; and five great-grandchildren; Mrs. Carolyn's children, Mark and Lois Colvett, Jeff and Becky Colvett, John and Joy Colvett and Sherra and Randy Jackson; and seven grandchildren, Ashley and Jarrett Qualls, Amy Grave Colvett, Alli Colvett, Paige Colvett, and Hayden Colvett.

He is preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Mary Lou Moore.

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

EVELYN BUSH WILSON
1940 – 2025

MCKENZIE — Funeral services for Evelyn Bush Wilson were on Monday, December 8, 2025, at 11 a.m. at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home. Interment followed at Blooming Grove Cemetery - McKenzie.

Mrs. Wilson, 85, died at her residence on Wednesday, December 3, 2025. She was born on February 25, 1940, in McKenzie, to Buck and Ruby Carter Bush. She is a member of Blooming Grove Methodist Church and was a custodian at McKenzie Middle School for 20 years.

She is survived by her husband of 68 years, James "Shep" Wilson; a daughter, Teresa (Gerald) Hall; a son, Troy Wilson; and a sister, Joan (Joe) Robertson. Chris (Kimberly) Hall and Whitney (Dustin) Whitworth are her grandchildren, and her great-grandchildren are Taylor Hall, Maggie Hall, Mallie Whitworth, Gemma Whitworth, and Creek Whitworth.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home, McKenzie, Tenn.; 731-352-4848; www.brummittmckenziefuneralhome.com.

TABITHA GWALTNEY
1968 – 2025

MCKENZIE — Funeral services for Tabitha "Tammy" Gwaltney were on Sunday, December 7, 2025, at 2 p.m. at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home.

The family received friends on Sunday, December 7, 2025, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Interment was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Mrs. Gwaltney, 57, died at her residence on Monday, December 1, 2025. She was a sales clerk at the Smoke Shack - McKenzie and Baptist in faith. She was born in Martin on July 11, 1968, to Roger Dale Watson and Willie Ann Davis Williams.

She is survived by her daughter, Samantha (Ish Fisher) Gwaltney; mother, Ann Williams; fiancé Carl Campbell; one sister, Rhonda Watson; six brothers, Ricky (Renee) Watson, Dean Watson, Jerry Ward, John David Williams, Dale Watson, and Greg Watson; and two grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her father and stepfather, David Williams; her husband, Robert "Eldo" Gwaltney; a son, Camden Gwaltney; and her brother, Brian Watson.

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

DORIS SANDERS COOPER HENSLEY
1932 – 2025

MCKENZIE — Services for Mrs. Doris Marie Sanders Cooper Hensley, 93, of McKenzie, were held on Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 1 p.m. at Williams Funeral Home of Gleason. Burial was in Walnut Grove Cemetery in the Cades community.

She was born September 24, 1932, and died November 29, 2025.

Mrs. Hensley is survived by her son, Jere (Kay) Cooper of McKenzie. She is also survived by four grandchildren, Stephen Hodges, Billy Hodges, Jay Cooper, and Ryan Cooper. She leaves behind eleven great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Hensley was preceded in death by her two

husbands, Hulon B. Cooper and Jimmie Hensley; daughter, Beverly Sue Hodges; parents, Claude and Allie Sanders; and brother, Junior Sanders.

Williams Funeral Home of Gleason, Tenn.

LISA CAROL MOSS
1962 – 2025

MCKENZIE — Lisa Carol Moss, 63, died at Baptist Memorial Hospital on Thursday, December 4, 2025. There are no services scheduled at this time or locally.

Ms. Moss was born in Humboldt on October 20, 1962, to the late William Hugh Moss and Dorothy Sue Cole Erwin.

She is survived by her daughter, Kayla Duncan; and two sisters, Susan Arnold and Sandra Knight.

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

ADDALYN IVY INFANT

MCKENZIE — Addalyn Lucille Ivy, 1 month old, died on Sunday, November 23, 2025, in Le Bonheur Children's Hospital.

She was born on October 22, 2025, in Memphis to her parents, Jessica and Dono-

van Ivy of McKenzie.

Addalyn was preceded in death by her maternal grandparents, David and Sheryl Dickhaut.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by two sisters, Laken Ivy and Gracelynn Ivy; and her paternal grandparents, Donald and Melba Ivy, all of McKenzie.

Visitation with the family was on Saturday, December 6, 2025 at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home.

GEORGE WAYNE SAWYERS
1945 – 2025

GLEASON — Services for George Wayne Sawyers, 80, of Gleason, were Saturday, December 6, 2025, at the Gleason First Baptist Church. Burial followed in Hopewell Cemetery in Gleason. He was born July 29, 1945, and died November 28, 2025.

Mr. Sawyers is survived by his daughter, Allison (Chris) Weaver of Jackson, Tenn. He is also survived by two siblings, June Caldwell and Jerry Sawyers, both of Gleason. He leaves behind four grandchildren.

Mr. Sawyers was preceded in death by his wife, Brenda Sawyers; and parents, Dudley and Maggie Belle Sawyers.

Williams Funeral Home, Gleason, Tenn.

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Baptist Carroll County Recognized for Achieving Excellent Outcomes

HUNTINGDON (December 3) — The Chartis Center for Rural Health has awarded Baptist Memorial Hospital-Carroll County the 2025 Performance Leadership Award for excellence in Outcomes.

The Performance Leadership Awards Program recognizes top quartile performance (e.g., 75th percentile or above) among rural hospitals in Quality, Outcomes and/or Patient Perspective. These groups serve as a benchmark for other rural facilities and provide a blueprint for successfully navigating health care challenges.

"It is an honor to be recognized by Chartis Center for Rural Health as a leader for health care excellence and outcomes. The 2025 Performance Leadership Award highlights the quality of our staff and their commitment to delivering exceptional care for Carroll County," said Susan Breeden, CEO and administrator at Baptist Memorial Hospital-Carroll County.

The Performance Leadership Awards Program is based on the results of the Chartis Rural Hospital Performance INDEX, a comprehensive and objective framework for assessing how rural hospitals are performing. INDEX benchmarks are relied upon by rural hospitals, health systems with rural footprints, hospital associations and state offices of rural health to measure performance across multiple areas that affect hospital operations and finance.

"The areas of quality, outcomes and patient perspective are cornerstones of health care

delivery across rural America, and this year's Performance Leadership Award recipients are establishing a standard of excellence for their rural peers to follow," said Michael Topchik, executive director, Chartis Center for Rural Health. "We are delighted to shine a spotlight on such strong performance and honor the achievement of these hospitals."

Baptist Memorial Hospital-Carroll County is a 70-bed facility in Huntingdon, Tennessee, that provides comprehensive inpatient and outpatient medical care to West Tennessee in a variety of specialized areas, including cardiac care, pediatrics, general surgery, physical therapy and palliative care, among others. The hospital offers advanced medical technology, such as 3D mammography and the Baptist TeleHealth Center, powered by TeleGuardian.

Baptist Carroll County has earned many awards and recognitions, including the Tennessee Quality Award, Premier Inc.'s QUEST Award for High-Value Healthcare, the QUEST Hero Award, the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval in 2015 and multiple "A" Hospital Safety grades from the Leapfrog Group. The hospital was one of only two in Tennessee named to the Chartis Center for Rural Health 2025 Top 100 Rural & Community Hospitals list.

Baptist Carroll County also operates an outpatient surgery center in Jackson, Tennessee, offering convenient access to same-day surgical services with advanced capabilities.

Bethel, Eastside FCE Notes

MCKENZIE (November 13) — There were six members present for our November meeting at the Mays' home. Thought for the day was read by our president, Gail Eubanks: "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them," she said, quoting John F. Kennedy.

Gail read the pledge, and then we proceeded to the devotion given by our hostess for the month, Penny Mays. She used a Helen Steiner Rice poem, "There is sunshine in a Smile."

Minutes were read by our secretary and reporter, Danita Laman. They were approved as read. Next, the treasury report was given and approved. Roll call was answered with, "What is one Thanksgiving dish that you can eat anytime of the year?"

Old business: Our soup and dessert fund raiser made \$400. Cakes for rehab this month will be made by Gail. In December cakes will be made by Penny and in January by Judy Roberts.

New business: Meal kits including the recipe will be our project for Carl Perkins starting in January.

The educational program was given by Penny on maintaining and caring for Christmas Cactus. The plants need a period of darkness to encourage new growth. Wait until the plant quits blooming before repotting. Be sure not to over water.

Dates to remember: Cookie Exchange on December 8th, in the kitchen of the Complex at 10 a.m.

Christmas lunch for the club is December 11 at 11:15 a.m. at the Mexican restaurant, El Vallarta, in McKenzie.

January 15 is "Leadership in Action" at Jackson. Registration has to be sent in by January 3, so money needs to be to Gail by the end of December.

The next meeting is Christmas lunch. Hope to see you there.

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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 Dillahunty Lane, Huntingdon.

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.

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.

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.

McKENZIE SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER EVENTS

Wednesday 12/10 — Dominoes at 12:30 p.m.
Thursday 12/11 — Bingo at 12:30 p.m. Healthy Weight support group at 2 p.m.
Saturday 12/13 — Cool

Daddy Christmas Dance, free dance class with paid admission. Doors open at 5:45 p.m., dance class starts at 6 p.m., dance starts at 7 p.m.

Sunday 12/14 — Splat Paint Party at 2 p.m.

Wednesday 12/17 — Dominoes at 12:30 p.m., Senior Movie 2 p.m. "Wicked for Good" at Park Theater.

Saturday 12/20 — Karaoke and Dancing at 6:30 p.m.

GIRLS SCOUTS EVENT AT BETHEL UNIVERSITY

A Girl Scouts event is Friday, December 12 from 6-8 p.m. at Bethel University. Come join the fun and start your Girl Scout experience! To register for the event or to get additional info, call Debra Martin at 731-215-6124.

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!

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 REPUBLICAN PARTY MEETS

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

CARROLL HUMANE SOCIETY EVENTS

Cat Vouchers
Cat spay/neuter vouchers are always available for \$60. To purchase by phone for

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

Dog Vouchers

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

months of age (older if small breed) at the time of surgery.

CARROLL 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 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.



Above Left, High school BETA winners — (L to R) Front Row: Arlexis Perry, Britni Shephard, Taytum Jenkins, Elizabeth Wascher, Alayna Lovelace and Aubrey Hammett. Second Row: Jada Bradshaw, Gracelyn Vernon, Ethan Mueller, Madison Galloway, Ava Pinson and Hailey Mitchell. Back Row: Jack Robinson and Gunner Martin. Above Right, Junior high BETA winners — (L to R) Front Row: Bella Rogers, Owen Nelson, Shaylee Bynum, Ally Clark, Anastin McAlpin and Austyn Inman. Back Row: Destiny Smith, Analise Porter, Kate Jackson, Delaynie Bennett and April Shumate. Below Left, Sixth-grade BETA competitors — (L to R) Knox Crews, Camilla Jenkins, Norah Reynolds, Sofia Blackketter and Kaylie Rickley. Not pictured: Taylor Daffron. Below Right, Elementary BETA competitors — (L to R) Hannah Jackson, Ellie Everett, Paisley Bennett, Cooper Pinson, Carleigh Coleman, Cruz Rogers, Liam Hudgins, Rylan Cherry and Will McAlpin. Not pictured: Lillie Atkinson.



West Carroll Students Excel at Tennessee State BETA Convention

NASHVILLE — West Carroll students represented their schools at the Tennessee State BETA Convention November 18-25 at the

Gaylord Opryland Resort, bringing home eight first place wins. West Carroll high school, junior high, sixth grade and elementary school students participated in this annual gathering focused on academic achievement,

character, leadership and service.

The convention gives students the opportunity to demonstrate their skills alongside peers from across the state. West Carroll students participated in a wide

range of events, including engineering, visual arts, marketing and academic testing.

Many West Carroll students placed in the top five of their categories, qualifying for the National BETA Convention held in Nashville in June 2026.

The senior high team, consisting of 31 students, brought home 19 top-five awards.

Jada Bradshaw won first place in eleventh-grade history, Carson Cooper won first place in tenth-grade history, Chloe Rimmer won first place in ninth-grade ELA, Madison Galloway won first place in eleventh-grade social studies, Taytum Jenkins won first place in eleventh-grade psychology and Aubrey Hammett won first place in tenth-grade psychology.

The high school Accessorized Design team won second place in its category, and Hailey Mitchell won second place in twelfth-grade social studies.

Chloe Pinson won third place in onsite drawing, Hannah Pinson won third place in twelfth-grade biomedical, Alayna Lovelace won third place in tenth-grade biomedical, Arlexis Perry won third place in twelfth-grade ag-science, and Ethan Mueller won third place in tenth-grade ag-science.

The high school Marketing team won fourth place in its category, the 3D Design team won fourth place in its category, Hannah Pinson won fourth place in fiber arts, and Jack Robinson won fourth

place in eleventh-grade math.

Britni Shepherd won fifth place in twelfth-grade history, and Gracelyn Vernon won fifth place in eleventh-grade health and physical education.

High school student Ava Pinson was also recognized for her work in tenth-grade ELA.

West Carroll's younger students also had a strong showing, working together in team events and individual competitions. West Carroll Junior High's BETA Club brought home two first-place wins and eight additional top-five wins.

West Carroll Junior High's 2D Design team won first place in its category, and Ella Rogers won first place in seventh-grade social studies.

The junior high Accessorized Design team won second place in its category.

The junior high Engineering team won third place out of 131 teams in its category, and Ally Clarke won third place in seventh-grade U.S. history.

The junior high Marketing and Apparel Design teams each won fourth place in their respective categories.

The junior high club trading pin designers won fifth place in their category, the junior high Musicology team won fifth place and Austyn Inman won fifth place in on-site cake decorating.

Anastin McAlpin was a top-20 finalist, out of 100 competitors, in the speech competition.

West Carroll Elementary School and sixth-graders had four big wins at the conference.

Cooper Pinson, Paisley Bennett, Cruz Rogers and Liam Hudgins won third place in community service learning; Paisley Bennett won third place for her club trading pin; William McAlpin won fourth place in woodworking; and Rylan Cherry won fifth place in photography.

West Carroll schools' staff recognized additional students and teams for their hard work and dedicated demonstration:

In sixth grade, students Taylor Daffron, Sofia Blackketter, Norah Reynolds and Kailey competed in musicology; Taylor Daffron, Sofia Blackketter, Norah Reynolds and Knox Crews competed in the quiz bowl; Taylor Daffron, Sofia Blackketter, Norah Reynolds and Cruz Rogers competed in 3D design; Cruz Rogers, William McAlpin, Paisley Bennett, Carly Willis and Kailey competed in academic competitions; Ellie Everett, Garrett Hammett, Camilla Jenkins (digital art) and Norah Reynolds (scrapbook) competed in visual and digital arts competitions; and Eligh Dunn and Beckett Dunn competed in engineering.

From the elementary school, Hannah Jackson, Brooklynn Hilliard and Lillie Atkinson competed in the quiz bowl, and Carleigh Coleman competed in the scrapbook category.

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Wed. 7:25
Thurs. 7:25
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Tues. 7:25
Wed. 7:25
Thurs. 7:25
WICKED: FOR GOOD (PG)
Tues. 7:20
Wed. 7:20
Thurs. 7:20
NOW YOU SEE ME, NOW YOU DON'T (PG-13)
Tues. 7:35
Wed. 7:35
Thurs. 7:35
WICKED: FOR GOOD (PG)
Tues. 7:20
Wed. 7:20
Thurs. 7:20
ETERNITY (PG-13)
Tues. 7:30
Wed. 7:30
Thurs. 7:30
PREDATOR: BADLANDS (PG-13)
Tues. 7:35
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MIDDLE SCHOOL BASKETBALL



Above Left, Lady Bulldog Parker Vaughn pulls up in the paint for two points. Vaughn led Gleason with nine points. Above Right, Lady Rebel Serenity Bobo scores in the paint. Below Left, Bulldog Preston Lynch fires a three-pointer. Below Right, Rebel Jackson Barden shoots an open three. Barden scored eight points. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Lady Bulldogs, Rebels Claim Wins

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (December 1) — McKenzie Middle School hosted Gleason Monday for the final home set of the basketball season. The girls' game was close throughout, but the visiting Lady Bulldogs built and protected a small lead in the second half for a 30-24 win. The Rebels pulled away in the second quarter, but had to hold off a late Bulldog rally to seal a 37-28 victory.

Eighth grade night was celebrated between games, with 29 players, managers, cheerleaders and pep band performers recognized. (See separate story.)

Gleason Lady Bulldogs 30, McKenzie Lady Rebels 24

The opening frame was a 6-6 wash. Charlie Cassidy led McKenzie with four points, and Kristy Towne had a pair. Parker Vaughn topped Gleason with four points, and Adrianna Morefield had a pair.

The Lady Bulldogs had a 9-8 edge in the second quarter, led by Addi Flippin with a three-pointer and Gabi Pinkston also

with three points. Delaney Harrison had a pair, and Vaughn hit a free throw. Cassidy scored six for the Lady Rebels, and Towne added a pair. At the half, the Lady Bulldogs led 15-14.

Gleason built the lead with an 11-8 advantage in the third, led by Vaughn and Morefield with four points each. Flippin added a pair, and Pinkston hit a freebie. Cassidy hit a three for McKenzie, and Macy Brooks also had three points. Towne added a pair. Entering the final frame, Gleason led 26-22.

The Lady Bulldogs sealed the win with a 4-2 tilt in the fourth, Flippin and Harrison each adding a pair. Serenity Bobo scored two for McKenzie.

Lady Rebel Charlie Cassidy led all scorers with 13 points, including a three-pointer.

Parker Vaughn led Gleason with nine points. Addi Flippin scored seven with a three.

Rebels 37, Bulldogs 28

McKenzie had a 9-7 edge after the first frame, led by Seth Stafford with seven points, including a three-pointer. Jackson Barden had a pair. Pres-

ton Lynch led Gleason with five points, including a three. Grant Pinkston had a pair.

The Rebels pulled away with an 11-2 advantage in the second quarter, led by Lane Brown with four points. Stafford hit a three, and Barden and Navadius Owens each had a pair. Lawson Tucker had a pair for the Bulldogs. At the half, McKenzie led 20-9.

Gleason cut the deficit with a 12-8 tilt in the third, led by Tucker with seven points. Pinkston scored five. Barden hit a three for McKenzie, and Brown also scored three points. Stafford added a pair. Heading into the final frame, the Rebels led 28-21.

McKenzie capped the win with a 9-7 edge in the fourth, led by Stafford with six points. Brown added a pair, and Barden hit a free throw. Tucker had all seven Bulldog points.

Rebel Seth Stafford led all scorers with 18 points, including a pair of threes. Lane Brown scored nine points, and Jackson Barden scored eight with a three-pointer.

Lawson Tucker led Gleason with 16 points.



Above, Rebel eighth graders (L to R) Front Row: Jackson Barden, Dierks Ghyers, Jai'Breon Horton, Lane Brown and Kamdyn Lee. Back Row: Fisher Allen, Zayden Webb, Seth Stafford, Andres Hernandez and manager Javonte Piro. Below, Lady Rebel eighth graders (L to R) Front Row: Willow Stenberg and manager Bella Batton. Back Row: Abby Carroll, Charlie Cassidy, Serenity Bobo, Adrianna Gordon and Kristy Towne. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Below, Pep band eighth graders (L to R) Front Row: Caitlin Umstead, Nevaeh Herriis, Lily Baker and Zach Fuller. Back Row: Zatiyah Jade Milton, Riley Crafton, Finnian Evans, Charles Scott and Katelyn Martin. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner



McKenzie Middle School Honors Eighth Graders as Basketball Season Wraps

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

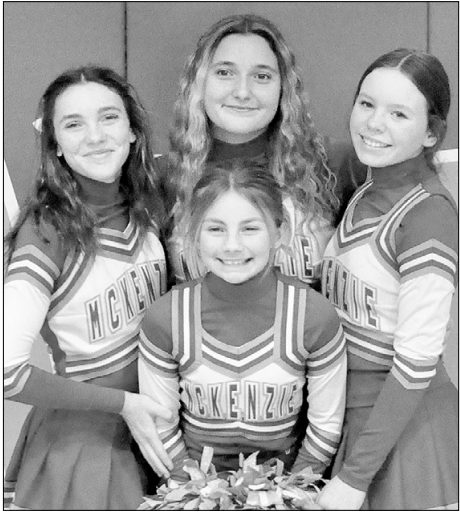
MCKENZIE (December 1) — Eighth grade players, managers, cheerleaders and pep band performers were honored Monday as McKenzie Middle School concluded the basketball regular season.

Twenty-nine eighth graders were joined on the court by family members for recognition between the boys' and girls' games against Gleason.

Pep band members included Lily Baker, daughter of Bryan and April Baker; Riley Crafton, grandson of James R. and Anette Mason; Finnian Evans, son of Andrew Evans and Megan Doggit; Zach Fuller, son of Ronny Smith and Beth Prudeme; Nevaeh Herriis, daughter of Keith and Melissa Herriis; Katelyn Martin, daughter of Jennifer Martin; Zatiyah Jade Milton, daughter of Sarah and Kiandre Milton; Charles Scott, son of Charles Johnathan Scott and Amy Peters; and Caitlin Umstead, daughter of Joseph Umstead and Ashley Corvin.

Rebel players included Fisher Allen, son of Jeremy and Megan Allen; Jackson Barden, son of Justin and Alyson Barden; Lane Brown, son of Chad and Josie Brown; Dierks Ghyers, son of Mark and Michelle Ghyers; Andres Hernandez, son of Guillermo and Angelica Hernandez; Jai'Breon Horton, son of Shenneka Horton; Kamdyn Lee, son of William and Laura Lee; Seth Stafford, son of Brian and Jana Stafford; Zayden Webb, son of Michael Webb and Ashley Johnson; and manager Javonte Piro, son of Heather Piro.

Lady Rebel players included Abby Car-



Eighth grade cheerleaders (clockwise from left): Margaret Webb, Adrianna Gordon, Caleigh Ball and Sami Mathis. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

roll, daughter of Paul and Ashley Carroll; Charlie Cassidy, daughter of George and Angela Cassidy; Serenity Bobo, daughter of Lavonia Whitsell and James Bobo; Adrianna Gordon, daughter of David Gordon and Ashley Gordon; Kristy Towne, daughter of Chazz and Julia Prestwood and Devin Towne; Willow Stenberg, daughter of Josh and Brittany Stenberg; and manager Bella Batton, daughter of Chad and Josephina Batton.

Cheerleaders included Caleigh Ball, daughter of Tony Ball; Sami Mathis, daughter of Jason and Beth Mathis; Margaret Webb, daughter of Andrew and Josi Webb; and Adrianna Gordon, daughter of David Gordon and Ashley Gordon.

West Carroll Schools Spotlight Students of the Week

WEST CARROLL (December 2) — 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 — Jack Simpson, Whitley White and Chandler Rimmer — were each nominated for their hard work and positive attitudes.

First grade student Jack Simpson is West Carroll Primary School's student of the week, nominated by Ms. Daralyn Martin.

"Jack has a positive attitude and is always willing to help others," said Martin.

Fourth grade student



Pictured (L to R) Jack Simpson, Whitley White and Chandler Rimmer.

Whitley White is West Carroll Elementary School's student of the week, nominated by Ms. Beth



Hysmith. "We are learning division and she has asked questions to understand the concept better and



has been doing amazing at staying focused and getting her work done," said Hysmith. "She's been working incredibly hard,

and her scores reflect this!"

Twelfth grade student Chandler Rimmer is West Carroll Jr/Sr High School's student of the week, nominated by Mr. Pete Norville.

Rimmer played golf for Norville this year. Norville said Rimmer is "just a good kid."

The West Carroll Special School District also recognized West Carroll Jr/Sr High School ninth-through twelfth-grade Human Services and Business Education teacher Erin Lewis as teacher of the week.

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



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McKenzie Police Reports

Attempted Aggravated Burglary — A Park Street resident reported an attempted Aggravated Burglary on December 3.

Officer Jayden Rembert and Sergeant Burson were dispatched to the residence at around 10:50 p.m. to a possible burglary in progress. The officers arrived to find the mother and her child inside the home after reportedly hearing a loud noise and discovering that the back door was open. The husband quickly departed the home to retrieve a long gun from a neighbor.

Officers were waiting for the mother and child to come to the front door when

the father entered the home with the weapon. Police requested the father to lay down the weapon, which he did. Officers interviewed the occupants for a description of a possible suspect who entered and exited the home. Nothing was determined to be missing.

Burglary — A Bethel student reported the theft of his PS5 game from his dorm room on December 3.

Officer Billt Burson took a report stating the student stated his game machine was taken from a commons area of his dorm. A video showed a subject entering and leaving through an unlocked door of the dorm room. The

suspect was wearing a backpack at the time.

The gaming device is valued at \$500.

Criminal Trespass — Maurice Lawrence, 32, McKenzie, was charged with Criminal Trespass on December 4, at 1:32 a.m.

Officer Jayden Rembert was dispatched to Pocket's Convenience Store where Lawrence was trespassing. He has been banned from the business. Lawrence was arrested and transported to Carroll County Jail. Lawrence has a significant history of being arrested for Criminal Trespass.



Left, (L to R) Victoria Paradise, Southland Safari co-owner Tonya Gurley, Rachel Nezmo, and Sarah Rougeou. Right, Patches, a two-toed sloth, was the center of attention on Bethel's campus on December 2.



Bethel Students Enjoy Two-Toed Sloth's Visit

MCKENZIE (December 2) — Over 200 students, faculty, and staff members at Bethel University had the opportunity to visit and pet Patches, a two-toed sloth, during a campus event on Tuesday, December 2.

Sloths move very slowly and deliberately, which was part of the 'self-care' message conveyed to students as they approach the final week of the fall semester.

Visitors lined up excitedly for their turn to see the sloth, provided by Southland Safari in Clarksburg. Attendees were asked to remain quiet to avoid disturbing Patches

as it climbed.

Students also received free bags filled with items to take home for winter break and to help them study for final exams next week. Community partners from WRAP, Hometown Health, and the Carroll County Prevention Coalition offered Christmas activities for Bethel students as well. Additionally, Bethel University's Student Government Association (SGA) and the Title IX and Prevention Services Office provided various handouts and giveaways.

Mrs. Klopenstein said, "We are supporting our students in mind, body, and spirit as

they strive for academic and personal excellence. Facilitating self-care events remind our students that they are not alone during these difficult seasons. The Title IX and Prevention Services Offices, along with Hometown Health, are just a few of the on-campus supports we want to encourage our students to take advantage of as they continue to reach new heights."

The Title IX and Prevention Services Office, Hometown Health, and Southland Safari co-hosted the event.



Several Bethel University students gather for a photo at The Happy Book Stack, coffees in hand, during the "Designing for the Developing Mind" showcase. Submitted photo.

Bethel Students Combine Developmental Theory, Design in Psychology Showcase

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (November 19) — Students from Bethel University's Psychology 211: Human Development class exhibited a semester's worth of research and creative planning during the "Designing for the Developing Mind" showcase at The Happy Book Stack in November.

The showcase was the culmination of the psychology students' hard work throughout the semester, as instructor Dr. David Willis guided them to create either a toy or a children's picture book using developmental theory and design methods they learned in class.

"Usually, when we think of psychology, we think of papers and exams," said Willis. With this project, he tasked his students to think outside the box, using four main objectives:

First, he wanted to promote creative and divergent thinking in ambiguity. Second, he wanted to engage students in the ways artificial intelligence can be used professionally and ethically. Third, he wanted to put students in a challenge that required more than just memorization. Fourth, he wanted students to use their "textbook" of experiences to guide their interest, motivation and buy-in to the course.

"The heart of this project was the question of, 'Why?'" said Willis. "Why a certain toy has a certain texture to help with sensory processing, or why a book uses specific fonts, rhythms or messages about certain concepts. If we can explain the why, then I believe we know the information well enough."

In August, Willis gave students the option between a final exam or the "Psychology in Action" project. Overwhelmingly, students chose the latter option, according to Willis.

"I do not believe they knew what they were in for," Willis said, "as design thinking puts you in uncomfortable, ambiguous learning situations where you have to figure it out with little direction at the beginning."

However, Willis said he noticed students becoming increasingly focused and excited about the class material.

"As the year went on, I got to see the true potential of Bethel's students as they trusted the process — and me — and let that ambiguity focus their motivation," said Willis.

Throughout the semester, students kept a design notebook in which they would note interactions and play patterns they observed in everyday life. They analyzed four existing children's books or toys through a

design-thinking lens, documenting inspiration.

The students' research culminated in a pin-up presentation with tri-fold boards displaying their final product and its color schemes, fonts and inspirations. The presentation boards also included five pages from their design notebooks that showed their progression from early sketches to refined iterations of their product, and a section displaying a "Pinterest-style" inspiration collage and their AI use.

If students chose to create a book, the board needed to display the book cover and three additional pages. The book also had to be a finished product.

If students chose to create a toy, they had to showcase the toy in two AI pictures or hand-drawings and explain how the toy benefits its targeted demographic. Students did not have to present a physical toy at the showcase.

During the showcase, students each gave a one-minute pitch explaining their product's demographic, their influences, what developmental concepts it promoted and — if it was a toy — how it worked.

Students' projects were each reviewed based on a 1-5 scale regarding their creativity and originality, proper use of AI, presentation, rationale and effort.

Property Transfers

Justin Troy and Chesley Lynn Johnson to Justin Troy Johnson in District 13.

Justin Troy and Chesley Lynn Johnson to Justin Troy Johnson in District 11.

Thomas Lane and Vicki Leigh Williams to Ronald Phillips, Eric and Ashley Holland in District 11.

Ashley Ann Long as trustee to David Michael and Susan Ann Kubitz in District 6.

Jeff Baugh to Janice Baugh in District 21.

Nickolas D. and Cassie L. Allen to KLP Investments, LLC in District 22.

Carrington Mortgage Services, LLC to Cheyene and Jeff Scott in District 16.

Theresa Seiber Pierce to Karen Weidenhof in District 2.

Brian and Diane Pillars to Brian J. and Diane Lee Pillars as trustees. No District listed.

Angela Michelle and Kurt Alan Benson to Christopher W. and Kristy J. Threet. No District listed.

Ginger Meggs and Peter Sam Angelos to Chris-

topher W. and Kristy J. Threet. No District listed.

Grace Angelos and Brandon Taylor Arnold to Christopher W. and Kristy J. Threet. No District listed.

Richard D. and Mary A. Walker to Armando and Kathy Hernandez in District 21.

Cody Walker as conservator to Billy Baumgardner in District 6.

Cody Walker as conservator for Charles J. Johnson to Austin Fongers. No District listed.

James F. Cowan and others to Ronald L. Cowan in District 21.

Steven E. and Rebecca Gail Edwards to Kendra Gail La and others in District 11.

Cody Walker as conservator to Trace Fuller and Tristen Fuller in District 19.

Richard Roberts and others to Richard Roberts and others in District 16.

Cody Walker as conservator for Charles J. Harrison AKA Jeff to Patrick and Patsy Anthony in District 16.

John Scott Taylor to John

Scott Taylor and others as trustee. No District listed.

SP Investment Properties, LLC to Goatdog Properties, LLC in District 12.

Terry W. Cupples and others to Kitty L. Coleman as trustee in District 19.

Keith L. Wilson and Melissa M. Richmond as trustees to Marty E. and Keith L. Wilson. No District listed.

Keith L. Wilson and Melissa M. Richmond as trustees to Marty E. and Keith L. Wilson. No District listed.

Keith L. Wilson and Melissa M. Richmond as trustees to Marty E. and Keith L. Wilson. No District listed.

Diebold Enterprises, LLC to Kent N. McDonald in District 11.

Richard A. Cross to Richard and Sandra L. Cross in District 24.

Mahlon A. and Mary A. Yoder and others to Leroy N. and Ida M. Eicher in District 11.

Andrew John Lipe to Adam C. Fowler in District 12.

James M. and Angela F. Howe and others to Wesley Robbins. No District listed.

Carroll County Sheriff's Reports

Driving While License Suspended — On November 24, Deputy Jeremy Smith conducted a traffic stop on Highway 79 in Trezevant after observing a vehicle fail to come to a complete stop at a stop sign near Oak Grove Road in Trezevant. The driver, Lisa Townes, 59, of McKenzie, was identified and a driver's license check revealed that her license was suspended.

Townes also had a prior conviction for driving while license canceled out of Henry County General Sessions Court on October 15, 2016. Her current suspension was issued for failure to pay fines and costs, with a non-compliance suspension beginning Aug. 17, 2023, and no reinstatement date.

Townes was cited into Carroll County General Sessions Court for driving while license suspended. The incident occurred in Carroll County.

Felony Evading Arrest/Child Endangerment/Driving on Revoked — On December 1, Sgt. Jason Walker and Deputy Bo Ezell arrived at a residence on Old Lavinia Road in Cedar Grove to serve an active arrest warrant on an individual at the location. While deputies were attempting to make contact, a pickup truck began driving up the driveway toward the home. Upon seeing patrol units, the driver immediately reversed at a high rate of speed and fled down the driveway. Deputy Ezell activated his blue lights and siren, attempting to stop the vehicle, which continued to flee intentionally.

As the driver approached the intersection of Highway 70 from Old Lavinia Road, he nearly struck another vehicle while attempting to evade deputies. The fleeing vehicle, a 1998 Toyota pickup, ultimately stopped at a residence on Hickory Flat Road in Cedar Grove.

Deputies made contact with the driver, identified as David Wayne Brown, 44, of Cedar Grove, and took him into custody without further incident. Brown's 12-year-old son was found in the passenger seat during the pursuit. A driver's license check revealed Brown's license was revoked for failure to satisfy fines and costs out of Madison County Circuit Court, and he also had an active warrant out of Madison County for violation of community corrections.

Brown was transported to the Carroll County Jail and charged with felony evading arrest, child endangerment, driving on a revoked license (4th

offense) and reckless endangerment.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Disorderly Conduct/Public Intoxication — On November 29, deputies responded to a disturbance on a county roadway involving Billy Joe Pardue, 31, of Hollow Rock. Deputies were advised that Pardue had been outside screaming and yelling toward individuals at a nearby residence from roughly 40 feet off the roadway. Pardue then walked into the public roadway, continuing to yell.

When deputies made contact with Pardue, he appeared intoxicated and smelled strongly of an alcoholic beverage. Witnesses stated Pardue had been attempting to start a fight with a family member and had gotten into his face, leading the family member to defend himself by placing Pardue on the ground. Pardue left briefly but returned and continued yelling from the roadway, demanding the family member leave the property, though deputies confirmed the property did not belong to Pardue.

Deputies located Pardue walking in the roadway and detained him, returning him to the original scene. Pardue made suicidal threats, stating he would harm himself if law enforcement arrived, but deputies confirmed he had no firearms on his person. Prior to deputies' arrival, Pardue had broken the driver's side window of his father's truck, reportedly attempting to retrieve a rifle; however, the property owner declined to pursue charges for the damage.

Pardue was taken into custody for disorderly conduct and public intoxication.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

DUI (second offense)/Violation of Implied Consent — On November 20, at around 8 p.m., deputies responded to a report from a taxi company out of Paris, which advised that it had lost contact with one of its drivers. The vehicle was described as a white Ford Fusion. Deputy McClure searched the area and located the vehicle parked at the Y-intersection in Atwood with the driver passed out in the front seat.

Deputies made contact with the driver, identified as Clinton Elroy Smith, 41, of Paris. As Smith exited the vehicle, deputies detected a strong odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from his breath and clothing. Smith exhibited slurred speech, glassy eyes, and was unsteady on

his feet. A bottle of Crown Royal was visible in the cup holder, and Smith admitted to drinking two small bottles earlier in the evening.

Smith consented to a search of the vehicle, during which deputies located two additional empty 50mL bottles, one Crown Royal and one Jack Daniels. Deputy McClure requested Smith perform standardized field sobriety exercises.

During the tests, Smith showed numerous indicators of impairment, including lack of balance, failure to follow instructions, repeated stopping, and confusion regarding counting sequences and test procedures.

Smith was placed under arrest for suspicion of DUI. When asked to submit to a blood sample, Smith refused. He was advised of implied consent requirements and again refused to sign the paperwork. A search warrant was obtained for the blood draw, and Smith was transported to Baptist Hospital, where the sample was collected shortly before 11:30 p.m. Smith later stated, "I had no need to be driving."

Smith was transported to the Carroll County Jail and charged with DUI (second offense) and violation of implied consent.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

DUI Arrest — On November 22, deputies were dispatched to Westport Road in Huntingdon for a report of a suspicious vehicle parked in the roadway. Deputies arrived and found a Ford F-150 in drive with the keys in the ignition and the driver passed out behind the wheel.

When awakened, Shannon Christopher Thrasher, 49, of Waynesboro, showed clear signs of impairment, including slurred speech, vomiting, and difficulty maintaining balance. A license check revealed he was revoked for DUI and restricted to vehicles equipped with an ignition interlock device, which the truck did not have.

Field sobriety exercises were administered, and Thrasher was unable to complete them as instructed. He was placed under arrest and advised of his Miranda rights and Tennessee's Implied Consent Law. He agreed to provide a blood sample and was transported to Baptist Memorial Hospital before being taken to the Carroll County Jail for booking.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Carroll County General Sessions Report

The following cases were heard in Carroll County General Sessions Court on December 3.

Thomas Edmiston, Highway 22, Gleason, bound over, Possession of Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia Uses and Activities; bound over, Meth - Possession or Casual Exchange.

Zachary D. Simpson, Shadow Ridge Road, Jackson, bound over, Drivers to Exercise Due Care; bound over, Driving on the Right; bound over, Implied Consent: Enhancement Only; bound over, DUI: First Offense; bound over, Vehicular Assault.

The following cases resulted in a guilty plea or finding:

Richard B. Hinson, Old Medina Road, Medina, guilty, Probation Violation - Not Booked, no fine 11/29, supervised probation for balance, probation extended for 11/29.

William Hollowell, Old 22 Lane, Huntingdon, guilty, Public Intoxication, no fine 30 days; dismissed, Resist Stop, Arrest, Search (No Weapon).

Ashley Patterson, Bluebird Lane, Huntingdon, guilty, Probation Violation - Booked, no fine 71 days, probation will not be extended.

Theshia D. Powers, Spruce Street, McKenzie, guilty, Probation Violation

- Booked, no fine 11/29, may be eligible for furlough after 90 days.

Clinton E. Smith, Brown Street, Paris, guilty, DUI: Second Offense, \$350 fine 11/29, supervised probation for balance, cannot drive in Tennessee for one year, DUI school, alcohol drug evaluation and counseling, must complete IOP as a minimum; dismissed, Implied Consent - Enhancement Only.

The following case resulted in pre-trial diversion:

Kenzie Nishioka, Cherrywood Avenue, McKenzie, pre-trial diversion, Theft of Merchandise - Shoplifting, no fine 11/29, \$37.66 fine to Walmart, no contact with Walmart, must complete 100 hours of community service as condition of probation, supervised probation for sentence.

The following cases were dismissed:

Maurice Lawrence, dismissed, Criminal Trespass.

Leonard Curtis Smith, Veterans Drive North, Huntingdon, dismissed, Registration Law; dismissed, Driving While License Suspended.

The following cases were rescheduled:

Randy Lynn Anderson, Steven Merrell, James Fred Warmath.

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

WHEREAS, on August 1, 2024, CACHENGO, INC., by a Deed of Trust of record in Trust Deed Book 743, at Page 900, in the Register's Office of Carroll County, Tennessee, conveyed the following described property in trust to secure the payment of a Promissory Note in the original principal amount of Four Hundred Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$400,000.00), payable to THE PERKINS CORPORATION; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned was appointed Substitute Trustee by THE PERKINS CORPORATION, the legal owner and holder of the said Note, by appointment executed on November 25, 2025, and recorded in Trust Deed Book 761, at Page 974, in the Register's Office of Carroll County, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, default has been made in the payment of said indebtedness and other provisions of the Deed of Trust have been violated, and THE PERKINS CORPORATION, the lawful owner and holder of the said indebtedness, has declared the entire amount due and payable as provided by the Deed of Trust in accordance with the terms thereof, and instructed the undersigned to foreclose.

NOW, THEREFORE, the public is hereby notified that the undersigned Substitute Trustee will sell the hereinafter described real estate at public auction, to the highest and best bidder, for cash in hand paid in certified funds paid at the conclusion of the sale, or upon a credit bid from a bank or other lending entity pre-approved by the Substitute Trustee. The auction shall occur at the East door of the Courthouse at Huntingdon, Carroll County, Tennessee, on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, at 1:45 p.m., said property to be sold in bar of the equity of redemption and subject to the lien of all special assessments against it.

Lying, and being situate in the City of McKenzie, 4th Civil District of Carroll County, Tennessee, bounded and described as follows; to-wit:

BEGINNING at a stake at a concrete culvert on the Northwest margin of Highland Drive, being the Northeast corner of this lot; runs thence S 47° 36' 53" West, 319 feet to a stake being the Southwest corner of this tract at Wilson (Partial 19.02); runs thence 43° 29' 36" West, 59.97 feet to a rebar; thence N 36° 30' 34" East, 15.61 feet ;thence N 18° 00' 00" West, 86.50 feet thence N 16° 00' 00" East, 107.15 feet to a stake in a drainage ditch; thence S 50° 40' 14" East, 33.43 feet; thence S 68° 01' 31" E, 75.25 feet; thence S 84° 53' 43" East, 50.00 feet; thence N 77° 01' 16" E 122.50 feet and to the point of beginning. (See Map Attached as Exhibit A) (Description taken from prior deed of record)

It being the same property as that described in a Warranty Deed from The Perkins Corporation to Cachengo, Inc., a Tennessee Corporation, dated August 1, 2024, and of record in Warranty Deed Book 416, page 188, Register's Office of Carroll County, Tennessee.

Map 012L, Group E, Parcel 019.01

The street address of the above-described property is believed to be 16035 Highland Dr., McKenzie, Tennessee, but such address is not part of the legal description of the property sold herein and in the event of any discrepancy, the legal description herein shall control.

SALE IS SUBJECT TO TENANT(S) RIGHTS IN POSSESSION, IF ANY.

This sale is subject to all matters shown on any applicable recorded plat; any unpaid taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements, or setback lines that may be applicable; any statutory rights of redemption of any governmental agency, state or federal; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a fixture filing; and to any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. Other interested parties: None.

Title to said property is believed to be good, but the undersigned will sell as Substitute Trustee only and will assign to the purchaser all covenants of warranty contained in said Deed of Trust.

The sale held pursuant to this Notice may be rescinded at the Successor Trustee's option at any time. Said sale may be adjourned to another time or may be postponed to another date by public announcement at the appointed time of sale without readvertisement.

This office is a debt collector. This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

This Notice of Sale has been posted by ForeclosureTennessee.com and can be viewed online at ForeclosureTennessee.com.

WITNESS my signature, this the 9th day of December, 2025.

KIZER, BONDS, HUGHES & BOWEN, LLC

BY: STEPHEN L. HUGHES, Substitute Trustee
P. O. Box 320, Milan, TN 38358 (731) 686-119820, 2024

Huntingdon Police Reports

Theft of Merchandise — According to a report made on November 24, Officer Brad Allen responded to Walmart in Huntingdon in reference to a shoplifter from an incident that occurred on November 21. Store security reported that a man identified as Santiago Perdomo Montova had taken several items from the store without paying. The merchandise was valued at \$42.49.

The items were not recovered, and Perdomo Montova was cited into Carroll County General Sessions Court for theft of property, conduct involving merchandise.

Theft of merchandise — According to a report made on November 19, Patrolman Dexter Richardson was dispatched to Walmart in Huntingdon regarding a shoplifting complaint from an earlier incident on Nov. 9. Store security advised

that a man later identified as Wesley Bell had been recorded selecting multiple items, entering the family restroom with the merchandise, and then leaving without the items. The stolen merchandise totaled \$80.53. Security also determined that Bell attempted to shoplift additional items valued at \$50.88 on November 19. Bell was taken into custody for shoplifting, banned from Walmart property, and transported to the Carroll County Jail, where his bond was set at \$1,000.

Driving on a Suspended License, Speeding — According to a report made on December 2, Patrolman Daniel Inman was running radar at Nanny's on West Main Street when he observed a silver Ford Mustang traveling 45 mph in a 30-mph zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was identified as

Syndesky Bowers, who was unable to provide any documents other than the vehicle title. A check through dispatch showed Bowers' driver's license was suspended out of Jackson for failure to file insurance June 29 and failure to appear as of August 24, with the suspension listed as indefinite. Bowers was charged with driving on a suspended license and speeding.

Disorderly Conduct — According to a report made on November 28, Patrolman Dexter Richardson responded to the Wilson House on Northwood Drive in Huntingdon regarding a woman making threats to

ward residents and medical staff. The woman, identified as Dallas Painter, stated she did not want to go to the hospital for evaluation and told officers she wanted to go to jail, adding that she would do whatever was necessary to make that happen.

For the safety of residents, staff, and officers, Painter was detained after making threats to kill residents and using racial slurs. She was verbally aggressive and refused to get into the patrol car until officers used soft, open-hand control techniques to gain compliance. Painter was transported to the Carroll County Jail and charged with disorderly conduct. Her bond was set at \$500, which she refused to sign.

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

WHEREAS, on November 22, 2024, CACHENGO, INC., by a Deed of Trust of record in Trust Deed Book 747, at Page 761, in the Register's Office of Carroll County, Tennessee, conveyed the following described property in trust to secure the payment of a Promissory Note in the original principal amount of Seven Hundred Twenty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$720,000.00), payable to MARTY E. ENSLEY, JAMES KILEY PEARSON AND JOHNNY RAY PEARSON; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned was appointed Substitute Trustee by MARTY E. ENSLEY, JAMES KILEY PEARSON AND JOHNNY RAY PEARSON, which appointment will be recorded in the Register's Office of Carroll County, Tennessee prior to the deed evidencing this sale; and

WHEREAS, default has been made in the payment of said indebtedness and other provisions of the Deed of Trust have been violated, and MARTY E. ENSLEY, JAMES KILEY PEARSON AND JOHNNY RAY PEARSON, the lawful owners and holders of the said indebtedness, have declared the entire amount due and payable as provided by the Deed of Trust in accordance with the terms thereof, and instructed the undersigned to foreclose.

NOW, THEREFORE, the public is hereby notified that the undersigned Substitute Trustee will sell the hereinafter described real estate at public auction, to the highest and best bidder, for cash in hand paid in certified funds paid at the conclusion of the sale, or upon a credit bid from a bank or other lending entity pre-approved by the Substitute Trustee. The auction shall occur at the East door of the Courthouse at Huntingdon, Carroll County, Tennessee, on Tuesday, December 30, 2025, at 1 p.m., said property to be sold in bar of the equity of redemption and subject to the lien of all special assessments against it.

Lying, and being situate in the City of Huntingdon, 4th Civil District of Carroll County, Tennessee, bounded and described as follows; to-wit:

BEGINNING on an existing mag-nail over a buried railroad spike in asphalt, said railroad spike being located 40 feet northwest of the centerline of West Main Street (U.S. Highway 70), being the northeast corner of a tract belonging to Danny Brandon (Tax Map 73-N, Gr. A, Parcel 2.00) and being the southeast corner of the tract described herein; thence with the northeastern line of Brandon, North 47 degrees 59 minutes 33 seconds West, passing an existing iron pin on line at 150.00 feet, continuing with the northeastern line of another tract belonging to Danny Brandon (Tax Map 73-N, Gr. A, Parcel 2.02), passing an existing iron pin on line at the southeastern corner of the Corey Bartholomew tract (included in this description) at 340.00 feet, continuing with the northeastern line of Brandon for a total distance of 465.00 feet to an existing iron pin near the southeastern edge of a field; thence with the southeastern line of Danny Brandon (Tax Map 73, Parcel 15.00), North 37 degrees 09 minutes 57 seconds East, passing an existing iron pin on line at 540.95 feet and continuing for a total distance of 580.95 feet to a point in the centerline of Beaver Creek Drainage Canal; thence with the centerline of Beaver Creek Drainage Canal, South 29 degrees 33 minutes 13 seconds East, passing the northeastern corner of the Corey Bartholomew tract at 150.00 feet and continuing for a total distance of 418.94 feet to a point in the centerline of the canal at the northwestern corner of Patrick Goodwin (Tax Map 73-N, Gr. A, Parcel 1.00 – Deed Bk. 276, Pg. 145); thence leaving the canal and running with the northwestern line of Goodwin, South 40 degrees 59 minutes 06 seconds West, passing an existing iron pin on line at 43.72 feet and continuing for a total distance of 243.72 feet to an existing iron pin; thence with the southwestern line of Goodwin, South 49 degrees 00 minutes 52 seconds East for a distance of 100.00 feet to an existing iron pin in the northwestern right-of-way of West Main Street (40 feet from centerline), said iron pin being located 22.4 feet northwest of the southwestern corner of a concrete bridge; thence with the northwestern right-of-way of West Main Street as follows: South 39 degrees 16 minutes 14 seconds West for a distance of 136.99 feet; thence South 37 degrees 09 minutes 57 seconds West for a distance of 67.88 feet to the point of beginning, containing 4.88 acres. Surveyed by Denny A. Bush, Tennessee RLS No. 1577, on October 29, 2013. Bearings are based on Tennessee State Plane Coordinates, NAD 1983. (Description taken from prior deed of record)

It being the same property as that described in a Warranty Deed from Marty E. Ensley, James Kiley Pearson and Johnny Ray Pearson to Cachengo, Inc., a Tennessee Corporation, dated November 22, 2024, and of record in Warranty Deed Book 417, page 844, Register's Office of Carroll County, Tennessee.

Map 073N, Group A, Parcel 002.01

The street address of the above-described property is believed to be 19225 Main Street, Huntingdon, Tennessee 38344, but such address is not part of the legal description of the property sold herein and in the event of any discrepancy, the legal description herein shall control.

SALE IS SUBJECT TO TENANT(S) RIGHTS IN POSSESSION, IF ANY.

This sale is subject to all matters shown on any applicable recorded plat; any unpaid taxes; any restrictive covenants, easements, or setback lines that may be applicable; any statutory rights of redemption of any governmental agency, state or federal; any prior liens or encumbrances as well as any priority created by a fixture filing; and to any matter that an accurate survey of the premises might disclose. Other interested parties: None.

Title to said property is believed to be good, but the undersigned will sell as Substitute Trustee only and will assign to the purchaser all covenants of warranty contained in said Deed of Trust.

The sale held pursuant to this Notice may be rescinded at the Successor Trustee's option at any time. Said sale may be adjourned to another time or may be postponed to another date by public announcement at the appointed time of sale without readvertisement.

This office is a debt collector. This is an attempt to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

This Notice of Sale has been posted by ForeclosureTennessee.com and can be viewed online at ForeclosureTennessee.com.

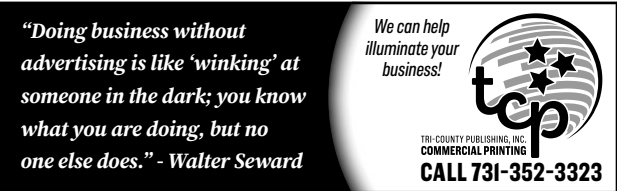
WITNESS my signature, this the 9th day of December, 2025.

KIZER, BONDS, HUGHES & BOWEN, LLC

BY: STEPHEN L. HUGHES, Substitute Trustee
P. O. Box 320, Milan, TN 38358 (731) 686-119820, 2024

Marriage Licenses

Chad Michael Reasons, 36, of Huntingdon, to Ana Daniela Sansur Pavon, 34, of Honduras.



IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE CASE NO: 2025PE228

ESTATE OF: LINDA HARR, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Notice is hereby given that on the 1ST day of DECEMBER, 2025 Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of LINDA HARR deceased, who died NOVEMBER 7TH, 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 1ST day of DECEMBER, 2025.
THIS NOTICE WILL RUN TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

**FILE CLAIMS IN TRIPPLICATE WITH:
KENNETH TODD - CLERK & MASTER
99 Court Square, Suite 105, Huntingdon, TN 38344**

**RITA PRUITT, Executor/Administrator
STEVEN L. WEST, Attorney
KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master**

A561/R26785/49-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE CASE NO: 2025PA229

ESTATE OF: MARILYN LOUISE BISHOP, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Notice is hereby given that on the 1ST day of DECEMBER, 2025 Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of MARILYN LOUISE BISHOP deceased, who died JULY 22ND, 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.

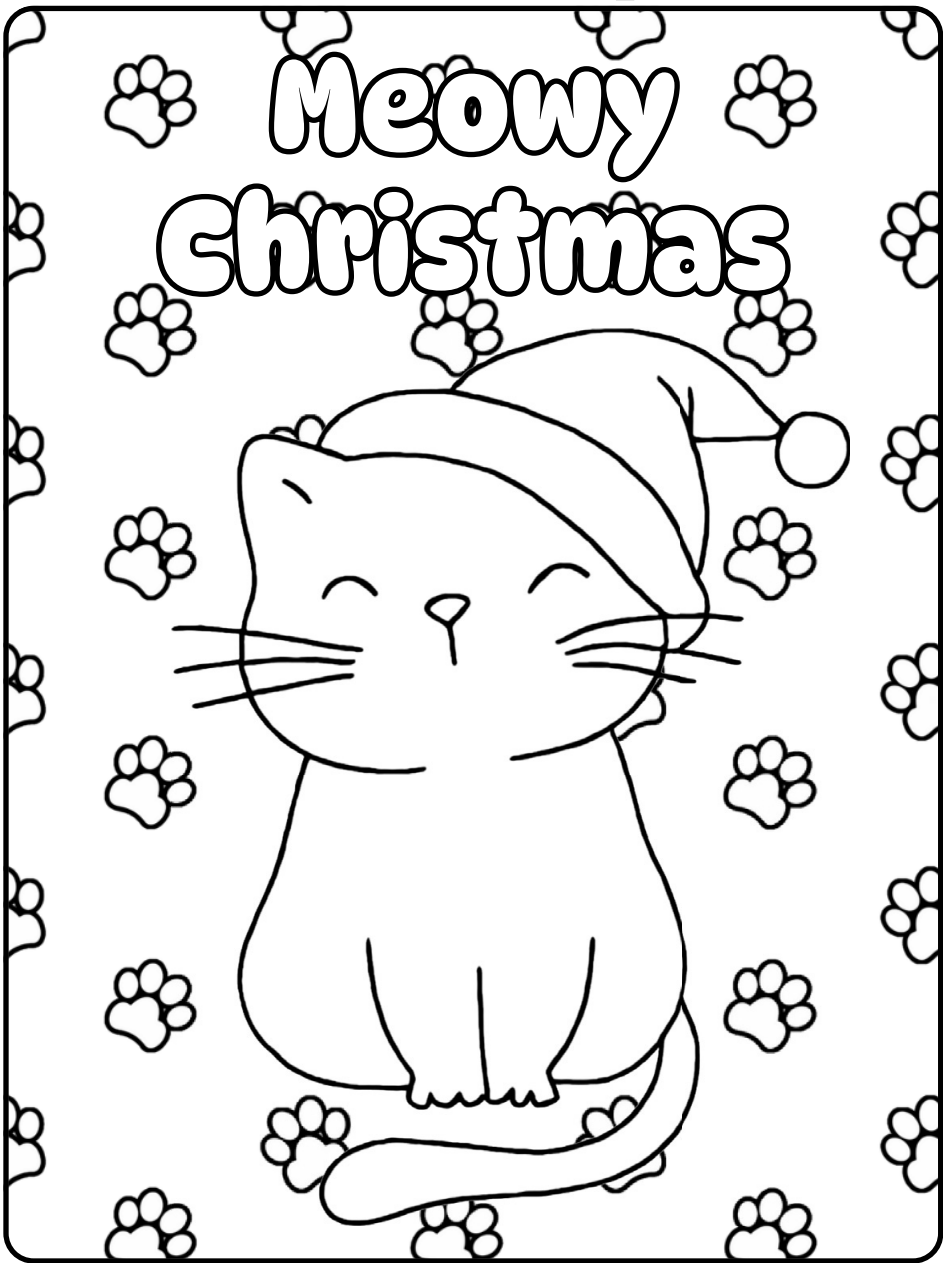
This 1ST day of DECEMBER, 2025.
THIS NOTICE WILL RUN TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

**FILE CLAIMS IN TRIPPLICATE WITH:
KENNETH TODD - CLERK & MASTER
99 Court Square, Suite 105, Huntingdon, TN 38344**

**JULIE K. HESTER & STACY M. FLETCHER, Executor/Administrator
W. KENT JONES, Attorney
KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master**

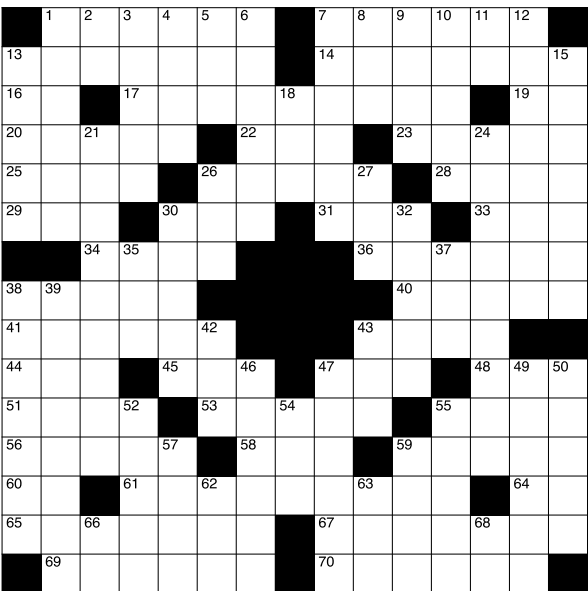
A561/R26784/49-2

Color A Masterpiece



Weekly Crossword

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Spiritual leaders
 - 7. A type of solution
 - 13. Fortified wine
 - 14. Edible mollusk
 - 16. They precede C
 - 17. A way to compare
 - 19. Government lawyer
 - 20. "Game of Thrones" actor Ciaran
 - 22. The eighth month (abbr.)
 - 23. Very willing
 - 25. ___ ex Machina
 - 26. Makes happy
 - 28. Type of berry
 - 29. A doctrine
 - 30. Popular Dodge truck model
 - 31. Dekagram
 - 33. Naturally occurring solid
 - 34. Company officer
 - 36. Villains
 - 38. Cricket frogs
 - 40. Influential German psychologist
 - 41. Endured
 - 43. A female domestic
 - 44. You can get stuck in one
 - 45. Cigarette (slang)
 - 47. Fiber optics network
 - 48. Group of blood disorders (abbr.)
 - 51. Employee stock ownership plan
 - 53. Belonging to the bottom layer
 - 55. Sound
 - 56. MLB legend Hank
 - 58. Very attractive person
 - 59. Late beloved sportscaster Craig
 - 60. South Dakota
 - 61. Mocking
 - 64. Symbol for gold
 - 65. Longtime Braves pitcher Julio
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Animal disease
 - 2. Commercial
 - 3. Necklace material
 - 4. Containers
 - 5. A way to save for your future
 - 6. Colorado Heisman winner Rashaan
 - 7. Dipped down
 - 8. Head injury (abbr.)
 - 9. Lay about
 - 10. Intestinal
 - 11. Opposite of yes
 - 12. Caused to be loved
 - 13. Spiritual leader of Islam
 - 15. Businesslike
 - 18. Not in
 - 21. Number above the line in a fraction
 - 24. An animal with its own day



- 67. Humor
- 69. Shawl
- 70. Preliminary patient assessment
- 26. Pouch
- 27. Swedish krona
- 30. Start over
- 32. Field flowers
- 35. Fourteen
- 37. A visual way to interact with a computer
- 38. Up-to-date
- 39. Campaigns
- 42. Touch lightly
- 43. "Boardwalk Empire" actress Gretchen
- 46. Violent seizure of property
- 47. Supporter of the Pope
- 49. Anxiety
- 50. Body fluid
- 52. One who's faking it
- 54. Title of respect
- 55. Chilean city
- 57. City in central Japan
- 59. Silk garment
- 62. A form of dance
- 63. Automobile
- 66. The man
- 68. Justice Dept. head honcho

Week 49 See solution in next week's edition.

On The Prowl Word Search

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

- Abyssinian

Calico

Clowder

Domestication

Feral
- Hairball

Hiss

Kitten

Litter Box

Meow
- Pads

Persian

Post

Purring

Queen

Scratch
- Siamese

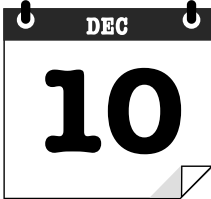
Tabby

Tomcat

Tortoise Shell

Whiskers

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1768: The first edition of the Encyclopedia Britannica is published.

1817: Mississippi becomes the 20th U.S. state.

1901: The first Nobel Prize ceremony is held in Stockholm on the fifth anniversary of Alfred Nobel's death.

SUDOKU

WEEK 49

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

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

See solution in next week's edition.



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

- A. 22 8 26 13**

Clue: Feet
- B. 6 1 14 4**

Clue: Touch with tongue
- C. 26 24 1 13 4 12 25 13**

Clue: Sensory hairs
- D. 22 2 19 20 14 12**

Clue: Jump upon suddenly

Answers: A. paws B. lick C. whiskers D. pounce

LETTER MIX-UP

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

TORTOISE SHELL

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____
11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

16. _____

17. _____

18. _____

19. _____

20. _____

Riddle Me This

What do you call Santa for cats?

Answer: Santa paws.

WORD SCRAMBLE

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

RSRUP

Answer: Purr

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actor born in Texas on December 13, 1967. I broke several school records as a young football player in high school. I had a breakout role on a TV series that also included Jim Carrey. I won an Oscar for playing a famous blind musician.

Answer: Jamie Foxx

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PUZZLE SOLUTION

Week 48 Crossword Puzzle Solution

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION WEEK 48

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

HELP WANTED

NEEDING CAREGIVER — WILL WORK FOR A COMPANY named St. John's or Support Solutions in the Gleason Area. Will receive around 25-30 hours, Monday-Friday. 731-514-8287. R26766/49-2

FOR SALE

FOR SALE — PX90 EXERCISE Equipment and Chin Bar \$20. Medical Weight Scale \$50. R26778/49-1

EAGLE BUILDINGS — NEW & USED PORTABLE BUILDINGS, Cabins, Carports & Garages. 314 Memorial Dr., Paris (731) 644-0090; 202 Memorial Dr., Paris (731) 641-2800; 17595 Highland Dr., McKenzie (731) 393-0277; 1409 Hwy 70 W, Camden (731) 279-4192; 15035 S. First St., Milan (731) 613-2166; 586 W. Church St., Lexington (731) 249-9184; 852 University St., Martin (731) 281-7117. eaglebuild-ingstn.com. A7655/50-TF

SERVICES

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JOE'S TREE SERVICE AND STUMP REMOVAL: 60 ft. bucket truck, prune or take down grind stumps, clean up and haul off, insured, free estimates. 731-697-0023 or 731-513-1518. A7084/21-TF

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AUCTIONS

GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT YOUR NEXT AUCTION! Save Time & \$\$\$! One Call for All. Your ad can appear in this newspaper + 102 other TN newspapers. For more info, contact this newspaper's classified dept. or call Becky Moats 931-624-8916. (TnScan)

FOR LEASE

AVAILABLE — 4,000 SQ. FT. NEXT TO H&R BLOCK, at Cedar Street Plaza, 1926 Cedar Street, McKenzie. Call 731-352-2189. A5404/20-TF

QUALITY OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE — From 430 Sq. Ft. to 3,000 Sq. Ft. Highway 79 Highland Mall, across from the post office. Call 731-352-2189. A5404/44-TF

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CHOOSE EARTHLINK FIBER INTERNET for speeds up to 5 Gigs, no data caps, no throttling. Prices starting at \$54.95. Plus, a \$100 gift card when you make the switch. Call 1-855-481-3340. (TnScan)

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FREE TO GOOD HOME — 20 cats, 6 dogs. 731-333-4926 or 731-333-7420. NC/49-2

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YEAR-END CLEARANCE! EVERY LOT MODEL MUST GO — huge savings now at TN Home Center, 3-Way, TN. Call 731-784-5033 today! R26716/46-7

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HOUSES AND APARTMENTS: MCKENZIE AREA. www.mckenzie-homefinders.com 731-352-2255. A1219/44-TF

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MISCELLANEOUS

NEED TO GET RID OF it? Advertise it in the classifieds! Thousands of readers are looking at the classifieds every week. Advertise your service or product for only \$5 for 25 words, \$8 for 26-50 words, and 20 cents for each additional word over 50 each week. Call 731-352-3323 to get started! NC/27-TF

WANT TO BUY

WANT TO BUY USED WASHER, older model preferred. 731-358-3967. R26730/47-4

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Left, 2025 Senior Award Recipients — (L to R) Tobey Brooks, Morgan Little, Brody Berryhill, Gracie Aird and Carlton Townes. Right, Individual Award Recipients — (L to R) Fastest Freshman recipient Cal Fawcett, Guts and Grit Award recipient Autumn Haywood, Heart of a Champion Award recipient Bella Sass, Most Valuable Runner recipient Abigail Wallace, Never Quit Award recipient Ava Hastings, Most Improved recipient Sophie Dameron, Leadership Excellence recipient Gracie Aird and Most Improved recipient Liam Moore. Submitted photos

Banquet Honors McKenzie Cross Country Runners

MCKENZIE (December 7) — The McKenzie High School girls’ and boys’ cross country teams met at Hometown Hangout Sunday for an end-of-season banquet, celebrating both individual and team accomplishments.

Coach Beth Mathis spoke to the teams, acknowledging their self-discipline, grit and determination.

“I want to remind you of something I hope every runner takes with them long after tonight: Cross country is hard,” said Mathis. “You train when you’re tired, run when conditions aren’t perfect and fight battles in your head that no one else gets to see. My hope is that this season taught you that you can do hard things. You are stronger than you think, and you have already proven it.”

Mathis first recognized the girls’ cross country team for their overall success.

The team finished third in the state of Tennessee in the

TSSAA Class A State Cross Country Championship in November, a feat Mathis said was “an unbelievable accomplishment built on months of hard work, pushing each other and believing in what was possible.” The team’s average time in the state meet was 22:42.

Abigail Wallace set records and finished as the State runner-up with a time of 19:16. She received the “Most Valuable Runner” Award.

Autumn Haywood finished eighth at State, and set a personal record of 21:03. She received the “Guts and Grit” Award.

Bella Sass finished eighteenth in the state while balancing soccer season. She received the “Heart of a Champion” Award.

Gracie Aird ran 25:35 at the regional meet despite tearing her ACL last year. She received the “Leadership Excellence” Award.

Sophie Dameron made an



The 2025 McKenzie High School girls’ and boys’ cross country teams gathered at Hometown Hangout for an end-of-season banquet December 7. Submitted photo

almost six-second improvement during the season, with her fastest time being 23:35. She received the “Most Improved” Award.

Ava Hastings dropped her time from 28:11 to 25:25 by the end of the year. She received the “Never Quit” Award.

Lillian Brown improved by

almost three minutes across the season.

Mathis also praised Morgan Little, Avery Cantrell, Shayleigh Lewis, Mary Ryan Morris, Katelyn Prather and Ryleigh Rogers for their improvements over the season.

Before recognizing the boys’ team, Mathis made a strong prediction:

“I fully expect to take this boys’ program to state next year,” Mathis said. “The times don’t lie, and the progress from Dresden to Martin shows a team on the rise.”

Cal Fawcett finished the season with a 19:25 time. He received the “Fastest Freshman” Award.

Tristan Vela ran a fast time

of 20:44.

Liam Moore dropped his time from 26 minutes to 20:43 by the end of the season. He received the “Most Improved” Award.

Marshall Vinson finished the season with a 22:48 time.

Eian Gibson finished with a 21:06 time.

Carter Chow improved from a time of 24:21 to 23:04.

Brody Berryhill improved to a time of 23:15.

Mathis also praised Tobey Brooks, Reed Little, Diego Hernandez and Jony Hernandez for their determination and improvements over the season.

This was the final cross country season at McKenzie High School for seniors Tobey Brooks, Morgan Little, Brody Berryhill, Gracie Aird and manager Carlton Townes. The five seniors each received a 2025 Senior Award plaque.



Left, Mustang Kelton Johnson slams a dunk on a fast break. Johnson scored 16 points. Center Left, Rebel Eli Vinson goes strong to the basket for two points. Vinson scored 14 points. Center Right, Lady Rebel Jaycee Stafford gets inside for a layup. Stafford led all scorers with 22 points. Right, Huntingdon’s Wylie Kee finds an open lane for two points. Kee led the Fillies with 20 points. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Huntingdon Sweeps McKenzie

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (December 2) — Huntingdon High School hosted McKenzie Tuesday for a pair of basketball contests. The Fillies

dominated the first half en route to a 74-52 win. The Mustangs also enjoyed a big first-half advantage to claim an 85-49 victory.

Both boys teams were short-handed as many on each squad are still play-

ing football. Huntingdon had eight players available, while McKenzie had just six.

Huntingdon Fillies 74, McKenzie Lady Rebels 52

The Fillies jumped out to

a 20-12 lead after the opening frame, led by Wylie Kee with nine points, including a three-pointer. Knox Bennett scored eight, also with a three. Grier Bartholomew also hit a three-pointer. Lady Rebels Ava Hastings and Addyson Littleton each hit a three, and Molly French, Jaycee Stafford and Braylin Auvenshine each had a pair.

Huntingdon had a 19-11 advantage in the second quarter, led by Kee with five points, including another three-pointer. Bartholomew, Bennett and Krystin Moore each hit a three, and Ellie Wilson also scored three points. Ali Harris had a pair. Stafford led McKenzie with eight points, and French hit a three. At the half, Huntingdon led 39-23.

The Fillies had a 17-15 edge in the third, led by Bartholomew with six points on a pair of threes. Bennett and Tatum Rich each scored four points. Kee added a pair, and Kaylen Cary hit a free throw. Stafford led the Lady Rebels with ten points, including a pair of three-pointers. French hit another three, and Auvenshine added a pair. Entering the final frame, the Fillies led 56-38.

Huntingdon sealed the

win with an 18-14 tilt in the fourth, led by Kee with four points. Wilson and Emalynn Maness each hit a three, and Cary, Bartholomew, Bennett and Millie Luther each had a pair. Hastings scored six for McKenzie on a pair of threes. Alleigh Britt and Kynadie Brown each hit a three, and Stafford added a pair.

Lady Rebel Jaycee Stafford led all scorers with 22 points, including a pair of three-pointers. Ava Hastings scored nine on a trio of threes.

Wylie Kee led the Fillies with 20 points, including a pair of threes. Knox Bennett scored 17 with a pair of three-pointers. Grier Bartholomew had 14 points with four threes.

Mustangs 85, Rebels 49

Huntingdon stormed out to a 21-12 lead after the first frame, led by Kelton Johnson and Kainan Moore with seven points each, both with a three-pointer. Caleb Ezell scored five with a three, and William Boals had a pair. Rebels Eli Vinson and Nolan Fawcett each scored five, Vinson with a three-pointer. Cayden Ownby had a pair.

The Mustang lead grew with a 31-12 advantage in the second quarter, led by Jayden Williams with 13 points, including four three-pointers. Ezell scored nine with a three, and Johnson had four points. Moore hit a three, and David

Boals had a pair. Vinson and Ownby each scored five for McKenzie, each with a three. Fawcett added a pair. At the half, Huntingdon led 52-24.

The third was a 15-15 wash. Fawcett led McKenzie with ten points, including a pair of three-pointers. Ownby also hit a three, and Vinson added a pair. Ezell led the Mustangs with seven points, including a three. D. Boals scored four, and Johnson and W. Boals each added a pair. Heading into the final frame, the Mustangs led 67-39.

Huntingdon capped the win with an 18-10 tilt in the fourth, led by Colt Luther with six points on a pair of threes. W. Boals scored four. Johnson and Tucker Courtney each hit a three-pointer, and Williams added a pair. Fawcett led the Rebels with five points, including a three. Ethan Bradberry scored three points, and Vinson added a pair.

Rebel Nolan Fawcett led all scorers with 22 points, including a trio of threes. Eli Vinson scored 14 with a pair of three-pointers. Cayden Ownby had ten, also with a three.

Caleb Ezell led Huntingdon with 21 points, including a trio of threes. Kelton Johnson scored 16 with a pair of three-pointers. Jayden Williams had 15 points with four threes. Kainan Moore scored ten with a pair of three-pointers.

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