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Tuesday, December 23, 2025

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McKENZIE, TENNESSEE

Home of Bethel University

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Huntingdon Council Rejects Liquor Store Cap

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
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HUNTINGDON (December 16) — The Huntingdon Town Council laid Ordinance Number 650 — a proposal to cap the number of allowed liquor stores in town limits to two — to rest Tuesday night following pushback from the community.

The council also honored Hunting-

don High School football coach Eric Swenson and the Mustang football team with Pinnacle of Excellence awards (see "Swenson, Mustangs Honored With Pinnacle of Excellence Awards") and voted on several ordinances regarding beer sales, specialty smoke and vape store limitations and property zoning.

Cyril Ostiguy appeared before the council to discuss Ordinance

Number 650, which the council first discussed in November. After the first reading, a majority of council members voted in favor of limiting the town's number of licenses for the sale of packaged liquor.

Tuesday night, Ostiguy quoted the Declaration of Independence,

See LIQUOR on Page 3



David Duncan Named HRBSSD Interim Director

BY BRAD SAM
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BRUCETON (December 15) — David Duncan was appointed interim director of the Hollow Rock-Bruceton Special School District for the spring 2026 semester at a special called meeting of the Board of Education Monday following the sudden and unexpected resignation of Dr. Myles Hebrard

See DUNCAN on Page 3

TENNESSEE COLLEGE OF APPLIED TECHNOLOGY GRADUATION



Fall 2025 Graduates of TCAT Henry/Carroll. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

TCAT Henry/Carroll Holds First-Ever Combined Winter Commencement

BY JOEL WASHBURN
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HUNTINGDON (December 17) — The Tennessee College of Applied Technology Henry/Carroll marked a milestone by holding its first-ever combined graduation ceremony, bringing together winter graduates from both the McKenzie and Paris campuses.

Candidates, donned in cap and

gown, marched into a capacity auditorium to the sound of Pomp and Circumstance. TCAT President John Penn Ridgeway noted the venue was chosen as one of the few in the area large enough to accommodate the students and their families and friends. Dr. Lorie Goodgine, Vice-President of TCAT, welcomed the audience to the celebration.

The ceremony featured Bruce Griffey, District 24 Circuit Court

Judge, as the commencement speaker. Judge Griffey was introduced by Andy Holt, Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture. Both Holt, who resides in Dresden, and Griffey, a Henry County resident, are former representatives in the Tennessee General Assembly.

See TCAT on Page 3

McKENZIE School Board Meets January 3 for Tax Vote

McKENZIE — The McKenzie Special School District Board of Education will meet on Saturday, January 3, 2026, at 9 a.m. to consider a proposed increase in the real estate tax rate to fund the school system. The meeting will take place at 114 Bell Avenue.

See TAX on Page 2

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Ford Rebrands Tennessee Facility, Swaps Electric Pickup For Next-Gen Gas Truck

BY JOEL WASHBURN
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STANTON, Tenn. (December 16) — In a major recalibration of its electrification strategy, Ford Motor Company announced this week that it is abandoning plans to build an all-electric pickup truck at its massive West Tennessee campus. Instead, the facility will be repurposed to produce a next-generation gasoline-powered pickup truck.

The site has been officially rebranded as the Tennessee Truck Plant. The shift reflects a "customer-driven" pivot as the automaker grapples with cooling EV demand,

high production costs, and a rapidly changing regulatory landscape.

The announcement, delivered by Ford's Chief Government Affairs Officer to area West Tennessee government officials and economic developers, marks a significant departure from the original 2021 vision for BlueOval City. While the physical buildings on the 3,300-acre site are complete, the plant's interiors will now undergo an extensive retrofitting.

Crews will transition assembly lines, stamping, frames,

See FORD on Page 3

Swenson, Mustangs Honored with Pinnacle of Excellence Awards

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
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HUNTINGDON (December 16) — Huntingdon Mayor Chad Edwards presented Pinnacle of Excellence awards to Eric Swenson and the Huntingdon High School football team Tuesday evening. The winningest coach in Huntingdon history and the Class 2A State Champions attended the Town of Huntingdon's monthly meeting to receive the honor, just ten days after their big win in Chattanooga.

Swenson's Pinnacle of Excellence Award is a celebration of excellence, extraordinary achievement and exceptional performance, according to Mayor Edwards.

See SWENSON on Page 3



(L to R) Huntingdon Mayor Chad Edwards shakes Huntingdon Football Head Coach Eric Swenson's hand after presenting him with the Pinnacle of Excellence Award. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner



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Carroll Schools Awarded \$2,900 in Utrust Grants

Carroll County Schools has been awarded \$2,900 in Utrust grants to boost employee recognition and appreciation of students and staff.

John McAdams, director of Carroll County Schools, requested \$1,400 to provide staff members with monogrammed shirts. He wrote, "We are very proud of our staff members. We know and understand the stress they experience and we want to show them that they are seen, appreciated and supported. We feel that providing monogrammed shirts for them will help build a sense of pride in our school and boost staff morale."

Carroll County Technical Center also participates in

the Utrust Appreciation Program and Culture Initiative and has received \$1,500 to support their participation in the programs.

The Utrust Appreciation Program encourages students to express gratitude toward school staff, while the Culture Initiative broadens this effort to involve staff being intentional about expressing appreciation to students. It also involves the school inviting parents and the community at large to express appreciation to students and school staff. Together, these initiatives aim to foster a culture in the school community where everyone appreciates, and everyone is appreciated.

Dr. Dan Tollett, Utrust ad-

ministrator, highlighted the district's commitment: "We welcome the opportunity to be a part of Carroll County's efforts to appreciate every school employee and every student. I hope that parents and other community members will make a special effort to support the school's efforts to build a stronger culture of appreciation."

Utrust is a Tennessee-based organization supporting school systems in addressing unemployment matters and promoting employee recognition. This year, Utrust will award \$1 million in mini-grants to 51 school systems across Tennessee to help them celebrate their employees.



Hollow Rock-Bruceton FFA Members Receive National SAE Grants

Two members of the Hollow Rock-Bruceton Future Farmers of America (FFA) Chapter have been awarded National FFA Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) Grants for their outstanding agricultural projects.

Cadence Guinn received a \$1,000 SAE Grant sponsored by Bayer for a project focused on environmental and natural resources, specifically the research and development of food plots. Her SAE also includes an entrepreneurship component, where she will be developing and selling wildlife food plot seed varieties designed to support several types of local wildlife, while promoting sustainable habitat management practices.

Allie Paschall received an Enhanced SAE Grant in the

amount of \$5,000 sponsored by Todd and Nancy Seitz to continue building upon her agricultural education initiative, "Allie's Ag Academy." The program focuses on expanding hands-on agricultural learning opportunities and increasing agricultural literacy among youth.

SAE grants are designed to help FFA members create or expand Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE) projects, a requirement that all FFA members must complete. An SAE requires FFA members to create and operate an agriculture-related business, work at an agriculture-related business or conduct an agricultural research experience. Upon completion, FFA members must submit a comprehensive report detailing their career development experience.

This year, 23 different sponsors funded SAE Grants, with 1,468 applications submitted nationwide and only 10 applications coming from the state of Tennessee. A full list of sponsors can be found on the National FFA Organization website on the SAE Grants webpage.

Guinn and Paschall are members of the Hollow Rock-Bruceton FFA Chapter, and their applications were selected through a highly competitive national selection process.

The National FFA Organization is a school-based national youth leadership development organization of more than 1,042,245 student members as part of 9,407 local FFA chapters in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Memphis Theological Seminary to Close

MEMPHIS (December 16) — Memphis Theological Seminary informed students that it plans to close following the Spring 2026 semester, according to an internal notice circulated by email. The seminary's Board of Trustees formally voted last week to recommend closure to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church General Assembly on January 23, 2026, the seminary said.

Founded in the 19th century as the Cumberland Presbyterian Theological Seminary and long affiliated with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Memphis Theological Seminary has operated in Midtown Memphis for decades as a graduate school for theological education. The seminary is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and has offered degree programs, including the Master of Divinity, Master of Arts in Christian Ministry, and

Doctor of Ministry.

The seminary cited financial and structural challenges common to small, standalone theological institutions. In its statement, MTS said that, without the support of a larger university structure, it has borne all operational costs independently and has been unable to sustain that model.

According to the seminary, efforts over the past two years to pursue a merger, acquisition, or partnership were unsuccessful. The board said it evaluated approximately 30 institutions but was unable to secure a partner, citing limited endowment and assets under direct institutional control. If the General Assembly approves the recommendation, the seminary said it will work with accrediting bodies and academic partners to support currently enrolled students through teach-out and transition arrangements. The seminary also said it intends to provide support and clear communication to faculty and staff during the transition.

The seminary's campus has also housed offices for the Program of Alternate Studies, a non-degree ordination pathway used by the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Although physically located on the Memphis campus, the Program of Al-

ternate Studies is a separate entity that reports directly to the General Assembly and is not governed by the seminary.

Memphis Theological Seminary traces its heritage to the Cumberland Presbyterian Church's early efforts in theological education and has played a significant role in preparing clergy and church leaders across the Mid-South and beyond for more than a century.

The seminary was previously located on the campus of Bethel College.

From 1923 until 1956, the seminary was a department of Bethel College. In 1956, The Cumberland Presbyterian General Assembly made the Cumberland Presbyterian Theological Seminary a separate institution and placed it under a new Board of Trustees.

In 1962, the General Assembly approved a recommendation of the Board of Trustees to relocate the seminary to Memphis, Tennessee. In 1964, the Assembly changed the name of the Cumberland Presbyterian Theological Seminary to Memphis Theological Seminary of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church. The relocation was effected during the summer of 1964, and the seminary opened its doors in Memphis in September 1964.

More Letters to Santa

Miscellaneous

Dear Santa,

This Year I have been nice and naughty. Here are a few things I'm wishing for: Bluey toys, clothes, shoes, and a new riding toy.

Love, Kaileiss Arnold, 2

Lindsey Holt

Dear Santa,

This year I have been nice. Here are a few things I'm wishing for: Kpop demon hunters toys. Barbie dolls.

Love, Charli Lee, 5

First Grade

Rachel Edlin

Dear Santa,

This year I have been nice. Here are a few things I'm wishing for: Optimus prime transformers. Sonic the hedgehog.

Love, Konnor Lee, 6

Second Grade

Emily Bolin

Dear Santa,

This Year I have been nice and naughty. My name is Brody Moore. I am in second grade. This year I have tried to be nice as much as possible. For Christmas this year, I would like a tv for my room and Lego-themed stuff to redo my bedroom. Please don't forget the best little sister ever, Harper. I love you, Santa. I hope you have a very merry Christmas.

Love, Brody Moore

Kelly Simmons

Dear Santa,

I've been really good this year I already got 2 puppies for Christmas can you bring them some toys and treats and some for Willie and my Smokey boy too What i would like is some Hot wheels for me and dad, books with a book shelf for my room (no girl books), coloring books with a really big box of crayons, silver dump truck and a blue-green dump truck, and some tractors and farm toys for me and uncle Kyle, a bird house that me and Jeter can build, a tablet, i really want to keep my old house but if you can't do that can you give us a new house for me and my family. Don't forget about bubba and my sisters too but if you want to skip Macie that will be okay. And please don't forget my mama she really needs some Christmas magic this year. Ill have some cookies and chocolate milk for you and carrots for the reindeer on Christmas Eve. Ps can you tell your naughty elf to stop pooping marshmallows in my floor or i might feed him to Smokey and Lexie.

Love your buddy, Noah Searatt, 8

Love, Brody Moore

Third Grade

Mary Spivey

Dear Santa,

I'm wishing for a dirt bike.

Love, Johnny Smith, 8

Megan Taylor

Dear Santa,

This year I have been nice. I love Kuromi and would like to have a lot Kuromi things. I want Kuromi clothes, Kuromi Bluetooth speaker, and anything else

that you see that's Kuromi. I would like some more sleep pants. I want a LED dog and snowman house shoes. I want some Amulet books.

Love, Amelia Young

KidCo Daycare

Ms. Courtney

Dear Santa,

This Year I have been nice and naughty. For Christmas this year I would like lots of playdoh, barbie dolls, bluey stuff, and also some sparkly shoes! I also need new clothes. I could always use pull-ups and wipes too. Please don't forget my doggy Bear, he's naughty sometimes tho. I will leave lots of chocolate cookies and a little milk for you to have a snack.

Love, Oaklee Walton, 2

NWTN Headstart, McKenzie Headstart

Miss Sanaai

Dear Santa,

This year I have been nice. Here are a few things I'm wishing for: Baby dolls. Kpop demon hunters dolls.

Love, Abigail Lee, 3

McKenzie First C.P. School of Discovery

Ms. Diann Olson

Dear Santa,

This year I have been nice. Here are a few things I'm wishing for: A pink jeep and a pink and blue Polaroid camera.

Love, Darcy Guinn, 4

Huntingdon Primary School

First Grade

Ms. Joy Raines

Dear Santa,

This year I have been nice. Here are a few things I'm wishing for: Surprises. I'll leave some milk and cookies.

Love, Farrah Guinn, 6

Third Grade

Ms. Courtney Cole

Dear Santa,

This year I have been nice. I would like a red water-proof metal detector.

Love, Grayson Guinn, 8

West Carroll Primary School

Kindergarten

Molly Henderson

Dear Santa,

This Year I have been nice and naughty. I hope you have had a great year. I'm really happy about Christmas this year! Here is some of my wish list: 1) basket with clips and lipgloss. 2) lip scrub and skin care. 3) no heat curlers for my hair. 4) socks with the black check on them. 5) lotion that smells really really good.

Always always, Harper Kate, 6

Tax

...From Front Page

During an earlier special-called meeting on October 30, the board suggested a 33 percent increase in the tax rate to fund the 2026-27 school year and beyond. The tax rate change would be effective July 1, 2026, and payable October 1, 2026, to February 28, 2027, without penalty for delinquency.

The earlier discussed increase adds 25 cents per \$100 of assessed value to the current rate of \$0.748375, aiming to address an estimated \$422,299 deficit for the 2026-27 school year. This represents a 33 percent hike in property taxes, driven by higher salary and benefits costs from Governor Bill Lee's

Teacher Paycheck Protection Act, as well as the expiration of key ISM and IDEA Systemic Change grants.

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

At the January meeting, the board will request approval from the Tennessee General Assembly to raise taxes. If granted, the board can set the rate at the proposed maximum or choose a lower amount.

Beginning in 2026, MSSD must increase the minimum salary for first-year teachers to \$50,000 under Governor Bill Lee's Teacher Paycheck Protection Act. Currently,

starting teachers earn \$48,000. To comply, the district plans a three percent raise for all teachers and corresponding benefit adjustments, resulting in an additional \$350,936.80 in salary and benefit costs.

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

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

To cover increased teacher pay and benefits, retain staff previously funded by ISM and IDEA grants, and maintain non-payroll costs, the district requires \$422,299.19 in additional funding.



Cyril Ostiguy requests the council’s rejection of Ordinance Number 650. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Liquor

...From Front Page

emphasizing citizens’ right to the pursuit of happiness.

“For some, it [the pursuit of happiness] is building a business; for others, it is raising kids, writing music, exploring the wilderness or serving something bigger than themselves...It won’t be my pursuit of happiness to open a packaged [liquor] store in Huntingdon, but it may be for others,” he said. “Just hold on to the last license for someone who wants to pursue this as their happiness.”

Later in the evening, the council revisited the ordinance for its second and final reading. In a unanimous vote, the council rejected the ordinance.

The council passed Ordinance Number 647, officially amending the Town of Huntingdon’s Zoning Ordinance to revise provisions governing single-family residential uses allowed in B-3 (Central Business) Districts. The change allows single-family residential uses in the rear of a building (on the ground floor), so long as the front of the building remains being used commercially.

The amendment also revises the minimum square footage for B-3 single-family residential uses from 1,000 square feet to 900 square feet, so

the minimum size matches Huntingdon’s criteria for tiny houses.

The council passed Ordinance Number 648, amending the official Zoning Map to rezone a portion of the James Realty (Cash Saver) property at 20150 Main Street, Huntingdon, to B-1 (Neighborhood Business) zoning designation from its existing designation of R-2 (Medium Density Residential). This rezoning ordinance allows Cash Saver to apply for a permit to sell packaged beer.

The council passed Ordinance Number 649, amending the “Alcoholic Beverages” portion of the Huntingdon Municipal Code, prohibiting the issuance of a permit authorizing the manufacturing or storage of beer or the sale of beer within 300 feet of a church, school, public park or public playground. This does not apply to locations within the Business Neighborhood District (B-1) or Business District (B-2).

The council passed Ordinance Number 651, establishing a separate employee probation period of 12 months for newly-appointed firefighters in the Town of Huntingdon.

On first reading, the council voted in favor of Ordinance Number 652, defining a specialty smoke and vape shop as a retail use whose defined sales floor area is more than 25% dedicated to the sale and merchandising of

tobacco, vaping, edibles, concentrates, cannabis, cannabidiol oil, kratom and similar products.

This ordinance also develops limitation criteria for the stores, deciding that they shall not be located within 500 feet of a school, church, daycare or another specialty smoke or vape shop.

The council also agreed to change Huntingdon City Hall hours to 7:30 a.m. – 4 p.m. Monday through Friday, on first reading. This change will be effective March 1, 2026, if approved after a second reading.

The council approved water bill adjustments for two customers who experienced water leaks in November, each resulting in water bills totaling over \$1,800. The normal adjustment policy changed the bills to a little over \$400 each, but the council followed precedence and adjusted both bills to \$250 instead.

The council also approved appointments to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Access Advisory Board. Michelle Anglea is the ADA coordinator, and Allison Williams is the committee chair. Other council members are Lori Dillahunty, Di- anne Johnson, Lynn McCloskey, Ryan Forbess, Larry DePriest, John Fordon and Ronnie Breeden.

Concluding the final town council meeting of 2026, Mayor Chad Edwards said, “Keep charging forward.”

Ford

...From Front Page

and paint shops originally designed for the “Project T3” electric truck to accommodate internal combustion engines. The new gasoline-powered model—a completely new nameplate—is targeted for a 2029 launch.

“The operating reality has changed,” said Ford CEO Jim Farley in a statement. “This is a customer-driven shift to create a stronger, more resilient, and more profitable Ford.”

Jobs and Economic Impact

Despite the production change and the launch delay, Ford underscored its commitment to West Tennessee, noting that:

- **Hiring Goals:** The first shift is still expected to create approximately 2,300 new jobs.

- **Timeline:** Hiring will be phased in leading up to the 2029 launch to allow for specialized training.

- **Supplier Opportunities:** While the gas-powered truck requires different components, Ford anticipates the shift will create new opportunities for local suppliers.

Area industrial leaders, including McKenzie and Huntingdon, have been preparing for several years to attract suppliers to Ford’s and SK’s manufacturing facilities. Ford’s announcement of its commitment to West Tennessee is a positive step toward economic and community development in the western portion of the state.

The Future of the Battery Plant

The on-site battery plant,

a cornerstone of the original joint venture between Ford and South Korean partner SK On, is also undergoing a structural change. The two companies are dissolving their “BlueOval SK” joint venture.

Under the new agreement, SK On will take sole ownership and operational control of the adjacent Tennessee battery plant. While SK will continue to supply Ford, the move allows the battery manufacturer to seek other customers, including data centers for energy storage systems. Hiring for the battery facility remains on track.

Broader EV Strategy

Ford isn’t abandoning electric power entirely. The company revealed it is shifting its focus toward Extended-Range Electric Vehicles (E-REVs)—trucks that use an electric powertrain paired with a small gas generator to eliminate range anxiety during towing.

Additionally, Ford is developing a low-cost electric vehicle platform, with a \$30,000 EV planned for production in Kentucky, as it aims to achieve 50% electrified sales by 2030.

In a separate press release, Ford said it is expanding customer choice with gas, hybrids and low-cost electric vehicle platforms.

By 2030, Ford expects approximately 50% of its global volume will be hybrids, extended-range EVs and fully electric vehicles, up from 17% in 2025.

Ford will concentrate its North American electric vehicle development on its new, low-cost, flexible Universal EV Platform. This next-generation architecture is engineered to underpin a high-volume family of smaller, highly efficient and affordable

electric vehicles designed to be accessible to millions of customers.

The first vehicle from the Universal EV Platform will be the fully connected midsize pickup truck assembled at Louisville Assembly Plant starting in 2027.

Ford plans to expand hybrids with a range of executions based on customer needs and duty cycle – economical, performance hybrids and hybrids with exportable power. Ford is enhancing its strategy for larger trucks and SUVs to better align with customer demand for capability, towing and range, which includes adding extended-range electric options to its lineup.

As part of this plan, Ford’s next-generation F-150 Lightning will shift to an extended-range electric vehicle (EREV) architecture and be assembled at the Rouge Electric Vehicle Center in Dearborn, Michigan. Production of the current-generation F-150 Lightning has concluded, as Ford redeployed employees to the Dearborn Truck Plant to support a third crew for F-150 gas and hybrid truck production due to the Novelis fires.

“The F-150 Lightning is a groundbreaking product that demonstrated an electric pickup can still be a great F-Series,” said Doug Field, Ford’s chief EV, digital and design officer. “Our next-generation Lightning EREV is every bit as revolutionary. It keeps everything customers love – 100% electric power delivery, sub-5-second acceleration – and adds an estimated 700+ mile range and tows like a locomotive. It will be an incredibly versatile tool delivered in a capital-efficient way.”

TCAT

...From Front Page

Dr. Jan Latimer, Vice-President of the McKenzie campus, announced the names of the graduates as they crossed the stage to receive their diplomas.

A highlight of the ceremony was Cosmetology graduate Abigail Mills, who crossed the stage alongside her dog, Cooper. Both wore a cap and gown for the occasion.

Graduates were recognized in the following programs:

Automotive Technology: Justin Brown and Eric Rogers.

Collision Repair: Ricky Martin, Jr. and Christopher Trudeau.

Cosmetology: Laken Fisher, Bailey French, Laney Hargis, Sarah Hollingsworth, Haylee Locke, Abigail Mills, Zaykia Newbill, Isabella Salazar, Lara Totty, and Ginny Hoyt.

Health Information Management Technology: Ezriah Arroyo, Christa Mitchell, Kimberly Smith, and Emogene Harris.

Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning/Refrigeration: Cole Ballard and Ayden McAlister.

Industrial Maintenance/Integrated Automation: McKenzie Campus – Nathan Johnson, Barkley Biggs, Joshua Cochran, Christopher Eason, Devin King, Christopher Peebles, Michael Watson, and Shaffer Williams. Paris Campus – Christopher Cherry,



Left, Bruce Griffey was the commencement speaker. Right, Abigail Mills and her dog, Cooper, crossed the stage for her to receive a certificate in Cosmetology. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner

Sebastian Claxton, David Dillon, and Atley Pafford.

Information Technology Systems Management: McKenzie Campus – Riley Rogers and Christopher Bailey. Paris Campus – Andrew Benson.

Machine Tool Technology: McKenzie Campus – Robert Colson and Charles Smothers. Paris Campus – Carson Goodman and Chase Hisey.

Practical Nursing: Paris Campus - Sharie Kalis, Cassandra Kosloske, Tiffany Volner, Danielle McGowan, Kristin Osborn, Amber Owens, Johandra Robbins, Ashlyn Schmitt, Alexis Stewart, Tavey Tatom, Alexandra Vanderyt, Destiny Walleit, and Shelley Wright. Paris Campus-Evening - Mary Turner, Sidney Loudon, Christa Maynard, Traci Shepherd, Kayla Thomas,

and Dayjha Trice.

Residential Building Maintenance: Mary Alison Griffey, Christopher McDonald, Kelson Moore, Nicholas Schuiling, Ethan Tucker, Evan Conklin, and Piersen Hilby.

Welding Technology: Dresden Campus - Bradley Lamb and Austin Wright. McKenzie Campus - Dakota Craig, Preston Howell, Thadius Mason, Dalton Moody, Tyler Morgan, and Chelsea Sanford. Paris Campus - William Bell, Angelo Ellison, Izak Freeman, Gabriel Kendall, Joshua Noble, Michael Pease, Ethan Ray, Sarah Reese, Jacob Shepperd, and Braiden Warner.

No graduates were listed for Administrative Office Technology, Criminal Justice: Correctional Officer, or Telecommunications.



Mayor Chad Edwards (front left) stands for a photo with the Huntingdon Mustangs and their coaching staff. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Swenson

...From Front Page

Swenson is the all-time wins leader as head coach at Huntingdon High School. He surpassed the late Coach Paul Ward’s winning record after the Mustangs’ 2025 win against Union City, bringing his total to 170 victories as head coach. After the playoffs, his record stands at 175-52.

Last week, Huntingdon Director of Schools Jonathan Kee announced the playing surface at Paul Ward Stadium will be named “Eric Swenson Field” in honor of the coach.

Mayor Edwards also presented the 2025 Huntingdon Mustang football team with a Pinnacle of Excellence Award. Linebacker Broox Bennett, voted Most Valuable Player by the Huntingdon Quarterback Club, accepted the award on behalf of his teammates.

In the fall season, the Mustangs finished 9-1 in



(L to R) Huntingdon Mayor Chad Edwards shakes Broox Bennett’s hand after presenting him with the Mustangs’ Pinnacle of Excellence Award. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

their regular season. In the post-season, the team defeated Memphis Business Academy, Lewis County, East Robertson and Milan before facing defending state champions Marion County. The Mustangs defeated Marion County 20-7 in Chattanooga, finishing their season with a 14-1 record and a state

championship.

This is Huntingdon High School’s second state football championship in school history.

The Mustangs’ Pinnacle of Excellence Award recognizes the team’s prestigious accomplishment of being the 2025 TSSAA Class 2A state champions, according to Mayor Edwards.

Duncan

...From Front Page

from the position during the December 8 meeting.

Duncan previously served as Hollow Rock-Bruceton’s director from 2013 until 2021, when he retired after four decades in education.

Prior to his first tenure in Bruceton, Duncan was the McKenzie Middle School principal from 2009-2013 and assistant principal and coach at McKenzie High School from 2000-2009.

Since his retirement as

director, Duncan has served on the MHS football coaching staff.

Duncan takes over as interim director on January 7, 2026, when Hebrard’s resignation goes into effect.

Hebrard said as he announced his departure, “I want to say thank you to each of you, and that I’m honored that you selected me as your Director of Schools in 2021. I’m thankful and appreciative for the opportunity and will assist you as you need me in the transition.”

He added, “Thank you again for your belief in the students.”

Dr. Hebrard accepted the

position of supervisor of student services at Robertson County Schools, north of Nashville.

Hollow Rock-Bruceton School Board Chairman Brad Hurley called the surprise resignation a “challenge.” He told The Banner, “You don’t want someone to leave in the middle of the [school] year.”

Hurley said that Duncan’s previous knowledge and experience would make the transition smoother and would be particularly valuable when the district is preparing a budget for the next fiscal year, when a new director will presumably take over.



CHARLES S. COX, SR.
1935 – 2025

MARSHFIELD, Mass. (formerly of McKenzie) — Charles S. Cox, Sr, 90, of Marshfield, Mass., (formerly of Norwell and Braintree) died peacefully on Sunday, December 14, 2025, at The Village at Proprietors Green in Marshfield.

He was born in Buchanan, Tenn., on July 3, 1935, son of the late Arthur and Rebecca (Jackson) Cox.

Charles graduated from McKenzie High School Class of 1954 and earned a B.S. in Economics and Finance from the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. He served our country as an officer in the U.S. Navy where he met his wife of 56 years.

Charles built a remarkable life from adverse beginnings. He left his family's one-room shack at age 9 and supported himself in any way he could. This included shining shoes, working on farms, selling bibles, and changing letters on the town's movie marquis. He found work at a funeral home and a firehouse in exchange for room and board. He was always eager to work, and no job was beneath him.

His perseverance, hard work and intellect propelled him to become an accomplished investment advisor at Paine Webber/UBS for 44 years, where he was consistently recognized as a top performer, earning countless awards and accolades.

Charles enjoyed time with his family and grandkids, dining out with his wife, and shuttling her to the homes of their grandchildren nearly every day. He was an avid shopper at yard sales and thrift stores, and loved hunting for bargains. Studying the market and financial news was his lifelong passion.

Those who knew him would describe him as humble, respectful, gentle, and kind. When asked about his day, he would always smile and reply "Fine

and Dandy!"

Charles was predeceased by his loving wife Edith "Lea" (Palleria) Cox; his beloved son, Charles S. Cox, Jr.; his grandson Spencer Cox, III; and all four of his siblings.

He is survived by his three devoted daughters, Elizabeth (Robert) Ryan of Canton, MA, Lori-Anne (former husband John) Valianti of Marshfield, Mass., and Julianna (Alan) Hale of Atkinson, N.H.; and Charles Jr's surviving partner, Hilary Blocker of Canton, Mass. The memory of "Papa" will be cherished by his eight grandchildren: Nicole and Joseph Ryan, Austin and Isabella Cox, Nicholas and Olivia Valianti, and Daniel and Rachel Hale. He will be missed dearly by extended family and friends.

He was deeply grateful for the guidance of the McKenzie community and mentors who profoundly shaped his path and whose influence will forever be part of his story.

"Charlie" was much loved by the exceptional staff and caretakers at The Village at Proprietors Green, for whom we are immensely thankful.

BETTY ANN CONLEY
1939 – 2025

McKENZIE — Mrs. Betty Ann Conley, 86, died at her daughter's home in Ames, Iowa, on Thursday, December 18, 2025. Funeral services for Mrs. Conley were Monday, December 22, 2025, at 1 p.m. at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home. Interment was at Republican Grove Cemetery, Trezevant.

Mrs. Conley worked at Milan Arsenal and was a minister's wife. She was born on May 7, 1939, in Trezevant, Tenn., to Clifton and Birdie Lee Mitchell Palmer. She attended Crossroads Baptist Church, Ames, Iowa.

She is survived by her children, Kathy (Kyle) McKown of Ames, Iowa, and Keith (Fonda) Conley of McKenzie; a sister, Joan (Keaton) Webb of Milan; grandchildren, Aaron (Rachel) Conley, Constance (Jese) Rivera, Nicole (Colin) Schlindler and Conley McKown; and great-grandchildren, Garrett Conley, Bryson Conley, Amari McKown and Genesis Rivera.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Robert "Bobby" Conley; five sisters, Cassie Wood, Mildred Palmer, Jean

Sanders, Peggy Halford, and Paulette Taylor; and two brothers, Carl Palmer and Adrian Palmer.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home, McKenzie. +

KENNETH PATE
1948 – 2025

HUNTINGDON — Mr. Kenneth Pate, 77, of Huntingdon, died Monday, December 15, 2025, at his home.

Funeral services were Wednesday, December 17, 2025, in the Chapel of Dilday-Carter Funeral Home. Interment was at Liberty All Cemetery.

Mr. Pate was born May 4, 1948, to the late Jesse Pate and Aline Pate and was preceded in death by one brother, Wayne Pate.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Paula Pate of Huntingdon; one brother, Charles Pate of Powder Springs, Ga.; three sisters, Frances Hesselgrave of Marietta, Ga.; Joyce McCoy of Buchanan, Tenn.; and Linda Pate of Jackson, Tenn.

Dilday-Carter Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements, 731-986-8281.

IAN GRAYSON OWNBY
2005 – 2025

McKENZIE — Mr. Ian Grayson Ownby, 20, died Saturday, December 20, 2025, in Stewart County, following a motorcycle accident. Funeral services for Mr. Ownby are Saturday, December 27, 2025, at 2 p.m. at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home with interment at Bethlehem Cemetery, Henry, Tenn.

The family will receive friends on Friday, December 26, 2025, from 4-8 p.m. and on Saturday, from 11 a.m. until service time.

Mr. Ownby, was born in Martin on July 6, 2005, to Christopher Brady Jr. and Jennifer L. Ownby. He was a member of Safe Harbor Church, Hornbeak, Tenn., and worked at Granges, Huntingdon.

He is survived by his parents, Jennifer (Stephen Anderson) Ownby of McKenzie; his father, Chris (Bettye) Brady, Jr. of Union City; his girlfriend, Kamryn Brewer of McKenzie; two sisters, Isabell (Jordan West) and Emme'lie Brady of Union City; two brothers, Bryson (McKenzie) Gray of South Fulton and Parker Brady of Union City; two nephews, Grayson West and Kaiden West; an aunt, Clarissa Tejada of Murray, Ky.; three uncles, Jonathan (Wil) Wood of Nashville, Edward

Brady and Jody Gray, both of Union City; maternal grandparents, Brenda Sexton of McKenzie; paternal grandparents, Chris (Pat) Brady, Sr of Union City, and Sharon Call of Rives; and in-laws, Josh Brewer of McKenzie and Amber Brewer of Trezevant.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents, Harold Ownby, Bob Sexton, and Barbara Gray.

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

DOROTHY SCOTT
1935 – 2025

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Dorothy Scott, 90, of Huntingdon, died Monday, December 15, 2025, at Harmony Hill Assisted Living.

Funeral services were in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home on Friday, December 19, 2025. Burial was in Bethlehem Cemetery.

Mrs. Scott was born February 11, 1935, to the late Dale Lipscomb Moore and Lela Arville (Vaughn) Moore. She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert T. Scott Jr.; a sister, Jennie Barnett; and a brother, Bobby Moore.

She is survived by a daughter, Debbie Merritt of Lexington; a son, Roger Scott of Lexington; three sisters, Ann Butler (Edward) of Bruceton, Barbara Clifton of Huntingdon, and Shirley Dennison of Huntingdon; a brother, Emmitt Moore (Phyllis) of Rockford, Il.; two grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

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E: recipes@mckenziebanner.com

By Teresa Washburn

Call 731.352.3323

CHILI-BEEF CASSEROLE

1 lb ground beef
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/4 cup minced dry onions

1 can tomato soup
1 can chili beef soup
1 tablespoon chili powder
1 (6 or 7 oz.) pkg regular corn chips

1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Brown beef and onion in 10" fry pan; stirring well. Add tomato and chili beef soup, lower temp and bring mix to a simmer, stirring well. Blend in salt and chili powder. In a 2 quart casserole pan, layer half of the corn chips. Spoon in the meat mixture, place remaining corn chips on meat and sprinkle with cheese.

BREAKFAST CASSEROLE

6 slices bread, no crust
1/2 stick margarine
1 1/2 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
5 eggs, well beaten
2 cups half and half
1 lb hot sausage
1/2 teaspoon salt

Cook sausage and drain well. Melt margarine in 9x13 Pyrex dish. Tear bread in pieces and sprinkle over margarine. Sprinkle cooked sausage over bread crumbs. Sprinkle cheese over sausage. Beat eggs with half and half and salt. Pour over

mixture. Cover. Chill overnight. Bake at 350 degrees for 45-50 minutes.

CABBAGE WITH MEAT

Brown 1 lb ground chuck Drain off grease. Cook with large onion, garlic, salt, pepper, green pepper and tomato (optional). Add small amount water to make a little brown sauce cook about 5 minutes. Option: Can use few drops of Kitchen Bouquet. Then stir all together and cook until cabbage is done. Adjust seasoning to your taste. Can use a little hot pepper flakes. Serve with mashed potatoes and corn bread.

CHOCOLATE BREAD PUDDING

2 cups milk, scalded
1 tablespoon butter
1 square unsweetened chocolate
1 cup bread crumbs
2 eggs, separated
1/2 cup sugar

Melt butter and chocolate in scaled milk and pour over bread crumbs. Beat egg yolks, blend in sugar and salt to crumb mixture. Fold in stiffly beaten egg whites, pour into greased casserole dish and bake in 350 degree oven until set.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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.

CHRISTMAS DAY LUNCH AT JOHNSON TEMPLE

The seventh annual Christmas Day Lunch is at Johnson Temple CME Church, 915 Walnut Avenue, McKenzie. Everyone is welcome to come and dine between the hours of 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Pastor Wilma Pearson.

CARROLL 911 BOARD TO MEET

Carroll County Emergency Communications District Board of Directors meets December 29, 6 p.m. at 20405 East Main Street, Huntingdon. Citizens interested in addressing the Board to make public comments must request to be on the agenda at 731-986-8911.

CARROLL HUMANE SOCIETY EVENTS, NEWS

CCHS December special hours are as follows: Closed December 24-25; Dec. 26 and Dec. 27, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

JOB OPENING

We are currently accepting resumes for the Kennel Manager position. If interested, contact 731-358-1019 for more information or email cchstn@gmail.com.

CASINO NIGHT

Get those new 2026 calendars out and mark Friday, January 9 for an exciting new event! CCHS will host a Casino Night Fundraiser at the

Civic Center in Huntingdon, 6-9 p.m. Tickets are available now and limited. A single ticket is \$45 or \$80 per couple and includes dinner, dessert, dirty soda bar, appetizers and start up cash. Enjoy an evening of blackjack, roulette, poker, big 6 LED money wheel, auction and prizes. Call or email for more info.

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 \$60 at the Huntingdon Animal Clinic. These must be purchased in person at the shelter with cash or card, and proof of residency is 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. 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.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB AT HOMETOWN HEALTH CLINIC

Everyone is invited to The Breakfast Club every Monday from 9-10:30 a.m. for coffee, snacks, mingling and a light activity. Take the chance to connect and socialize before getting interactive with games, light

exercise and fun! Bring a friend and come make new ones at Hometown Health Clinic - Pediatrics/Specialty Entrance. We can't wait to see you there!

CARROLL DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEETS

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

CARROLL REPUBLICAN PARTY MEETS

Carroll County Republican Party meets monthly on the fourth Thursday of each month, 7 p.m. in various locations in the county. Watch for notices of the monthly venue.

McKENZIE TOPS MEETS WEEKLY

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

CARROLL COMMISSION MEETS MONTHLY

Carroll County Commission meets the second Monday of each month, 7 p.m., in the Conference Room of the Carroll County Office Complex, High Street, Huntingdon. No meetings in February and July.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

Huntingdon Location — Adult Education Building, 14155 Paris Street. Office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Classes are offered for one-on-one instruction on Mondays, 1-4 p.m. and Thursdays, 9 a.m.-NOON. For more information, phone 731-364-5481.

McKENZIE



1. The McKenzie middle and high school bands with director Daniel Capua (far right). 2. For the finale, the color guard performed with the concert band. 3. The high school brass quintet performed “The Chipmunk Song.” 4. The high school concert band performed three arrangements. 5. The seventh- and eighth-grade band performed “Christmas Lullaby.” 6. The sixth-grade band performed two arrangements. Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner



Bands Present ‘The Sounds of The Season’

BY LYNDEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (December 18) — McKenzie band members performed their annual “The Sounds of The Season” Christmas concert Thursday evening in the McKenzie High School gymnasium. Daniel Capua, second-year director of bands at the McKenzie Special School District, conducted the band members in different holiday arrangements, displaying the budding musicians’ growing talent and hard work over the past semester.

This year, the concert included performances by the middle school’s sixth grade beginning band, the seventh and eighth grade intermediate band and the high school concert band and color guard.

The home bleachers were full of proud families and supporters excited to see the fruits of the young musicians’ labor.

The holiday concert began with two musical arrangements by the McKenzie Middle School sixth-grade beginner band. The 23 musicians, despite only playing for three months, wowed the audience with their performances of “Hot Cross Buns” and “Jingle Bells.”

Capua combined the seventh- and eighth-grade intermediate bands next, giving the young musicians the experience of playing in a larger band.

“It’s good for the seventh graders to hear the eighth graders and see who their leaders are going to be when they move forward in the program,” said Capua.

These band members have been busy practicing music this year, learning pep songs under music teacher Veda Haney’s instruction. Earlier in the day, the middle school pep band performed at a Bethel University basketball game.

Before leading the band, Capua also took time to recognize tenor saxophone player Finn Evans for making the All West Tennessee Honor Band.

The seventh- and eighth-grade band had a total of 32 musicians. Together, they performed “Christmas Lullaby.”

Next, Capua introduced the McKenzie High School brass quintet, who would perform “The Chipmunk Song.”

Capua then introduced the McKenzie High School concert band, which consisted of 22 members. He bragged on many of the musicians for their accomplishments in the recent year.

Several high school students earned spots on the All West Tennessee Honor Band. Trumpeter Lola Barton placed seventh chair Blue Band in eleventh and twelfth grade, euphonium player Dylan Bomar placed sixth chair Blue Band in the eleventh and twelfth grade and clarinet player Janyla Piro placed second chair Red Band in the ninth and tenth grade group.

Additionally, flutist Kaylee Dalzell, clarinet player Janyla Piro, saxophonist Sebastian Sass, euphonium player Dylan Bomar, trumpeter Lola Barton and trumpeter Miley Pruitt earned spots on the University of Tennessee at Martin Honor Band. Ozzie Lessenberry was an alternate on the euphonium.

The McKenzie High School Marching Rebels and color guard also finished fourth place in the Division I state competition in fall 2025 despite being the second smallest of 20 bands. The percussion section also placed second overall in the state.

“I’m really proud that I get to call myself the director of these kids,” said Capua. He thanked the parents and band booster officers, as well as the McKenzie Special School District administration, for their support.

The high school band performed “A Carmen Christmas,” “Carol of the Bells” and “Down Home Christmas.” Camden band director River Stoltz accompanied the band on the French horn.

The color guard also showed off their talents with an original routine, choreographed by senior color guard captain Kaelyn Stebbins, using a medley from “The Greatest Showman.”

In the final showing of the night, the high school

concert band and color guard joined forces, under the direction of senior drum major Katelynn Essary, for a performance of “’Twas the Parade Before Christmas,” which they had performed in the City of McKenzie’s Christmas parade weeks prior.

The beginning band includes flutists Ariyana Edmonson, Bella Gatlin, Journey Riley and Peyton Swafford; clarinet players Alaya Divers and Hailey Umstead; alto saxophonists Katelyn Clark, Avacyn Latham and Paisley Morgan; French horn player Grayson Wilson; trumpeters Connor Bryant, Te’vaya Milton, Della Nevells, Zack Reeder, Dakota Staggs and Myla Starr; trombone players Cohen Martin and Easton Maxwell; and percussionists Skylar Bass, Samuel Berry, Ava Diller, Corde’ Robinson and Rumor Weatherford.

The intermediate band includes flutists Nevaeh Herris, Caitlin Umstead, Alice Gallimore, Brooke-Lynn Ruprich and Callie Sevik; clarinet players Katelyn Martin, Malcom Evans, Alie Ochoa and Kiya Priddy; alto saxophonists Lily Baker, Charles Scott and Genevieve Phipps; tenor saxophonist Finn Evans; trumpeters Riley Crafton, Zatiya Milton, Dawson Swafford, Annabelle Bobb, Miranda Hood and Fenix Walker; trombone players Daniel Carroll, Stefani Gooch and Cecil Lessenberry; euphonium player Xander Morgan; tuba player Aiden Blackwell; and percussionists Zach Fuller, Lantrell Gilbreath, Jason Crocker, Eli Davis, Syerra Horton, Leo Ochoa, Nathaniel Sweatt and Kaleb Williams.

The McKenzie High School concert band includes flutist Kaylee Dalzell; clarinet players Katelynn Essary and Janyla Piro; alto saxophonist Sebastian Sass; trumpeters Lola Barton and Miley Pruitt; euphonium players Dylan Bomar and Ozzie Lessenberry; tuba player Brycen Galicia; and percussionists Connor Summers, Caleb Burns, Meghan Cowan, Jonathan Jenkins and Connor Brock.

The color guard includes Kaelyn Stebbins, Chloe Garduno, Danie Parker, Jaylee Montgomery, Jordan Leslie, Molly Drewry, Caylee McClerkin and Breah Harris.

Huntingdon Announces Inaugural Small Business Association Meeting

The Town of Huntingdon is calling upon all business owners and “dreamers” to attend the Small Business Association’s inaugural meeting Thursday, January 8, from 5:30 to 6 p.m. at Huntingdon’s Court Theatre.

The announcement, made via Facebook on December 22, welcomes all local business owners to the meeting — especially

if they have an interest in strengthening collaboration among local businesses; improving communication with Huntingdon City Hall, schools and civic organizations; enhancing the beauty, inclusivity and vitality of Huntingdon; and showcasing what makes Huntingdon phenomenal and welcoming new faces to experience it.

“This association is being

built with our community, not for it,” reads the Town of Huntingdon’s Facebook announcement.

The first meeting will be brief with the primary goal of establishing a foundation for the association. This goal includes setting leadership, reviewing and approving a mission statement, establishing initial goals and deciding when to meet moving forward.

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West Carroll Elementary School fifth-graders perform in “All American Christmas.” Submitted photo

West Carroll Elementary Presents ‘All-American Christmas’ Show

West Carroll Elementary School (WCES) wrapped up the holiday season with a fifth grade Christmas musical. Under the direction of WCES music teacher Jonathan Wheeler, students presented “All American Christmas.” The performance featured many student solos and speaking parts, showcasing their hard work and confidence on stage. Family and friends—along with the entire school—filled the audience to celebrate the memorable event.



Veda Haney’s fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grade music classes performed several classic Christmas songs during the program. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

McKenzie Middle School Christmas Program Displays Student Talent

BY LYNDESEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (December 16) — McKenzie Middle School’s annual Christmas Program was stacked with musical performances and student-led sketches Tuesday morning. The event included songs from Veda Haney’s music classes, a performance of “Christmas Lullaby” by the middle school band, student-led holiday-themed sketches, and dance routines by the middle school cheerleading squad. Seventh- and eighth-grade groups each wrote and directed their own sketches, and eighth-grade English students acted out a scene from “A Christmas Carol.” The program combined students’ talents and creativity to celebrate the upcoming holiday season.



Above, Santa Claus takes out the Grinch in an original sketch by seventh-grade students. Below, McKenzie Middle School administrators and rotation teachers dressed in blow-up suits and danced to several songs, entertaining a gymnasium full of students. Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner



HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

War Eagles Edge Yellowjackets for First Win, Greenfield Girls Ride Early Lead

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

ATWOOD (December 16) — West Carroll High School hosted Greenfield Tuesday for a pair of basketball contests. The Lady War Eagles were unable to overcome a big first-quarter deficit despite playing Greenfield even for the final three frames, and the Lady Yellowjackets took the win, 69-54. The War Eagles shook off a double-digit halftime deficit with a monster third quarter and claimed a 47-44 win, their first of the young season.

Greenfield Lady Yellowjackets 69, West Carroll Lady War Eagles 54

It appeared the Lady Yellowjackets would run away with the game after a 27-14 opening frame, but the Lady War Eagles shut down that momentum with a 19-18 edge in the second quarter.

Greenfield ticked up the lead with a 13-10 advantage in the third, and the final frame was an 11-11 wash.

Lady Yellowjacket Ella Porter led all scorers with 33 points, including a trio of three-pointers. Maddie Paschall scored ten with a three. Skylar Arnold had nine points, and Kylee McNeil scored seven. Madelyn Coble and Ashlyn Bryant each had four points, and Campbell McCallister had a pair.

Chloe Rimmer led West Carroll with 18 points, including a trio of threes. Hailey Mitchell scored 17. Abbi O’Byrne had six points, and Alayna Lovelace scored five. Gracelyn Vernon and Kinsley Poff each hit a three-pointer, and Marissa Mueller had a pair.

Turnovers hurt the Lady War Eagles as they committed 28 to Greenfield’s 11, but West Carroll out-rebounded the Lady Yellowjackets 29-18, led by Mitchell with seven, O’Byrne with six and Rimmer with five.

War Eagles 47, Yellowjackets 44

Greenfield started strong with a 13-6 lead after the first frame, and

a 12-3 advantage in the second made it a 25-9 tilt at the half.

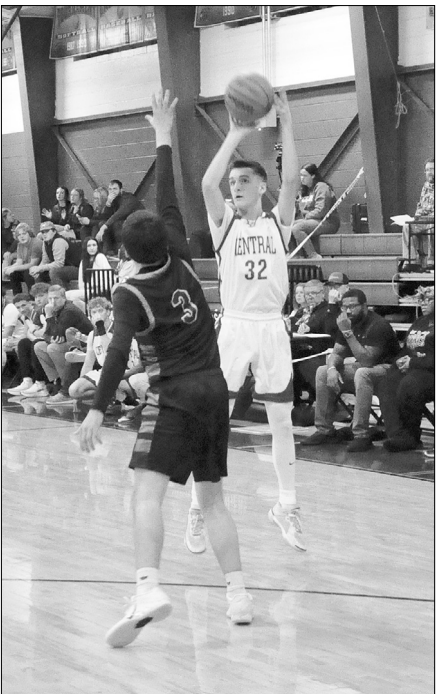
West Carroll rallied 27-7 in the third to take a 36-32 lead into the final frame. A 12-11 edge in the fourth wasn’t enough for the Yellowjackets to retake the lead.

War Eagle Demarion Gilbert led all scorers with 20 points, including four three-pointers. Trey Williamson scored eight with a three. Mason Taylor had six points, and Bryler O’Neal scored five with a three-pointer. Isaiah Snyder and Chandler Rimmer each had four points.

Westin Porter led Greenfield with 13 points, including a three. Phillip Scates scored 12 with a pair of three-pointers. Baker Biggs had ten points, also with a pair of threes. Easton Sullivan scored four points, Knox Liggett hit a three-pointer, and Jerriek McMullen had a pair.

The Yellowjackets had the advantage on rebounds, 34-25. West Carroll won the turnover battle with 12 to Greenfield’s 15.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL



Top, Central senior players, managers and cheerleaders recognized at Thursday’s Senior Night (L to R): Nickaylia Brown, Sarah Smith, Diego Zaragoza, Sophie Cook, Sal Sala, Nic King, Brady Roberts, Scarlett King, Olivia Scott, Bryleigh Sauls, Joseph Paul Hatler, Makala Bass and Seth Thomas. Not pictured is Brody Huff. Above Left, Lady Tiger Amelia Bennett fires a three-pointer. Bennett scored eight points. Above Right, Tiger Junah Smith hits one of his eight threes on the night. Smith led all scorers with 28 points. Below Left, War Eagle Chandler Rimmer pulls up for a midrange jumper. Rimmer scored six points. Below Right, Lady War Eagle Hailey Mitchell drives into the paint for two points. Mitchell scored eight points. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Central Sweeps West Carroll on Senior Night

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

BRUCETON (December 18) — Hollow Rock-Bruceston Central High School hosted West Carroll Thursday for a pair of basketball contests. The opener was tight through three quarters, but the Lady Tigers pulled away in the final frame for a 48-35 win. The Tigers coasted to a 49-21 victory in the nightcap.

It was also Senior Night at Central. Between games, senior basketball players, managers and cheerleaders were recognized on the court with family members.

Senior cheerleaders are Joseph Paul Hatler, Sophie Cook and Bryleigh Sauls.

Senior managers are Sarah Smith and Nickaylia Brown.

Senior Lady Tigers are Olivia Scott, Scarlett King and Makala Bass.

Seniors Tigers are Brody Huff, Nic King, Brady Roberts, Sal Sala, Seth Thomas and Diego Zaragoza.

Also recognized were exchange students Julia Fernandez and Isabella Savelli, both basketball managers.

Central Lady Tigers 48, West Carroll Lady War Eagles 35

West Carroll had a 9-8 lead after the opening frame. Chloe Rimmer scored all nine on a trio of three-pointers. Lady Tigers Emy Olds, Ava Finley and

Scarlette King each had a pair, and Lilly McGee and McKenzye Castleman each hit a free throw.

Central took the lead with a 14-11 advantage in the second quarter, led by Amelia Bennett with eight points, including a pair of threes. Castleman scored five, and Cloe Morgan hit a free throw. Lady War Eagle Hailey Mitchell scored five with a three-pointer. Rimmer hit another three, and Gracelyn Vernon also scored three points. At the half, Central led 22-20.

The Lady Tigers had a 14-12 edge in the third, led by Makala Bass with eight points. McGee scored four, and Olds added a pair. Rimmer led West Carroll with five points, including a three-pointer. Vernon, Mitchell and Marissa Mueller each had a pair, and Abbi O’Byrne hit a free throw. Entering the final frame, the Lady Tigers led 36-32.

Central sealed the win with a 12-3 tilt in the fourth, led by Bass with seven points. Olds scored four, and Olivia Scott hit a free throw. Aubrey Hammett had a pair for West Carroll, and Mitchell hit a freebie.

Lady War Eagle Chloe Rimmer led all scorers with 17 points, including five three-pointers. Hailey Mitchell scored eight with a three.

Makala Bass led Central with 15 points. Amelia Bennett and Emy Olds each

scored eight, Bennett with a pair of threes.

Tigers 49, War Eagles 21

Central jumped out to a 10-4 lead after the first frame, led by Junah Smith with six points on a pair of three-pointers. Parker Finley and Sal Sala each had a pair. Chandler Rimmer scored three points for West Carroll, and Bryler O’Neal hit a free throw.

The Tigers had a 9-2 advantage in the second quarter, all from Smith on a trio of threes. War Eagle Skyler Wilhite had a pair. At the half, the Tigers led 19-6.

Central pulled away with a 21-8 tilt in the third, led by Smith with eleven points, including another trio of threes. Nic King and Liam Piersol each scored four, and Finley added a pair. Demarion Gilbert led West Carroll with five points, including a three-pointer, and Rimmer had three points. Heading into the final frame, Central led 40-14.

The Tigers capped the win with a 9-7 edge in the fourth, led by Diego Zaragoza with a three-pointer. Sala, Smith and Parker Boyd each had a pair. Wilhite hit a three for West Carroll, and Gilbert and Hayden Wingo each had a pair.

Tiger Junah Smith led all scorers with 28 points, including eight three-pointers.

Demarion Gilbert led the War Eagles with seven points, including a three.

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Property Transfers

Alex Wade Brandon as trustee to Alex Wade Brandon. No District listed.

Alex Wade Brandon to Alex Wade and Patricia Brandon as trustees. No District listed.

Alex Wade Brandon as trustee to Alex Wade Brandon. No District listed.

Alex Wade Brandon to Alex Wade and Patricia Brandon as trustees. No District listed.

Alex Wade Brandon as trustee to Alex Wade Brandon. No District listed.

Alex Wade Brandon to Alex Wade and Patricia Brandon as trustees. No District listed.

Alex Wade Brandon as trustee to Alex Wade Brandon. No District listed.

Alex Wade Brandon to Alex Wade and Patricia Brandon as trustees. No District listed.

Ollie Houston Davis as trustee to Ollie Houston Davis in District 14.

Donald Brent Smith as co-executor and co-trustee to Ray Smith Family Limited Partnership in District 11.

Tory Woodard and others to Tory Woodard in District 22.

Adam C. Fowler to Shelley Fowler in District 12.

Tariq Hunter Jones to Russell Powell. No District listed.

Russell Powell to Pecan 2025, LLC. No District listed.

Kathy Simonovich to Haley Greenaway in District 19.

Andrew William and Alexis Diane Morrow to William Brian May and others in District 11.

The Perkins Corporation to William Thomas and Stephanie Michelle Wilson in District 9.

Katherine Butler Hines to Daniel Lee Eubanks in District 11.

Marcus Coleman Turner, individually and as executor, to Rabekka Morgan Houck in District 4.

Daniel Lee Eubanks to Daniel Lee Eubanks in District 11.

Dameon Chase and Mary Elizabeth Melton to Nelson Management LLC in District 21.

Cody Walker as conservator to GL Land, LLC in District 2.

Cody Walker as conservator to GL Land, LLC in District 6.

Gregory Allen and Martha Jane Enstrand, as trustees, to Timothy J. Comes and Jill A. Nutting, as co-trustees. No District listed.

Deborah Kay Crossno and Charles Michael Smith to Charles Michael Smith. No District listed.

Deborah Kay Crossno and Charles Michael Smith to Deborah Kay Crossno. No District listed.

Marvin E. Alexander, as trustee, to Dan P. and Amber N. Mueller in District 4.

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Nicholas Scott Porter to Keith and Valerie Reynolds. No District listed.

Matthew Steven Walls to Elihah Dale Soltys and others. No District listed.

Karl Eugene Davis to Teresa Ruth and Donald Ray Matlock in District 19.

Michael Kemper to Jeremy and Cassandra Stewart in District 11.

Marcia Denise Miller, as trustee, and others to Marcia Denise Miller and others in District 10.

Russell Downing and others to Austin and Madeline Page in District 11.

Huntingdon Police Reports

Domestic Assault — According to a report made December 10, Patrolman Daniel Inman responded to a 911 hang-up call at a residence on Bridgeman Street in Huntingdon. Upon arrival, officers made contact with a woman sitting inside her vehicle outside the residence who appeared visibly upset. She stated she had come to the residence to retrieve personal items and belongings for the child she shares with Ja'Shawn Turner, and that Turner willingly allowed her inside.

The woman reported that she went into Turner's bedroom to gather the child's belongings and opened a drawer when Turner approached her and began grabbing her, proceeding to drag her around the residence. She stated the altercation then moved back into the bedroom, where Turner forced her hands behind her back and attempted to slam her to the ground. She advised that she braced herself against furniture in an attempt to stop him, but Turner then threw her to the ground, causing her head to strike the floor.

She further stated that Turner placed his arm around her neck in a chokehold-type motion, but clarified that she was not strangled and did not lose consciousness. Officers observed visible injuries to the woman, including a busted lip and swelling to her right eye. Officers also observed scratches and bite marks on Turner's arm and scratches on his face, consistent with physical resistance during the altercation.

Witnesses reported hearing a disturbance and screaming coming from the residence, and a neighboring resident stated she heard a female screaming for her life. Based on the statements provided, witness accounts, visible injuries, and physical evidence, Turner was determined to be the primary aggressor. Turner was arrested and charged with domestic assault and transported to the Carroll County Jail, where he will be held without bond pending appearance before a judge.

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

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

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Carroll County will hold a Public Meeting on January 9, 2026 at 11 a.m., at the Carroll County Office Complex. The meeting will be held in the Commissioners Conference Room. The purpose of this meeting is to present information to the public on the FY 2026 Community Development Block Grant Program. Concerned citizens are encouraged to attend and comment on possible activities.

Persons with disabilities requiring special accommodations should contact Mayor Joseph Butler at (731) 986-1936. Carroll County is an Equal Opportunity Employer. In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, related statutes and regulations, as amended, Carroll County prohibits discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, in the admissions or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs or activities.

Joseph Butler
Mayor

A3123/51-1

NOTICE

Cause No. 2025 AA 219
In the Chancery Court for Carroll County, Tennessee
At Huntingdon

Adoption of Gary Wayne Searatt, DOB: July 30, 2022

By: Shawn Patrick Blassingame and Regina Blassingame, Petitioners,
VS.

Chloe Marie Scales and Lucas Searatt, Respondent.

In this cause, it appearing from the Order of Publication, that the Respondent, Lucas Searatt's, residence is unknown and cannot be ascertained upon diligent inquiry, it was ordered that publication be made for four successive weeks, in the McKenzie Banner, to notify Respondent, Lucas Searatt, to file an answer with this court and send a copy to Petitioners' attorney, Laura A. Keeton, whose address is P.O. Box 647, Huntingdon, TN 38344, within 30 days from the last date of publication, exclusive of the last date of publication, or a judgment by default may be entered against Respondent. Failure to appear may result in the termination of Respondent's parental rights to the above-named child. The cause is set for hearing before this Court on March 5, 2026 at 9:00 a.m., to provide said Respondent with an opportunity to appear and defend.

This 12th day of December, 2025.

Kenneth Todd, Clerk and Master

A8515/R26861/51-4

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE CASE NO: 2025PA233

ESTATE OF: JAMES EDGAR CROCKETT, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Notice is hereby given that on the **5TH** day of **DECEMBER, 2025** Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of **JAMES EDGAR CROCKETT** deceased, who died **AUGUST 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) **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 5TH 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

DIANA CROCKETT WALKER, Executor/Administrator
JOHN D. STEVENS, Attorney
KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master

A561/R26870/51-2

A1767/49-3

A1767/49-3

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A3272/51-1

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Top, Head Coach Chris Nelson draws up a play for the Lady Wildcats as they close out their 14th consecutive win to start the season. Above Left, Lady Wildcat Micah Hart pulls up in the paint for two. Hart had a game-high 20 points in the win. Above Right, Lady Wildcat and McKenzie alumna Kylie Reynolds fires a three-pointer. Reynolds had five points and four rebounds in Bethel's win. Below, The McKenzie Middle School Pep Band played pep music in the stands during the Lady Wildcats' afternoon win. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Undefeated Lady Wildcats Earn First-Ever Number One Ranking

COURTESY BETHEL SID

MCKENZIE (December 17-18) — Bethel (Tenn.) climbed to the top of the latest NAIA Women's Basketball Coaches' Poll for the first time in program history Wednesday, earning 14 first-place votes and 534 points after starting the season 13-0.

The Wildcats jumped one spot from No. 2 to No. 1, overtaking Dordt (Iowa), which now sits at No. 2 with four first-place votes and 510 points following a 10-1 start.

Campbellsville (Ky.) remains steady at No. 3 with a perfect 13-0 record and one first-place vote, while Dakota State (S.D.) and Marian (Ind.) round out the top five at No. 4 and No. 5, respectively.

The Lady Wildcats defended their top rank Thursday and wrapped up the 2025 calendar year in dominant fashion, defeating Grand View 70-58 inside Crisp Arena to remain unbeaten and carry momentum straight into 2026.

For the first half of the afternoon game, the Lady Cats were cheered on by hundreds of area middle school students who took a field trip to Bethel on their final full day of school before the holiday break. Among them were the McKenzie Middle School Pep Band playing pep music from the stands.

Bethel (14-0) used balance, discipline and



Lady Wildcat and McKenzie alumna Mikaela Reynolds keeps the pressure on Grand View in the backcourt. Reynolds had five rebounds, an assist and a steal in the win. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

defensive consistency to pull away from the visiting Vikings, who entered the contest ranked among the NAIA's top teams. After a tied first quarter, the Lady Cats steadily built separation, outscoring Grand View in each of the final three periods to secure the 12-point victory.

Micah Hart led the way with a game-high 20 points and 10 rebounds, recording a double-double while playing nearly the entire contest. Mikee Buchanan followed with 17 points, knocking down all six of her free throws, while MJ Simmons added 10 points and seven rebounds. Hallie Turner chipped in 10 points and five boards, rounding out a balanced scoring effort. The victory helped MJ celebrate her birthday.

Bethel's efficiency at the free-throw line proved decisive, as the Lady Cats were a perfect 15-for-15, maintaining composure whenever Grand View attempted to close the gap. Defensively, Bethel limited the Vikings to just 33.9 percent shooting and held them to 12 points in the paint.

The Lady Cats took control in the second quarter with a 20-13 run and never relinquished the lead, matching Grand View's physicality while consistently winning the rebounding battle, 37-28. After the game, Head Coach Chris Nelson reflected on both the win and the season's close.

"I'm incredibly proud of how our team finished the year," said Nelson. "This group has grown together and shown great maturity. We want to wish our Bethel family a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and we're excited to keep building as we head into 2026."

With the victory, Bethel closes the year undefeated and confident, setting the tone for what promises to be an exciting stretch of basketball when play resumes in the New Year.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL



Top, CHRISTMAS CHEER — The McKenzie cheerleaders donned Christmas sweaters as they cheered on the teams. Above Left, Mustang Kenton Smith floats one in from midrange. Smith led all scorers with 16 points. Above Right, Lady Rebel Jaycee Stafford battles through triple coverage to draw contact and finish the shot for a three-point opportunity. Stafford led McKenzie with 17 points. Below Left, Huntingdon's Emalynn Maness fires an open three. Maness scored nine for the Fillies on a trio of three-pointers. Below Right, Rebel Ethan Bradberry pulls up in the paint for two points. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Huntingdon Sweeps McKenzie

BY BRAD SAM
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MCKENZIE (December 16) — McKenzie High School hosted Huntingdon Tuesday for a pair of basketball contests. Both visiting teams had explosive second quarters to claim the road sweep. The Fillies won 70-46, while the Mustangs took an 85-39 victory.

The atmosphere was festive as it was McKenzie's final home set before the holiday break. Players and cheerleaders donned Christmas sweaters for warm-ups and the first cheer routine.

Huntingdon Fillies 70, McKenzie Lady Rebels 46

The Fillies had a 19-10 lead after the opening frame, led by Millie Luther and Wylie Kee with six points each, Luther on a pair of three-pointers. Grier Bartholomew scored five with a three, and Knox Bennett had a pair. Molly French led the Lady Rebels with five points, including a three-pointer. Jaycee Stafford scored three points, and Braylin Auvenshine had a pair.

Huntingdon pulled away in the second quarter with a 26-8 advantage, led by Bennett and Kee with eight points each. Krystin Moore and Emalynn Maness each hit a three, and Bartholomew and Tatum Rich each had a pair. Stafford scored four for McKenzie, and Alleigh Britt and Aurora Johnson each had a pair. At the half, Huntingdon led 45-18.

The Fillies had a 13-11

edge in the third, led by Maness with six points on a pair of threes. Kee scored three points, and Luther and Ellie Wilson each had a pair. French, Stafford and Ava Hastings each hit a three for McKenzie, and Johnson added a pair. Entering the final frame, Huntingdon led 58-29.

The Lady Rebels rallied 17-12 in the fourth for a closer final, led by Stafford with seven points. Hastings scored six on a pair of three-pointers. Addyson Littleton also hit a three, and Gracie Aird hit a free throw. Six Fillies each scored two points: Luther, Moore, Bartholomew, Wilson, Kaylen Cary and Ali Harris.

Wylie Kee led Huntingdon with 17 points. Millie Luther and Knox Bennett each scored ten, Luther with a pair of threes. Emalynn Maness scored nine on a trio of three-pointers, and Grier Bartholomew also scored nine with a three.

Jaycee Stafford led McKenzie with 17 points, including a three-pointer. Ava Hastings scored nine on a trio of threes.

Mustangs 85, Rebels 39

Huntingdon had a 19-16 edge after the first frame, led by Kenton Smith with 12 points, including a pair of three-pointers. Kelton Johnson hit a three, and Garvin Kee and Zayden Connelly each had a pair. Cole Brown led McKenzie with nine points on a trio of threes. Avery Brown also hit a three-pointer, and Eli Vinson and Kason Brown

each had a pair.

The Mustangs pulled away with a 28-2 advantage in the second quarter, led by Jayden Williams with eight points, including a pair of threes. Ky'len Turner scored six points, and Johnson and K'Shun Carter had four. Kee and Connelly each hit a three-pointer. A. Brown had a pair for the Rebels. At the half, the Mustangs led 47-18.

Huntingdon grew the lead with a 27-11 tilt in the third, led by Johnson with seven points, including a three. Kee scored five with a three. K. Smith and Carter each had four points, Carter with a three-pointer. Lucas Smith scored three points, and Connelly and Williams each added a pair. C. Brown led the Rebels with four points. Nolan Fawcett hit a three-pointer, and A. Brown and Ethan Bradberry each had a pair. Heading into the final frame, Huntingdon led 74-29.

The Mustangs sealed the win with a quick, 11-10 fourth, led by Keimonte Strayhorn with five points, including a three-pointer. Grayson Anderson scored four, and Kingston Smith had a pair. Vinson led McKenzie with six points on a pair of threes. Parker Ross and Sammy Willen each had a pair.

Mustang Kenton Smith led all scorers with 16 points, including a pair of threes. Kelton Johnson scored 14, also with a pair of threes.

Cole Brown led the Rebels with 13 points, including a trio of three-pointers.

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