

McKenzie City Council to Discuss Annexation

The McKenzie City Council meets January 8 at 6 p.m. At the top of the agenda is Resolution 25-005 — the annexation of a property located near the intersection of Old Highway 22 and Thorndale. If the annexation is approved, this will lead to the following items to be voted on: Ordinance

576 — providing a Municipal Zoning Plan for the annexed property and Resolution 26-001 — Adoption of a Plan of Service for the annexation.

Other items on the agenda include a discussion / approval to proceed with reconstruction of the park pond's water capacity; a

proclamation honoring the McKenzie High School Band; and a resolution honoring Joel Washburn for his time with the McKenzie Industrial Board.

Prior to the meeting at 5:30 p.m., there is a workshop discussing possible changes at the water treatment facility.

Elections

...From Front Page

The primary election for county offices and board of education seats — for each political party — is Tuesday, May 5, 2026. All candidates, party affiliated or independent, must qualify for their positions by noon on February 19, 2026, to be considered for the May 5 primary and August general election.

Carroll County Election Administrator Peg Hamlett provided the following list of petitioners and qualified candidates on December 31 at 10 a.m.

Sheriff Andy Dickson announced he is not seeking re-election. Four candidates, so far, have picked up petitions to seek the office. Those include Michael Anthony Smith and Ryan White as independent candidates, and Eric Sawyers and Timothy Pratt, who are seeking the Republican nomination in the party's primary.

The county has reduced the number of road commissioners from two to one effective September 1, 2026. Incumbent Ronnie Wade and newcomers Otis Nesbitt and William Jason Longmire have picked petitions for the position. All are running as independent candidates.

Property Assessor Rita Jones is not seeking reelection. John Austin has picked up a petition to seek that office in the Republican primary.

The candidates seeking Republican nominations are: Chad Barnhart - Register of Deeds; Cyril Ostiguy - County Commissioner District 5; Eric Daniel Gonzalez - Hollow Rock-Bruceton School Board; Mayor Joseph Butler - County Mayor; Lori Dillahunt - County Commission District 7; Circuit Clerk Sarah Bradberry - Circuit Court Clerk; Tim Pratt - Sheriff; Eric Sawyers - Sheriff; John Austin - Property Assessor.

Seeking office as an independent candidate are: Paula Bolen - trustee incumbent; Kurt Thomas Hunley, County Commission District 6; William Jason Longmire, Road Supervisor; Jason Rance Martin - County Commission District 9; Will Randolph McMackin - County Commission District 3; Samuel Melton, South Carroll School Board; Paul Robert Mueller, West Carroll School Board-Trezevant; Barry Mac Murphy - County Commission District 5; Otis Nesbitt - Road Supervisor; Michael Anthony Smith - Sheriff; Shawna Barger Smith - Huntingdon School Board; Charlotte Tucker - County School Board District 3; Ronnie Wade - Road Supervisor; and Charles Ryan White - Sheriff.

The election cycle in 2026 in Carroll County:

Party Primaries - May 5

Following this primary election is the Thursday, August 6, general election — which includes the county office race, board of education race, and Clarksburg municipal race for mayor and two alderman seats.

Candidate petitioning for the Clarksburg race begins January 9, 2026. Candidates must qualify by March 10 at noon to be put on the August 6 election ballot.

Also August 6 is the primary election for governor, U.S. Senate, U.S. House and Tennessee House.

The general election for the above listed state offices and for municipal seats in Carroll County cities and towns — excluding Clarksburg — is Tuesday, November 3.

Candidate petitioning for Atwood, Bruceton, Hollow Rock, Huntingdon, McKenzie, McLemoresville and

Trezevant municipal seats begins June 22, 2026. Candidates must qualify by noon on August 20 to be on the November 3 ballot.

Here is a look at which offices will be on the ballot in 2026.

The following seats are on Carroll County's May 5 primary and August 6 general election ballot:

Carroll County Seats

Circuit Court Clerk (four-year term), held by Sarah Bradberry.

County Mayor (four-year term), held by Joseph Butler.

Property Assessor (four-year term), held by Rita Jones. Jones is not seeking re-election.

County Clerk (four-year term), held by Darlene Kirk.

Trustee (four-year term), held by Paula Bolen.

Register of Deeds (four-year term), held by Natalie Porter.

County Sheriff (four-year term), held by Andy Dickson. Dickson is not seeking re-election. Road Supervisor (four-year term), held by Ricky Scott (District One) and Ronnie A. Wade (District 2). There will only be one Road Supervisor position in 2026 and following.

Republican State Executive Committee Man, held by Ryan Ellegood.

Republican State Executive Committee Woman, held by Tess Robbins.

County Commission Seats (four-year term)

Three District 1 (Atwood, Cedar Grove, Lavinia) seats, held by Darrell Ridgely, Jimmy Halford Jr. and Randy D. Long.

Two District 2 (McLemoresville, Trezevant) seats, held by Daniel Willman and Lana Y. Suite.

Two District 3 (Bruceton, Buena Vista, Sp. Grove, Vale) seats, one vacant and one held by Joey Simmons.

Two District 4 (Cannon, Hollow Rock, Macedonia) seats, held by Morris Rogers and Daniel J. Thomas.

Three District 5 (Civic Center) seats, held by Joey W. Darnall, Cyril Ostiguy and Barry Mac Murphy.

Two District 6 (Clarksburg, Concord, New Liberty, Westport) seats, held by Jimmy D. McClure and Philip E. Moore.

Three District 7 (Huntingdon Police Station) seats, held by Walter Smothers and Lori Dillahunt.

Two District 8 (McKenzie Senior Citizens Center) seats, held by Jerry R. (Jay) Phipps and Willie Huffman.

Three District 9 (McKenzie Church, City Hall) seats, held by Jason R. Martin, Spiros L. Roditis and John Austin. Carroll County School Board (four-year term): one District 1 (Lavinia, Cedar Grove, Atwood McLemoresville, Trezevant, McKenzie Senior Citizens Center) seat, held by Mike Foster; one District 2 (Bruceton, Recycling Center, Hollow Rock, McKenzie Church, McKenzie City Hall) seat, held by Deborah Broadbent; and one District 3 (Civic Center, Clarksburg, Concord/Westport, Huntingdon Police Station) seat, held by Charlotte Tucker.

Hollow Rock-Bruceton Special School District (four-year term): one District 16 Hollow Rock city seat (2-year unexpired), held by Jonathan Tedford; one District 16 Bruceton city seat, held by Brandi Boyd; one District 16 at-large seat, held by April Hampton; and one District 15 Buena Vista seat, held by Jeffrey (Michael) Graves.

Huntingdon Special School District (six-year term): two at-large seats, currently held by Morgan Butler and Shawna Smith.

McKenzie Special School District (four-year term):

four at-large seats, currently held by Bobby Young, LaShonda Williams, Spiros L. Roditis and George Cassidy. Candidates must live in Carroll County.

South Carroll Special School District (four-year term): two at-large seats, currently held by Christy Blount and Tom R. Miller.

West Carroll Special School District (four-year term): one Old County seat, held by Betty Wallace; one Old Atwood seat; held by Keith Murray; and one Old Trezevant seat, held by Kelly M. Weaver.

City of Clarksburg: Mayor and two alderman positions are on the August 6 ballot. Clarksburg is the only Carroll County city with an August municipal election. Currently, Howell Todd is Clarksburg mayor, and Judy Grant Smith and Barbara McClure are aldermen.

The following offices are listed on the August 6 primary midterm election ballot:

U.S. Congressional District 8, held by David Kustoff

U.S. Senate, held by Bill Hagerty

Tennessee Governor, held by Bill Lee

Tennessee House of Representatives, District 76, held by Tandy Darby

Tennessee House of Representatives, District 79, held by Brock Martin

The general election for these seats is Tuesday, November 3, along with municipal elections for Atwood, Bruceton, Hollow Rock, Huntingdon, McKenzie, McLemoresville and Trezevant. To run for the following seats, all candidates must reside in the listed municipality.

The following municipal seats are on the November 3, 2026, ballot:

Atwood

Mayor, held by Fridie Algee

Alderman, held by Jim Lewis

Alderman, held by Randy D. Long

Bruceton

Mayor, held by Robert T. Keeton, III

Alderman, held by Jack R. Blocker

Alderman, held by James A. Butler

Hollow Rock

Mayor (two-year unexpired), held by Ronnie Webb

Alderman, held by T. Richard Goodwin

Alderman, held by Angela Stockdale

Alderman (two-year unexpired), held by Cathie Pardue

Huntingdon

Council member, held by John Sanders

Council member, held by Kelly Eubanks

Council member, held by Andrew Maddox

McKenzie

Mayor, held by Ryan D. Griffin

Councilman, held by Tom Alexander

Councilman, held by Carol J. Armpriest

Councilman, held by Bobby Young

McLemoresville

Mayor, held by Phil Williams

Alderman, held by Sharon Holland

Alderman, held by Mike Presson

Alderman, held by Don T. Reed

Alderman, held by Angie Martin

Alderman, held by Lana Y. Suite

Trezevant

Alderman, held by Dan Dieringer

Alderman, held by Pamela D. Joyner

Alderman, held by Don Barger



Above, Former owner Matt Lane designed the McKenzie Block City Pizza building in 2012 and managed the branch for 12.5 years. File photo Below, Kirsten and Grant McPeake are the new owners of Block City Pizza in McKenzie. They are pictured with their daughters Valerie, Athena and Oakley (middle). Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

A New Chapter for Block City McKenzie

BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS

lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

January 1 brought in a new year, new resolutions and the start of a new chapter for Block City Pizza in McKenzie. Longtime owner Matt Lane announced his departure from his family's pizza chain on December 20, following over twelve years of owning and operating the McKenzie branch. December 31 was his final day as owner.

In his announcement, Lane assured the community that the restaurant would remain in good hands, as his sister and her husband — Kirsten and Grant McPeake — would become the new owners. The McPeake family already owns and manages the chain's Huntingdon and Hollow Rock locations, with Kirsten primarily managing the Huntingdon location and Grant managing the Hollow Rock location.

Following Lane's departure, the McPeakes will split their time managing all three locations, promising to be hands-on and present in Hollow Rock, Huntingdon and McKenzie.

Vernon Lane, Matt and Kirsten's grandfather, opened Block City Pizza in Hollow Rock in 1993, beginning a family business that would span decades. Vernon's son, Marvin (and wife, Shelly), took over the business in 1994 and, six years later, opened the Huntingdon location. Marvin and Shelly raised their three kids — Matthew, Kirsten and Kayla — in the business, with them helping around the restaurant at as early as five years old.

In 2012, Lane developed plans to open a Block City Pizza location in McKenzie. He was completing his undergraduate business management degree at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and began focusing his time on opening and managing the new store. He designed the new building as a mirror of the Hollow Rock location — only larger.

When the McKenzie location officially opened in September 2013, Lane had full control of it. Twelve and a half years later, the business has grown into a staple for the McKenzie community and even received the 2018 "Best Slice of Tennessee" award from the Tennessee Department of Economic Development.

Leaving was a difficult decision for Lane, but it was one he had debated for months.



"I want more family time," Lane said. "Having two young kids and a wife who works a different shift than me, it's kind of hard."

Lane and his wife, Sydney, share two children — Bennett, 4, and Tatum, 2. Sydney is a second grade teacher at McKenzie Elementary School.

Ultimately, he made his decision in October 2025 when he missed out on trick-or-treating with his son.

"I couldn't be there," he said. "That's when I knew I needed to do something different."

Lane spoke with Kirsten before Thanksgiving, and they solidified their plans before Christmas.

December 31 was Lane's last day at Block City Pizza. Kirsten and Grant assumed ownership in the new year.

January 1 wasn't Kirsten's first time working at the McKenzie location, though. She had worked there for about a year and a half while attending Bethel University. While in school, she realized that she also wanted to run a Block City Pizza store. She graduated school in 2014 and returned to work at the Huntingdon store.

Kirsten worked at Huntingdon's Block City Pizza for a few years before buying it from Marvin and Shelly Lane in 2018.

She and Grant got married that same year, and he began working at the store. Over the years, they have found their groove owning both the Huntingdon and Hollow Rock stores. Together they share three daughters — Oakley, 5, Athena, 3, and Valerie, 10 months — who are already familiar faces at the restaurant.

Kirsten said Oakley already has her own clock-in number.

"[Block City Pizza] is our fourth, fifth and sixth child," Kirsten said. "[Working here] is like breathing. I eat, sleep, breathe Block City, basically."

As they transition into their ownership role in McKenzie, Kirsten said she wants it to be seamless.

"We just want to keep it as smooth as possible," Kirsten said. "We hope that people accept us...I know that we're not a part of McKenzie, necessarily, yet. We don't know the people yet. We want to get to know the people. We like talking to the customers. We like getting to know people. We just don't yet. So talk to us. Ask for us. We will happily come and talk."

As Lane departs, he has confidence that his family will keep the business growing. "I think they can make it even better," he said.

Kirsten and Grant McPeake love Block City Pizza.

"This is where I want to be. I want to be in the back. This is the job that I love. That's why I can keep going," Kirsten said. "And the food's good."

While there will be no formal meet-and-greet for the new owners, Kirsten and Grant plan to be at Block City Pizza in McKenzie on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of next week (January 12-16). Afterward, they intend to be at the McKenzie location as often as possible, getting to know and serve their new community.

Block City Pizza's McKenzie branch is located at 276 Main Street South, McKenzie.

Lifeline January Blood Drives

January 6 - 12:30-5:30 p.m. - West TN Healthcare-Milan General
January 8 - 12-6 p.m. - First United Methodist Church -Paris
January 10 - 10 a.m.-2 p.m. - Food Rite-Trenton (Armory St.)
January 12 - 12-6 p.m. - Save-A-Lot-Martin
January 13 - 12-4 p.m. - West Carroll

Elementary-Trezevant
January 16 - 12-5 p.m. - Bradford High School
January 16 - 1-5 p.m. - Baptist Memorial Hospital-Carroll Co.
January 19 - 1-6 p.m. - Southside Church of Christ- Dresden
January 22 - 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.; 12-6 p.m. - Jackson Madison Co. General Hospital

January 22 - 9 a.m.-1 p.m. - TCAT-McKenzie
January 23 - 1-6 p.m. - Walmart -Paris
January 27 - 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m.; 12-3:30 p.m. - Jackson State Community College
January 29 - 12:30-5:30 p.m. - Sharon School
January 29 - 1-6 p.m. - West TN Healthcare-Camden Hospital
January 29 - 1-6 p.m. - Gleason School

Tennessee Enacts Domestic Violence Offender Registry

Savanna's Law, enacted as Tennessee Public Chapter 520, creates a public registry maintained by the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation (TBI) for persistent domestic violence offenders—individuals convicted of an offense against a domestic abuse victim who have at least one prior such conviction. The searchable registry is available for free on the internet.

The information contained in the registry is provided to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation by the appropriate clerk in each Tennessee county per state law. The TBI does not independently verify any information provided.

There is created within the TBI a registry of persistent domestic violence offenders. The TBI shall maintain

this registry based upon information supplied to the TBI by the court clerks and information available to the TBI from the Department of Correction and local law enforcement agencies. The TBI will make the registry available for public inquiry on the internet. The registry must consist of the persistent domestic violence offender's name, date of birth, conviction date, county or counties of convictions, and a current photograph of the persistent domestic violence offender.

If a person is convicted of an offense committed against a domestic abuse victim and the person convicted has at least one prior conviction for an offense committed against a domestic abuse victim. The court shall, upon

proof of any prior convictions committed against a domestic abuse victim, order the defendant to register as a persistent domestic violence offender.

A defendant required to register under this part must be assessed a registration fee in the amount of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150), which must be paid to the clerk of the court imposing the sentence,

The TBI shall remove from the registry the name and other identifying information of a persistent domestic violence offender required to register under this part: Five (5) years after the date of the most recent conviction for an offense committed against a domestic abuse victim if the defendant has one prior conviction for an offense committed against a domestic abuse victim; Seven years after the date of the most recent conviction

for an offense committed against a domestic abuse victim if the defendant has two prior convictions for an offense committed against a domestic abuse victim; Ten years after the date of the most recent conviction for an offense committed against a domestic abuse victim if the defendant has three prior convictions for an offense committed against a domestic abuse victim; and twenty (20) years after the date of the most recent conviction for an offense committed against a domestic abuse victim if the defendant has four or more prior convictions for an offense committed against a domestic abuse victim. This section applies only to persons convicted of an offense committed against a domestic abuse victim that occurred on or after January 1, 2026.

This act takes effect January 1, 2026.

County Chamber Announces Capital Talk Dates for 2026

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce announces the dates for its annual Capitol Talk series for 2026. These events are designed to connect local business leaders and community members with state legislators, providing an open forum for discussing policy updates, legislative priorities, and issues impacting Carroll County.

The Capitol Talk events are a longstanding tradition in Carroll County, offering residents the opportunity to engage directly with their elected officials. The sessions typically feature Q&A segments and networking opportunities for attendees.

2026 Capitol Talk Event Dates	
January 16 — Rep. Brock Martin	
February 13 — Rep. Tandy Darby	
March 13 — Senator John Stevens	
All Capitol Talk events are at the Carroll County Civic Center beginning at 8 a.m.	
For more details, please contact the Chamber office directly at (731) 986-4664 or e-mail us at cchamber@earthlink.net .	
The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce looks forward to welcoming business leaders, residents, and legislators to the 2026 Capitol Talk series. These events play a vital role in fostering open communication and collaboration within the community.	

Revenue

...From Front Page

However, if a tax increase is necessary, the Tennessee General Assembly must first approve the rate increase.

Given the current financial uncertainties, the board is advised to take proactive steps to ensure future flexibility. The primary recommendation is to hold a vote in February to amend the district's private act. This legislative change would raise the district's tax rate ceiling from its current level, providing the authority to implement a tax increase if it becomes necessary in the future. The last time this was done was in 2005, when the ceiling was raised to \$2.00, though the increase was not enacted at that time.

It was strongly emphasized that this is a contingency measure, not a decision to raise taxes. If the projected \$600,000 in new CTE funding is confirmed, a tax increase would not be utilized for the upcoming budget year, and the rate would remain at its current level. This approach provides a crucial safety net should the new funding not materialize or if other unforeseen deficits arise, while allowing the board to remain fiscally conservative if the financial outlook improves as hoped. The board was encouraged to make a decision in February to provide sufficient time for state legislators to act during the current session.

Unexpected Revenue and Its Impact on a Potential Tax Increase

A recent and significant development has altered the district's financial outlook. An email received from the State Department during the holiday break announced new "fast growth" funds generated by strategic changes to Career and Technical Education (CTE) coding at the middle school. The district has already received an initial payment of \$192,000, representing 40% of the initial allocation.

If these figures hold true, the district projects it could generate an additional \$600,000 in TISA (Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement) funds annually. This unexpected revenue stream would likely eliminate the need for a proposed tax increase. However, leadership is exercising caution, as the figures are still preliminary. While a quick internal check suggests the numbers are correct, the funds are contingent on the accuracy of the underlying data, which the state could retract if errors are found. A clearer financial picture will emerge in March with the first official allocation notice for the next fiscal year. Leadership plans to conduct a deeper analysis of the data in the coming weeks.

This new revenue is distinct from the fast growth funds received last year, which were based on an increase in student enrollment. This year's funding is directly tied to the district's successful efforts to re-code

courses and structure new opportunities for students. The state awards more funding for career and technical education (CTE) courses in the middle and high schools.

Before the news of potential CTE funding, the district faced a significant budget deficit, driven by a confluence of rising costs, which painted a clear picture of the need for increased revenue.

Director Barden, and supervisors Leighann Horne and Ladona Herrin provided insights about the enhancements in education, changes in funding and the effect of inflation on the cost of education. These escalating expenditures stem from several key areas:

- **Mandated Salary Increases:** The state's push to raise teachers' base salaries to \$50,000, up from the district's current \$48,000, creates a "cascading effect," said Dr. Justin Barden, director of schools. This requires raising pay across the entire salary schedule to maintain equitable steps for experienced educators, a cost not fully covered by state TISA increases, which have been a modest \$295 per student annually and do not account for inflation.
- **Special Education Expansion:** Since 2017-18, the district has absorbed a nearly half-million-dollar increase in special education costs. This is a direct result of taking on services and students, including those in Comprehensive Development Classes (CDC), previously facilitated by the Carroll County Learning Center in Huntingdon.
- **Expiration of Grant Funding:** Positions and expenses previously paid for by expiring COVID-era ESSER grants and other grants (such as the IDEA grant) must now be absorbed into the general-purpose budget. This includes specialized staff salaries that the district deems essential to maintain.
- **Operational and Programmatic Costs:** The budget has been strained by a variety of other factors, including:
 - A \$44,000 loss in federal Title V funds due to a slight decrease in the community's poverty rate to 19.6%. A rate of 20 percent poverty would generate additional funding. The good news is McKenzie fell below the 20 percent threshold. However, that adversely affects the school district's budget.
 - An anticipated \$86,000-\$87,000 increase in salary costs next year due to a high number of staff members completing advanced degrees. Teachers continue to add advanced degrees, which also generates them a higher salary.
 - Rising costs for utilities, contract services, and technology, including the cyclical replacement of student computer Chromebooks. During COVID, federal funds were provided to purchase those laptops.
 - A significant increase in textbook costs, now nearing \$200,000 in an adoption year, due to publishers shifting to expensive consum-

able workbooks and digital bundles as compared to the previous hardbound books used by students on a multi-year basis.

- **External Revenue Threat:** The district faces a potential loss of \$126,000 in local sales tax revenue due to South Carroll School District's new academic program. The academy serves students statewide as the virtual school adds to its student count and competes with other local in-county school districts for the distribution of local sales tax revenues. Sales taxes collected anywhere in Carroll County are allocated to local school districts based on its average number of enrolled students. The issue is being raised with state legislators, as it negatively impacts the county's other school systems.

The Strategic Growth and Financial Impact of Special Education

A primary driver of the district's budget growth has been the need to expand its special education program. This transformation began in 2018 when the Special Learning Center in Huntington closed, requiring the district to build its own programs from the ground up to serve its students, including those with profound disabilities.

The district established Comprehensive Development Classrooms (CDC) in every school and expanded its preschool services with a Virtual Pre-K program and a "619" preschool class for students with disabilities, who are served starting at age three. Today, the district serves 248 students for academic special education needs—more than most neighboring districts—with approximately 22% of the total student population having a disability of some kind (a figure that includes speech-only and intellectually gifted students).

This growth has necessitated significant financial investment:

- **Staffing:** The district hired special education teachers, assistants, and two full-time Speech-Language Pathologists (SLPs). Aide pay has increased from approximately \$12,000 to \$17,000-\$18,000 annually to remain competitive.
- **Services:** Costs include contracts for specialized psychological (IQ) testing, occupational and physical therapy, and homebound instruction for medically fragile students. Testing costs alone have recently run about \$5,000 per month.
- **Infrastructure:** A sensory room was built at the elementary school, and specialized work-based learning labs, such as a coffee shop, were created at the high school, largely funded by grants that are now expiring. The coffee shop and other career-oriented programs are available to special education students.

The special education budget has grown by 81% to meet the increasingly complex academic, behavioral, and mental health needs of students, which reflects a trend seen across the state.

The expiration of over \$3 million in federal ESSER (El-

ementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief) funds has created a significant financial cliff. While the funds allowed for critical investments such as HVAC upgrades, technology, and additional staff, the district must now absorb recurring costs from its general fund.

Key positions originally funded by ESSER are now permanent budget items. This includes an additional Speech-Language Pathologist (SLP), Ms. Jill Scott, who was hired to help manage a district-wide caseload of over 110 students. The district also added another English Language Learner (ELL) teacher to serve its 31 ELL students, a population that requires legally mandated service hours and has grown with the arrival of "newcomer" students. These non-English-speaking students have never attended school in the States.

Furthermore, ESSER funds helped manage costs that have since become permanent and escalating budget lines:

- **Technology:** The one-to-one Chromebook program, initiated during the pandemic, requires an ongoing budget for cyclical replacement as devices age.
- **Textbooks:** Publishers have shifted from durable, hardback books to consumable workbooks and bundled digital licenses. This has dramatically increased costs, as materials must be repurchased annually for every student rather than used over a multi-year cycle. The state's extension of the adoption cycle from six to eight years also forces the district to make expensive "gap" purchases to cover the interim. The district has joined a statewide lawsuit against major publishers for alleged overcharging.

In contrast, the district has been proactive in generating new revenue through Career and Technical Education (CTE). By strategically re-coding existing middle school courses like computers, STEM, and career exploration from general education ("G-codes") to CTE ("C-codes"), the district can draw down significant additional state funding without altering the core instruction. This strategy, made possible by a \$1.5 million ISM grant that helped build programs and fund key positions, is now proving to be self-sustaining. The district's CTE funding from the state's TISA base already grew from \$400,000 to \$600,000 this year, and the newly announced funds will add to that. This approach not only provides a vital revenue stream but also enhances opportunities for students, with programs like cybersecurity now offering dual credit and TCAT-ready certifications upon high school graduation.

The primary recommendation is to hold a vote in February, requesting the General Assembly to amend the district's private act. This legislative change would provide the authority to implement a tax increase if it becomes necessary in the future. The last time this was done was in 2005, when the ceiling was raised but not enacted at that time.

Team

...From Front Page

Officer (SRO) bonus pay (\$5,600), for any SRO who worked a full school/fiscal year and is currently employed.

Additional resolutions on the agenda are: Resolution 1-01-2026 reappointing Andrea Browning, Willie Huffman, and Lana Suite to the Carroll County Industrial Development Board; Resolution 1-02-2026 ap-

pointing Wesley Bradley to the Carroll County Board of Zoning Appeals and Carroll County Regional Planning Commission; Resolution 1-03-2026 appointing Morris Rogers and Michael Williamson to the Carroll County Agricultural Extension Board.

Lastly, there is a presentation from the Carroll County FFA group on agriculture issues; a Carroll County Prevention Coalition update by Heather Foster; and approval of Committees of the Carroll County Legislative Body.

Postal

...From Front Page

Although Mailing Services price increases are based on the consumer price index, Shipping Services prices are primarily adjusted according to market conditions. The governors believe these new rates will keep the Postal Service competitive while providing the organization with needed revenue. As the Postal Service previously announced, the organization will not raise prices in January for Mailing Services. This means the price of a First-Class Mail stamp will not change.

As part of the Postal Service's network modernization and transformation plan, these proposed

changes will support creation of a revitalized organization capable of achieving its public service mission — providing a nationwide, integrated network for the delivery of mail and packages at least six days a week — in a cost-effective and financially sustainable manner over the long term, just as the U.S. Congress has intended.

The PRC will review the changes before they are scheduled to take effect. The complete Postal Service price filing, with prices for all products, can be found on the PRC website under the Daily Listings section at prc.arkcase.com/portal/filings. The Shipping Services filing is Docket No. CP2026-2. The price tables are also available on the Postal Service's Postal Explorer website at pe.usps.com/PriceChange/Index.

Flu

...From Front Page

is rapidly increasing," said Tennessee Health Commissioner John Dunn. "The flu shot protects against severe disease and death from the virus, and I encourage Tennesseans to talk with their provider."

TDH recommends a yearly flu shot for everyone ages six months and older. Pregnant women, infants, the elderly and people with certain medical conditions are at the highest risk of severe complications from the flu. Typical flu symptoms include fever, cough, congestion and body aches, and will improve on their own after about a week. If you suspect you or someone in your family has the flu, call your health care provider.

Nationally, 7.5 million illnesses, 105,000 hospital-

izations and 6,300 deaths could be prevented annually if more people chose to get the flu vaccine. To prevent the spread of the flu virus to others, ensure you follow recommended precautions such as proper hygiene, including handwashing, covering your coughs or sneezes with a tissue or your elbow and staying at home if you are sick.

Information on increasing statewide and regional influenza-like activity is available online in Tennessee's Weekly Flu Reports. The flu vaccine is available in all county health departments across the state as well as medical clinics and pharmacies.

The mission of the Tennessee Department of Health is to protect, promote and improve the health and well-being of all people in Tennessee. Learn more about TDH services and programs at www.tn.gov/health.

Ellis

...From Front Page

and track.

After graduating from Bethel, she worked at the now-defunct Carroll County Special Learning Center. While there, she established the Carroll County Special Olympics.

Ellis has been an American citizen since 2012, having come on a student visa, then completing the green card process before finally

earning full citizenship.

Dr. Ellis told The Banner, "I like learning, and I wanted my children [son Lamarr and twin daughters Amina and Amelia] to know that you can achieve anything you put your mind to as long as you work hard."

She says she would like to be an adjunct professor while continuing to teach and coach.

Mostly, she said, this was about "showing my family that it doesn't matter what you come from, the sky is the limit."

Living at Lakeside News

BY SHEILA WILLIS

What a gift the month of December has been for our residents. I always fear the individual Thank Yous for fear of leaving someone out, but also feel it's important to say how much we appreciate every gesture made to us. We kicked off the month by putting up our trees and décor and in the evening, we were lucky to have some of the Bethel Renaissance singers come to sing for our tree lighting ceremony.

The next day we were off to Huntingdon for the Senior Citizens Christmas Dance, Lakeside was fortunate to get to partner with Carroll County Area Aging and McKenzie Senior Center to host this community event. I thank our kitchen staff for providing the desserts and our Director for providing the decorations and a door prize. The Activity Department reached out for door prizes and many of you were so generous; I say Thank You to the following: Deborah Mitchell, Cornelia Pugh, Gentiva Hospice, Maddox Ins of McKenzie, Daniel Hollowell, Cherrywood Post Acute, Gaye Lynn Coleman, Sheila Lott, Super Drugs, Melanie Maddox, Pat Pitt, Bobby Gees, Frank Lacey, Sheila Willis, Auto Zone, Auto Clinic, Quick Lube, Evans Clinic, Lifecare of Bruceton, Henry County Health & Rehab, Cheryl King and Sr. Center Crafters. Local Nursing homes provided the meal, Trailblazers provided the entertainment, the Senior Center organized the Ugly Sweater Contest and provided pre-party appetizers and managed the welcome table, Area Aging secured building, provided all supplies and drinks, volunteers set up, served and cleaned up. The city and county Mayors even joined us, it was a great night!

The weekend was just as busy as we prepared our bus with Christmas décor, donned our Christmas attire, bought candy for throwing and headed out to the McKenzie Christmas parade. We also had a car with Lakeside's Sweetheart Queen and Carroll County Sr. Fairest of the Fair, Mrs. Peggy Work, who was driven by her son, Lynn Brandon. We saw so many friends in town that day.



Lakeside Sunday School class was invited to attend the Long Heights Ladies' Ministry Christmas Dinner. This was such a treat, and we thank Mrs. Jan and Mrs. Carrie for organizing and treating our ladies. Becky Ross with Cherrywood Post Acute came with a basket of goodies for a very fun and original un-wreathing game and promised she would see us again soon. We are excited about what she will do next. We also thank McKenzie Church of Christ who treated each resident to a fruit basket.

We organized our Lakeside Choir again this year, and after a few practices, we felt ready to go and spread some holiday joy. We visited Cherrywood and The Waters. We put on our program and shared gifts of apple pie and candy canes for our audience, who joined in and helped us sing some carols. We were blessed to have many people sing for us as well: Bethel Baptist, Gleason FUMC, Wendell Verdell, Rebel Singers, Gleason School along with our faithful monthly performers: Bo Solomon, 3 Old Men, Shamrock Band, Chaplain Randy Blankenship, Kenneth Johnson, Billie Christian & Friends, Larry & Mary Jo and Al & Beth Bailey for an extra special devotion and sing-along. Speaking of Devotions, we thank Richard Ozment for the wonderful lesson shared with us on Christmas morning.

Staff and residents welcomed visitors to our home for a Holiday Open House, and we were overjoyed by how many people came to visit. We made many memories, shared some laughs,

took lots of pictures, enjoyed some sweet treats, and were entertained by Mayor Ryan Griffin, who played the piano and sang the afternoon away with us.

The next day, we feasted on a buffet of scrumptious finger foods and goodies prepared by the kitchen, had a performance by our choir, and waited for the man of the hour to show up, and he didn't disappoint. Santa came right on time and delivered gifts from the residents' wish list. All in all, we had the best Christmas Day, some residents went out to be with families, while others were joined by their families here and once again, we feasted on a delicious traditional holiday meal.

We celebrated five birthdays this month: Barbara Stigall, Birdie Johnson, Cynthia Brewer, John Waters and Lula Mae Adams.

We took a day or two to recuperate, and then it was time to shift our attention to the next holiday. We celebrated the coming of the New Year with the making of a 2025 Lakeside Time Capsule filled with some memorabilia, along with some predictions for 2026. We had our Noon Year's Eve Party Lunch with all the glitz and glamour of a midnight ball. The dining room was set with gold-and-black décor, blowers, hats, and beads for all, and champagne flutes filled with faux champagne for toasting. Auld Lang Syne rang out, and resolutions were made for the coming year.

I'll leave you with the words of Tiny Tim (The Christmas Carol) "God bless us, everyone." Until next time...

HUNKER DOWN WITH KES A Friend In Need Is A Friend Indeed

You probably won't remember Jerry "Toothpick" Bowden. But he and I go way back. To a couple of "field of dreams" of yesteryear. His field was up by Webb School. Mine was down the street a bit, across from the old pajama factory.

He was a few years older than me, but you cannot imagine how unimportant that was at the time. Or now.

We both played baseball like our very lives depended on it. If I couldn't get enough guys up for a game, I'd stroll the short distance up the slope and across the street to watch Toothpick and his friends play. Listen, I saw him go into the hole at shortstop, backhand a smash headed for leftfield, slide to a quick stop, wheel and throw a bullet to first base to beat a fleet runner by a full step.

It was as good as you will ever see.

When I heard of his recent passing a thousand thoughts raced through my mind. One of them was that play, still as plain in my mind as if it had happened yesterday. He had on a St. Louis Cardinals' cap, a white t-shirt, a ragged pair of jeans, and tennis shoes that had seen better days. It was the exact same thing I was wearing on that sparkling day in the mid 1950's.

He was using a three fingered Rawlings when he made that remarkable stop. I borrowed that old glove from time to time. It was premium cowhide, and well cared for. I tried often, in every way I could think of, to trade him out of it. Of course, I didn't have nothing close to that glove to offer. He'd turn me down with that laugh of his that would light up the universe.

"Pick" was gracious enough to share his laughter with most everyone... loud, long, and often. He put his whole soul into it.

I would notice him watching us beside the single tree that stood always back from our third base dugout. It was only natural that we would get together. Both of us were the first to arrive at our respective fields. One day we just met in the middle and started throwing a baseball back and forth.

It seemed right and practical and fun.

But it was the deep South. In 1956. When a black kid and a white kid were not exactly encouraged to do so. We didn't neither one know any better. And maybe more importantly, we didn't care.

Baseball is a wonderful common denominator.

And don't think some kind of racial breakthrough here. We didn't care about that either. We cared about each other. We were friends. We were not trying to change the world. Or fix the human race. We talked about girls. And school. Our favorite big-league players. And what we ate for supper.

I was hoping he was lucky enough to get hamburgers, French fries, and a Coca-Cola every night. I was so disappointed when he told me it was turnip greens, brown beans, cornbread, and milk. Good golly, sakes alive! That was the same thing I ate near 'bout every day.

How so alike we were.

And listen closely here, I am not throwing off on John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Martin Luther King or any other leaders back in the day. But if me and Pick had been in charge in 1958,

things that followed would have been a lot different.

You say that's too simple a solution to a very complex problem. Well, I think differently. There was nothing complex about the way Pick and I got along. And it worked amazingly well.

Maybe the complexity everyone assured us was there...was a big part of the problem!

In the summer of 1965, we washed a hundred million cars together at Tommy Hill's DX Service Station. Half the town brought their car in every Saturday to get shined up. We laughed our way through a boring job. Baseball was still the main topic. But Pick encouraged me to go to college. As a matter of fact, he was adamant about it.

I was a bit more worldly by then, and realized he was pushing me toward an opportunity that he didn't have. An entire nation ought to be ashamed to put him in that position. I'm still mad about it! And yet, he never quit smiling. And laughing.

The last time I saw Pick he hugged me so hard he lifted me off the ground. I remember that smile when he saw me walking up...also like it was yesterday. Buddy Wiggleton was umpiring a Little League game at the park and had invited me along. It was most fitting that Pick and I spent our last time together leaning over a fence watching kids play baseball.

We talked of old times. And great memories. I never had a better friend.

I said at the outset of this eulogy, you probably wouldn't remember Jerry "Toothpick" Bowden.

I will never forget him.

Respectfully,
Kes
kesley45@aol.com

100 YEARS AGO THIS MONTH Historical Events from January 1926

The month of January has been home to many historical events over the years. Here's a look at some that helped to shape the world in January 1926.

- Great War cemeteries in France are submerged on January 7 due to ongoing downpours affecting various areas throughout Europe. The same rains flood the London subway system as well.
- Gracie Allen and George Burns are married by a justice of the peace in Cleveland on January 7. The newlyweds ultimately gain renown as the comedy duo Burns and Allen.
- Twelve-year-old Prince Nguyen Phúc Thụy is crowned Emperor of Vietnam on January 8. The prince's father, Emperor Khai Dinh, died two months earlier on November 6.
- Herman, Henry and Hillel Hassenfeld incorporate the Hassenfeld Brothers company on January 8. The company initially manufactures school supplies but eventually begins to make toys under the name "Hasbro."
- Twenty Mexican rebels open fire aboard a train traveling from Guadalajara to Mexico City on January 9. The bandits escape with the equivalent of \$150,000 USD.
- The four-masted schooner Prinz Valdemar capsizes on January 10, blocking all ship traffic in and out of Biscayne Bay and the harbor of Miami, Florida. All aboard

are rescued unharmed, but two ocean liners are prevented from leaving the harbor.

- United States Representative John W. Langley of Kentucky resigns from Congress on January 11. Langley's resignation comes after the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed his jail sentence for violating prohibition laws by illegally selling alcohol to New York-based bootleggers with ties to organized crime.
- Michael Bond is born in Newbury, Berkshire, England, on January 13. Bond would survive a 1943 air raid in Reading during World War Two before authoring his first book, A Bear Called Paddington, in 1958.
- Twenty-year-old Ayn Rand departs Russia by train on January 17. Rand's early life in Communist Russia heavily influenced the philosophy reflected in many of her more notable works.
- Voting rights activist Indiana Little leads several hundred Black men and women on a march to the Jefferson County registrar's office in Birmingham, Alabama, on January 18. Little is arrested for disturbing the peace and would not be registered to vote for another 30 years.
- Multiple ships near New York City are threatened by a gale on January 20. The U.S. luxury liner SS President Roosevelt completes a rescue of the British freight-

er SS Antiope on January 28 after initial reports indicating the latter ship sank in the storm.

- Chaplin Court Treat and Stella Court Treat complete the first successful journey across Africa by motorcar on January 24. The duo began their journey one year, four months and 11 days before completing the trip in Cairo, Egypt.
- Speaking on behalf of the British Empire Cancer Campaign during a luncheon on January 25, British surgeon Sir Berkeley Moynihan says that cancer of the tongue is traceable to two things, including smoking.
- Thousands of mourners line the streets of Brussels to watch the funeral procession of Belgian national hero and cleric Cardinal Désiré-Joseph Mercier on January 28. Cardinal Mercier was known for his staunch opposition to the German occupation of Belgium during World War I.
- Violette Neatley Anderson becomes the first African American woman to be admitted to practice law before the U.S. Supreme Court on January 29.
- The Chamber of Deputies passes "Law Number 100" on January 31. The law grants Italian Prime Minister Benito Mussolini the right to issue judicial norms without prior consultation with the Italian parliament.



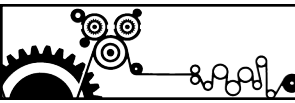
Fannye Baxter Moore Chairman Ed Perkins (left) and Rotarian Jason R. Martin (right) presented Saudia Akin (Center) a check to aid United Neighbors during the holiday season.

Rotary Donates to United Neighbors

Recently, the McKenzie Rotary Club donated \$5,000 to McKenzie's United Neighbors. The donation, funded through the

Fannye Baxter Moore Fund, was presented to Saudia Akin to help increase the positive impact that United Neighbors has on the lives

of countless local families. The holiday donation fed nearly 1,000 individuals in the McKenzie community.



Printing Done Right.
Call us Today. 731.352.3323





CONTACT US Carroll County's Largest Newspaper!

PHONE 731.352.3323
FAX 731.352.3322
E-MAIL banner@mckenziebanner.com
MAIL The McKenzie Banner
3 Banner Row
McKenzie, TN 38201-2230
WEB www.mckenziebanner.com
HOURS Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Fri. 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sat.-Sun. Closed
DEADLINE Monday 10 a.m.
FOLLOW @McKenzieBanner

(USPS 336080)
Periodical Postage
Paid at McKenzie, TN

PRINTED BY OFFSET
Published Each Tuesday
at 3 Banner Row
McKenzie, TN 38201-2230

POSTMASTER:
Send Address Changes to
McKenzie Banner,
3 Banner Row,
McKenzie, TN 38201-2230



OUR STAFF

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

JASON R. MARTIN
Editor • News & Sports • TCP Print Shop
jmartin@mckenziebanner.com

ADVERTISING Call 731.352.3323 • Cell 731.393.3548 • E-mail sales@mckenziebanner.com

SUPPORT LOCAL JOURNALISM
Your support makes the work we do possible. Thank you!

LOCAL Carroll, Henry & Weakley Counties
PRINT + ONLINE (6 Months).....\$25
PRINT + ONLINE (1 Year).....\$39

JOEL WASHBURN
Publisher Emeritus • Editor • News & Sports
washburn@mckenziebanner.com

TERESA WASHBURN
Office Manager • Accounting
teresa@mckenziebanner.com

ELSEWHERE Outside the Local Area
PRINT + ONLINE (6 Months).....\$28
PRINT + ONLINE (1 Year).....\$48

JANNA PRATT
Graphic Designer • Circulation
design@mckenziebanner.com

BILLY FUZZELL
Distribution • TCP Print Shop
printing@tricopub.com

ANYWHERE in the world.
ONLINE ONLY (1 Year).....\$25
ONLINE ONLY (1 Month).....\$4

BRAD SAM
News & Sports
brad@mckenziebanner.com

LYNDSY SUMMERS
Graphic Designer • News
lyndsey@mckenziebanner.com

SUBMIT NEWS E-mail banner@mckenziebanner.com

Honorary (Former) Staff **LINDA BOLTON** Associate Editor Emerita **RAMONA WASHBURN** Publisher, 1985-2015

United States Constitution Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

Scan Website

Obituaries

JANET LOUISE BAUMGARDNER 1949 – 2026

MCKENZIE — Funeral services for Janet Louise Baumgardner were on Monday, January 5, 2026, at McKenzie First Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Interment was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Mrs. Baumgardner, 76, died at Cherrywood Post Acute on Wednesday, December 31, 2025. She was a member of McKenzie First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, Beta Sigma Pi, and a retired school teacher for the Huntingdon Special School District.

She was born on January 18, 1949, in Blytheville, Ark., to the late Gordon and Jo Louise Rhodes Pinson.

She is survived by her husband, John D. Baumgardner of McKenzie; two daughters, Johnna (Casey) Toombs of McKenzie and Jennifer (Avi) Warner of Alameda, Calif.; a brother, Clyde Stanley Barnes of Knoxville; and four grandchildren, Brett Toombs, Marlee Toombs, Ori Warner, and Sadie Beth Warner.

In lieu of flowers or for anyone considering a memorial gift, the family suggests McKenzie Cumberland Presbyterian Church Building Fund.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home.

RAY VERDELL 1936 – 2025

GLEASON — Services for Ray Dean Verdell, 89, of Gleason, were on Wednesday, December 31, 2025, at Gleason First Baptist Church with burial at Beech Springs Cemetery.

He was born May 14, 1936, and died December 28, 2025.

Mr. Verdell leaves behind his wife, Jane Verdell; a son, David (Kim) Verdell; a daughter, Dana Jowers; a brother, Billy Verdell; four grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Ray and Wulardean Verdell; a sister, Shelby Perritt; and a brother, Dencil Verdell.

Williams Funeral Home of Gleason.

THOMAS VERDELL 1930 – 2025

A graveside service for Thomas Randall Verdell, 90, of McKenzie, was Monday January 5, 2026, at Tumbling Creek Cemetery in Gleason. He died December 30, 2025.

Mr. Verdell is survived by three children, Randy (Linda) Verdell of McKenzie, Tenia Verdell of Paris, and Robin Whitmore of Chicago. He leaves behind five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Mr. Verdell was preceded in death by his parents, Tinker and Annie Lee Verdell; daughter, Jane Brewer; and three siblings, JoAnn English, Geraldine Phelps, and Larry Verdell.

Williams Funeral Home, Gleason.

ROBERT FOSTER 1953 – 2025

SPRINGVILLE, Tenn. — Robert Don Foster, 72, of Springville, Tenn., died on December 29, 2025, in Springville, Tenn.

Don was born May 20, 1953, in Milan, Tenn., to the late Robert Foster and the late Frances McClure Foster.

Don leaves the following to cherish his memory: his daughters, Fara (Chad) Suddlow of Germantown, Tenn., Brittney Steele of Nashville, and Alisha (Jason) Beecham of Mansfield, Tenn.; his 10 grandchildren; a sister, Jane Ellis of Gleason; and partner, Theresa Davison of Springville.

In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by his siblings, Carolyn Crocker and Darrell Foster.

Cremation followed the service.

Ridgeway Funeral Home.

VIRGINIA HINRICHS 1934 – 2025

MCKENZIE — Funeral services for Virginia Mae Hinrichs are Tuesday, January 6, 2025, at 2 p.m. at Long Heights Baptist Church. Interment will follow at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Mrs. Hinrichs, 91, died at her home on December 31, 2025. She was born on May 5, 1934, in Lynde, Ill., to Christian and Hattie Johnson Hildebrand.

She is survived by her sons, Kraig (Rutchel) Hinrichs of McKenzie, Kevin (Connie) Hinrichs of High Rolls, N.M., and Kent Hinrichs of Alamogordo, N.M.; twelve grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her husband, Alvin Hinrichs; a daughter, Kay Hankins; a son, Kurt Hinrichs; two sisters, Esther Fischer and Helen Hartman; and two brothers, Robert Hildebrand and John Hildebrand.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home at 731-352-4848 or visit our website at brummittmckenziefuneral-home.com.

MELISSA ELLIS 1955 – 2025

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Melissa Kaye Ellis, 70, of Huntingdon, died Sunday December 28, 2025, at Life Care Center.

Funeral services were on Friday, January 2, 2026, in the Chapel of Dilday-Carter Funeral Home.

Mrs. Ellis was born April 13, 1955, to the late J. L. Taylor and Sadie Mae Godrum Taylor. She was preceded in death by her husband, Mike Ellis; and a sister, Carole Bauman.

She is survived by two daughters, Stephanie (Renee) McMackin of Buena Vista, Tenn., and Brandi Ellis of McKenzie; two sons, Kevin (Bobbie Jo) McMackin of Mixie, Tenn., and Michael McMackin of Montana; one sister, Jan Hollowell of Huntingdon; one brother, Jimmy Dale Taylor of Huntingdon; 14 grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

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

WILLARD ELLIS 1930 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mr. Willard Ellis, 95, of Huntingdon, died Sunday, January 4, 2026, at Life Care Center of Bruceton.

Funeral services were in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home on Tuesday, January 6, 2026. Burial was at Carroll Memorial Gardens.

Mr. Ellis was born January 18, 1930, in Holladay, Tenn., to the late Leonard Clayton Ellis and Lula Bell Noles Ellis.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Dorothy Ellis; his second wife, Mary Butonne Ellis; a brother, Leonard Ellis; and two sisters, Mary Lee Noles and Clarice Allen.

He is survived by two sons, Craig Ellis (Angie) of Gibson, Trent Ellis (Lynn) of Buena Vista; and a sister, Etta Lou Wilks, of Bruceton. He also leaves three grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Chase Funeral Home.

Thank You

Thank you to all the individuals that created the Christmas decorations for Downtown McKenzie. The effort and results were beautiful.

Respectfully, Patricia Turner

Parisian THEATRE
Jim Adams Drive
Paris, TN • 642-1696
ANACONDA (PG-13)
Tues. 7:25
Wed. 7:25
Thurs. 7:25
AVATAR: FIRE AND ASH (PG-13)
Tues. 7:20
Wed. 7:20
Thurs. 7:20
DAVID (PG)
Tues. 7:30
Wed. 7:30
Thurs. 7:30
SONG SUNG BLUE (PG-13)
Tues. 7:25
Wed. 7:25
Thurs. 7:25
THE HOUSEMAID (R)
Tues. 7:35
Wed. 7:35
Thurs. 7:35
THE SPONGEBOB MOVIE: SEARCH FOR SQUAREPANTS (PG)
Tues. 7:30
Wed. 7:30
Thurs. 7:30
INFOLINE 731-642-7171
All Movies Now in Digital DLP/HD

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

CARROLL COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION MEETS

The Carroll County Election Commission meets Thursday, January 8 at 4:30 p.m. in the Election Commission Office at 625 High St., Suite 113, Huntingdon.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB AT HOMETOWN HEALTH

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!

TRIVIA BOWL IS JANUARY 24

Carroll Arts, Inc. presents its 15th annual Trivia Bowl on Saturday, January 24, 2026, at 7 p.m. at the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 16835 Highland Drive in McKenzie, Tennessee. Teams will battle it out for first, second, and third place trophies and all the bragging rights! Only \$5 per person for teams of three to six players. Refreshments provided. For more information, contact carrollartsinc@gmail.com.

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 Of-

fice Complex, High Street, Huntingdon. No meetings in February and July.

CARROLL DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEETS

The Carroll County Democratic Party meets every Second Saturday of each month at 10 a.m.. at the Carroll County Office Complex, 625 High Street, Huntingdon, Tenn.

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.

CARROLL HUMANE SOCIETY EVENTS, NEWS

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 are 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.

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.

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.



Serving Natural Gas to
Benton, Carroll & Weakley and
portions of Henry &
Henderson Counties, TN.

www.wtpud.com
(731) 986-8289 | 1(800) 443-7794
P.O. Box 568
14055 Paris Street
Huntingdon, TN 38344
Office Hours M-F 8:00-5:00



When you're ready, we're here.
No letters, no agents.

Traditional & Custom Headstones
Etchings • Benches • Pot Markers
Cremation Memorials • And More!
Many colors, LARGE display.

Greenfield Monument Works
2321 N. Meridian St., PO Box 45
Greenfield, TN 38230

A100/TF

Curtis

Monument Co.

Quality Craftsmanship at Comparable Prices

8725 Hwy. 436
McKenzie, TN 38201
731-352-5769

1200 S. Miles Ave.
Union City, TN
731-885-1033

Hwy. 45 at Front St.
Milan, TN 38358
731-686-1750

BRUMMITT-MCKENZIE
FUNERAL HOME

Our funeral plans have the protection by the
State of Tennessee through Tennessee
Pre-Paid Funeral Benefits Act.

Call today for more information:
(731) 352-4848 or (731) 352-2222
Obituary Line: (731) 352-4811

A5091/TF

A532/TF

McKenzie Police Reports

Threats of Domestic Assault — Paul T. Massicotte, Blooming Grove Road, McKenzie, was charged with Simple Assault after he made threats of bodily harm to family members on January 3.

Officer Timothy Dillon was dispatched to Oaklawn Drive, where Massicotte was located. He had phoned family

members with threats. Massicotte is homeless and residing in his vehicle. Weapons were taken into custody, and Massicotte was transported to Weakley County Jail.

Stolen Motorcycle — A 1983 Honda Gold Wing motorcycle was reported stolen from a Walnut Avenue residence on December 28.

Officer Jeff Winberry filed a report stating it was removed from the porch of the residence at around 8:30 p.m. The motorcycle was owned by a female residing on 423 Lane.

On December 29, a man brought the motorcycle to the police station after he heard it might have been stolen. He said he paid \$100 to the man who reported the motorcycle stolen. Police impounded

the motorcycle and the man, who reported the theft, is the suspect in the case.

Criminal Trespassing — Maurice Lawrence 32, of McKenzie, was charged with Trespassing after he was inside Wyatt's Coin Laundry on January 1.

Officer Matthew Cunningham was dispatched to the laundry, where Lawrence is banned. He was transported to Carroll County Jail.

Carroll County Sheriff's Reports

Drug Charges — On December 27, Deputy Dustin McClure observed a blue 2008 Chevrolet Impala turning onto Highway 70 from Old Bruceton Highway. The vehicle appeared to have window tint darker than the legal limit, and the driver was seen repeatedly checking his mirrors before pulling into a convenience store in Hollow Rock.

Deputy McClure later observed the vehicle leave the store and travel back toward Bruceton. While following, the vehicle crossed the white fog line multiple times. A traffic stop was initiated to check on the driver and determine if impairment or a medical issue was present.

The driver was identified as Bradley Keith Douglas, 50, of Buchanan. Douglas appeared nervous and admitted he had been talking to his passenger. While speaking with both occupants, Deputy McClure observed behavior consistent with nervousness

and attempted self-soothing.

Douglas was found to have an active failure-to-appear warrant out of Stewart County. While checking on the passenger, deputies located a torn plastic baggie on the ground near the driver's side of the vehicle that field-tested positive for methamphetamine residue. A K-9 unit later conducted an open-air sniff and alerted to the presence of narcotics.

A search of the vehicle located a glass pipe commonly used to smoke methamphetamine, along with additional items containing residue. After Douglas was transported to the Carroll County Jail, deputies discovered additional plastic baggies in the patrol vehicle. One baggie contained approximately 9.6 grams of a crystalline substance, which field-tested positive for methamphetamine.

Douglas was arrested and charged with possession of Schedule II methamphet-

amine with intent to distribute, driving while in possession of methamphetamine, unlawful possession of drug paraphernalia, tampering with evidence and failure to appear. Evidence was logged and secured, and a search warrant was obtained for the extraction of data from a cellular device.

Domestic Assault Arrest — On December 26, Deputy Heather Townes responded to a domestic disturbance on Clay Farm Road in Trezevant involving Tommy Joe Kail Jr., 40, of Trezevant.

During the investigation, deputies learned that an argument between Kail and a family member escalated inside the residence. The dispute reportedly began over messages found on a phone and continued throughout the evening. The situation intensified when Kail allegedly began yelling, using vulgar language and preventing the victim from leaving the residence.

Deputies were advised that Kail stood in front of a vehicle attempting to stop it

from leaving while continuing to yell. A juvenile was inside the vehicle during the incident. Video footage of the confrontation was provided to law enforcement.

Kail was taken into custody and arrested on charges of domestic assault and false imprisonment.

Theft — On December 22, Deputy Dillon Crowe responded to a report of a stolen dump trailer from a property along Highway 79 in McKenzie.

The trailer had last been seen at the location earlier that morning and was discovered missing a short time later. The owner reported no surveillance cameras in the area and had no known suspects. The trailer was described as having visible damage, including bent doors and a flat tire, and bore identifying markings on the front.

Information related to the stolen trailer was entered into the NCIC database. The incident remains under investigation.

Property Transfers

Terry W. Guy and others to Miles T. and Molly F. Anderson in District 21.

Benjamin Paul Holmes to Angela Jean Holmes. No District listed.

Kenneth Todd as clerk and master to Tim D. Smothers in District 11.

James Belew Jr. and Karen Smith to Suzanne Welch in District 2.

Terry and Debora Tatum to Christopher Mercer. No District listed.

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

Keisha Lee and Timothy Lee Patrick Sr. Hill to Pattie Hill in District 16.

Tanner J. and Sylvia Hill to Habitat for Humanity of Carroll County in District 22.

Frederick Clarence Wilson Jr. to Frederick Clarence Wilson Jr. and others in District 19.

John Keith and Jonnie M. Noles to Amber Renea Pierpoint in District 15.

Billy Lee Melton II to Wanda Renae Fuller in District 23.

James and Teralyn Sharon Schroeder to Clayton Brothers Farm Trust in District 17.

Spiridon L. and Sandi S. Roditis to Beracah LLC in District 4.

Spiridon L. and Sandi S. Roditis to Beracah LLC in District 22.

Frank and Peggy Shaskan to Aaron and Taylor Trent in District 12.

Timothy N. Clifton to Tommie N. and Trudy Jane Clifton in District 16.

Lester A. Erler to Joey and Autumn Anderson in District 4.

Candice Branon to Tim Smothers in District 11.

Austin K. and Jamie Nicole Bennett to Jamie Nicole Bennett in District 4.

Matthew Walls to Elijah Dale Hatfield and others. No District listed.

Regina K. Grant to Joshua Grant. No District listed.

Michael L. and Mindy Stafford to Matthew Steven and Tanya R. Walls in District 4.

Charles P. Mosley to Jake Coble in District 22.

Donald Keith and Sherri D. Priestley to Cara Nicole Priestley as trustee and others. No District listed.

Keith Priestley to Cara Nicole Priestley as trustee. No District listed.

Donald Keith and Sherri D. Priestley to Cara Nicole Priestley and others. No District listed.

Theodore Richard and Tra-

cy Gale Leroy to Theodore and Tracy Leroy as trustees in District 23.

Lloyd Bateman to Allison N. and David Rupp in District 2.

Randy and Marni S. Wozniak to Randy Allen and Marni Suzanne Wozniak as trustees. No District listed.

Janet F. Brazel and others to Joseph T. Polinski. No District listed.

Tammy Lynn and Reed Charles Steffek to James Michael and Violeta Buckley in District 7.

Meredith Kelley Surber and others to Billy J. Eskew in District 11.

Thomas Hardy to Donald L. Perkins. No District listed.

Cherie Crawford to Cherie Crawford and others. No District listed.

Edward W. and Carol A. Noble to Kim Keith and Victoria Marie Dalhover in District 6.

Barsto Rental to Clark Family Holdings, LLC in District 11.

Christopher J. and Leigh L. Boxell to Christopher A. and Keiko H. Beck in District 11.

Morris F. Anderson to Brandon S. and Danelle S. Johnson in District 9.

Patricia Lynn and Scotty Mack Davis to Tyler R. and Taylor M. Burns in District 11.

Jessica Avalon to Cecily Anne and Jacob Andrew Ferguson in District 2.

Ensley Dirtwork & Investment Properties, LLC and others to Andrew G. and Nancy Lynn Johnson Ewald in District 12.

Carroll Bank & Trust as trustee to State of Tennessee. No District listed.

Charles Leslie Barker to Christopher L. Barker in District 16.

James Randolph Hayes to Dennis William Cook as trustee. No District listed.

Dennis Cook as trustee and others to James Randolph Hayes and William Robert Hayes. No District listed.

Linda Ivy and others to Scotty Mack and Patricia Lynn Davis in District 23.

GL Land, LLC to John and Jamie Forster. No District listed.

Cody Walker as conservator to Jose Becerra in District 22.

Robert D. Rogers to Kevin Dwayne and Terri Justine Rogers in District 16.

J. Luke Sanderson as substitute trustee to Tennessee Housing Development Agency in District 22.

Stacey Keith and Cindy Annette Cole to Collin D. and Jordan C. Strickland in District 10.

Marriage Licenses

Jeremy Jack Gilson, 42, of McKenzie, to Cristie Hauenstein Nielson, 52, of McKenzie.

Natalie Marie Cook, 19, of

McKenzie, to Zachary Calvin King, 25, of McKenzie.

Samuel Cage Henry Freeman, 18, of Huntingdon, to Arianna Eve Wheeler, 18, of Milan.

Shelby Lynn Miller, 22, of Huntingdon, to Kevin Yoel Martinez Hernandez, 21, of Greenfield.

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: 2025PE241

ESTATE OF: PHILLIP JOE RORER, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Notice is hereby given that on the **23RD** day of **DECEMBER, 2025** Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of **PHILLIP JOE RORER** deceased, who died **SEPTEMBER 8TH, 2026**, 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 23RD day of DECEMBER, 2025.
THIS NOTICE WILL RUN TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

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

REID SCOTT HOWELL, Executor/Administrator
DWAYNE D. MADDOX III, Attorney
KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master

A561/R26884/1-2

PUBLICATION NOTICE

TO: **BRANDON VESTAL**

PENDING IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF OBION COUNTY, TENNESSEE

IN RE: **MAREENA WREN VESTAL, dob July 17, 2023**
A Minor Child Under the Age of Eighteen (18) Years

KEVIN HARRIS STEELE and wife AMBER LEANN STEELE,
Petitioners,

And **DOCKET NO. 36,285**

RONDA DOTTS
Co-Petitioner,

Vs.
BRANDON VESTAL,
Respondent.

In this cause, it appearing from the Petitioners' pleading, which is sworn to, that the residence of Respondent, Brandon Vestal, is unknown and cannot be ascertained upon diligent inquiry or he is a nonresident of Tennessee.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT publication be made for four (4) consecutive weeks as required by law in the McKenzie Banner, a newspaper of general circulation published in Carroll County, Tennessee, notifying Respondent, Brandon Vestal, to serve upon Petitioner's attorney, Steven L. West, WEST & WEST ATTORNEYS, 19765 E. Main Street, Huntingdon, Tennessee 38344, and the Clerk of this Court, an Answer to the Petition for Adoption and Termination of Parental Rights filed against him in this action within thirty (30) days from the date of last publication which will be January 7, 2026, or a judgment by default will be entered on February 17, 2026, and the action set for hearing ex parte as to him.

Dated this the 4th day of December, 2025,

Emily Hall, Clerk and Master, Obion County Chancery Court

Steven L. West, WEST & WEST ATTORNEYS
19765 E. Main Street, Huntingdon, TN 38344 (731) 986-5551

A8515/50-4

 **NEED STAMPS? WE GOT 'EM! Call 731.352.3323**

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE'S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

WHEREAS, on September 15, 2020, ASHLEE M. YOUNG, by a Deed of Trust of record in Trust Deed Book 694, at Page 1143, 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 Three Hundred Forty-Six Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty and 00/100 Dollars (\$346,750.00), payable to CHRISTOPHER C. LUTZ AND MARY BESS TOOMBS; and

WHEREAS, the undersigned was appointed Substitute Trustee by CHRISTOPHER C. LUTZ AND MARY BESS TOOMBS, the legal owners and holders of the said Note, by appointment executed on November 12, 2025 and November 20, 2025, respectively, and recorded in Trust Deed Book 761, at Page 733 and Trust Deed Book 761, at Page 735, respectively, 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 CHRISTOPHER C. LUTZ AND MARY BESS TOOMBS, 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, January 20, 2026, at 10:30 a.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 11th Civil District of Carroll County, Tennessee, bounded and described as follows; to-wit:

BEGINNING at a set iron pin in the south right-of-way of Maerebell Road (30.00 feet from centerline), said point being 313.00 feet as measured along said right-of-way from the intersection of said right-of-way with the west right-of-way of McAdoo Road (24.00 feet wide); Thence South 3 deg. 05' 00" W along the west line of an 8.359 acre tract in the Industrial Park property division, 842.00 feet to a set iron pin; Thence N 87 deg. 03' 00" W along a new division line, 258.70 feet, set iron pin as corner; Thence N 3 deg. 05' 00" E continuing along a new division line, 842.00 feet to a set iron pin in the south right-of-way of Maerebell Road; Thence S 87 deg. 03' 00" E along said right-of-way, 258.70 feet to the point of beginning and containing 5.00 acres.

There is an overhead power line across the north end of said property. Said property is vacant. Bearings refer to record bearing (S 87 deg. 03' 00" E). As surveyed by Aaron F. Edwards, Tennessee Licensed Surveyor, License No. 366, on the 1st day of April, 1990.

THERE IS INCLUDED, BUT TO BE EXCLUDED THEREFROM, a 0.084 acre tract of land conveyed to the County of Carroll as recorded in Deed Book 243, Page 435, Register's Office of Carroll County, Tennessee.

THERE IS INCLUDED, BUT TO BE EXCLUDED THEREFROM, a 0.060 acre tract of land conveyed to the Town of Huntingdon, Huntingdon, Tennessee as recorded in Deed Book 245, page 696, Register' Office of Carroll County, Tennessee.

The above description is the same as in the previous deed of record.

It being the same property as that described in a Warranty Deed from Christopher C. Lutz and Mary Bess Toombs, to Ashlee M. Young, dated September 15, 2020, and of record in Warranty Deed Book 394, page 860, Register's Office of Carroll County, Tennessee.

Map 061, Parcel 012.01

The street address of the above-described property is believed to be Industrial Access Rd., Huntingdon, 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: Department of the Treasury – Internal Revenue Service.

This property is subject to Federal Tax Lien of record in Lien Book 23, at Page 314, in the Register's Office of Carroll County, Tennessee. Notice of said sale required by 26 U.S.C. § 7425(b) to be given to the Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service has been timely given, and said sale will be subject to the right of the Secretary of the Department of Treasury Internal Revenue Service to redeem such property as provided by 26 U.S.C. § 7425(d)(1).

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.

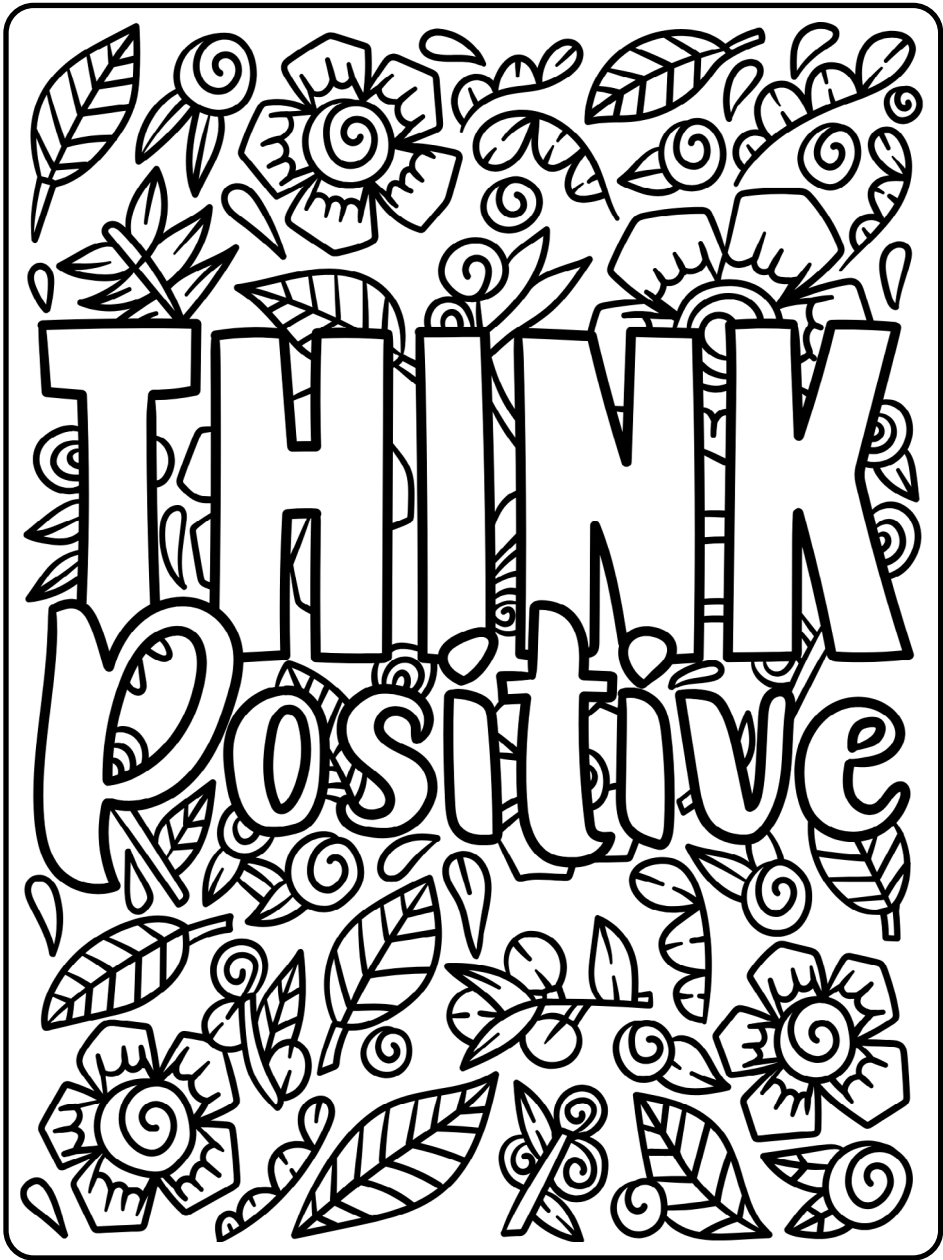
WITNESS my signature, this the 30th day of December, 2025.

KIZER, BONDS, HUGHES & BOWEN, LLC

BY: STEPHEN L. HUGHES, Substitute Trustee
P. O. Box 320, Milan, TN 38358 (731) 238-3199

A1767/52-3

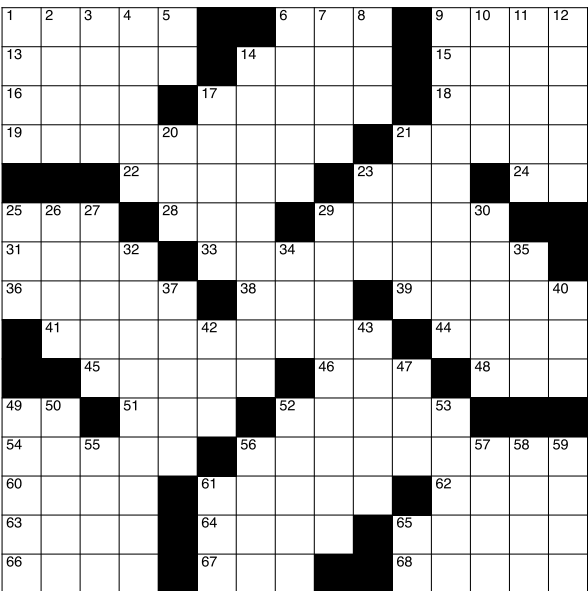
Color A Masterpiece



Weekly Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Lakes
- 6. Electromotive force
- 9. Invests in little enterprises
- 13. Longtime Utah Jazz coach
- 14. Small sailboat
- 15. Actor Idris
- 16. Mild yellow Dutch cheese made in balls
- 17. System that detects objects under water
- 18. Harsh, grating noise
- 19. Steward
- 21. A fencing sword
- 22. Infections
- 23. Actress Ryan
- 24. Sodium
- 25. Swedish castle
- 28. A lump of slime
- 29. African antelope
- 31. Insurance providers
- 33. Choosy
- 36. Ringworm
- 38. Unpolished
- 39. Drenches
- 41. Pant style
- 44. Son of Noah
- 45. Spiritual being
- 46. Upton Sinclair novel
- 48. Journalist Tarbell
- 49. Popular sports highlight show
- 51. Born of
- 52. Rich tapestry
- 54. S. China seaport
- 56. State of being unclothed
- 60. Surrounded by
- 61. Residue
- 62. Away from wind
- 63. Dried-up
- 64. Visionary
- 65. A very large body of water
- 66. Garden tools



- 67. Screen type
- 68. Ancient Scandinavian poet

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Millisecond
- 2. Spanish city
- 3. A sudden very loud sound
- 4. "The Indiana Jones of beer"
- 5. Tin
- 6. Sea eagles
- 7. Volcanic crater
- 8. Type of coat
- 9. Women's apartments in Ottoman palace
- 10. Divulge a secret
- 11. Norwegian playwright
- 12. "It's a Wonderful Life" director
- 14. Poisonous perennial plant
- 17. 18-year astronomical period
- 20. Clothes
- 21. Places to sit
- 23. Family of regulator genes
- 25. New York ballplayer
- 26. Impressive in size or scope
- 27. Jacques ___, French biologist
- 29. One from the Big Apple
- 30. Genus of woolly lemurs
- 32. Songs to one's beloved
- 34. Indigenous person of N.E. Thailand
- 35. Supplemented with difficulty
- 37. Farewell
- 40. Investment account (abbr.)
- 42. One from Utah
- 43. Begets
- 47. A male child
- 49. Break apart
- 50. Brief appearance
- 52. Partner to "oohed"
- 53. A light informal meal
- 55. Fabric with smooth, shiny surface
- 56. One billionth of a second
- 57. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
- 58. Close tightly
- 59. Mail out
- 61. Language
- 65. Computer characteristic

Week 1

See solution in next week's edition.

Resolutions Word Search

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

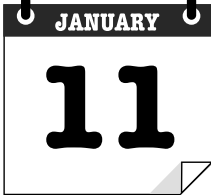
Accountability
Achievement
Aspiration
Change
Commitment
Determination

Discipline
Focus
Goal
Habit
Improvement
Intention

Milestone
Mindset
Motivation
Objective
Persistence
Plan

Progress
Promise
Renewal
Routine
Transformation
Vision

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1759: The first American life insurance company is incorporated in Philadelphia.

1908: Grand Canyon National Monument is created.

1935: Amelia Earhart becomes the first person to fly solo from Hawaii to California.

SUDOKU

WEEK 1

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

See solution in next week's edition.



Solve the code to discover words related to the new year. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 21 = O)

A. 24 11 8 21 23 22 4 13 21 16

Clue: Made on January 1

B. 20 24 21 2 13 8 11

Clue: Pledge

C. 25 11 3 23 4 25 17

Clue: Good for you

D. 15 21 3 23

Clue: Objective

Answers: A. resolution B. promise C. healthy D. good

LETTER MIX-UP

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

ACHIEVEMENT

- 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 a snowman in the summer?

Answer: Puddle

WORD SCRAMBLE

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

KWOSR

Answer: Works

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actor born in Pennsylvania on January 5, 1975. I received an honors degree in English from Georgetown University. I made my acting debut in a TV series on HBO about a group of women. I've been in several hit films, and starred opposite Lady Gaga in a movie remake.

Answer: Bradley Cooper



- Affordable, spacious private apartments
- Loving and caring community
- Located on the banks of Carroll Lake

731.352.4567
390 Dr. Smith Ln. • McKenzie, TN
www.lakesidesenior.com

A154/32-TF

We do the legwork to keep you informed.
The McKenzie Banner, 731.352.3323

Week 52 Crossword Puzzle Solution

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION WEEK 52

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

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

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)

CABLE / SATELLITE TV / WIRELESS

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)

GET BOOST INFINITE! UNLIMITED TALK, Text and Data For Just \$25/mo! The Power Of 3 5G Networks, One Low Price! Call Today and Get The Latest iPhone Every Year On Us! 855-454-6457. (TnScan)

DIRECTV - ALL YOUR ENTERTAINMENT. Nothing on your roof! Sign up for Direct and get your first free months of Max, Paramount+, Showtime, Starz, MGM+ and Cinemax included. Choice package \$84.99/mo. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-844-230-4803. (TnScan)

GET DISH SATELLITE TV + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-844-274-6074. (TnScan)

HEALTH / BEAUTY

PORTABLE OXYGEN CONCENTRATOR MAY BE Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 844-713-6706. (TnScan)

DENTAL INSURANCE FROM PHYSICIANS MUTUAL Insurance Company. Coverage for 400 plus procedures. Real dental insurance-NOT just a discount plan. Do not wait! Call now! Get your FREE Dental Information Kit with all the details! 1-844-278-8285 www.dental50plus.com/tnpress #6258. (TnScan)

SERVICES

SAWYERS TREE SERVICE: 60' Bucket Truck. Take Down or Prune. Haul Off and Clean Up. Grind Stumps. Licensed and Insured, Free Estimates. Call 731-514-1708. A7061/24-TF

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

YOUR LOW COST ADVERTISING SOLUTION! One call & your 25 word ad will appear in 103 Tennessee newspapers for \$275/wk or 26 West TN newspapers for \$100/wk. Call this newspaper's classified advertising dept. or go to www.tnpress.com/newspaper-networks. (TnScan)

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

WANTED: TO BUY

WANTED: HAM RADIOS NO LONGER IN USE. Components and accessories also wanted. CASH paid and items picked up at your door. Please call/text 731-336-3772. R26814/50-5

WE BUY HOUSES FOR CASH AS IS! No repairs. No fuss. Any condition. Easy three step process: Call, get cash offer and get paid. Get your fair cash offer today by calling Liz Buys Houses: 1-877-551-1426. (TnScan)

HOME IMPROVEMENT

OLSHAN FOUNDATION SOLUTIONS. YOUR TRUSTED foundation repair experts since 1933. Foundation repair. Crawl space recovery. Basement waterproofing. Water management and more. Free evaluation. Limited time up to \$250 off foundation repair. Call Olshan 1-866-265-5932. (TnScan)

PREPARE FOR POWER OUTAGES TODAY with a Generac Home Standby Generator. Act now to receive a FREE 5-Year warranty with qualifying purchase. Call 1-888-869-5542 today to schedule a free quote. It's not just a generator. It's a power move. (TnScan)

HOME HELP AVAILABLE

HOME HELP AVAILABLE: YARDWORK, HANDYMAN tasks, and house cleaning. Reliable help this season. Call or text 615-428-0811. R26845/51-4

"Painting Your Way"
Not Just Painting Anymore...
Ceiling to floor and much more!
Repair to Remodeling

731-415-1506
Steve Bowden

FOR RENT

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

FOR SALE

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. eaglebuildingstn.com. A7655/50-TF

Anderson's Construction

Site Work • Clearing • Ponds
• Basements • Trackhoe • Dozer
• Dirtpan • Skidsteer
• Sand • Gravel • Topsoil

GIVE US A CALL FREE ESTIMATES

Joey Anderson or Ricky Anderson
697-5350 or 431-6901



IT PAYS TO ADVERTISE!

25 WORDS ONLY \$5!
50 WORDS ONLY \$10!
CALL TODAY!
731-352-3323

Edward Jones Member SIPC

Working together for your financial future.
Let's talk.

Brents K Priestley, AAMS™
Financial Advisor

654 Main Street North
McKenzie, TN 38201
731-352-7822

> edwardjones.com



CARROLL INSURANCE AGENCY

49 BROADWAY STREET, MCKENZIE, TN 38201

PHONE: 731-352-5307

Come see us for the best rates on Home, Auto, Life & Business.

Frontier FOUNDATION & CRAWL SPACE Repair

FOUNDATIONS - CRAWL SPACES - BASEMENTS - CONCRETE

FOUNDATION CRACKS GIVING YOU A FRIGHT?

\$300^{FF} OR LESS ANY PROJECT

Not to Exceed 5% of project. Cannot be combined with any other offer or promotional financing. Must be presented at time of inspection. Limitations may apply. Expires 1/31/2026.

844-978-3001
FrontierFoundations.com

BANKRUPTCY?

*We are a debt relief agency
This firm helps people file for bankruptcy relief under the bankruptcy code.*

1-800-748-9889

WALKER, WALKER & WALKER, PLC

Ken Walker Richard Walker

2 Locations To Serve You:
Dyersburg, Jackson and Lexington

★ Serving West TN for over 40 years! ★



PARIS, TN
314 Memorial Dr.
731-644-0090
4020 Hwy 79N
731-407-7369

HUNTINGDON, TN
19195 W. Main St.
731-407-6594

MILAN, TN
15035 South First St.
731-613-2166

BUY OR RENT-TO-OWN. NO CREDIT CHECK! EVERYONE APPROVED!

EAGLE BUILDINGS
eaglebuildingstn.com

Business Directory

A Convenient Guide to Quality Merchandise & Services In The Area

Call today to advertise your business here in the Area's Largest Circulated Newspaper. Advertising in this high traffic location aligns your business with customers who want to buy your products or services. The largest audience, a prime location, all at the low price of \$20 (minimum of 4 weeks). Call 731-352-3323.

Sunrise

62 Waldren Street, McKenzie, TN 38201

HOURS
Monday-Saturday 7 a.m.-2 p.m.
Sunday 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

731-393-0035

Need to Book for a Party?
Just give us a call for evening bookings

Reservations Available

Check out our Facebook

Take Out Available

RUSSELL'S WELL DRILLING

731-415-6550

Over 30 years of experience

Russell Basford, Owner

P.O. Box 908 / Hwy 79 S, McKenzie, TN 38201
russell.drilling@hotmail.com

Residential
Municipal
Commercial

Irrigation Well Drilling
Pump Sales and Service
Crane Service/Rental

Sandi Reditis 731-415-2927
Buford Taylor 731-225-8321
Valarie McMaekin 731-418-2313
Jason Artymovich 586-243-3257
Blake Cossey 731-607-8643
Maleah Hollingsworth 731-694-7871

NICKYJOE STAFFORD REAL ESTATE

Finding Hearts a Home

nickyjoestaffordrealestate@outlook.com
www.stafford-realestate.com

15928 North Highland Dr., McKenzie, TN 38201 • 731.352.2761

• Water Heaters
• Sewer & Drain Cleaning
• Sewer Lines
• Toilets & Tubs
• Leaky Faucets
• Water Lines
• Drain Lines
• Leaks

ATA PLUMBING and SEWER

24-HOUR SERVICE

Ricky Watson 731-697-1455

TOLBERT Plumbing & Electric

24 HOURS/7 DAYS
WE STOCK A FULL LINE OF INVENTORY FOR THOSE AFTER HOURS/WEEKEND/HOLIDAY CALLS.

Backhoe • Trenching • Gas Piping • Septic Pumping • Pipe Water Heaters • Well Tanks • Valves • Fittings • Faucets

WELL PUMP SALES, SERVICE & INSTALLATION

SEPTIC PUMPING 731-234-6012

Municipal • Commercial • Residential

Campbell Water Well Service, Inc

campbellwaterwell@gmail.com 7894 Hwy 124
731-694-2075 (Call or Text) McKenzie, TN 38201

BR SUPPLY, INC

14965 S. Highland Ave. McKenzie, TN 38201

KEVEN ROGERS
Director of Operations

Phone 731-352-0483 • Fax 731-352-0584
krogers@brsupplyinc.com

HHS POINT GUARD COCA-COLA GIRLS' CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT



Above, Tournament champion Huntingdon Fillies. Right, Huntingdon's Wylie Kee takes an off-balance, midrange shot. Kee scored 14 points in the title game. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Fillies Claim Championship over Gibson County

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (December 30) — The Huntingdon Fillies are the champions of the Huntingdon High School Point Guard Coca-Cola Girls' Christmas Tournament after a gritty, 49-35 win over Gibson County Tuesday evening, capping a full day of games determining final tournament placement.

Championship: Huntingdon Fillies 49, Gibson County Lady Pioneers 35

The Fillies had a 12-7 lead

after the opening frame and led 29-16 at the half. Huntingdon had a 9-6 edge in the third, and Gibson County cut the final deficit with a 13-11 tilt in the fourth.

Lady Pioneer Sania Reaves led all scorers with 21 points. Kaitlyn Patterson scored six with a three-pointer. Jazmin Bailey had five points, also with a three. Jada Hart had a pair, and Raven Wells hit a free throw.

Knox Bennett led the Fillies with 18 points, including a three-pointer. Wylie Kee scored 14, also with a

three. Ellie Wilson had six points, Millie Luther scored five and Grier Bartholomew had four, all three players with a three-pointer. Tatum Rich had a pair.

Third Place: Greenfield Lady Yellowjackets 55, Camden Lady Lions 31

The Lady Yellowjackets jumped out to a 25-5 lead after the first frame and led 40-10 at the half. They had a 15-11 edge in the third, and Camden blanked Greenfield 10-0 in the fourth to cut the final deficit.

Greenfield's Ella Porter led

all scorers with 20 points. Rayanna Fisher scored 18 with a pair of threes.

Adrianna Warren led the Lady Lions with 13 points.

Fifth Place: Union City Lady Tornados 59, McKenzie Lady Rebels 26

The Lady Tornados had an 8-5 edge after the opening frame and pulled away to a 30-8 advantage at the half. Union City enjoyed a 23-14 tilt in the third and capped the win with a 6-4 edge in the fourth.

Union City's B. McKinnis led all scorers with

13 points, including a trio of three-pointers. S. Moss scored ten. A. McMillan had eight points with a pair of threes. A. Lavner, L. Gordon and L. Gordon each scored seven, each with a three. A. Sadler had three points, and M. Steward and E. Denman each had a pair.

Jaycee Stafford led McKenzie with ten points. Addyson Littleton scored nine on a trio of threes. Aurora Johnson had three points, and Zayda Scates and Braylin Auvenshine each had a pair.

Seventh Place: Dyer County Lady Choctaws 60, Chester County Lady Eagles 48

Dyer County stormed out to a 19-7 lead after the first frame and led 29-19 at the half. Chester County cut the deficit with an 18-14 advantage in the third, but the Lady Choctaws sealed the win with a 17-11 tilt in the fourth.

Lady Choctaw Julie Cogdill led all scorers with 15 points, including a three.

Kloe Taylor led the Lady Eagles with 14 points.

HHS POINT GUARD COCA-COLA BOYS' CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT



Above, Tournament runner-up Huntingdon Mustangs. Right, Mustang Kelton Johnson fires a three-pointer. Johnson led Huntingdon with 18 points. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Mustangs are Runner-Up After USJ Buzzer-Beater

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (December 30) — The Huntingdon High School Point Guard Coca-Cola Boys' Christmas Tournament ended in thrilling fashion Tuesday night as the USJ Bruins defeated the host Mustangs 62-61 to claim the championship.

The barnburner saw momentum swings culminating in a wild fourth quarter rife with lead changes, an exciting nightcap for a full day of games determining final tournament placement.

Championship: USJ Bruins 62, Huntingdon Mustangs 61

Huntingdon had a 16-10

lead after the first frame. A close second quarter ended with a 29-22 Mustang lead at the half. The Bruins rallied 20-12 in the third for a one-point advantage heading into the final frame.

The Mustangs had some momentum early in the fourth, but it was back-and-forth down the stretch. With ten seconds left, Mustang Kelton Johnson drained a three-pointer to give Huntingdon a two-point advantage. USJ hurried the ball down the court, and Bruin Campbell Vailes fired off a three as time expired for the win.

Bruin Houston Brasfield led all scorers with 21 points,

including five three-pointers. Reid Finney scored 18 with a three. Vailes had 14 points with a pair of threes. Sam Keyl scored five points with a three-pointer, and Jake Payne had four points.

Kelton Johnson led Huntingdon with 18 points, including a pair of threes. Caleb Ezell and Kenton Smith each scored 13, Ezell with a pair of threes and Smith with one. Bryson Whiteside had a dozen points. Garvin Kee hit a three, and Jayden Williams had a pair.

Third Place: Riverside Panthers 66, Lake County Falcons 56

Riverside led 19-11 after the opening frame and 30-23

at the half. The Falcons cut the deficit with a 16-13 edge in the third, but the Panthers sealed the win with a 21-17 tilt in the fourth.

Panther Jack Cupples led all scorers with 22 points. Jax Poole led Lake County with 21 points.

Fifth Place: Dyer County Choctaws 75, Greenfield Yellowjackets 55

The Choctaws had a 22-16 lead after the first frame and led 42-33 at the half. They pulled away with a 19-9 advantage in the third and clinched the victory with a 14-13 edge in the fourth.

Yellowjacket Cruz Porter led all scorers with 18 points, including a pair of

three-pointers.

C. Dodds and T. Sebourn led Dyer County with eleven points each, Dodds with a three.

Seventh Place: Gibson County Pioneers 70, West Carroll War Eagles 49

Gibson County jumped out to a 17-6 lead after the opening frame. West Carroll had a 19-18 edge in the second to cut the halftime deficit to 35-25. The Pioneers pulled away with a 23-12 advantage in the third, and the fourth was a 12-12 wash.

Pioneer Trajan Eddings led all scorers with 25 points, including six three-pointers. Skyler Robertson scored 13 with a trio of threes. Brett

Russell had nine points on a trio of threes. Jayden Southerland scored eight, and Braylen Griffie had six. Ja'kayden Ivie scored four points, and Brayden Duvall hit a three-pointer.

Mason Taylor led West Carroll with eleven points. Chandler Rimmer and Demarion Gilbert each scored nine, Rimmer with a pair of threes and Gilbert with one. Bryler O'Neal had seven points with a three, and Trey Williamson scored five. Dhamyus Gilbert and Kaven Baker each hit a three, and Chance Weatherford had a pair.

HHS POINT GUARD COCA-COLA BOYS' CHRISTMAS TOURNAMENT

Mustangs Advance to Title Game with Day Two Win

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (December 29) — The Huntingdon High School Point Guard Coca-Cola Boys' Christmas Tournament continued Monday with Day Two games throughout the day. In the headliner, the host Mustangs defeated Riverside, 89-56, to advance to Tuesday's championship game.

All eight participating teams played again Tuesday to determine final rankings, from champion to eighth place.

Huntingdon Mustangs 89, Riverside Panthers 56

The Mustangs jumped out to a 25-16 lead after the first frame and pushed it to 50-31 at the half. Huntingdon ran away with a 27-9 advantage in the third and sealed the win with a 12-11 edge in the fourth.

Mustang Kenton Smith led all scorers with 43 points, including five three-pointers. Kelton Johnson scored ten with a three. Jayden Williams and Garvin Kee each had



Left, Mustang Garvin Kee floats into the paint for two points. Kee scored eight points in the Huntingdon victory. Right, Mustang Kenton Smith elevates in heavy coverage for two points. Smith led all scorers with 43 points in Huntingdon's win. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



eight points, Williams with a pair of threes. Bryson Whiteside scored four points, and Zayden Connelly, Kylen Turner, William Boals and David Boals each had a pair.

J. Cupples led Riverside with 17 points. C. Brooks and J. England each scored ten, Brooks with a pair of threes. T. Crews had four points. B. Smith, L. Vaughn, S. Lansford

and M. Beasley each hit a three-pointer, and A. Lansford also scored three points.

Greenfield Yellowjackets 70, West Carroll War Eagles 31

The Yellowjackets jumped out to a 25-6 lead after the opening frame, then extended it to 40-17 at the break. Greenfield doubled up the War Eagles 18-9 in the third,

then clinched the win with a 12-5 advantage in the fourth.

Yellowjacket Easton Sullivan led all scorers with 14 points, including a three. Baker Biggs and Anthony Green each scored 13. Nick Brown and Caden Sparkman each had eight points. Jace Thomas, Westin Porter and Terrick McMullen each scored four, Thomas with

a three. Knox Liggett had a pair.

Mason Taylor led West Carroll with eleven points. Chandler Rimmer scored seven. Bryler O'Neal and Demarion Gilbert each scored five, O'Neal with a three-pointer. Trey Williamson had three points.

USJ Bruins 67, Lake County Falcons 54

The Falcons had a 17-16 edge after the opening frame, but USJ stormed back to take a 36-24 lead at the half. The Bruins pulled away with a 21-10 advantage in the third, and a Lake County rally in the fourth came up short at 20-10.

With the win, USJ advanced to Tuesday's title game.

Bruin Reid Finney led all scorers with 16 points.

Aikee Ward led the Falcons with 14 points, including a trio of three-pointers.

Dyer County Choctaws 85, Gibson County Pioneers 69

The first frame was a 16-16 wash, then the Choctaws pulled ahead, 48-35, at the half. Dyer County pulled away with a 24-10 advantage in the third, and a fourth-quarter rally by the Pioneers came up short at 24-13.

Gibson County's Trajon Eddings led all scorers with 25 points, including seven three-pointers.

Pereon Isom led the Choctaws with 16 points, including a three.