



The 2025-26 West Carroll High School Basketball Homecoming Court (L to R): freshman representative Kristina Powers, escorted by Skyler Wilhite; junior representative Jada Bradshaw, escorted by Kade Jaeger; senior representative Hailey Cantrell, escorted by Hayden Wingo; Queen Hailey Mitchell, escorted by Chance Weatherford; senior representative Hayden Weaver, escorted by Chandler Rimmer; and sophomore representative McKenna Pruitt, escorted by Demarion Gilbert.
Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Mitchell is West Carroll Homecoming Queen

BY BRAD SAM

brad@mckenziebanner.com

ATWOOD (February 12) — Senior Hailey Mitchell is the 2025-26 West Carroll High School Basketball Homecoming Queen.

Mitchell, daughter of Mike Mitchell and Kisha Sherrock, was crowned Thursday evening prior to the basketball games against Humboldt. Mitchell was escorted by Chance Weatherford.

The Homecoming Court also included two other senior representatives and one representative each from the other classes.

Senior representative Hailey Cantrell, granddaughter of Pamela Crossno and daughter of Katherine Cantrell, was escorted by Hayden Wingo.

Senior representative Hayden Weaver, daughter of Chris and Kelly Weaver,

was escorted by Chandler Rimmer.

Junior representative Jada Bradshaw, daughter of Erica and Daniel Cook, was escorted by Kade Jaeger.

Sophomore representative McKenna Pruitt, daughter of Crystal Pruitt, was escorted by Demarion Gilbert.

Freshman representative Kristina Powers, daughter of Tammie Davis, was escorted by Skyler Wilhite.

Leadership Carroll County Donates Books, Hygiene Products to Carl Perkins Center



HUNTINGDON (February 12) — Members of Leadership Carroll County delivered a donation of 232 copies of Dr. Seuss' "Oh the Places You'll Go" and seven boxes of hygiene products to the Carl Perkins Center Thursday morning. *Submitted photo*

Weakley County Schools Announces February 2026 Feature Teachers

COURTESY WEAKLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS

Weakley County Schools recognizes February 2026 Feature Teachers, two educators whose dedication, professionalism and commitment to student growth make a lasting impact across our district.

The news release stated, "This month, we are honored to celebrate Lauren Mitchell, speech-language pathologist serving Gleason and Greenfield Schools, representing the PreK-5th grade band, and Evan Jarrett, history teacher at Dresden Middle School, representing the 6-12th grade band. Both educators exemplify the heart of teaching through meaningful connections, strong relationships and a clear sense of purpose."

As with each month's recognition, both teachers were surprised in their classroom by administration before receiving the six-foot traveling Feature Teacher trophy, a symbol of excellence passed from one outstanding educator to the next that will remain in their classroom for the month.

In the PreK-5th grade band, Lauren Mitchell is celebrated for her exceptional professionalism, expertise and ability to build trust with both students and families. Serving students at both Gleason and Greenfield, Mrs. Mitchell brings warmth, clarity and compassion to every interaction. Her thoughtful approach during IEP meetings helps families feel supported and informed, while her ability to connect therapy goals to student interests leads to meaningful progress.

"Lauren is an outstanding speech teacher and an invaluable asset to our schools," shared Gleason School Principal Lee Lawrence. "Her ability to explain services



Left, Evan Jarrett, February 2026 Weakley County Feature Teacher, 6-12th grade. Right, Lauren Mitchell, February 2026 Weakley County Feature Teacher, PreK-5th grade. *Photos courtesy Weakley County Schools*

clearly, build trust with families and redirect challenges toward positive outcomes sets her apart. She connects with students in ways that make learning effective and enjoyable, and her impact is felt every day."

At Dresden Middle School, Evan Jarrett is being recognized for the welcoming, engaging environment he creates for his students each day. His history lessons keep students interested and involved, helping them truly understand what they're learning instead of just memorizing facts. Between classes, Mr. Jarrett can often be found in the hallways greeting students by name and building positive connections. That sense of connection shows in his classroom, where students are growing academically and developing a genuine interest in history.

"Walking into Coach Jarrett's classroom, you would never know he is a first-year teacher," shared Dresden Middle School Principal David Lewellen. "His lessons are engaging, his students are mastering the content, and the growth we've seen

through winter benchmarks speaks for itself. He's found his purpose, and our students are better because of it."

Assistant Director of Schools Betsi Foster shared how this month's honorees reflect the values that guide the district.

"Lauren Mitchell and Evan Jarrett represent the very best of Weakley County Schools," said Foster. "Mrs. Mitchell's ability to connect with families and support students through clear communication and care, alongside Mr. Jarrett's talent for building connections and encouraging student growth, directly reflect the purpose, connection and growth we strive for across our district."

The February Feature Teachers will be highlighted in upcoming district stories and across Weakley County Schools' social media platforms. Their work is a powerful reminder that when educators lead with heart and intention, students thrive.

For more information on Weakley County Schools, visit weakleyschools.com or follow us on Facebook.

Shine

...From Front Page

families living with special needs closer together in

fellowship.

The Tim Tebow Foundation started Night to Shine 12 years ago as a way to reach this community with the love of Christ.

Former County Fire Chief Bradshaw Dies

HOLLOW ROCK/BRUCETON — Terry Dean Bradshaw died on Sunday, February 15, 2026.

A Celebration of Life is at 6 p.m. Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at Eastview Baptist Church, Huntingdon, Tenn.

The family will receive friends at Eastview Baptist Church on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, from 4:00 PM until the time of services at 6:00 PM.

Terry was born on November 8, 1955, in Memphis, Tenn., to William and Genera Bradshaw.

Terry met Brenda, the love of his life, in 1975 and was united in marriage on July 7, 1977. They celebrated almost 47 years of marriage before her death.

Terry was a committed follower of Jesus Christ and faithfully lived to share

about the salvation of Jesus Christ and His faithfulness. He surrendered his life to the ministry after working several years as a paramedic/fireman. His goal in life was to serve those in their greatest times of need. He served as lead pastor at several churches across Tennessee and later became a full-time Carroll County Fire Chief in the early 2000s. Up until his death, he continued to serve as pastor of Prospect Baptist Church in Hollow Rock, Tenn.

Terry was a devoted Christ follower, husband, father, and Papaw. It brought him immense joy to spend time with his daughters and grandkids. His role as Papaw was one of his most honored titles. His grandkids will always remember his humor,

kindness, love for Ole Miss Football, and joy in watching each of them develop a personal relationship with Christ.

Terry was preceded in death by his wife, Brenda Kaye Hurley Bradshaw. His parents were William and Genera Bradshaw. His sister, Janice Nelson, and other precious family.

Terry is survived by his daughters, Shelly(Mark) Miller, Wendy (Hunter) Jones; grandchildren, Liam Jones, London Jones, Lynen Jones, Lila Jones, Austin (Katie) Miller, and great-grandchildren, Easton and Paxton Miller, in addition to his brother, sister, and nieces/nephews.

Dilday-Carter Funeral Home, Huntingdon.

Tennessee Volunteer Fire Departments Share \$20 Million in State Funding

Over 400 Tennessee volunteer fire departments will receive grants totaling \$20 million in 2026 through the Volunteer Firefighter Equipment and Training (VFEAT) Grant Program, as announced by the Tennessee Department of Commerce & Insurance (TDCI) and the Tennessee State Fire Marshal's Office (SFMO).

Created through legislation overseen by Governor Bill Lee and approved by the Tennessee General Assembly, the Volunteer Firefighter Equipment and Training Grant Program provides grant monies to volunteer fire departments. The grants are used by volunteer departments to purchase firefighting equipment (i.e. helmets, turnout gear, thermal-imaging cameras and other necessary items) or help meet local matching requirements for federal equipment grants.

The McKenzie Fire Department received

\$64,500 from the grant program. McKenzie Fire Chief Brian Tucker shared that this money will be appropriated towards a breathing air compressor to refill the firefighters' self-contained breathing apparatuses.

The Carroll County Fire Department (CCFD) received \$56,628 in grant funding for new personal protection equipment (PPE) and firefighters' turnout gear.

"This funding will equip approximately 12 firefighters with updated, NFPA-compliant gear, improving safety and readiness while serving our community," said CCFD Fire Chief Jonathan Gaskins. "We are grateful for this support, which helps protect our firefighters while reducing the financial burden on Carroll County residents."

Other local fire departments selected to receive grant funding include City of Atwood, Town of Huntingdon, City of Gleason, City of Dresden, Cot-

tage Grove Fire Department and Paris Landing Fire Department.

A complete list of departments receiving grants in 2026 (as well as those who received grants in 2025 and 2024) can be found on the TDCI website.

Since the program's launch in 2020, grants totaling \$46.5 million have been provided to Tennessee volunteer fire departments serving communities in Tennessee's three Grand Divisions. The \$20 million allocation for 2026 was the largest single amount allocated for VFEAT in its history.

The grant program helps support the work of the majority of Tennessee's firefighters. A recent survey found that 71 percent of Tennessee's fire departments are staffed entirely by volunteers. Out of Tennessee's 21,075 total active firefighters, an estimated 12,460 are volunteers, which accounts for over 59 percent.

Policy

...From Front Page

same department as long as one relative is not under the direct supervision of another. The prohibition does not apply to department heads and their relatives, as long as the relative has an immediate supervisor other than the department head.

City Attorney Beau Pemberton confirmed the amendment was permissible by state law.

The policy amendment passed in a unanimous vote.

The council also approved a proclamation that declares February 12, 2026, as McKenzie High School Cross-Country Team Day. Mayor Griffin presented this proclamation to several cross-country team members who were in attendance.

The McKenzie Police Department requested the council's approval to purchase a 2026 Tahoe from Wilson County Motors, priced at \$54,320.20. Chief Ryan White assured the council that the vehicle will be paid for purely through department funds — not taxpayer dollars. The department will use \$48,550.03 from its DUI fund, and the remaining payment will come from sales of other department vehicles. The new vehicle replaces another Tahoe already in the department's fleet, which has a transmission issue, along with other complications.

The council approved the department's request to purchase the vehicle.

The council revisited an agenda item from last month's meeting, voting to pass Ordinance #576: Providing a Municipal

Zoning Plan for Annexed Property. This ordinance grants Samuel Davis' request to annex his property, which consisted of approximately 1.4 acres outside of McKenzie's corporate limits. The property is along Old Highway 22 and the Tower Road Subdivision.

City department directors and chiefs each reported a hectic end to January.

The Water, Waste and Garbage Department has been trying to recoup in recent weeks, according to Earnest Umstead, following many line breaks and frozen pipes from Winter Storm Fern.

The Public Works Department spent nine days clearing ice from city streets, using 9,800 pounds of salt.

"We did the best we could," said Public Works Director Johnny Mercer. He compared the ice on the roads to super glue.

The McKenzie Police Department received 1,299 calls in January, reported Chief White.

The McKenzie Fire Department responded to 91 calls in January, reported Fire Chief Brian Tucker. Many of those calls were medical calls.

The McKenzie Fire Department has already responded to 45 calls since February 1, answering 35 calls in the span of one week.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) visited the McKenzie Fire Department in recent days. It will take approximately six months for the department to see its final results, but Chief Tucker aims to maintain a desirable Level 3 rating. The department's rating is based on personnel, water supply, emergency communications and

general preparedness. The scale goes from 1-10, with a Level 1 rating being the most desirable. Lower ratings generally lower home insurance rates.

The Parks department is almost finished installing playground equipment at the McKenzie Splash Pad. Parks employees also replaced boards and painted all of the benches at McKenzie City Park, and they prepared the park's baseball and softball fields in time for the McKenzie Middle School baseball team's opening game. Parks employees also helped with snow and ice removal from city sidewalks and streets.

City Hall stayed busy in January, according to City Recorder Jennifer Waldrup, with many people coming in to pay their property taxes. Waldrup also reported a successful Chocolate Tour on February 7, with almost 100 tickets sold and 18 businesses participating.

The Codes Department wants to minimize the city's number of abandoned houses this year, with employees personally reaching out to property owners about their options.

Codes officers have taken in eight stray dogs in 2026. Seven of the eight dogs have been rehomed or returned to their owners.

The City Council commended department directors and their employees for their hard work during January's winter storm and in the two weeks following.

The McKenzie City Council's next meeting is Thursday, March 12, at 6 p.m.

Did you know?

We publish weddings and anniversaries.

Call or e-mail us today!
banner@mckenziebanner.com

731.352.3323

Gubernatorial Hopeful Pinkston Meets with McKenzie Residents

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (February 10) — Independent gubernatorial candidate Lauren Pinkston made a campaign stop at The Railyard in McKenzie Tuesday afternoon as part of her pledge to visit all 95 Tennessee counties before the November 3 election.

Since announcing her campaign in November 2025, Pinkston has visited more than 50 counties. The meet-and-greet quickly evolved into a roundtable discussion, with attendees raising questions about education, rural healthcare, prison reform and party politics. One question surfaced repeatedly: Why run as an Independent?

“I am a person of faith,” Pinkston said, “and my faith has compelled me to be somewhere in the middle on issues, to have some things that I lean right on, some things that I lean left on. I’m dogmatic about my belief in human rights. I’m dogmatic about my belief in using our resources well. And that’s just kind of left me without a party.”

Pinkston has never registered as a Republican or Democrat. Her campaign slogan — “Not Red, Not Blue, Just You.” — reflects her focus on reducing division and prioritizing what she calls the human experience in policymaking.

“I believe in people,” Pinkston said. “I believe in the Tennessee spirit that says, ‘I’m a good neighbor. I want to take care of people when I see a need. I don’t lash out at my neighbor.’ We’ve allowed the federal language of division to make us feel like that’s not where everyone is...We won’t move forward as a state until we start humanizing each other.”

Born and raised in McNairy County, Pinkston represents rural West Tennessee on the ballot. She earned her bachelor’s degree in elementary education from Freed-Hardeman University and later completed her Ph.D. in International Family and Community Studies at Clemson University. She taught fourth grade in Memphis and Greenwood, S.C., before spending several years in Southeast Asia and East Africa working in community development and anti-human trafficking efforts while obtaining her



Kim Bell-Webb, Lauren Pinkston and Brad Camp hold one of Pinkston’s campaign signs. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

graduate degree.

Professionally, Pinkston developed businesses aimed at helping survivors of human trafficking rebuild economically, and she served as board chair of Freedom Business Alliance. She said that experience shaped her belief that effective leadership begins with listening.

“I think about the things that we do and the money that we waste,” she said, “when we’re asking people who are elderly [or people without internet access]...to create a username and a password and use their email addresses that they may not have in order to be able to access SNAP resources. That, to me, just doesn’t compute with the human experience. And the people who are on the ground in each community know that.”

If elected, Pinkston said she would establish an accountability system allowing constituents to contact her office if they feel unheard by their legislators. Those concerns would be published as public-source data and compiled into weekly reports sent to Tennessee’s 33 state senators and 99 representatives.

Pinkston organizes her platform into three categories: livability, accountability and civility. A strong emphasis is placed on rural investment.

“If I have a bias, it’s towards rural Tennessee,” she said. “I’m concerned that rural Tennessee has just been so greatly overlooked, and some of the policies that have been passed down have been focused on the economic centers of our metro areas and the money that is brought in there. And we’re not injecting money back into rural communities.”

She argued that population shifts from rural com-

munities to cities such as Memphis, Johnson City, Nashville, Knoxville and Chattanooga have driven up housing costs and strained infrastructure.

“This urbanization of our population ... has just really exploded the cost of housing in those areas and put such pressure on the electric grid and on the water systems,” Pinkston said.

Housing affordability is central to her livability platform.

“We definitely need to be looking very carefully at how affordable it is to live in Tennessee, because we have students who are graduating from college or graduating with a graduate degree and can’t afford a home. And that’s a problem,” she said.

A former educator and daughter of a retired teacher, Pinkston said maintaining strong public school options in rural communities is essential. She also highlighted the importance of rural healthcare access, noting her husband is a family practice physician and emphasizing the challenges facing maternal healthcare in smaller communities.

Pinkston said her decision to enter the race stems from concerns about division and federal overreach.

“I have always been someone who’s been driven by injustice and wanting to step in there. And this was the right time,” Pinkston said. “I wouldn’t have stepped into this race this year if I wasn’t extremely concerned that our freedoms as a state and our necessity to push back against that federal overreach wasn’t going to be a real problem.”

Pinkston was invited to speak at The Railyard by fellow Freed-Hardeman alum Brad Camp. If elected in November, she would become the first female governor in Tennessee history.

development.

Alderman Don Barger suggested presenting a slate of seven nominees to the council for approval, as required by state law. Barger has already recruited five candidates for the board.

Trotter said any action the board takes toward the IDB would be unlawful without first notifying the public. He advocated for the board to advertise the open IDB positions to the public. Previously, the Industrial Board inappropriately appointed its own members.

The board — and public attendees — debated how to advertise these IDB positions. Mayor Bobby Blaylock preferred solely advertising in the local newspaper, while many attendees insisted the town should also advertise on social media and by mail via water bill.

Alderman Pam Joyner made a motion to advertise a special-called public meeting to further discuss and recruit IDB members via newspaper, social media, water bill and handbills around town. Her fellow aldermen agreed, voting unanimously in favor of using all aforementioned modes of communication to advertise the meeting.

The advertisement will disclose information about the roles expected of an IDB member, as well as the public meeting date.

The public meeting will be Thursday, March 12, at 6 p.m. at the Trezevant Community Center.

In other news, the board approved the following corrections to the town’s

water ordinance: Changing the water usage rate from 0-1,000 gallons at a rate of \$31, to 0-1,000 gallons at a rate of \$31.25.

Changing the sewer usage rate from 0-1,000 gallons at a rate of \$33, to 0-1,000 gallons at a rate of \$33.75.

The board also approved reinvesting \$20,000 into Trezevant’s Local Government Investment Pool (LGIP) after paying insurance costs. Of this amount, \$15,000 was taken from the town’s water tank reserve fund, and the remaining \$5,000 was from the town’s streets fund.

The board was supposed to discuss an example firework ordinance, but there was insufficient information ready at the time of the meeting. Mayor Blaylock said the board still has plenty of time to work out the ordinance, as fireworks won’t be used again until June.

Also listed on the February agenda was further discussion of permit protocol, led by Alderman Dieringer. If passed, this would establish a formal building protocol to improve efficiency and ensure legal compliance with ordinances. Due to January’s winter storm, Dieringer was unable to schedule a meeting with the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) representative before Tuesday night’s meeting. The board will revisit this agenda item in March.

The Trezevant Town Council’s next regular meeting is Tuesday, March 10, at 6:30 p.m. at the Trezevant Community Center.



State Representative Tandy Darby with five directors of special school districts in Carroll County. (L to R) David Duncan, interim director of Hollow Rock Bruce-ton; Lisa Norris, director of South Carroll (Clarksburg); Jonathan Kee, director of Huntingdon; State Representative Tandy Darby; Justin Barden, director of McK-enzie; and Preston Caldwell, director of West Carroll.

Darby Delivers Update on Legislative Actions

HUNTINGDON — State Representative Tandy Darby (R-Greenfield), who represents all of Weakley County and parts of Henry and Carroll counties, provided an update on the Tennessee General Assembly’s legislative session and key state policy debates during the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce’s Capitol Talk on Friday, February 13. Chamber President Brad Hurlley introduced Darby as the speaker of the second of three Capitol Talks. State Senator John Stevens will speak Friday, March 13, 8 a.m. at the Carroll County Civic Center.

A Tighter State Budget and Key Legislative Wins

Representative Darby reported that Tennessee remains in a strong fiscal position due to disciplined budgeting. However, he noted a significant shift in the state’s spending approach over the last two years, moving from a free-flowing “rubber stamp” process to a much tighter budget with an increased focus on cost alternatives.

A major focus of his term has been a three-year effort culminating in a constitutional amendment that will appear on the November ballot. Amendment #2 proposes to permanently remove the state’s authority to levy a property tax, a power not used since 1938 but still preserved in the state’s Constitution. Rep. Darby urged constituents to vote “yes” to prevent future tax burdens via a state property tax.

Immigration and Public Safety

The Tennessee House leadership has introduced a ten-bill package to strengthen public safety and enforcement tools related to immigration. Darby said he is not against immigration, but it must be done correctly.



State Representative Tandy Darby (R-Greenfield) speaks at the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Capitol Talk event on February 13.

Property Tax Caps and Vouchers

Rep. Darby addressed proposals to cap local government’s property tax increases, citing bills such as House Bill (HB 2607), which caps annual increases at 2%. While acknowledging the need for relief.

He noted some local governments recently increased property tax rates significantly.

McKenzie Mayor Ryan Griffin said McKenzie increased its rates, otherwise the city services would be significantly affected. McKenzie was facing an \$800,000 deficit that would force cuts to essential services like parks without the additional revenue. Griffin, just as his predecessor, Mayor Jill Holland, requested the state return the shared sales tax that was taken from the city by the state many years ago.

Representative Darby also stood firm in his opposition to the governor’s school voucher program, asserting that he believes it would not pass a vote today. After consulting with local school directors, Rep. Darby confirmed that the program provides no benefit to his representative district, as virtually no students are lost to private schools. He argued that the program diverts hundreds of millions of dollars that should in-

stead be invested in public education, aligning with his campaign promise to support West Tennessee’s public school systems.

Local Concerns Addressed in Q&A

During a spirited question-and-answer session, constituents raised several critical local issues:

• **Tax Relief:** Barry Mac Murphy of Huntingdon advocated for securing permanent funding for the tax relief program for disabled veterans and low-income seniors. He also suggested removing the sales tax on food and changing property appraisals to a two-year cycle rather than a five-year cycle.

• **First Responders:** A local bill to officially classify utility electric company linemen as first responders received strong support. Rep. Darby, who recently met the lineman, Chance Carlton, whose death inspired the bill, immediately signed on as a co-sponsor, committing to push for its passage.

About Representative Darby

First elected in 2020, Rep. Darby is a graduate of Greenfield High School and the University of Tennessee at Martin, and he is a small business owner in the produce industry. He serves as Chair of the Banking and Consumer Affairs Subcommittee and is a member of the prestigious Fiscal Review Committee, among others. He resides in Greenfield with his family. He gave high praise to his legislative assistant calling her a “rock star” for her responsiveness to constituents.

He also praised Representative Brock Martin (R-Huntingdon) and State Senator John Stevens (R-Huntingdon) for their advocacy for the area and strong leadership in Tennessee.

Reward

...From Front Page

students for postsecondary success (graduation rate and Ready Graduate)

and supported English learners acquiring language skills.

Schools receive a Reward School designation when students demonstrate high levels of performance and/or improvement in performance by

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

Elections

...From Front Page

to complete these petitions — for party-affiliated or Independent nominees — is noon on February 19, 2026.

The primary election for county offices and board of education seats — for Republican and Democratic parties — is Tuesday, May 5, 2026. Primary winners and candidates running as Independents will appear on the August 6 general ballot.

Also August 6 is the City of Clarksburg municipal election for mayor and two alderman positions. So far, two candidates have picked up petitions for City of Clarksburg Mayor, and two candidates have picked up petitions for City Alderman positions. Petitions for these seats must be filed by March 10 at noon to qualify for the August election.

Several candidates have picked up or filed petitions since The Banner’s last update on February 3.

Michael A. Smith (I) filed

a petition for Sheriff.

Jerry Wayne Autry (I) and Tommy Davis (I) picked up petitions for Road Supervisor.

Ryan Anthony Ellegood (R) and Tess Robbins (R) filed petitions for Republican State Executive Committee Man and Woman, respectively.

Paul D. Huguely (I) and Anna Wheat (I) filed petitions for District 5 County Commissioner seats.

Jimmy D. McClure (I) and Philip E. Moore (I) filed petitions for District 6 County Commissioner seats.

Lori Dillahunt (R) and Walter Smothers (I) filed petitions for District 7 County Commissioner seats. Jimmie Sue Staten (D) also picked up a petition for a District 7 County Commissioner seat.

Spiridon Roditis (I) filed a petition for a District 9 County Commissioner seat.

Matthew Lane (I) picked up a petition for a McKenzie School Board seat. Brian Keith Stafford (I), Spiridon Roditis (I) and Brian Win-

ston (I) filed petitions for McKenzie School Board seats.

Shawna Smith (I) filed a petition for a Huntingdon School Board seat.

Johnathan Tedford (I) picked up a petition for the Hollow Rock-Bruceton School Board District 16 – Hollow Rock City seat.

April Hampton (I) filed a petition for the Hollow Rock-Bruceton School Board District 16 At-Large seat.

Deborah Broadbent (I) filed a petition for the Carroll County School Board District 2 seat.

Keith E. Hollowell (R) picked up and filed a petition for a South Carroll School Board Member seat.

Howell W. Todd picked up a petition for City of Clarksburg Mayor.

View this story on www.mckenziebanner.com for a complete list of petitioners and qualified candidates, as provided by Carroll County Deputy Administrator of Elections Jennifer Hilliard on February 12 at 9:30 a.m.

Trezevant

...From Front Page

The conversation was introduced in January after a citizen, speaking on behalf of Phil Colwell, proposed purchasing city land next to Pat’s Restaurant — a property officially owned by the IDB — to build a family-owned discount store.

The property is currently zoned R1 (Residential). Any proposal to purchase this property must first go through the Planning Commission for proposed rezoning. The newly-formed IDB’s first action upon receiving the property from the city must be to seek rezoning from residential to B1 (Commercial).

Members of the audience voiced their concerns about Trezevant’s tourism once the highway bypass is completed. They stressed Trezevant’s need for new businesses to attract out-of-town shoppers.

City Attorney Charlie Trotter assured the audience that the board is not deciding if Colwell’s business can come into Trezevant. Instead, they are deciding to introduce infrastructure and a trustworthy decision-making process that allows and advocates for new businesses to open in Trezevant.

The Trezevant IDB has been dormant in recent years, with all member terms expired. Trotter stressed the need to elect seven new members to bring the board into compliance and proceed with

Editor's View

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



Year of the Fire Horse

February 17, 2026, is the start of the Lunar New Year as we welcome the Year of the Fire Horse, according to the Chinese lunar calendar. Based on the information provided, it is going to be an intense year.

I will admit when I learned that 2026 would be the year of the fire horse I thought, “Great. So we are already on the second horse of the apocalypse?” No, not yet.

Just for informational purposes, the four horsemen of the apocalypse are white, red, black and pale; but right now we are talking about the Chinese Lunar Calendar.

I have never been one to read my horoscope religiously or pay much mind to the zodiac, but I have been known to take superstitious precautions — just in case.

Just like throwing salt over your shoulder, not walking under a ladder or opening an umbrella inside — it might be helpful for some of you to wear red this year.

I’ll explain that in just a sec. The fire horse last appeared in 1966, and combines two extremely dynamic, similar symbols in the calendar. When put together, it is like double fire.

There are 12 animals in the zodiac, and five elements — wood, fire, earth, metal and water — meaning each animal-element pairing appears just once every 60 years.

As we leave behind the introspective and intuitive Year of the Snake, the Year of the Horse gallops in with vibrant and fiery energy, potentially bringing about rapid change and societal shifts.

I’m paraphrasing, but I read somewhere that the Year of the Snake was when truths would be revealed and true colors would show; and with that, the Year of the Fire Horse would be a year of acting on the lessons learned and knowledge gained.

The Year of the Fire Horse is said to be a rare event characterized by intense Yang fire energy. If this is any indication of what the months ahead will hold, we are in for a fast-paced, rapidly-changing ride.

Key Meanings of the Fire Horse Year
Intense Energy & Speed: The combination of the Horse (quick-moving) and Fire (intense) creates a high-speed year where events unfold rapidly.

Dynamic Change: It is a year of breaking old patterns, revolution, and major societal shifts.

Passionate & Independent: The energy favors independence, courage, and trailblazing, but requires caution against impulsiveness.

Cultural Significance: While energetic, it is sometimes viewed in East Asia as a challenging year, with some traditions historically showing a decrease in birth rates due to its perceived volatile nature.

Best Practices for 2026
Stay Grounded: Because of the high-energy, “double-fire” nature, it is important to maintain emotional balance.
Strategic Action: Make bold decisions, but avoid reckless, impulsive moves.
Collaborate: While the horse is independent, success is better achieved through

teamwork and working in a “herd.”
Protect Energy: Set strong boundaries and prioritize mental health amid the chaotic pace.

Historically, Fire Horse years are associated with significant global, political, or social upheavals, making 2026 a pivotal year for personal and professional restructuring.

I wasn’t alive in 1966, but for those of you who were, how’d that go and how worried should the rest of us be?

According to Google’s summary, 1966 was a pivotal year defined by the escalation of the Vietnam War, the beginning of China’s Cultural Revolution, and intense social change. Key events included the first Automated Teller Machine (ATM) patent, England winning the World Cup, and the AFL-NFL merger agreement. It was marked by the first controlled spacecraft moon landing (Luna 9), major civil rights events, formation of the Black Panther Party, anti-Vietnam War protests, and the first modern mass shooting at the University of Texas. President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Freedom of Information Act, which went into effect the following year. It was a year of many changes and accomplishments.

The Significance of the Color Red
Red is the dominant color for Lunar New Year decorations, which include red lanterns, paper cuttings, Spring Festival couplets, and strings of chili peppers. People give each other red envelopes of money or “good wishes.” These are all designed to ward off Nian and invite good fortune.

Legend states, Nian was a terrifying beast with sharp teeth and horns, living deep in the sea. Every Lunar New Year’s Eve, Nian would come ashore to wreak havoc in the villages. One year, the villagers discovered that Nian feared the color red and loud noises. To protect themselves, they hung red decorations and lit firecrackers to scare the monster away. The strategy worked, and Nian was driven back to the sea.

For those born in a Horse year, 2026 is their Ben Ming Nian — a year traditionally believed to bring bad luck due to a clash with Tai Sui, the God of Age.

To protect themselves from the bad luck, those born in the Year of the Horse are encouraged to wear red throughout 2026 to ward off misfortune and invite blessings.

Another source said that in a year of intense Yang fire energy, it may be important to balance it out with Yin water energy, by wearing calmer shades like white or blue.

Recent years of the Horse include 2026, 2014, 2002, 1990, 1978, 1966, and 1954, with the next Horse year in 2038 (Year of the Earth Horse). Though their zodiac year may bring challenges, these obstacles often lead to greater wisdom and personal growth for Horses.

More About the Lunar New Year
The Lunar New Year begins with the second New Moon after the December Solstice. It usually falls around the end of January or the first half of February, according to the Gregorian calendar.

How can we draw inspiration from the Year of the Fire Horse in our own lives?
No matter your journey, now is the time to muster your courage, embrace change and try your best to stay atop the fire horse as it gallops through 2026 to February 6, 2027, the Year of the Fire Goat (which may bring a cycle of kindness, peace, and inner strength).

ing and devastating in the same moment.
I had mentioned in a previous editorial that time is an interesting thing. We think of time as linear but events from the past happened in the same place you are standing right now.

Just moments ago, my grandmother was sitting in her favorite chair in her home, but now the furniture has all been rearranged, some of it was divided up, she’s gone and her granddaughter lives in her house now. Christmas looks different, but the room is the same place.

That is the most gut-wrenching thing about time: they were here only a moment ago, but it has been years.

Three generations of my family have worked at the Banner office (four, if you count CJ telling mommy and daddy to “get back to work!” — “Umm, excuse me, little man?”). I never knew my paternal grandfather, but my dad’s office used to be his. I worked with my grandmother for years. Her desk hasn’t changed much, but the occupant has.

That’s another thing about time, if you knew what something meant to someone, your perspective changes, you remember them in the small everyday moments; but if you are too far removed from it, separated by death and birth, it is just another place.

History is critical information in our collective story and only by understanding and listening to the stories can we gain a better appreciation of what came before us.

Life is temporary. We must make the most of every day.

This editorial is dedicated to the memory of James L. Washburn who died on February 18, 1985 at the age of 57.

HUNKER DOWN WITH KES Mom Always Said ‘Practice Makes Perfect’

You talk about a dilemma. We’re in the first grade. Miss Carolyn Blades has explained clearly (as they are wont to do at that level of education) more than a few times how we are to place a Valentine Card on each desk of our fellow students. Mom had dutifully purchased a huge pack of cards from the Ben Franklin Five and Dime Store. I randomly pulled out the few I needed. On Valentine’s Day, without even looking at them, I just laid one on the pile of cards that had built up on each desk.

I got down to Bobby Brewer and Millicent Blackburn with the last two cards and thought I ought to turn them over and at least see what I was giving to each one. Both cards read “Hugs and Kisses.”

Ye gads!
I ain’t about to give that card in no way on earth to Bobby Brewer. And it would be even worse to lay that thing on a girl’s desk! Miss Carolyn had “made it a rule” for us to sign our names on each card.

My little heart sank. And you can understand why I am not ever going to be fond of any month that starts with a ground hog and ends two or three days early. And, right in the middle of it, they throw this Valentine gig in to mess up your thinking.

Somebody once told me the custom started back with the ancient Romans. I have always thought it was a collaboration among a card company, chocolate factory, and the local florist shop down at Third Street and Broadway.

I quickly carried the two awful cards back to my desk and put my five and a half months of formal study to work. We didn’t have magic markers in

1954. But I borrowed an ink pen from Anne Alexander and wrote a capital S in front of hugs and squeezed in a r between the h and u. I marked over the k in kisses with a giant H.

Early in life I discovered Valentine’s Day would put a fella into survival mode.

In the third grade Miss Belle had us make our own cards and write our own Valentine thoughts to our classmates. Good Lord, you wouldn’t think it could get any worse! We broke into pairs, and she gave us a whole afternoon to cut hearts out of red construction paper.

Me and Bobby moved back to the clay modeling table. I was in charge of creating the hearts, which looked more like baseballs with a v cut out of the top. Bobby, who was a lot smarter than me, came up with our “thoughtful and heartfelt” Valentine messages to our classmates.

The best ones were: “Elephants walk early in the morning,” “Butter will make your tongue slick,” and my favorite, “There are no bones in ice cream.” You can readily understand why Bobby Brewer is my best friend to this very day.

Of course, by mid-July between the eighth and ninth grade, me and Millicent were sitting on her grandmother’s front porch, listening to “Theme from a Summer Place” drifting out of the radio. I couldn’t think of one thing to say. But I was wishing all mighty powerfully that I had that unaltered “hugs and kisses” Valentine Card to place in her sweet little hand.

A couple of years later I went so far as to buy a Whitman heart shaped box of Valentine choco-

lates for a girl down in Cottage Grove. I casually mentioned to her how some girls were getting a bit puggy these days, thinking I would get the leftover chocolates. On the drive over to the picture show in Paris, she ate every single piece of candy before we got to the theater!

Apparently, those Cottage Grove girls don’t tend toward the sensitive side.

And I still hadn’t mastered the Valentine game.

Until I married Cathy. She made this day work like a charm. She picked out great cards every year to give me. She bought the big sampler box of assorted chocolates. She cooked my favorite meal of cornbread and pinto beans.

Knowing my Valentine’s history, you understand my aversion to this “special” day. I didn’t reciprocate much over the years. But, boy howdy, did I ever make it all up to her this Valentine’s Day! It was 51 years in the making.

You should have seen the surprised look on her face when I handed her the complete CD Box Set of every song Faron Young ever recorded. I had even thought to cut out a red heart and place it on the side of the box. Kinda made it an official Valentine gift.

Cathy is still speechless. I put in the first disc as she was setting supper on the table. We enjoyed the cornbread and beans while listening to Faron belting out, “I want to live fast, love hard, die young, and leave a beautiful memory...”

It took a while, but by golly, I finally got it right!

Respectfully,
Kes
kesley45@aol.com

THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON The Face of Addiction

Addiction is something that touches the lives of every human being because everyone knows someone they care about who has or is battling an addiction.

But there’s a lot of misinformation out there regarding people with an addiction, misinformation mostly shared by people who know nothing about the topic.

My knowledge of addiction is academic (via education/workshops/trainings), experiential (being a clinical and program director at facilities helping people with addictions), and it is personal. So let me tell you what I KNOW about people with addictions.

PEOPLE WITH AN ADDICTION ARE some of the kindest, meanest, most truthful, most deceitful, gentlest, cruelest, quietest, loudest, hardest working, laziest, most giving, most selfish, most loving, most heartless, most caring, most uncaring, most humble, most prideful people on the planet, which simply means they are the extreme versions of ourselves because we all can have any and all of those traits at any given time. But even though they are a mirror of ourselves and should make us say “there but for the grace of God go I”, what many people tend to do is vilify those who struggle with an addiction—shaming them, condemning them, making fun of them, marginalizing

them, shunning them, telling them to “just say no,” none of which helps.

THERE ARE NO PAT ANSWERS for overcoming an addiction or in dealing with someone who has an addiction because of the countless, multi-faceted factors involved. It’s fascinating to me how much people think they know about addiction when they actually know nothing about addiction.

While there are no simple answers to the complex problem of addiction, THERE ARE SOME TRUTHS that I’d like to share:

TRUTH #1 – If you’re struggling with an addiction and are trying to step out of that black, hopeless life, YOU CANNOT DO IT ON YOUR OWN. How long have you been trying to do that? Can’t you see that you’re not strong enough, smart enough, or wise enough to find and follow the path to wellness and wholeness? YOU NEED HELP, and that help can, and should, take many forms, as in:

- Developing an intimate relationship with God
- Alcoholics/Narcotics Anonymous
- Celebrate Recovery
- A licensed counselor with experience in treating addictions
- A healthy social support system

TRUTH #2 – If someone you love is lost in the labyrinth of addiction YOU

CANNOT SAVE THEM. How many times and ways have you tried and seen your efforts go for naught? Countless times, right? You have to accept that YOU ARE POWERLESS to make them change. Rather than focusing on your loved one, you need to focus on yourself and your feelings of guilt, shame, regret, anger or resentment (or all the above). Those helpful resources I mentioned for the addict are also excellent resources for you, except that Alanon is a 12-step program specifically for the family members.

TRUTH #3 – THE FACE OF ADDICTION is the face of your neighbor, your fellow church member, your fellow employee, your boss, your child’s school teacher, even yourself. ADDICTION IS NO RESPECTOR OF PERSONS. It crosses all socio-economic strata. No one ever made it a goal to become an addict or alcoholic. But step-by-step, slowly but surely, they headed down that road until one day their lives became completely unmanageable.

Sadly, there will never come a time when our world is free from the scourge of addictions. We are too human, too driven for instant gratification, too influenced by the charms of Satan. BUT INDIVIDUAL BATTLES CAN BE WON; they can be won “one day at a time.”

** Taken from The Wit and Wisdom of David Johnson, Volume III: A Harrowing Halloween Tale*

THE BANNER

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 @mckbANNER

(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

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

TERESA WASHBURN
Office Manager • Accounting
teresa@mckenziebanner.com

JANNA PRATT
Graphic Designer • Circulation
design@mckenziebanner.com

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

BRAD SAM
News & Sports
brad@mckenziebanner.com

LYNDESE SUMMERS
Graphic Designer • News
lyndsey@mckenziebanner.com

SUBMIT NEWS E-mail banner@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

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

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



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.

Obituaries

BETTY TOOMBS
1940 – 2026

MCKENZIE — Funeral services for Betty A. Toombs were Sunday, February 15, 2026, at Liberty Methodist Church. Interment followed at Shiloh Cemetery.

Mrs. Toombs, 85, died at her daughter's house on Wednesday, February 12, 2026. She was a retired school teacher for the McKenzie Special School District.

She was born on October 11, 1940, to Wilburn Scott and Flora Gallion Scott.

She is survived by her daughters, Paula Doster and Pamela (Tim) Castleman, all of McKenzie; one sister, Diane Redding of Cedar Hill; a brother, Odean (Ruby) Scott of Como; four grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her husband of 62 years, Paul Toombs; her parents; and her brothers, J.W. Scott, Ralph Scott, Doyle Scott and Johnny Scott.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home.

JAMES HAROLD
BIRDWELL
1947 – 2026

MCKENZIE — Graveside services for James Harold "Pete" Birdwell were Thursday, February 12, 2026, at Seminary Cemetery.

Mr. Birdwell, 78, died on Monday, February 9, 2026, at his residence. He was born in McKenzie on December 30, 1947, to the late James and Pauline Harrison Birdwell.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Theresa Bryant Birdwell; a sister, Brenda (Billy) Harrison of McKenzie; and Charles (Lydia) Birdwell of Greenfield; Dale (Kathy) Birdwell of McKenzie, and Joe Birdwell of McKenzie.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home.

ANDRIA MARIA
LOGAN
1966 – 2026

MCKENZIE — Andria Maria Logan, 59, known to friends and family as Ondi, died February 7, 2026, in McKenzie. She was born on December 23, 1966, in Humboldt.

Visitation was on Thursday, February 12, 2026, at Bodkin Funeral Home. A graveside service was at Lexington Cemetery in Lexington.

Ondi was the wife of Larry Logan and a mother to her children, Ronnie (Magaly) Sapp and Toni (Jon) McGowan. She was stepmother to Larry J. Logan II, Justin Christopher Logan, and his wife Mona, and Lauren Beth Logan. She was a grandmother to Isabella Maria Taylor Sapp, Selena Genevieve Sapp, Jonah McGowan, and Shiloh McGowan. Her siblings are: brother, Harlan Patterson and his wife, Dawn, and sister, Doris Wilson and her husband, Randy. Andria was preceded in death by her parents, Gaylon Patterson and Marie Skeens Yarbrough.

Bodkin Funeral Home.

DOROTHY CONNELL
1941 – 2026

GLEASON — Services for Dorothy Connell, 84, of Gleason, were Friday,

February 13, 2026, at the Gleason Methodist Church. Burial followed in Hopewell Cemetery in Gleason. Visitation was Friday morning at 11 a.m. until the time of service.

She was born June 21, 1941, and died February 9, 2026.

She was married to Jerry Connell for 62 years. They are survived by their four daughters, Patrice Devine of Louisville, Ky., Denise Connell of Gleason, Cris (Mark) Stafford of Gleason, and Camille (Tommy) Legins of Martin. Dorothy leaves behind eight grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. She was preceded in death by her parents and four brothers.

Dorothy worked at the Bank of Gleason for 46 years until her retirement in 2015. She loved her family and her home, where she lived for the last 55 years. She was so very loved, and will be greatly missed.

Williams Funeral Home of Gleason.

ROBERT HIRES
1944 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mr. Robert Edwin Hires, 81, died Sunday, January 18, 2026, at his home in Huntingdon, surrounded by his loving family.

A Celebration of Life will be announced at a later date.

He was born April 15, 1944, in Plant City, Fla., to the late Loyd James Hires and Katherine Yancey Ward. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his stepfather, Robert Ward and sister, Frieda Studstill. One surviving brother remains, Curtis Hires.

Eddie was married 55 years to Margaret (Margie) Hires. His children survives: Charlotte (Phil) White, Liz (Mike) Brooks, Debbie (Ben) Ellington and Robbe Hires.

He had five grandchildren and six great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandson, A.J.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to Tunnels to Towers, t2t.org.

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

PERRY LOU
BRADFIELD
1935 – 2026

BRUCETON — Ms. Perry Lou Bradfield, 90, of Bruce-ton, died Monday, February 9, 2026, at Huntingdon Health and Rehab Center.

There was a graveside service held at Hebron Church Cemetery, 415 Hebron Church Rd., Bruce-ton, on Friday, February 13, 2026.

Ms. Bradfield was born June 25, 1935, in Huntingdon to the late Howard Orlyn Wright and Berdie Marie Thomas Wright. Other than her parents, she was also preceded in death by two sisters and a brother, Marie Seevers, Patricia Wright and Howard Wright.

She is survived by two daughters, Jennifer Wilson (John) of Athens, Texas, and Anne Turner (John) of Poetry, Texas. She also leaves two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Bruce-ton Funeral Home.

RONNIE G. NOLEN
1946 – 2026

MCKENZIE — Mr. Ronnie G. Nolen, 79, died at his residence on February 11, 2026.

He was born in Newbern

on September 13, 1946, to Thomas and Dimple Mai Mallard Nolen.

He is survived by his sister and brother-in-law, Mary and Terry Newson of Springville, Tenn., and a host of nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and siblings, Thomas Allen Nolen, Jr., Donald L. Nolen, Virginia Kee, and Hilma Dinkins.

Services are incomplete at this time.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home.

DWAYNE DELANEY
1939 – 2026

MCKENZIE — Funeral services for Dwayne Delaney are on Wednesday, February 18, 2026, at McKenzie Church of Christ at 11 a.m. The family will receive friends at the church on Tuesday, February 17, 2026, from 5-8 p.m. and on Wednesday from 9 a.m. until the service time. Interment will follow at Mt Olivet Cemetery.

Mr. Delaney, 86, died on Sunday, February 15, 2026, at Murray Calloway Hospital. He was a longtime member and deacon of McKenzie Church of Christ and served in the National Guard. Born in McKenzie on October 26, 1939, he was the son of James and Laura Townes Delaney. His career included service with the LN&N Railroad, later acquired by CSX Railroad, from which he retired. He also worked as a salesman for Winkle Hardware in McKenzie.

He is survived by his wife, Thelma Kelley Delaney; two sons, Steve (Danette) Delaney of Paris and Randy (Terri) Delaney of McKenzie; a sister, Nell Chandler of McKenzie; a brother, Bobby (Monya) Delaney of Gilbertsville, Ky.; four grandchildren, Whitney (Wesley) Tucker, Haley (Josh) Clark, Ashley (Sam) Savage and Morgan (Matt) Foster; and eight great grandchildren, Carter Tucker, Brooks Tucker, Waverley Tucker, Eli Clark, Myles Clark, Nora Foster, Hallie Foster and Bailey Savage.

He is preceded in death by his parents and a sister Ann Moore.

If you require additional assistance, please contact Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home at 731-352-4848 or visit our website at brummittmckenziefuneralhome.com.+

CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

COMMUNITY PRAYER
SERVICE

The second Community Prayer Service is Sunday afternoon, March 1, 4:30 p.m. in the Park Theatre in downtown McKenzie. The previous community prayer service was in the downtown Veterans Memorial Park.

HUNTINGDON AMERICAN
LEGION INTERFAITH
MEMORIAL SERVICE

American Legion Post #47 in Huntingdon presents "The Four Chaplains" interfaith memorial service Friday, February 20 at 6 p.m. at the Carroll County Civic Center, 201 Mustang Drive.

CAPITOL TALK WITH
SENATOR JOHN
STEVENS

Capitol Talk with State Senator John Stevens is Friday, March 13, 8 a.m. at the Carroll County Civic Center. The event is free to attend. For more information, contact Carroll County Chamber of Commerce at 731-986-4664 or email cchamber@earthlink.net.

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 Tuesday, February 24 at 7 p.m. in the McLemoresville Activity Center (across from CB&T in McLemoresville).

THE BREAKFAST
CLUB AT HOMETOWN
HEALTH CLINIC

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

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

CARROLL HUMANE
SOCIETY EVENTS, NEWS
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.

MCKENZIE TOPS MEETS
WEEKLY

Win over weight with support and encouragement by

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

CARROLL COMMISSION
MEETS MONTHLY

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

ADULT EDUCATION
CLASSES

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



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



Frontier
FOUNDATION
& CRAWL SPACE Repair

FOUNDATIONS - CRAWL SPACES - BASEMENTS - CONCRETE



**COLD FLOORS
START BELOW**

Time to Check Your Crawl Space and
Insulate the Space Beneath Your Feet!

\$300

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 2/28/26.

**844-978-3001**
FrontierFoundations.com



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

Traditional & Custom Headstones
Etchings • Benches • Pet Markers
Cremation Memorials • And More!

Many colors, LARGE display.

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

A 0007E



THEATRE
Jim Adams Drive
Paris, TN • 642-1696

GOAT (PG)
Tues. 7:30
Wed. 7:30
Thurs. 7:30

WUTHERING HEIGHTS (R)
Tues. 7:25
Wed. 7:25
Thurs. 7:25

CRIME 101 (R)
Tues. 7:30
Wed. 7:30
Thurs. 7:30

SOLO MIO (PG)
Tues. 7:25
Wed. 7:25
Thurs. 7:25

SEND HELP (R)
Tues. 7:35
Wed. 7:35
Thurs. 7:35

**AVATAR:
FIRE AND ASH (PG-13)**
Tues. 7:20
Wed. 7:20
Thurs. 7:20

**INFOLINE
731-642-7171**

All Movies Now in
Digital DLP/HD

A4365674

**McKenzie, Tennessee**
THE BANNER

A Tribute to
BLACK HISTORY
Special Edition



Who Should Be Featured?

The Banner is looking for suggestions of local Black Americans to feature. Local heroes and historical figures include those who were "the first" in something, well known and well loved individuals who had an impact on others, like school teachers, veterans, etc. Often the people who made the most difference are the most humble, please share your story with us.

E-mail suggestions to HISTORY@mckenziebanner.com
Include a phone number, email, or clue of how to find them. Thank you.

Name _____

Email _____

Phone _____

City/Job/Social Media? _____

Return to: The McKenzie Banner, 3 Banner Row, McKenzie, TN 38201
COMING SOON
CALL 731.352.3323



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

Marriage Licenses

William Arthur Pace, 73, of Hollow Rock, to Kimberly Ann Newbill Nall, 49, of Hollow Rock.
Johnny Dwayne Neely, 49, of Hollow Rock, to Mary

Jane Brock Neely, 42, of Hollow Rock.
Victoria Ann Noles, 28, of Trezevant, to Letrell Terran Huff, 31, of Trezevant.

Carroll County Sheriff’s Reports

Motor Vehicle Theft — On February 6, Deputy Sean Bongiovanni responded to the Carroll County dispatch lobby in reference to a stolen vehicle report.
A Hollow Rock resident reported that, on or about December 13, 2025, she allowed an individual, identified as Jermia Terrell Wiggins, to drive her 2013 white Kia Optima under an agreement that he would make monthly payments. She advised that since that time she has not seen the vehicle and has not received any payment.
The complainant stated that Wiggins contacted her on multiple occasions telling her to come retrieve the vehicle but would not provide a location. She also reported that he made threats to damage the vehicle. Wiggins is believed to be in the Jackson, Mississippi, area, but an exact location is unknown.
The vehicle is described as a 2013 white Kia Optima bearing a Tennessee tag. The estimated value of the vehicle is approximately \$7,000.
The vehicle was entered into NCIC as stolen. The case remains under investigation.
Driving on Suspended License Arrest — On February 8, Deputy Dustin McClure conducted a traffic stop on a 2003 Saturn Ion after observing the vehicle cross the double yellow line twice on Griggs Chapel Road in Cedar Grove.
The driver, identified as Caleb Uriah Riddle, 40, of Cedar Grove, turned into his residence after the stop was initiated. Deputy McClure, having prior knowledge that Riddle’s license was suspended, requested confirmation through dispatch. Dispatch confirmed Riddle’s license was suspended out of Carroll County General Sessions for failure to file insurance certification, with a suspension date of October 2, 2022, and no reinstatement date listed.
The report states this was Riddle’s third offense for driving on a suspended license, with prior offenses in Madison County in 2018 and Carroll County in 2025.
Dispatch also confirmed an active Violation of Probation warrant out of Carroll County and a Failure to Appear warrant out of Madison County.
Riddle was arrested and transported to the Carroll County Jail on charges of driving on a suspended license (third offense) and the outstanding warrants. He was given a verbal warning for the due care violation.
The incident occurred in Carroll County.
Simple Assault — On February 8, Deputy Paul Williams responded to a report of an assault at a residence on Perritt Lane in Huntingdon.
Upon arrival, Deputy Williams spoke with facility staff and the victim. Staff advised that Charlie Boyer, 30, of Huntingdon, struck the victim in the stomach after she told him not to change the channel on the television. The incident occurred in a common day room area and was witnessed by others present at the time.
Deputy Williams reported that Boyer was unable to communicate with deputies successfully during the investigation. Both the victim and facility staff stated they wished to pursue charges.
Boyer was cited into court for simple assault. The citation was explained to him to which he nodded his head, and he signed it.
Felony Evading and

Drug Charges — On February 5, Sgt. Sean Bongiovanni observed a 2002 green Toyota Celica traveling through the four-way intersection of Hwy. 79 and Hwy. 105 in Trezevant without functioning taillights and accelerating rapidly toward McMoresville.
Sgt. Bongiovanni attempted to conduct a traffic stop for reckless driving and light law violations. After emergency lights and siren were activated, the vehicle continued to accelerate. Speeds reached between 70 and 80 miles per hour on Hwy. 105. The driver passed a vehicle in a no-pass zone and crossed Hwy. 77 without stopping at a stop sign before continuing down McMoresville Road.
Deputy Sherwood later observed the vehicle traveling down Independence Road toward Hwy. 77 and continued the pursuit. The vehicle reached speeds of approximately 119 miles per hour before turning onto Voss Lane, where it left the roadway near 160 Voss Lane. The driver exited the vehicle and fled on foot.
After approximately 40 minutes of searching the wooded area, deputies located the suspect surrendering with his hands raised. He was identified as Marcus Ray Bell, 29, of Trenton.
Sgt. Bongiovanni advised Bell that he had been seen reaching into the passenger seat area before fleeing. Bell stated he did not have time to remove the item and admitted it was an ounce of “dope.” A search of the vehicle located a black bag on the passenger floorboard containing approximately 29.2 grams of a white crystalline substance that field-tested positive for methamphetamine, a loaded syringe containing nine units of a clear liquid that field-tested positive for fentanyl, four unused needles, a digital scale with methamphetamine residue and a debit card bearing Bell’s name.
A records check revealed Bell’s driver’s license was revoked for a prior DUI.
Bell was charged with felony evading, possession of Schedule II (methamphetamine) with intent to sell, possession of Schedule II (fentanyl) and driving while license revoked for DUI.
The incident occurred in Carroll County.
Unlawful Possession of a Firearm — On February 10, Deputy Jayden Flaurr responded to Republican Grove Road in reference to a verbal domestic dispute.
Upon arrival, Flaurr made contact with Michael Martin Williams, 29, of Atwood, and a female subject. Deputies were advised the two had been involved in an argument and that Williams had been drinking. The female subject was reportedly waiting for a ride.
During the investigation, Williams admitted to possessing a 9mm handgun inside the residence and stated he had a prior domestic assault conviction from March 2020. Williams advised he was unaware he was prohibited from possessing a firearm. Deputies also learned Williams had an active warrant out of Chester County for failure to appear on a child support charge.
The firearm was recovered from the residence. An NCIC check confirmed the weapon was not reported stolen.
Williams was arrested for unlawful possession of a firearm and on the outstanding warrant. He was transported to the Carroll County Jail without incident.

McKenzie Police Reports

Aggravated Criminal Trespass — Jamie Lee Garrison, Highway 70, Cedar Grove, was charged with Aggravated Criminal Trespass on February 13.
Officer Timothy Dillon responded to Reynolds Street, where a female resident stated that Garrison entered her residence after being banned from the property previously. Garrison stated he was attempting to retrieve his wallet and phone from the resident. Garrison had parked at a neighbor’s house and walked over to the residence where he was banned.
Garrison was arrested on charges of Aggravated Criminal Trespass and Possession of a Controlled Substance after a green-leafy substance believed to be marijuana was located in the car. Garrison was transported to Carroll County Jail, and his car was impounded.
Evading Arrest — James W. Yon, Jr., Park Cove, McKenzie, was charged with Evading Arrest, and two outstanding counts of Violation of Protection for previous incidents in Weakley County and Milan.
Officers Lt. Justin Brister, Assistant Chief Trey Boucher were dispatched to Park Cove in relation to a verbal argument involving Yon. The witness stated Yon had a knife and also described Yon’s clothing. Officers searched the area for Yon, but were unsuccessful. They were dispatched back to the area as Yon had returned. Yon fled on foot, went through Walnut Circle, and was again spotted by Assistant Chief Boucher, who pursued him on foot and successfully apprehended Yon.
Yon was charged with Evading Arrest, transported to Carroll County, and held for authorities in Milan and Weakley County on outstanding charges.
Theft of Property — James Blake, Highway 79, McKenzie, was charged with Theft of Property after he was accused of employee theft of a battery from O’Reilly Auto Parts. The total price was \$309.48.
Officer Timothy Dillon filed a misdemeanor citation of theft on February 10. Blake is to report to Carroll County General Sessions Court.
Syringes Found — McKenzie Police Officer Daniel Pollard was dispatched to a store, where two syringes with an unknown substance inside were found on the floor of the women’s restroom. The incident occurred on February 14.

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

WHEREAS, on May 30, 2025, CACHENGO, INC., by a Deed of Trust of record in Trust Deed Book 754, at Page 524, 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 Two Hundred Sixty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred and 00/100 (\$269,900.00), payable to STEVEN MORTON AND WIFE, BRIANNA MORTON; and
WHEREAS, the undersigned was appointed Substitute Trustee by STEVEN MORTON AND WIFE, BRIANNA MORTON, the legal owners and holders of the said Note, by appointment executed on February 9, 2026, and recorded in Trust Deed Book 764, at Page 341, 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 STEVEN MORTON AND WIFE, BRIANNA MORTON, 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, March 10, 2026, at 3:45 p.m., said property to be sold in bar of the equity of redemption and subject to the lien of all special assessments against it.
Lying, and being situate in the City of McKenzie, 4th Civil District of Carroll County, Tennessee, bounded and described as follows; to-wit:
In the City of McKenzie and BEGINNING on the west margin of what was formerly a 16 foot alley on the south side of Lee Street, the same being the northeast corner of Lot No. 1 in the sale of the Neumie B. Moore lands and which said Lot No. 1 is what was heretofore known as he Wrinkle-Moore Store Building, and runs thence South with the east boundary of said Lot No 1 and the west margin of what was formerly a 16 foot alley, 100 feet to what was formerly an alley land which is now the north margin of Bruce Stree; thence East with Bruce Street 25 feet to the west margin of an alley; thence North with the west margin of said alley 100 feet to Lee Street; thence West with Lee Street 25 feet to the point of beginning, on which lot is situated a two story brick building. (Description taken from prior deed of record)
It being the same property as that described in a Warranty Deed from Steven Morton and wife, Brianna Morton, to Cachengo, Inc., a Tennessee corporation, dated May 30, 2025, and of record in Warranty Deed Book 420, page 911, Register’s Office of Carroll County, Tennessee.
The street address of the above-described property is believed to be 56 Lee Ave., McKenzie, Tennessee 38201, 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: Source Code, LLC.
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 17th day of February, 2026.
KIZER, BONDS, HUGHES & BOWEN, LLC
BY: STEPHEN L. HUGHES, Substitute Trustee
P. O. Box 320, Milan, TN 38358 (731) 238-3199

NOTICE OF SUBSTITUTE TRUSTEE’S SALE OF REAL ESTATE

WHEREAS, on March 21, 2022, CACHENGO, INC., by a Deed of Trust of record in Trust Deed Book 716, at Page 1089, 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 Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand and 00/100 Dollars (\$850,000.00), payable to THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MCKENZIE, TENNESSEE; and
WHEREAS, the undersigned was appointed Substitute Trustee by THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MCKENZIE, TENNESSEE, which appointment will be recorded in the Register’s Office of Carroll County, Tennessee prior to the deed evidencing this sale; and
WHEREAS, default has been made in the payment of said indebtedness and other provisions of the Deed of Trust have been violated, and THE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF MCKENZIE, TENNESSEE, the lawful owner and holder of the said indebtedness, has declared the entire amount due and payable as provided by the Deed of Trust in accordance with the terms thereof, and instructed the undersigned to foreclose.
NOW, THEREFORE, the public is hereby notified that the undersigned Substitute Trustee will sell the hereinafter described real estate at public auction, to the highest and best bidder, for cash in hand paid in certified funds paid at the conclusion of the sale, or upon a credit bid from a bank or other lending entity pre-approved by the Substitute Trustee. The auction shall occur at the East door of the Courthouse at Huntingdon, Carroll County, Tennessee, on Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 3:30 p.m., said property to be sold in bar of the equity of redemption and subject to the lien of all special assessments against it.
Lying, and being situate in the City of McKenzie, 4th Civil District of Carroll County, Tennessee, bounded and described as follows; to-wit:
BEING the following described real estate, situated in the FOURTH CIVIL DISTRICT of Carroll County, Tennessee, being a portion of that property, which was conveyed to Baptist Memorial Health Services, Inc. by deed of record in Deed Book 385, Page 334, in the Register’s Office of Carroll County, Tennessee, and being more particularly described as follows:
COMMENCING at a 1/2-inch rebar found at the southwest corner of Spivey, Deed Book 395, Page 347, and in the east right-of-way of Hospital Drive, 20 feet from the centerline; thence with the east right-of-way of Hospital Drive as follows:
Along a curve turning to the right 140.72 feet, having a radius of 2451.40 feet, and being subtended by a chord bearing and distance of South 29 Degrees 29 Minutes 24 Seconds East, 140.70 feet to a 5/8-inch rebar found;
South 27 Degrees 50 Minutes 44 Seconds East, 79.61 feet to a mag nail found;
Along a curve turning to the right 145.69 feet, having a radius of 1065.90, and being subtended by a chord bearing and distance of South 23 Degrees 55 Minutes 48 Seconds East, 145.57 feet to a 5/8-inch rebar found;
Along a curve turning to the right 10.00 feet, having a radius of 24,024.50, and being subtended by a chord bearing and distance of South 23 Degrees 29 Minutes 23 Seconds East, 10.00 feet to a 5/8-inch rebar with stainless steel L.I. Smith cap set, being the POINT OF BEGINNING; thence with a severance line as follows:
North 66 degrees 51 minutes 08 seconds East, 282.99 feet to a 5/8-inch rebar with stainless steel L.I. Smith cap set;
North 23 degrees 08 minutes 38 seconds West, 42.92 feet to a 5/8-inch rebar with stainless steel L.I. Smith cap set;
South 80 degrees 45 minutes 47 seconds East, 37.78 feet;
South 68 degrees 55 minutes 42 seconds East, 41.28 feet;
South 38 degrees 56 minutes 02 seconds East, 5.28 feet;
South 55 degrees 55 minutes 45 seconds East, 35.10 feet;
South 45 degrees 44 minutes 49 seconds East, 6.71 feet;
North 65 degrees 37 minutes 21 seconds East, 42.95 feet to a 5/8-inch rebar found at a common corner with McKenzie Propco, LLC, Deed Book 398, Page 1; thence with McKenzie Propco, LLC North 65 degrees 37 minutes 21 seconds East, 282.92 feet to a ½-inch rebar found in the west line of Doster, Deed Book 350, Page 456; thence with Doster South 02 degrees 55 minutes 34 seconds West, 172.44 feet to a 5/8-inch rebar found; thence with a severance line as follows:
North 87 degrees 07 minutes 04 seconds West, passing a 5/8-inch rebar with stainless steel L.I. Smith cap set at 27.21 feet, and continuing 20.00 feet, for a total distance of 47.21 feet to a 5/8-inch rebar with stainless steel L.I. Smith cap set;
South 02 degrees 55 minutes 34 seconds West, 163.13 feet;
South 41 degrees 22 minutes 08 seconds West, 83.44 feet;
South 32 degrees 53 minutes 15 seconds West, 106.88 feet;
South 66 degrees 20 minutes 13 seconds West, 47.29 feet;
North 88 degrees 39 minutes 47 seconds West, 86.37 feet;
South 66 degrees 20 minutes 13 seconds West, 208.20 feet to the east right-of-way of Hospital Drive; thence with Hospital Drive as follows:
North 24 degrees 15 minutes 39 seconds West, 49.10 feet to a 5/8-inch rebar found;
Along a curve turning to the right 333.66 feet, having a radius of 24024.49 feet, being subtended by a chord bearing and distance of North 23 degrees 53 minutes 59 seconds West, 333.66 feet to the Point of Beginning, and containing 4.88 acres, more or less, as surveyed by William P.I. Smith, Tennessee Registered Land Surveyor Number 2093, of L.I. Smith & Associates, 302 North Caldwell Street, Paris, TN 38242, on December 10, 2021. Bearings are based upon Tennessee State Plane Coordinate System, NAD 83. (Description taken from prior deed of record)
It being the same property as that described in a Quitclaim Deed from The Industrial Development Corporation of the City of McKenzie, Tennessee, to Cachengo, Inc., dated March 21, 2022, and of record in Warranty Deed Book 403, page 516, in the Register’s Office of Carroll County, Tennessee.
Map 011, Parcel 040.00
The street address of the above-described property is believed to be Hospital Drive, McKenzie, Tennessee 38201, 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: Source Code, LLC.
This property is subject to the restrictions, covenants, and setback lines for The Industrial Development Corporation of the City of McKenzie, Tennessee as recorded in Warranty Deed Book 401, at Page 122, in the Register’s Office of Carroll County, Tennessee.
This property is subject to the Conditional Gift Agreement between Baptist Memorial Health Care Corporation and The Industrial Development Corporation of the City of McKenzie, Tennessee, as contained in the Quitclaim Deed of record in Deed Book 401, at Page 122, in the Register’s Office of Carroll County, Tennessee.
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 17th day of February, 2026.
KIZER, BONDS, HUGHES & BOWEN, LLC
BY: STEPHEN L. HUGHES, Substitute Trustee
P. O. Box 320, Milan, TN 38358 (731) 238-3199

Thank you for your continued support of this newspaper.

FOR SALE

TWO LOTS FOR SALE IN CARROLL MEMORIAL GARDENS. 43CLOT1 AND 2. IN FRONT OF THE BIG BIBLE. Next to the Hollingsworth, Burcham, Webb, Savage, Eubank, Harris and Pierce families. Valued at \$1,300. Asking price is \$850 for both or best offer. Call 731-313-1158. Leave a text or voice message. R27133/7-2

EAGLE BUILDINGS — NEW & USED PORTABLE BUILDINGS, Cabins, Carpports & 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

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

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 102 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)

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)

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)

WANTED: TO BUY

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)

FOR RENT

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

NEED STAMPS? WE GOT 'EM!

Call us today! 731.352.3323

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)

"Painting Your Way"
Not Just Painting Anymore...
Ceiling to floor and much more!
Repair to Remodeling
731-415-1506
Steve Bowden

Anderson's Construction

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

GIVE US A CALL FREE ESTIMATES
Joey Anderson or Ricky Anderson
697-5350 or 431-6901

Bruceton Village Apartments

402 Suncrest Drive - Bruceton, TN 38317

Family Households
1 and 2 Bedroom Apartments
Accessible Units

Rental Assistance Available • Please Call: 731-586-7214

TDD/TYY #: 1-800-848-0298

"This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer."

Site Manager — Genise Seymore

Frontier FOUNDATION & CRAWL SPACE Repair

FOUNDATIONS • CRAWL SPACES • BASEMENTS • CONCRETE

COLD FLOORS START BELOW

Time to Check Your Crawl Space and Insulate the Space Beneath Your Feet!

\$300 MIN 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 2/28/26.

844-978-3001
FrontierFoundations.com

THANKFUL FOR BABIES OF 2025

Time to celebrate, the new year is here. Help us honor babies born this past year.

SAMPLE FEATURE ACTUAL SIZE

The McKenzie Banner will publish a special edition featuring babies born January-December 2025. This is a very special keepsake to treasure! Just Fill out the information below and **INCLUDE A PHOTO.**

EACH BABY PROFILE IS FREE.

ONE CHILD PER PHOTO.
LIMIT 20 WORDS PER BABY PROFILE.

Please include his/her name, photo, birth date, parents' names, one thing you're thankful for and a phone number to contact you if we have questions (not published). The profile is approximately 1 column x 3 inches tall and includes a photo.

BABY'S INFO:

BABY'S NAME: _____

BIRTH DATE (Month and Day): _____

PARENTS' NAMES: _____

I'M THANKFUL FOR: _____

PHONE (For contact/not published): _____

ONE CHILD PER PHOTO. E-mail info and photos to: BABY@mckenziebanner.com
Mail or Deliver to: The McKenzie Banner, 3 Banner Row, McKenzie, Tenn. 38201

DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026

McKenzie, Tennessee THE BANNER
FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 731.352.3323

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.

RUSSELL'S WELL DRILLING
731-415-6550

Residential
Municipal
Commercial
Irrigation Well Drilling
Pump Sales and Service
Crane Service/Rental
Over 30 years of experience
Russell Basford, Owner
P.O. Box 908 / Hwy 79 S, McKenzie, TN 38201
russell.drilling@hotmail.com

A519/14-TF

Sandi Roditis
731-415-2927
Buford Taylor
731-225-8321
Valarie MacAekin
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

A8661/34-TF

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

ATA & A PLUMBING and SEWER
24-HOUR SERVICE
Ricky Watson 731-697-1455
A7623/TF

TOLBERT Plumbing & Electric
Backhoe • Trenching • Gas Piping • Septic Pumping • Pipe Water Heaters • Well Tanks • Valves • Fittings • Faucets
WELL PUMP SALES, SERVICE & INSTALLATION
SEPTIC PUMPING
731-234-6012

24 HOURS/7 DAYS
WE STOCK A FULL LINE OF INVENTORY FOR THOSE AFTER HOURS/WEEKEND/HOLIDAY CALLS.
WELL PUMP SALES, SERVICE & INSTALLATION

TF

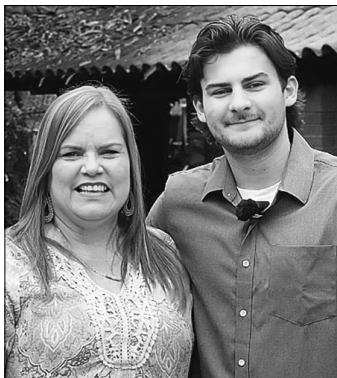
Municipal • Commercial • Residential
Campbell Water Well Service, Inc
R10014/A821
campbellwaterwell@gmail.com 7894 Hwy 124
731-694-2075 (Call or Text) McKenzie, TN 38201

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



Above, Recent Bethel graduate Andrew Carpenter with his students and sponsoring teacher, Anjelica Poveda Valencia. Below Left, Bethel University (Winter '25) Graduate Andrew Carpenter in the classroom with his students at Colegio Americano in Cali, Colombia, in South America. The school is connected with the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and is a sister school to Bethel University. Below Right, Andrew Carpenter with Anjelica Poveda Valencia, the teacher at Colegio Americano.



Bethel Graduate Andrew Carpenter Turns a Study Abroad Experience into a Life Abroad

Andrew Carpenter's post-graduate plan didn't include a corner office—it included a passport.

CALI, Colombia — A 2025 graduate of Bethel University, Carpenter recently returned to Cali, Colombia, not as a tourist, but as a resident and teacher. The Business Management major with a minor in Global Studies is now building a life overseas, continuing a passion for international travel first sparked during his time in McKenzie, Tennessee at Bethel University.

Carpenter always envisioned a career that would allow him to see the world. That desire took shape through three formative experiences with Bethel's Global Studies program—each one stretching his perspective and deepening his sense of purpose. "Travel, you won't regret it," Carpenter encourages current Bethel students. "Traveling changes your perspective and turns you into a storyteller."

Global Experiences That Changed Direction

Carpenter's international journey began in 2023 with a service-learning trip to Guatemala with Bethel in partnership with GCAC Travel. He remembers it as "one of my favorite places I've been," highlighting a boat ride across Lake Atitlán surrounded by volcanoes and a visit to a coffee farm that offered insight into local agriculture and global commerce.

Later that year, he traveled to Honduras. A mountain hike with Global Studies Director Stacie Freeman and Dr. Ray Compton became an unforgettable adventure when a sudden downpour forced the group to navigate their way down before dark—a moment that blended challenge, laughter, and camaraderie.

In May 2025, his final Bethel trip took him to Cali, Colombia, where he volunteered at a local school, Colegio Americano, a sister



Andrew Carpenter teaches English to Spanish-speaking students in Colombia.

Cumberland Presbyterian school to Bethel University. That experience ultimately reshaped his post-graduation plans.

"The opportunity presented itself, and I couldn't pass it up," Carpenter said of his decision to return to Colombia to live and teach after graduation.

A New Rhythm of Life in Cali

Carpenter's weekdays begin at 7 a.m. and follow the familiar structure of a school day, but life outside the classroom feels entirely different from the fast pace of American university culture. After 2:30 p.m., he heads to the gym, meets friends for coffee, and practices salsa dancing. He frequently visits a local hostel/coffee shop that hosts a language café, where Colombians and foreigners gather to practice English and Spanish together.

The tropical climate—steady between 70 and 85 degrees—was one of the first things he noticed as different from the four-season climate in Tennessee. And as someone who enjoys strong coffee, he has embraced Colombia's rich coffee culture. While the family he lives with prefers a lighter brew with milk and sugar, Carpenter now prepares his own strong, black cup each morning.

"The coffee is better here," Carpenter said.

Embracing Challenge and Perspective

Teaching abroad presents familiar classroom chal-

lenges, but the language barrier has been the most demanding part of daily life. Though he knows basic Spanish and relies on translation tools when needed, the constant effort to communicate across languages requires focus and stamina. "It's more mentally tiring than the physical labor I did landscaping last summer," Carpenter reflected.

He is also quick to address misconceptions about safety in Colombia. "I think people have a really dated and unrealistic idea of the dangers," he said. He regularly uses Uber and walks around the city comfortably, noting that awareness and common sense are key—just as they are in any major U.S. city. "I don't believe Cali is any more dangerous than Memphis or New York."

Global Studies in Action

For Bethel faculty, Carpenter's story represents the deeper purpose of international education.

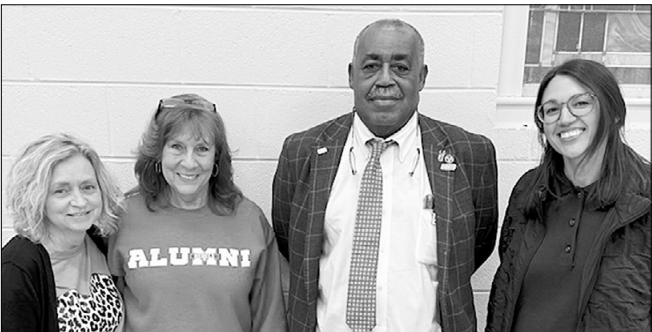
"Andrew is exactly why we do this work," said Stacie Freeman, Director of Global Studies at Bethel University. "Global Studies isn't about collecting passport stamps; it's about shaping perspective and purpose. Watching him return to Colombia not as a visitor, but as a teacher and resident, is a powerful example of what transformative education looks like."

Bethel's Global Studies has been making trips to Colegio Americano in Cali, Colombia since 2015. It offers an enriching experience for Bethel students, some of whom return again and again. Looking ahead, Carpenter's experience in Cali has only reinforced his ambition to build a career that allows him to continue exploring the world. "This journey has just reinforced my goal of traveling the world as my career," he said.

For now, he is focused on teaching, strengthening his Spanish, building friendships, and immersing himself in the culture of his new home. What he misses most from the United States are his family, friends, and a few favorite American snacks.

But if his path so far is any indication, the world remains wide open—and Andrew Carpenter is just getting started.

Students, parents, and community members interested in traveling to Colombia with BU Global Studies and GCAC Travel in May, 2026 are encouraged to contact Stacie Freeman, Director of Global Studies and GCAC Travel co-founder, at freemans@bethelu.edu to learn more. Scholarships and college credit are available for student travelers. Freeman said, "The world is our classroom - and there's almost always room for one more."



2026 McKenzie High Alumni officers (L to R): Secretary Karen Cobb Moore (Class of 1984), President Betsy Hall Campbell (1973), Vice President Ricky Price (1974) and Treasurer Lauren Hickman (2007). Photo courtesy MHSAA

2026 Officers Elected for McKenzie High Alumni

COURTESY MHSAA

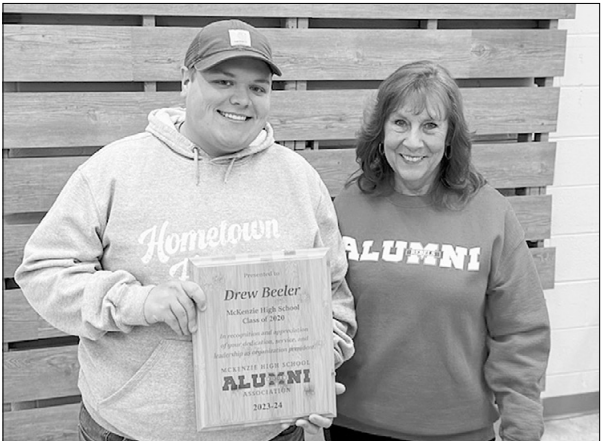
McKENZIE (February 9) — The 2026 McKenzie High School Alumni Association officers were elected during a meeting Monday in the First United Methodist Church Fellowship Hall.

The new officers are: President Betsy Hall Campbell (MHS Class of 1973), Vice President Ricky Price (1974), Secretary Karen Cobb Moore (1984) and Treasurer Lauren Hickman (2007).

A plaque was presented to Drew Beeler (2020) in appreciation of his service to the MHSAA as President.

The members of the MHSAA executive board are: Terry Howell (1969), Byran Rich (1973), Brad Camp (1983), Cheryl Oglesby-Townes (1988) and Lesa Hutcherson Roberson (1988).

The MHSAA learned the 2026 football homecoming is Friday, September 25 and is already planning



Drew Beeler (Class of 2020) (left) was presented a plaque of appreciation for his service as president of the McKenzie HS Alumni Association by new President Betsy Hall Campbell. Photo courtesy MHSAA

events for the annual McKenzie High Decades Reunion weekend.

All alumni of MHS are encouraged to mark their calendars now, spread the word with classmates, and come home in September to reconnect with your McKenzie High family.

Any classes who are planning reunions in 2026 are encouraged to have their events that weekend.

Those celebrating milestone anniversaries include the years 1956, 1961, 1966, 1971, 1976, 1981, 1986, 1991, 1996, 2001, 2006, 2011, 2016 and 2021.

The MHSAA is happy to help spread the word on any reunions that will commence.

Complete details on plans for the Decades Reunion will be announced soon.



Rotary Club of McKenzie hears from Dr. Dub Oliver, president of Union University. Pictured are Ricky Price, president of McKenzie Rotary Club; Dr. Dub Oliver, president of Union University; Dr. John Adams, retired administrator at Union University, and Mayor Ryan Griffin, graduate of Union and a former staff member of Union.

Union University President Oliver Addresses McKenzie Rotary Club

BY JOEL WASHBURN
washburn@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (February 10) — McKenzie Rotary Club heard from featured speaker Dr. Dub Oliver, President of Union University during the February 10 meeting of the McKenzie Rotary Club on the campus of Bethel University.

Dr. Oliver spoke about the importance of higher education, the knowledge students gain from interacting with peers, and the personal attention they receive in small-classroom settings with low student-to-teacher ratios.

Dr. Oliver praised Dr. John Adams, a member of the McKenzie Rotary Club and a retired administrator at Union University.

Union is located in north Jackson and is affiliated with the Southern Baptist. Dr. Oliver spoke about the importance of Union, Bethel, UT Martin, the TCATs, and community colleges on the geographic area. He praised Bethel University, its service and mission. Dr. Perry Moulds, president of Bethel Uni-

versity, attended the presentation. Oliver outlined some of the challenges and unique experiences offered by private colleges.

While private four-year institutions are certainly more expensive than state-supported universities, Oliver noted that the private schools offer unique opportunities for personal growth and engagement.

In Union's case, the university's shared vision of faculty, students, and local partners highlight the university's ongoing mission to prepare students for lives of service and influence.

"We continue to be profoundly proud of the caliber of students who choose to call Union home," Dr. Oliver stated. "Their dedication to academic excellence and their passion for service are evident in every facet of our campus life and beyond. They are not just learning; they are actively preparing to make a meaningful difference in the world."

Dr. Oliver also empha-

sized the importance of the university's ties to the Jackson community. "Union University is intrinsically linked to the vibrancy of West Tennessee," he said. "Our partnerships with local businesses, non-profits, and schools are vital, providing our students with invaluable real-world experience and allowing us to contribute positively to the growth and well-being of our city and region."

The President concluded by looking forward to the remainder of the academic year and expressing optimism about continued growth in student enrollment and program development. "As we move ahead, we remain focused on our vision to be a Christ-centered institution that is recognized globally for its distinctive excellence in faith integration, community engagement, and student success."

Also in attendance was Lauren Pinkston, a McNairy County native and an independent candidate for governor of Tennessee.



**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.*



Peanut Butter Cookies With Chocolate Chunks

1 1/2 cup unbleached all purpose flour
1/3 cup old fashioned oats
1 teaspoon baking soda
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 cup old fashioned chunky peanut butter
1 cup packed brown sugar

1/2 cup (1 stick) unsalted butter, room temperature
1/4 cup honey
1 large egg
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
5 oz. semi-sweet chocolate, coarsely chopped

Mix flour, oats, baking soda and salt in medium bowl. Using electric mixer, beat peanut butter, brown sugar, butter, honey, egg and vanilla in large bowl until well blended. Stir dry ingredients into peanut butter mixture in 2 additions. Stir in chopped chocolate. Cover and refrigerate until dough is

firm and no longer sticky, about 30 minutes.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Butter 2 large baking sheets. With hands, roll one heaping tablespoons of dough for each cookie into 1 3/4 inch balls. Arrange cookies on baking sheets spacing 2 1/2 inches apart. Bake cookies until puffed, beginning to brown on top and still very soft to touch, about 12 minutes. Cool cookies on baking sheets 5 minutes. Using metal spatula, transfer cookies to rack until cool completely. Makes 27 cookies.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Lady Rebels, Rockets Claim Wins

BY DAVARION GILBERT
banner@mckenziebanner.com

CLARKSBURG (February 10) — McKenzie High School traveled to Clarksburg Tuesday for a pair of district basketball games. The Lady Rebels pulled away for a 77-25 score. The Rebels fall to the Rockets 79-68.

McKenzie Lady Rebels 77, Clarksburg Lady Rockets 25

The Lady Rebels began the first quarter 22-4. Lady Rebel Jaycee Stafford scored a three-point shot, a pair and two free throw shots. Molly French had two three-point shots. Addyson Littleton had two three-point shots and a pair. Ava Hastings had a three-point shot. Madeline Gottshall had a free throw shot. Lady Rocket Brooklyn Laws had two pairs.

The Lady Rebels kept the lead at halftime, 31-15. Lady Rebel Stafford hit five free throw shots. Littleton and Alleigh Britt each scored a pair. Lady Rocket Natalie Scott scored a pair and two free throw shots. Addison Milam hit a three-point shot. Willams and Bolen each had a pair.

The Lady Rebels extended the lead to 67-19. Lady Rebel Stafford scored three three-point shots, three pairs and three free throw shots. Littleton followed

with three pairs and two free throw shots. Auvenshine had a three-point shot and a pair. French hit a three-point shot and Gottshall hit two free throw shots. Lady Rocket Williams hit a three-point shot and Milam hit a free throw.

The Lady Rebels scored furthermore to win the game, 77-25, led by Zayda Scates with two pairs. French, Britt and Johnson each had a pair. Lady Rockets Bolen and Townsend each had a pair. Laws hit two free throw shots.

Jaycee Stafford led the Lady Rebels with 30 points. Addyson Littleton scored 15 points. Molly French scored 11 points.

Brooklyn Laws led the Lady Rockets with six points. Molly Willams had five points. Natalie Scott, Makenna Bolen and Addison Milam each scored four points.

Clarksburg Rockets 79, McKenzie Rebels 68

The Rockets set the tone with a 23-10 score in the first quarter. Rocket Erin Dickson had five pairs. Jake Miller hit a three-point shot and two pairs. Clay Glosson had two pairs and Reagan Halter had a pair. Rebels Eli Vinson and Kason Brown had two pairs each. Cooper Davidson had a pair.

The Rockets kept the ten-point lead at halftime 41-31. Rocket Weston Vestal

scored four pairs, followed by Garrett Bartholomew with two three-point shots. Glosson and Halter each had a pair. Rebel Kason Brown had a three-point shot and three pairs. Cole Brown had two pairs. Vinson and Nolan Fawcett each hit a three-point shot. Davidson had a pair.

The Rockets continued momentum for a 62-55 lead in the third quarter, led by Dickson with four pairs and a free throw shot. Trae Cobb had three pairs. Miller had two pairs and Glosson had a pair. Rebel Fawcett scored two pairs and two three-point shots. Kason Brown had three pairs. Cole Brown had two three-point shots, and Davidson had two free throw shots.

The Rockets stayed in control to win 79-68. Dickson had three pairs and a free throw shot, followed by Cobb with a pair and three free throw shots. Vestal had a pair and a free throw shot. Miller had a pair. Rebel Kason Brown had three pairs along with Fawcett with two pairs. Cole Brown had a pair and a free throw shot.

Erin Dickson led the Rockets with 26 points. Jake Miller scored 13 points. Weston Vestal scored 11 points.

Kason Brown led the Rebels with 25 points, followed by Nolan Fawcett with 17 points. Cole Brown had 13 points.

District Tournaments Begin this Week

Tournament brackets are set for most high school basketball districts with games beginning this week.

The District 12-2A tournaments, hosted by Waverly Central High School, begin with girls' semifinals Tuesday, February 17. (1) Huntingdon faces (4) Waverly at 6 p.m., followed by (2) Camden versus (3) Milan. The tournament concludes Friday, February 20 with the consolation game at 6 p.m., followed by the championship game.

The 12-2A boys' tournament starts Thursday, February 19. (1) Waverly faces (4) Camden at 6 p.m., followed by (2) Huntingdon versus (3) Milan. Play concludes Saturday, February 20 with the consolation game at 6 p.m., followed by the title game.

The District 13-1A girls' tournament began with a satellite game Monday, February 16 as (4) Bradford hosted (5) Halls. The remainder of the tournament is hosted by Humboldt High School.

Semifinals are Thursday, February 19. (2) Middleton faces (3) West Carroll at 6 p.m., followed by (1) Humboldt versus the winner of Bradford/Halls. The tournament concludes Saturday, February 21 with the consolation game at 6 p.m., followed by the championship game.

The 13-1A boys' tournament starts with a satellite game Tuesday, February 17 as (4) Halls hosts (5) West Carroll at 6 p.m. Semifinals (at Humboldt High) are Friday, February 20. (2) Middleton faces (3) Bradford at 6 p.m., followed by (1) Humboldt versus the winner of Halls/West Carroll. The tournament concludes Monday, February 23 with the consolation game at 6 p.m., followed by the championship game.

The District 14-1A girls' tournament began with a satellite game Monday, February 16 as (4) Lake County hosted (5) South Fulton. The remainder of the tournament is hosted by Bethel University.

Semifinals are Thursday, February 19. (1) Greenfield faces the winner of Lake County/South Fulton at 6 p.m., followed by (2) Dresden versus (3) Gleason. The tournament concludes Saturday, February 21 with the consolation game at 6 p.m., followed by the championship game.

The 14-1A boys' tournament starts with a satellite game Tuesday, February 17 as (4) Greenfield hosts (5) Dresden at 6:30 p.m. Semifinals (at Bethel) are Friday, February 20. (1) Gleason faces the winner of Greenfield/Dresden at 6 p.m., followed by (2) Lake County versus (3) South Fulton. The tournament concludes Monday, February 23 with the consolation game at 6 p.m., followed by the championship game.

Brackets for District 12-1A (McKenzie, Hollow Rock-Bruceton, Clarksburg, Houston County and McEwen) have yet to be set due to final regular season games still unplayed.

Area Teams Ranked in State Basketball Poll

NASHVILLE — The Tennessee Sports Writers Association and USA Today Network announced the basketball rankings for the 2025-26 season on Monday, February 16. The Top 10 teams in each of the four Division I classifications and Top 5 in two Division II classes were selected by TSWA members and USA Today writers with first-place votes in parentheses and total points based on 10 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 10th-place vote.

BOYS

Class 1A

1. Eagleville (24-0) – 120 (12). Last Week: Ranked No. 1
2. Pickett County (26-3) – 108. Last Week: Ranked No. 2
3. Jackson County (22-5) – 95. Last Week: Ranked No. 3
4. Humboldt (15-6) – 82. Last Week: Ranked No. 5
5. Perry County (16-5) – 65. Last Week: Ranked No. 6
6. Richland (17-5) – 59. Last Week: Ranked No. 4
7. Booker T. Washington (18-4) – 47. Last Week: Ranked No. 8
8. Gleason (20-4) – 37. Last Week: Ranked No. 7
9. Wayne County (18-9) – 29. Last Week: Ranked No. 9

10. Hampton (19-8) – 14. Last Week: Not Ranked

Class 2A

1. Tellico Plains (20-4) – 111 (7). Last Week: Ranked No. 2
2. Chattanooga Prep (12-11) – 109 (5). Last Week: Ranked No. 1
3. Gatlinburg-Pittman (19-4) – 99. Last Week: Ranked No. 4
- t4. Huntingdon (15-4) – 73. Last Week: Ranked No. 3
- t4. Peabody (21-4) – 73. Last Week: Ranked No. 5
6. White House Heritage (21-5) – 57. Last Week: Ranked No. 6
7. Westview (16-7) – 43. Last Week: Ranked No. 6
8. Cannon County (20-7) – 42. Last Week: Ranked No. 8
9. Tyner Academy (15-10) – 18. Last Week: Ranked No. 9
10. East Nashville (16-4) – 15. Last Week: Not Ranked
- Other who received 10 or more points: Summertown (11)

GIRLS

Class 1A

1. Greenfield (23-2) – 120 (12). Last Week: Ranked No. 2
2. Richland (19-3) – 100. Last Week: Ranked No. 1
3. Van Buren County (23-4) – 95. Last Week: Ranked No. 3

4. Gordonsville (23-3) – 93. Last Week: Ranked No. 4
5. Wayne County (23-5) – 72. Last Week: Ranked No. 5
6. Pickett County (17-10) – 53. Last Week: No. 6
7. Jackson County (17-9) – 50. Last Week: Ranked No. 7
8. Unaka (19-4) – 36. Last Week: Ranked No. 9
9. North Greene (23-5) – 26. Last Week: Ranked No. 10
10. Coalfield (21-7) – 15. Last Week: Ranked No. 8

Class 2A

1. Gatlinburg-Pittman (22-3) – 117 (11). Last Week: Ranked No. 2
2. York Institute (22-5) – 103. Last Week: Ranked No. 1
3. Huntingdon (21-3) – 101 (1). Last Week: Ranked No. 4
4. Westview (19-4) – 87. Last Week: Ranked No. 3
5. Stewart County (23-4) – 62. Last Week: Ranked No. 5
6. Smith County (18-10) – 51. Last Week: Ranked No. 8
7. Pearl-Cohn (19-5) – 48. Last Week: Ranked No. 6
8. Gibson County (20-8) – 44. Last Week: Ranked No. 7
9. Cascade (21-6) – 24. Last Week: Ranked No. 9
10. Tyner Academy (17-4) – 18. Last Week: Ranked No. 10

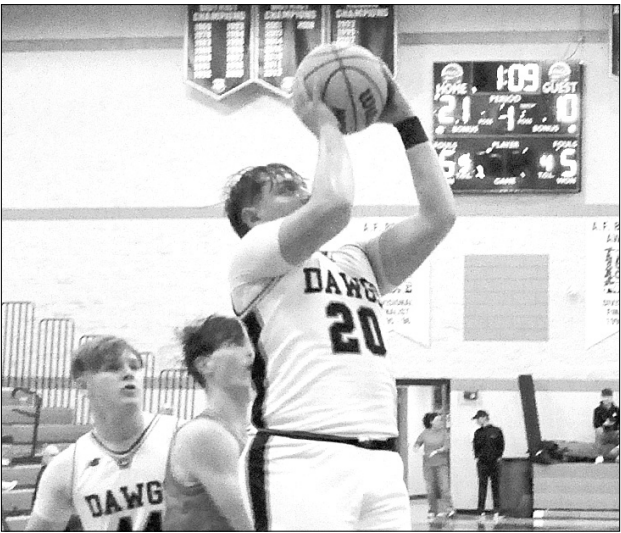
Lehmkuhl is Gleason's All-Time Leading Scorer

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

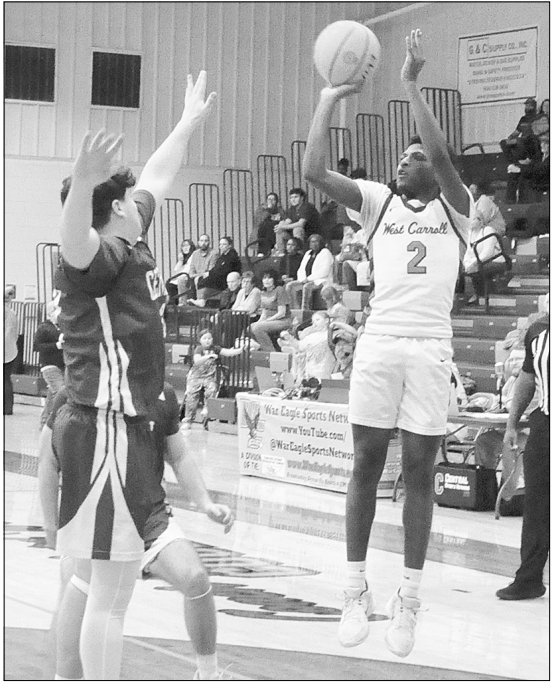
GLEASON (February 13) — Senior Drake Lehmkuhl is the all-time leading scorer in Gleason High School basketball history.

Lehmkuhl tied the mark set by Kayla Hudson in 2007 (2,292 points) late in the first frame of Friday's Senior Night win over South Fulton, and he took sole possession of the record early in the second quarter.

The senior stands at 2,313 points heading into his final playoff run as a Bulldog.



Above Left, West Carroll seniors (L to R) Front Row: cheerleaders Kahli Baum, Hannah Pinson, Hayden Weaver, Brylie Sacks and Britni Shepherd. Back Row: players Chandler Rimmer, Bryler O'Neal, Hailey Mitchell, Hayden Wingo and Chance Weatherford. Above Right, Lady War Eagle Aubrey Hammett fires an open three-pointer. Hammett led West Carroll with 13 points. Below Left, Lady Tiger Lilly McGee drains a three. McGee led the Lady Tigers with 13 points. Below Right, War Eagle Demarion Gilbert pulls up for a long jumper. Gilbert scored 15 points. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Lady War Eagles, Tigers Win At West Carroll Senior Night

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

ATWOOD (February 10) — West Carroll High School hosted Hollow Rock-Bruce-ton Central Tuesday night and celebrated Senior Night. The Lady War Eagles stayed a step ahead to claim a 50-40 victory. The boys game went down to the wire with the Tigers taking a 73-65 win.

Prior to tipoff, ten seniors were recognized on the court, joined by family members.

Senior cheerleaders are Kahli Baum, Hannah Pinson, Brylie Sacks, Britni Shepherd and Hayden Weaver.

Hailey Mitchell is the lone senior Lady War Eagle.

Senior War Eagles are Bryler O'Neal, Chandler Rimmer, Chance Weatherford and Hayden Wingo.

West Carroll Lady War Eagles 50, Central Lady Tigers 40

The Lady War Eagles had a 13-9 lead after the opening frame, led by Aubrey Hammett with six points, including a three-pointer. Kinsley Poff also hit a three, and Gracelyn Vernon and Hailey Mitchell each had a pair. Lady Tiger Cloe Morgan scored five with a three-pointer, and McKenzie Castleman and Makala Bass each had a pair.

The second quarter was a 12-12 wash. Lilly McGee led Central with seven points, including a three. Olivia Scott also hit a three, and Emy Olds had a pair. Hammett led West Carroll again with five points, including a three-pointer. Abbi O'Bryan scored four points, Mitchell added a pair, and Marissa Mueller hit a free throw. At the half,

the Lady War Eagles led 25-21.

West Carroll enjoyed a 12-8 advantage in the third, led by Vernon with four points. Mitchell scored three, Hammett and Mueller each added a pair, and Chloe Rimmer hit a free throw. Morgan led the Lady Tigers with four points. McGee, Scott, Castleman and Scarlett King each hit a free throw. Entering the final frame, West Carroll led 37-29.

The Lady War Eagles capped the win with a 13-11 edge in the fourth, led by Rimmer with four points. Vernon hit a three-pointer. Taylor Robinson and Alayna Lovelace each had a pair, and Poff and Mitchell each hit a free throw. McGee led Central with five points with a three. Ava Finley scored four, and Morgan and King each hit a freebie.

Aubrey Hammett led West Carroll with 13 points, including a pair of threes. Gracelyn Vernon scored nine with a three, and Hailey Mitchell had eight points.

Lilly McGee led the Lady Tigers with 13 points, including a pair of three-pointers. Cloe Morgan scored ten with a three.

Tigers 73, War Eagles 65

Central had a 17-16 edge after the first frame, led by Parker Finley with five points, including a three-pointer. Nic King, Junah Smith and Liam Piersol each scored four. War Eagles Bryler O'Neal and Trey Williamson both scored five, each with a three. Demarion Gilbert had four points, and Isaiah Snyder had a pair.

The Tigers had a 19-13 advantage in the second

quarter, led by Finley and Brady Roberts with five points each, Finley with a three. Sal Sala also hit a three-pointer, and Smith, Brody Huff and Parker Boyd each had a pair. Williamson led West Carroll with five points, including a three. O'Neal and Skyler Wilhite each hit a three, and Gilbert added a pair. At the half, the Tigers led 36-29.

The War Eagles rallied 14-10 in the third, led by Gilbert with five points, including a three. Mason Taylor scored three points. O'Neal and Williamson each added a pair, and Snyder and Dhamyus Gilbert each hit a free throw. Finley led Central with four points. King scored three, Huff added a pair, and Smith hit a freebie. Heading into the final frame, the Tigers led 46-43.

Central sealed the win with a 27-22 tilt in the fourth, led by Smith and King with eight points each, Smith with a pair of threes. Huff scored four, and Finley had three points. Kaydince Banks and Seth Thomas each had a pair. O'Neal and Taylor each scored eight for West Carroll, O'Neal with a pair of three-pointers and Taylor with one. Gilbert had four points, and Williamson added a pair.

War Eagle Bryler O'Neal led all scorers with 18 points, including four three-pointers. Demarion Gilbert scored 15 with a three. Trey Williamson had 14 points with a pair of threes. Mason Taylor scored 11 with a three-pointer.

Parker Finley led Central with 17 points, including a pair of threes. Junah Smith and Nic King each scored 15, Smith with a pair of three-pointers.



Gleason Hosts Senior Night

GLEASON (February 13) — Senior basketball players and the videographer were honored during the intermission between the games of the girls and boys. Each player was individually introduced with a brief biography. Each senior met his or her parents, other family members or friends at mid-court and then proceeded toward the home stands.

The seniors were: Drake Lehmkuhl, son of Kurt and Jenny Lehmkuhl; Miami Woolridge, son of Rachell and Oki Woolridge; Kade Sawyers, son of Rusty and Melanie Sawyers; Brody Sanders, son of Bryan and Sarah Sanders; CJ Reed, son of Jennifer Jordan and the late K.C. Reed; Parkie Morgan, son of Jamie Holloman and Jason Mor-

gan; Ashton Morgan, son of Jody and Carrie Morgan; Trey Mayo, son of Curt and Shannon Mayo; Wyan Gusafson, son of Dale and Lacey Aeschbacher; Brock Dilday, son of Bubba Mary Ann Dilday; Madi Dean, daughter of Marie Martin and Adam Dean; and videographer, Wes Wainscott, son of Marcy Hopper and Troy Wainscott.



Seniors participating in their last regular season game at HHS (L to R): McKenzie Drinkard, Korra Doyle, Aubrie Harris, Claudia Cooper, Isabella Souza, Kelton Johnson, Caleb Ezell and Maria Barreto de Vicente. Photo by Russell Bush/The Banner

Huntingdon Celebrates Senior Night

BY RUSSELL BUSH
banner@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (February 14) — Huntingdon High School and the Huntingdon Point Guard Club honored senior cheerleaders, Fillies and Mustangs basketball players who were participating in their last regular season game for the 2025-26 season in between games against Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central. Senior cheerleaders were: -Claudia Cooper, who was escorted by Brooke and Leslie Cooper. Copper has cheered for four years. -Korra Doyle, who was escorted by Hunter and Kerri Beth Arnold. Doyle

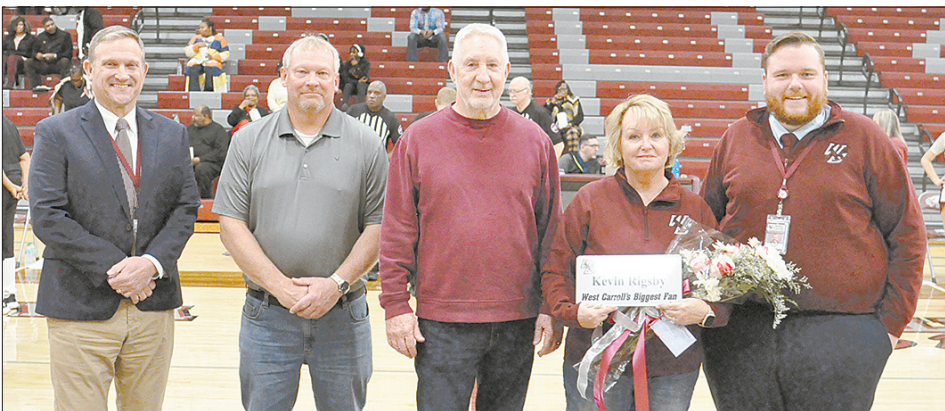
has cheered for three years. -McKenzie Drinkard, who was escorted by Andy Travis and Cristy Miller. Drinkard has cheered for three years. -Aubrie Harris, who was escorted by Shawn Harris and Jillian Goble. Harris has cheered for four years. -Isabella Souza, who was escorted by Roberto and Alessandra Souza. Souza has cheered for four years. The one senior Fillies basketball player is Maria Barreto de Vicente, #20, an exchange student from Spain. She was escorted by her hosts, Kathy and Russell Bush. 2025-26 was Maria's only year of basketball. Senior basketball players

were: -Caleb Ezell, #2, escorted by Monica and Clint Ezell. Caleb has been a member of the basketball team for four years. -Kelton Johnson, #3, was escorted by Kodie and Trey Johnson. Johnson played basketball for four years. HHS closed the season with a sweep. The Fillies got a big win, 81-24, led by Kyrstin Moore and Knox Bennett with 17 points each. Ava Finley led the Lady Tigers with six points. The Mustangs also won decisively, 55-27, led by Caleb Ezell with 18 points. Junah Smith led the Tigers with ten points.

Hailey Mitchell Reaches 500 Career Rebounds



ATWOOD (February 12) — Following Thursday's home game against Humboldt, senior Lady War Eagle Hailey Mitchell, who was crowned Homecoming Queen earlier in the evening and then led her team in scoring, was honored for surpassing 500 career rebounds the night before during West Carroll's road win at Halls. Mitchell was presented with a commemorative ball by Head Coach Ryan Mansfield. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner



The late Kevin Rigsby was honored Thursday with a reserved seat in the West Carroll gymnasium. Pictured are (L to R): WCSSD Director Preston Caldwell and Board Chairman William Robinson; Carol and Jim Morgan; and WCJSHS Principal Adam Douglas. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

West Carroll Dedicates Reserved Seat to Late Fan

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

ATWOOD (February 12) — Prior to Thursday's Homecoming basketball games, West Carroll High School honored the memory of Kevin Rigsby, a life-long supporter and spectator of West Carroll sports who died recently. Presented to Kevin's sister and brother-in-law Carol and Jim Morgan was

a plaque which will be affixed to the seat where Kevin always sat in the bleachers. Jonathan Gowan of the War Eagle Sports Network presented the school's dedication, which read in part, "His commitment reflected a genuine belief in the importance of showing up, of being present, and of encouraging others simply by standing beside them... Through his faith-

ful attendance and steady encouragement, he helped create an environment where students felt seen, supported and valued. His presence reminded us that every cheer matters, every game matters, and every student matters... While Kevin may no longer sit among us, his spirit, his kindness, and his unwavering support will remain a part of this community for years to come."

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Gleason Sweeps South Fulton on Senior Night

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

GLEASON (February 13) — Gleason High School hosted South Fulton Friday for a pair of district basketball games. The Lady Bulldogs pulled away in the second quarter for a 51-27 win. The Bulldogs also built a big lead early but had to hold off a late Red Devil rally to secure a 78-64 victory. It was Senior Night for Gleason, and 12 seniors were recognized between games. (See separate story.)

Gleason Lady Bulldogs 51, South Fulton Lady Red Devils 27

The Lady Bulldogs had a 10-6 lead after the opening frame, led by Ahmyre Allen with eight points, including a three-pointer. Karlie Wilson had a pair. Lady Red Devil Caroline Barclay hit a three, and Alli McFarland also scored three points. Gleason pulled away 15-6 in the second quarter, led by Allen with 13 points, including a trio of threes. Ava Bennett had a pair. McFarland scored four for South Fulton, and Barclay added a pair. At the half, Gleason led 25-12. The Lady Bulldogs had a 19-7 advantage in the third, led by Madi Dean with eight points, including a pair of three-pointers. Allen and Hylan Leach each scored four points, and Wilson hit a three. McFarland led the Lady Red Devils with four points. Pilar Esteban had a pair, and Destiny McGuire hit a free throw. Entering the final frame, Gleason led 44-19. South Fulton had an 8-7 edge in the fourth, led by McFarland with seven points. Lili Martin hit a free throw. Leach hit a three for Gleason, and Allen and Brylee Robertson each had a pair. Lady Bulldog Ahmyre Allen led all scorers with 27 points, including four three-pointers. Alli McFarland led South Fulton with 18 points.

Bulldogs 78, Red Devils 64

Gleason doubled up South Fulton, 24-12, in the



Left, Lady Bulldog Ahmyre Allen fires an open three-pointer. Allen led all scorers with 27 points. Right, Bulldog Miami Woolridge floats into the paint for two points. Woolridge scored 11 points. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner. Below, Gleason's cheerleaders were decked out in Valentine's Day gear for Friday's game. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner



first frame, led by Drake Lehmkuhl with nine points, including a three-pointer. Brody Sanders scored eight. Kade Sawyers had six points, and Miami Woolridge hit a free throw. Red Devils Grant Joyner and Charles Mulcahy each scored four points, and Trevor Stunson and Carson Choate each had a pair. The second quarter was a 15-15 wash. Sawyers led the Bulldogs with six points. Lehmkuhl scored four. Ashton Morgan had three points, and Woolridge added a pair. Mulcahy led South Fulton with four points. Stunson hit a three-pointer, and Choate and Jakob Coolcy each scored three points. Joyner added a pair. At the half, Gleason led 39-27. The Bulldogs had a 22-13 advantage in the third, led by Lehmkuhl with eleven points, including a three. Woolridge scored eight with a pair of threes, and Parker Morgan hit a three-pointer. Mulcahy scored six for South Fulton. Clark Rice had five points with a

three, and Joyner added a pair. Heading into the final frame, Gleason led 61-40. A Red Devil rally in the fourth came up short at 24-17, led by Rice with six points on a pair of threes. Joyner scored five with a three, and Mulcahy had three points. Cooley, Gavin Dixon, Gage Hancock, Evan Williams and Andrew Bradley each had a pair. Lehmkuhl scored six for Gleason on a pair of threes. Brock Dilday had five points with a three-pointer. Sanders scored four, and Sawyers added a pair. Bulldog Drake Lehmkuhl led all scorers with 30 points, including four three-pointers. Kade Sawyers scored 14, and Brody Sanders had 12 points. Miami Woolridge scored 11 with a pair of threes. Charles Mulcahy led South Fulton with 17 points. Grant Joyner scored 13 with a three, and Clark Rice had 11 points with a trio of threes.

Lady Bulldogs Top Lake County, Bulldogs Fall

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

GLEASON (February 10) — Gleason High School hosted Lake County Tuesday for a pair of district basketball contests. The Lady Bulldogs shook off an early deficit to claim a 52-42 victory. The Falcons used an early lead and a late push to seal a 64-53 win.

Gleason Lady Bulldogs 52, Lake County Lady Falcons 42

The Lady Falcons had a 12-9 edge after the opening frame, led by Yharia Bolden with six points. Laken Chism, Mariah Valentine and Jordyn Burpo each had a pair. Madi Dean led Gleason with six points on a pair of three-pointers, and Hylan Leach also hit a three. The Lady Bulldogs took the lead with a 19-12 advantage in the second quarter, led by Karlie Wilson with seven points, including a three. Dean again scored six on a pair of threes, and Leach and Ahmyre Allen each hit a three. Chism scored all 12 Lake County points with a pair of three-pointers. At the half, the Lady Bulldogs led 28-24. Gleason enjoyed a 12-9 tilt in the third, led by Allen with five points, including a three. Leach scored four with a three-pointer, and Kadence Witherspoon also hit a three. Valentine had all nine Lady Falcon points, including a three. Entering the final frame, Gleason led 40-33. The Lady Bulldogs capped the win with another 12-9 advantage in the fourth, led by Leach with eight points, including a three. Allen and Wilson each added a pair. Valentine



Left, Bulldog Kade Sawyers pulls up for a midrange jumper. Right, Lady Bulldog Karlie Wilson gets inside for two points. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

scored six for Lake County with a three. Chism added a pair, and Destany Mullins hit a free throw. Lady Bulldog Hylan Leach led all scorers with 18 points, including four three-pointers. Madi Dean scored a dozen on four threes. Ahmyre Allen had ten points with a pair of threes. Mariah Valentine led the Lady Falcons with 17 points, including a pair of threes. Laken Chism scored 16 with a pair of three-pointers.

Falcons 64, Bulldogs 53

Lake County had a 16-13 lead after the first frame, led by Jay Ricks with six points. Xander Hertel scored four, and Aikee Ward and Jax Poole each hit a three-pointer. Bulldog Parker Morgan scored five with a three. Brody Sanders had four points, and Kade Sawyers and Drake Lehmkuhl each had a pair. The Falcons had a 14-9 advantage in the second quarter, led by J'braylon Mays and Ricks with five points each, Mays with a three-pointer. Poole and Hertel each added a pair. Sawyers led Gleason with six points. Sanders added a pair, and Lehmkuhl hit a

free throw. At the half, Lake County led 30-22. The Bulldogs had a 14-13 edge in the third, led by Sawyers with five points with a three. Ashton Morgan scored three points. Lehmkuhl, Sanders and Brock Dilday each had a pair. Falcon Mark Owens scored five. Mays hit a three-pointer, Hertel and Ka'Devon Gross each had a pair, and Poole hit a freebie. Heading into the final frame, the Falcons led 43-36. Lake County sealed the win with a 21-17 tilt in the fourth, led by Poole with nine points. Ricks scored six and Mays had three points. Gross added a pair, and Owens hit a free throw. Sawyers scored eight for Gleason with a pair of threes. Lehmkuhl had five with a three, and Sanders scored four points. Bulldog Kade Sawyers led all scorers with 21 points, including a trio of three-pointers. Brody Sanders scored 12 points, and Drake Lehmkuhl had ten with a three. Jay Ricks led the Falcons with 17 points. Jax Poole scored 15 with a three. J'braylon Mays had 11 points with a pair of three-pointers.