



A Tribute to WOMEN'S HISTORY

SPECIAL EDITION • TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026

Women Make It Happen

Did you know 100% of the people that have ever lived came from a woman? That in itself is quite an accomplishment. However, women change the world every day in many ways. Whether by seeing a problem and inventing a solution; fighting for equal rights; or raising strong children, women affect every aspect of life.

Women you know are making a difference right here in the local area. As the late Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said, "Women belong in all places where decisions are being made."

So with this special edition we recognize the sacrifices and dedication of local women.

Thank you to the ladies who shared their stories and the sponsors that supported this edition, both are vital to making a special edition worth reading and keeping. Thank you for your support.



Tammy Haywood with her late husband, Neal, and their two children, daughter-in-law and seven grandchildren. Submitted photo

Tammy Haywood Keeping the 'Community' In Community Bank

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

Tammy Haywood is the senior vice president and chief administrative officer for Bank of Gleason.

She grew up in McKenzie, the daughter of Larry and Faye Cook. Her father worked at the Milan arsenal and was an EMT for the ambulance service as well as McKenzie's fire chief for many years. Her mother babysat local children.

Tammy graduated from McKenzie High School in 1982. She worked at Jim Adams IGA for several years beginning at age 16.

She met Neal Haywood, who came to the McKenzie store from Huntingdon and became the store manager.



Tammy Haywood at her desk at Bank of Gleason. Submitted photo



Caroline Parish (right) is pictured with her parents, Donald and Cathy Parish. Submitted photo

Caroline Parish Huntingdon Native Makes Her Mark in Federal Law

BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

Caroline Parish grew up around the legal system.

As the daughter of longtime West Tennessee attorney and circuit court judge Donald Parish, she spent much of her childhood visiting her father's law office and occasionally going with him to court.

Those experiences eventually led her to a legal career of her own. Today, the Huntingdon native serves as an assistant United States attorney with the United States Department of Justice, working out of the federal courthouse in Jackson.

Parish graduated from Huntingdon High School in 2012 before attending the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she completed her undergraduate degree a semester early in December 2015. She then earned her law degree from the Mississippi College School of Law in December 2018.



Caroline Parish. Submitted photo

See PARISH on Page 2

See TAMMY on Page 2

Celebrating Women's History Month

Holmes Auto Repair



ASE Certified Mechanic
**Over 20 Years
Experience**
Richard Holmes, Owner

18040 Highland Drive, McKenzie, TN 38201
731-207-1090

Getting a mammogram should be easy. And it is at Baptist.

Advanced breast health care is more convenient and accessible than ever before in Carroll County. The Baptist Outpatient Diagnostic Center in McKenzie and Baptist Memorial Hospital-Carroll County in Huntingdon now offer 3D mammography that can help detect breast cancer earlier.

Don't wait to get screened. Call us to schedule your next mammogram today. No referral needed.

**BAPTIST OUTPATIENT
DIAGNOSTIC CENTER**
205 Hospital Drive
McKenzie, TN 38201
731-393-7044

**BAPTIST MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
CARROLL COUNTY**
631 R.B. Wilson Drive
Huntingdon, TN 38344
731-986-7381



BAPTIST
baptistpink.org

Connected
by Care

Judge Vicki Snyder

Championing Child Safety in Henry County

BY LYNDSSEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

Judge Vicki Snyder closed a decades-long career in public service on February 1, 2026, stepping down from the bench a day after her 68th birthday after 19 years as Henry County’s General Sessions and Juvenile Court judge. Her path to the judiciary was shaped by years of experience across the legal system and an early commitment to serving children and families.

A longtime Henry County resident, Snyder graduated from Henry County High School in 1976 and went on to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin, earning a degree in criminal justice with a minor in sociology in 1980. She was the first in her family to attend college, a milestone made possible by her parents, who made significant sacrifices to support her education.

After college, Snyder worked for the Department of Human Services, handling cases involving child abuse and neglect. The role required home visits, coordination with law enforcement, and difficult decisions about child safety, including foster placement and adoption. That experience had a lasting impact and ultimately led her to pursue a legal career.

“That’s what encouraged me to go to law school, to be involved in child safety and child welfare,” she said. “For 40 years, I’ve been involved in that in some capacity because our children deserve to be safe. They deserve to be somebody’s someone, whether it’s their biological family or adoptive family.”

Snyder earned her law degree from Memphis State University’s Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law in December 1985. She later



Left, Judge Vicki Snyder had a professional headshot made when receiving the West Tennessee Sterling Award. Right, Judge Vicki Snyder and her husband, Mike, are pictured with four of their grandchildren. Their grandchildren live in Dickson County and are all involved in sports. Snyder said she is excited to see them more often in her retirement. Submitted photos

QUOTE

“For 40 years, I’ve been involved in that in some capacity because our children deserve to be safe. They deserve to be somebody’s someone, whether it’s their biological family or adoptive family.”

— Judge Vicki Snyder

began her law career in private practice under attorney Bill Looney in Henry County before joining the 24th Judicial District Attorney’s Office in 1990, where she served as an assistant district attorney for six years. She would then spend a decade as an assistant public defender in the same district.

That range of roles—social worker, private attorney, prosecutor and public defender—provided what Snyder described as a comprehensive view of the justice system. In 2006, she was elected to the Henry County General Sessions Court bench, where she would serve just under 20 years.

During her judicial tenure, Snyder presided over both General Sessions and Juvenile Court, managing a wide range of cases while maintaining a focus on fairness and efficiency. Though she initially ran as a Democrat

in 2006, Snyder later chose to run as an independent candidate in subsequent elections, emphasizing the importance of keeping the judiciary separate from partisan politics.

Drawing on her early experience in social services, Snyder worked to expand programs in Henry County aimed at improving outcomes for children involved in the court system. She was instrumental in establishing a Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) program in 2018, which trains volunteers to represent the best interests of children in court proceedings.

In 2019, Henry County also implemented Safe Baby Court, a specialized program focused on infants and toddlers in the child welfare system. The program emphasizes quicker paths to stable, permanent placements. Snyder supported its intro-

duction locally, noting its impact when paired with CASA in improving outcomes for children and families.

Snyder has said those efforts rank among the most meaningful accomplishments of her career, particularly because of their long-term effect on children’s stability and safety.

Her work has been recognized at both the state and local levels. In 2016, she received the McCain-Abernathy Award from the Tennessee Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges. Three years later, she became the first woman to receive the Judge Leon Ruben Award for Excellence at the Tennessee General Sessions Judges Conference, an honor given annually to judges who demonstrate outstanding service to the judiciary and their communities.

More recently, Henry County Mayor Randy Geiger

presented Snyder with the Loyal Patriot Award, recognizing her decades of service to the county.

“I’ve received many awards,” Snyder said, “but having the privilege to work with others in an effort to keep children safe is the number one award in my book.”

Snyder has also been active in community organizations throughout her career. She has been a longtime member of the Kiwanis Club, supporting initiatives focused on children, including local fundraising events and the Special Olympics. She has served on the board of the Real Hope Youth program and has been involved with the county’s Literacy Council and Imagination Library efforts, which provide books to children across the community.

In addition, she is an active member of the Sulphur Well

Church of Christ, where she participates in service projects such as a ministry that prepares meals for families in need.

Even in retirement, Snyder remains connected to the judicial system. She has been designated by the Tennessee Supreme Court to serve as a substitute judge in certain cases when needed in Henry and Carroll counties.

Her decision to retire coincided with her husband’s retirement, allowing the couple to spend more time together, travel and focus on family, including their three children and four grandchildren.

Over the course of her career, Snyder handled thousands of cases and worked with a wide range of individuals, often in difficult circumstances. She has emphasized the importance of treating people with respect in the courtroom, recognizing that many who appear before a judge are facing some of the most stressful moments of their lives.

Snyder’s career reflects a consistent focus on service, particularly in advocating for children and families within the court system.

Tammy

...From Front Page

They married in 1983, and Tammy went to work for Gary Simmons Chevrolet.

After ten years, Simmons sold the dealership, and Tammy wasn’t happy with the change. She told The Banner, “Gary was great to work for, so that just was very hard.”

Simmons was instrumental in Tammy’s hiring at Bank of Gleason in 1994, putting in a good word for her. She started as a window teller at the McKenzie branch.

In 1998, Bobby Robison, a senior officer at the main office in Gleason was preparing to retire. Tammy transferred and started taking over Robison’s duties until she retired in 2000, including IRAs, payroll, payables and other administrative tasks.

Though she has risen through the ranks of assistant VP to her current titles, she still performs most of those duties as well as serving as the secretary for the bank’s board of directors. “I have a hard time relinquishing something that I can do,” she said. “I want to stay busy.”

Her tenure at Bank of Gleason has been under five bank presidents: Bob Owen, Curtis Mayo, Mark Hagler,

QUOTE

“Working at the bank, especially when it’s a community bank, we just want to take care of our customers. ‘Service, service, service’ we always say.”

— Tammy Haywood

Martha Arnold and current President Preston Frazier.

Tammy credits Robison and Mayo in particular with much of her rise. “They had faith in me.”

She said, “I really like helping my older customers with things they don’t understand. They’ll come see me with questions about their finances. I have so many older customers who are just precious, and it’s just a blessing to help them.”

“I like working with numbers,” she added, citing teachers such as Peggy Peritt and Linda Smith with cultivating her love for math.

Tammy enjoys working for a bank that does a lot for the community. She cited the bank’s star at McKenzie’s Park Theatre, annual scholarships given to students in McKenzie and Gleason and support for sports teams at both schools.

She added, “Working at the bank, especially when it’s a community bank, we just want to take care of our customers. ‘Service, service, service’ we always say. So we all wear many hats, and

I’ll do anything to help any of them.”

Tammy spoke about the progress of women in her lifetime. “I think it’s come a long way, just in the past years. You see more women in higher roles. It’s been a big turnaround, more women as leaders. I think women overall are more caring and maybe more meticulous about their job and work, more empathetic to other employees.”

She also spoke about the loss of her husband, who passed away last year. “He is a big part of my life. He was my best friend, and partner. We were married for 42 years. That’s been tough. This whole last year has been really tough. But I came back to work, and that has helped, to try to stay focused and busy. Because he was my person. We did everything together. That’s been a big loss for me. Working, it has helped. I can’t imagine not working, especially at this time of my life.”

Tammy and Neal have two children, Caleb and Katlin, and seven grandchildren.

Parish

...From Front Page

“I either wanted to be a dentist or an attorney,” she said with a laugh, acknowledging the drastic difference between the two professions. She could follow in her dad’s footsteps, or she could follow a similar path as her mom, Cathy Parish, who once worked at an orthodontist’s office.

After observing a dentist for a day, she realized she was better suited for law.

Her interest in law came largely from being around her father’s work. He practiced law for many years before serving 16 years as a circuit court judge in the 24th Judicial District, which includes Carroll, Henry, Decatur, Hardin and Benton counties. He retired in August 2022.

During the summers, Parish often accompanied him to court. On the drive home, he would explain what had happened during the proceedings and why certain decisions were made.

“The familiarity of the legal community in West Tennessee — that’s what I had always known,” she said.

While in college at the University of Tennessee at Martin, Parish gained experience through several internships. One summer she worked at her father’s

former law firm, another at the district attorney’s office in the 24th Judicial District. She also spent a semester in Nashville with the university’s Office of Government Relations and Advocacy. She said those experiences helped her better understand different career paths.

After law school, Parish worked as a law clerk for the United States Bankruptcy Court in Jackson before joining the Department of Justice in November 2023.

She was drawn to criminal law, noting that the work rarely feels routine.

“There’s never a dull day,” she said of her work.

Starting out as a young female attorney, Parish sometimes felt the need to prove herself amongst her peers, but her confidence and grit attested to her ability to thrive in the courtroom.

“You have to be a little more bold. You have to put your chest out and speak with confidence,” she said. “I feel more alive when I’m in the courtroom than when I’m anywhere else, at any other time.”

While female attorneys are sometimes underestimated, maybe even compared to Barbie dolls due to their looks, Parish said it is important that she establishes herself as an indomitable force in the courtroom. “I work with two other amazing female attorneys who are just the same way.

They’re bulldogs in the courtroom, and that’s how you want to be,” she said.

Despite working in Jackson, Parish continues to live in Huntingdon and makes the commute each day. Remaining close to family and friends was an important decision for her, and as an only child, her parents remain a key part of her support system.

Parish is also active at Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church, crediting her faith for helping her get through “the bad days.” She teaches a Sunday School class for middle school and early high school students, and she said the class often reminds her of the importance of balance between work and personal life.

“The students ground me in a way that I don’t find anywhere else,” she said.

Outside of work and church, Parish is also involved in professional organizations. She participates in an Inns of Court program that brings together judges and attorneys for networking and discussion, and she serves on the board of directors for the Memphis chapter of the Federal Bar Association.

Parish has built a demanding career in federal law while staying connected to her Huntingdon roots, drawing on the foundation her family and upbringing provided.

Celebrating Women's History Month

BR Supply

Built on Reputation

- **Electrical**
- **Tools**
- **Heating**
- **Cooling**
- **Plumbing**
- **Janitorial**

14965 South Highland, McKenzie, TN 38201

Phone: 731-352-0483 • shopbr.com

HOURS:
Mon.-Fri. 7 a.m.-5 p.m. • Sat. 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

CELEBRATING

Women’s History Month

Paula Bolen, *Trustee*

Rita Jones, *Assessor of Property*

Darlene Kirk, *County Clerk*

Natalie Porter, *Register of Deeds*

Celebrating Women's History Month

HUNTINGDON DISCOUNT TIRE CENTER

Alignments - Brakes

123 Dillahunt Lane • Huntingdon

731-986-0206

Monday-Friday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Saturday & Sunday - CLOSED



Left, Dr. Lisa Norris is the director of schools for the South Carroll Special School District. Center, Lisa Norris discusses Carroll Academy with U.S. Senator Fred Thompson ahead of a critical vote to reauthorize the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Carroll Academy was considered a model to combat delinquency. Right, Lisa Norris in uniform as Carroll County's first female deputy. Submitted photos

Lisa Norris

Guiding Social Change Through Education

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

Dr. Lisa Norris is the director of schools for the South Carroll Special School District and for decades has been a pillar of both education and criminal justice in Carroll County.

She was born in McKenzie to Diane and Bobby Hargrove and graduated from McKenzie High School.

She earned a bachelor's degree in Social Science from Bethel College, and began her career in law enforcement.

Her senior year at Bethel, her professor, Dr. Jim Potts, facilitated a Criminal Justice internship with the Carroll County Sheriff's Department through Sheriff Joe Parker.

Lisa told The Banner, "There weren't many females in law enforcement in the mid '80s, so that helped open the door for me. Sheriff Parker hired me as the first female deputy in Carroll County. I had the chance to go to the Tennessee Law Enforcement Training Academy and graduate from basic police school."

She finished her senior year of college as a deputy, and worked for the sheriff's department for around two years.

Lisa spoke about being the first female deputy in the county. "Well, you have to have somebody who helped you open the doors, and Dr. Potts did that for me. He was willing to go and meet with Sheriff Parker and say, 'hey, will you give her a chance.' Joe was willing to give me a chance, and I think probably if I hadn't done an internship, it would have

been a little harder to get my foot in the door, but I worked as hard as anybody did as a volunteer, a lot of hours, I tried to learn as much as I could about the sheriff's department and about law enforcement.

After that, she had the chance to join the juvenile court. "It just felt like that was a better fit for me," she said. "So I went to work for Judge Larry Logan. I was a youth services officer, learned the ropes of juvenile court, and did some things in the state with children's services."

"I became the juvenile court director, and Judge Logan and I created the intensive day treatment program known as Carroll Academy in 1994. At the time, I was getting calls from guidance counselors that said 'We don't have the services that we need for these children, and they don't need to be in our schools.' So fine, we'll create a school for them."

Lisa spoke about entering the world of education from a criminal justice background.

"At the time I had a bachelor's degree. I really wasn't a good student in high school. I was average. And college wasn't important to me, particularly the first two years. But it was when I really got into the social services field my junior and senior year, and particularly the internship with law enforcement, that education made a difference to me."

"So when I created Carroll Academy, I didn't want to be the only one without an education degree. I'd started a school, so I needed one. So I worked on my master's degree, and then did some further study in special education

QUOTE

"I do believe the equalizing social justice force is education... One teacher can truly make a difference in those kids' lives."

— Lisa Norris

and criminal justice. Later I earned a Doctorate in Education with an emphasis in administration, teaching and learning.

"The whole purpose of CA was to reduce the number of juveniles that were coming into costly state custody. The state was seeing a lot of kids coming into care that was costing the state tons of money, and it was because there were no services."

"My love has always been criminal justice. So that's been kind of what motivated me. However, I do believe the equalizing social justice force is education. We see those kids falling through the cracks in the early elementary grades. If we can get them and help turn them around, that's a lifetime of change for them. One teacher can truly make a difference in those kids' lives. We worked on behavior first, academics second. Academics was the tool we used to work with behavior."

In addition to operating Carroll Academy, Lisa remained the director of juvenile court until 1999.

In 2000, Lisa departed CA and spent about six months with the Department of Children's Services in Kentucky.

She then returned to juvenile court and created a career and technical education program for high school students based at

Bethel. The program ended after about a year due to a reduction in grant funding.

Lisa next worked for Bethel University in many roles, beginning with director of institutional research. Her experience as a grant writer led her to be director of institutional effectiveness, a title she held until her departure from Bethel. She also taught in the Success program, the College of Arts and Sciences, Professional Studies and the School of Education.

In between stints at Bethel, Lisa was the director of government relations for Generations Gaither Group, a mental health service provider that operated briefly in McKenzie.

After Bethel, she taught Criminal Justice at the Carroll County Technical Center for five years before she was hired as the director of schools at South Carroll in June 2022.

As director, she established two innovative programs, Clarksburg Virtual Academy 6-12 and Clarksburg Virtual Adult High School, which began accepting students in 2025.

Lisa and her husband of 36 years, Chuck, have two sons who both have entered law enforcement. Tyler is a sergeant with the Tennessee Highway Patrol, and Murphy is in the THP criminal investigation

division and works with the U.S. Marshals Service's Twin Rivers Fugitive Task Force.

Lisa and Chuck have four grandchildren.

She says of her husband, "He's always been super supportive. I couldn't do everything I've done because a lot of what I've done has been grant positions, and if he hadn't had a stable position, I couldn't have done all of those. He's always been very supportive of that, and so have the boys."

She spoke about the progress of women in her lifetime. "It's been equalized. Even when I started at the sheriff's department in the '80s, I remember a male elected official walking through looked up and said, 'Who are you to wear a weapon?... Do you know how to use that gun?' I remember that conversation very clearly, and I said, 'Yes, do I need to show you?' Certainly I wasn't threatening him in any means, but I think when you're trying to open doors and create a new avenue, you have to be kind of savvy in the way you do that and not just say 'Oh, I'm here!'

"You have to work hard to be able to open those doors, and society has helped us come a long

way with that, but it goes back to your background too. My mother always was a very strong personality and taught me to be that way. She always told me, 'you can do anything you want to do, just put your mind to it.' And so I never knew that I couldn't."

"But a young female today can do anything they want to do. There's been a lot of pain that's allowed that to happen over the years."

"I'm just thankful always for my family and for my parents and for a husband that was always very supportive, and a society that was, I'm not going to say the word accepting, but where the avenue was there to be able to make change."

Besides her various occupations, Lisa served for two years on the McKenzie school board, reaching the level of vice chairman.

She was the co-founder and president of the Carroll County Prevention Coalition and has served as president of Carroll Arts and the Carroll County Republican Women.

Lisa has published two books, the historical "A Sign of Hope: The Carroll Academy Story" and realistic fiction "Political Vultures," and is writing another.

"One child, one teacher, one book, one pen can change the world."

— Malala Yousafzai

Celebrating
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

D&D 30+ years EXPERIENCE

WRECKER SERVICE

Keith Foster owner

25699 Hwy 22, McKenzie, TN 38201
731-352-0104

A8664

Celebrating
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

CIA

CARROLL INSURANCE AGENCY

A Westan Insurance Group Company

49 Broadway • McKenzie
731-352-5307

WESTAN INSURANCE GROUP

A380

Celebrating
Women's History Month

TENNESSEE
McKENZIE
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
&
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

9 Broadway, McKenzie, Tenn. 38201
731-352-2004
growmckenzie.com

A1191



Left, Carolyn and Dr. Jim Potts. Right, Carolyn Potts with her “Friends at Bethel” at their bench at the Bethel Alumni Garden. (L to R) Sandra McMahren, Marilynn Putman, Potts, Kathy Sacks and Shirley Martin. Submitted photos

Carolyn Potts

Reluctant Education Pioneer

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

Carolyn Potts is a longtime McKenzie resident who has left her mark on the community as an educator and as a beacon of resilience.

She was born in Pennsylvania to Glenn and Frances Elizabeth “Betty” Norris and grew up in Roanoke, Va. and later northern Virginia.

Carolyn attended the Women’s College of the University of North Carolina at Greensborough until she married her first husband, Charles, an Air Force Reservist. They were stationed overseas in northern Japan for about 18 months, during which Carolyn had her first child, Charles, and also took courses through the University of Maryland.

On returning to the U.S., they lived in Charlottesville, Va. Carolyn graduated from the University of Virginia with a degree in Education, though she had been a History major.

At UVA, she took classes under Education and History professor Dr. Jim Potts. She told The Banner, “I didn’t care much for Dr. Potts because the first class I took under him was Education and I thought it was terribly boring and the information was useless... until I got in the classroom.”

Later, Carolyn had separated from Charles and took a summer course from Potts. She said, “I was fascinated and I guess I fell in love with him then, with his voice and intellect.”

She added, “I married the two smartest men that I had ever met.”

She and Jim moved to Nashville, then came to McKenzie in 1964, the year their son, Jimmy was born.

Carolyn said, “We’ve been here ever since and grown to be very happy here and to like McKenzie very much, and to give to the community and be part of the commu-



Carolyn Potts. Submitted photo

nity. I wouldn’t want to be anywhere else in particular.”

She said of the importance of her education, “I had always had ambitions. It had never, ever occurred to me not to go to college. I always wanted to go to school. As you can see, everywhere I went, I went to school.”

Carolyn spoke about her and Jim’s arrival at Bethel. “It might have had 2-300 people, but they were short on faculty. And they were very happy to have Jim, because he taught the whole range of social sciences. The first class I taught here, they needed somebody to teach a night class in World History. I had never had World History. I was a History major but I had never had World History. Did that matter? Apparently not. So I taught my first class here.

“I ended up teaching for four years. Some of the happiest years of my life. I still get cards from some of my students, still close to a few. I taught four classes a day, three histories and a political science, three times a week. I didn’t have a masters degree, so I taught as what amounts to a student assistant. I technically taught under Jim, and

he did a lot of the writing of what I taught. So I got to be an actress, more, sometimes, than actually knowing the material.”

She also worked on a call-in radio show on WKTA with Kent Jones, which led her to meet Frank Taylor, director of the Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Corporation branch in McKenzie.

Taylor hired Carolyn to organize daycare centers, “about which I knew nothing whatsoever.”

Then, Taylor got a grant for a new program that he was extremely interested in, Head Start. “Mr. Taylor was a school man; he had been a superintendent. And he was determined we were going to have a Head Start program in our area. So we started the first program here at Webb [School]. They gave us a little room there. I think I had five or six kids. Jimmy was still real little then, and he would sit in on the classes sometimes. We lived. The kids made it, and I made it. I don’t know how much they learned, but that was the beginning of Head Start.”

Carolyn taught there for

QUOTE

“I think now so many women are just doing it on their own. They take a look and say, ‘Hey, the world needs changing, and I can help, and I can do.’ So, women are just doing it without asking. There have been enormous changes over my lifetime, from following to leading, and we’ve got a lot more leaders now. A lot more women who stand up.”

— Carolyn Potts

one year before another opportunity came to her. She taught history on an educational program on WLJT-TV in Martin for one season.

Next, she worked for another program, an aging agency. “I was to be over the whole thing, and I did not do a good job. I felt very fish-out-of-water. But I learned a lot of what was available for senior citizens, what programs there could have been, how things could have been done.

“I heard about a Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), and it seemed like something that our area desperately needed and would be great for senior citizens. Jim and I managed to put together a grant and got it for here. It was based at Bethel. I ran that for four years. It was very successful. The whole premise was, we’ve got so many senior citizens in our area who have either retired or they have time on their hands, and so many things need to be done that we can’t afford. We would place volunteers in various things like helping the schools, anything that was nonprofit. They received no money; it was strictly volunteer. We had senior citizens from all over the county serving in various volunteer positions. I met a lot of people, and we did a lot of good, I think, for four years. I think I had the largest in the area. That was my last paying job.”

The local RSVP ended when government funding went away.

Though she hasn’t had a

“job” since, she has remained active in her community.

She was an early supporter of Carroll Arts, for years spearheading the annual storytelling event held during Huntingdon’s Heritage Festival.

She’s a member of the Inglenook Book Club and is active in the Carroll County Democratic Party.

She is an avid collector of many things and a lifelong movie lover, something she attributes to her father’s job at 20th Century Fox. A longtime general sales manager and eventually a VP, his position even led to her meeting Ava Gardner and Johnny Ray in her youth.

Carolyn has lived for many years with multiple sclerosis, though it has only slowed her down a step.

She spoke about her diagnosis and experience. “I was teaching at Bethel, not too many years in. My eyes went first. I went to a specialist in Union City, and he told Dr. Potts (not me) that he had seen the lesions in my eyes that were similar to what he had seen before that indicated multiple sclerosis. Jim didn’t tell me, but the eye doctor gave him the hint.

And then I started the numbing which is very typical on the arms and legs. It doesn’t keep me from moving or anything. It’s just a funny feeling that nobody could explain. You can tell when you touch yourself that it doesn’t feel like the rest of you. You just have this funny numbing feeling, and I was

walking awkwardly.

“Eventually, it took me to Memphis for a diagnosis. They diagnosed MS and the prognosis was a wheelchair in five years. They kind of messed up on that one. [Carolyn used just a cane for many years, and now, primarily just a walker.]

“Oddly, I wasn’t scared. I don’t know why. I guess it was because at first the symptoms that came went away. The eye thing, the numbing, the walking awkwardly. At one point I was paralyzed up to [her upper chest] and that went away. It would come and go. And there wasn’t any point in panicking about it. There wasn’t much you could do about it.”

She noted the two kinds of MS, remitting and progressive. “Mine’s slow, progressive, that’s supposed to be the bad one. But for me it has not been, I have been very fortunate.

“Some years later, my sister, Glenda, called and told me she had it too, and I cried. It just broke my heart. I felt like it was my fault.”

Carolyn spoke about the progress of women in her lifetime. “I think now so many women are just doing it on their own. They take a look and say, ‘Hey, the world needs changing, and I can help, and I can do.’ So, women are just doing it without asking.

“There have been enormous changes over my lifetime, from following to leading, and we’ve got a lot more leaders now. A lot more women who stand up.”

Besides her sons, Charles, who died at age 20, and Jimmy, Jim also had two daughters prior to their marriage.

Carolyn has four grandchildren, Jessa, Chuck, Tyler and Anna, and two great-grandchildren.

She cited her caretaker since 2010, Rhonda Montgomery, with her quality of life as she nears age 90. “I could not live the life I live without her.”

Celebrating Women’s History Month

JOHNSONVILLE TVA
EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION

20840 Main Street East, Huntingdon, TN 38344

731-986-2245

Equal Housing Lender, Member FDIC, NCUA

Celebrating Women’s History Month

PEPPERS

CALL US AT (731) 352-7925

17825 Highland Drive, McKenzie, TN 38201

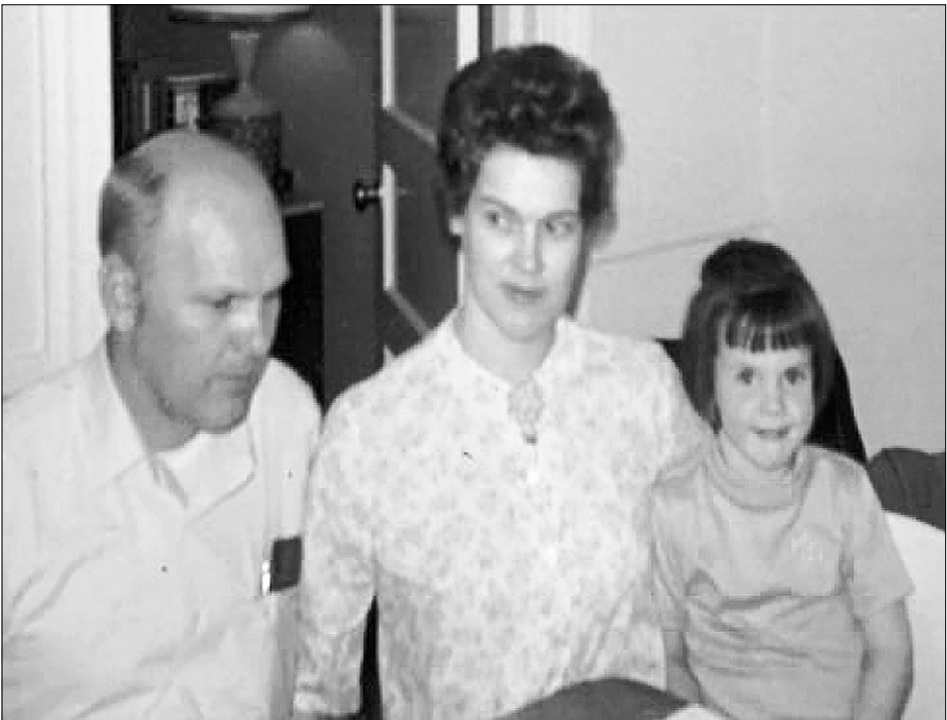
CLICKPEPPERS.COM

LIFETIME HOME OF THE LIFETIME WARRANTY

At Peppers - Customer Satisfaction is our #1 Priority!



Left, One of the many hats Myra Carlock wears at Bethel is personal assistant to the Wildcat mascot, Rowdy. Right, A young Myra Carlock with her parents Jimmy and Wilanne Little in her East Tennessee home. Submitted photos



Myra Carlock

Shaping Experiences for Youth in Crisis and College

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

Myra Carlock is Bethel University's director of Campus Operations and University Events who has brought to the position skills and a worldview from her former career in social work.

She was born to Jimmy and Wilanne Little and grew up on a farm in Calfkiller, Tenn. as well as in Cookeville. Her father was a real estate broker in addition to farming, and her mother was a professor at Tennessee Tech University, prompting the dual farm-city life.

After graduating from Cookeville High School, she attended the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and earned a bachelor's degree in Child and Family Studies, Intervention and Counseling. She would later earn a Masters of Art in Education in Curriculum and Instruction from Bethel College in 2003.

She began her career in social work at Plateau Mental Health Center in a home-based intervention program for at-risk children.

She met Jon Carlock when he became the associate pastor at her church in Cookeville. Jon had graduated from Bethel and returned to McKenzie in 1993 as the chaplain and a professor of religion. The pair were engaged in December of that year and married in June 1994, and Myra moved to McKenzie.

She first worked for Carey Counseling Center on the crisis line and also at Poplar Bend, a 24-hour treatment facility.

Next, she worked for Youth Villages for 13 years, first as a counselor and eventually as clinical supervisor of in-home services for the Paris program. She also worked in therapeutic foster care and in a program for children transitioning out of the system into real life.

She was hired by Bethel University in 2010 for university and alumni relations and, later, events.

Myra told The Banner, "The first meeting on my first day, the director of development said, 'Homecoming is this date, Bethel Blast is this date, plan it.' So, I jumped in, and I've loved every minute of it."

She became the director of campus operations in 2018 and has been Wildcat mascot Rowdy's personal assistant since his introduction in 2021.

Myra spoke about her



Left, Myra Carlock, Bethel University Director of Campus Operations and University Events. Right, Myra Carlock and husband, Dr. Jon Carlock, on their wedding day. Submitted photos

choice to enter social work. "I had absolutely the best parents and the best childhood. I had aunts and uncles and a grandmother and cousins, and we were all together all the time, and I felt like every child deserved as much as possible to have a great childhood. And If I could be any part of making that happen, then that's what I was gonna do."

"I have the greatest respect for people who do that, but there was a huge learning curve. You sit through classes, you read the textbooks, but until you're in the field, you have no idea. I think everybody goes in thinking that they can make a change, that they can make a difference, and you do. You sometimes don't ever know what kind of difference or what kind of change you've made. You just hope and you pray that those things happen because of whatever you or the company did."

"There were some eye-opening experiences, there were some truly meaningful moments, and I will be forever thankful that I had the opportunity to do that."

"I became pretty competent at de-escalating situations. Typically, I could do that with the skills that were taught and also with a dose of humor. There was one young person who was absolutely completely enraged at me for something I had asked her to do. She called me

[a colorful insult] and I corrected her grammar. She laughed, and then it was over."

"I watched one child grow from someone who always had the ability but had serious doubts in their ability and had not had the opportunities. I watched that child go from struggling in school to being the valedictorian of their class and ultimately going into social work as a result of her time in the program."

She spoke about the differences and ties between the two pillars of her career.

"In social work, in children and adolescent mental health, you know that some of the decisions you make will result in huge life changes for someone else. No matter what, it's going to result in something major in the life of another person. There are crisis calls in the middle of the night; there are situations that you would never imagine can happen."

"There is stress and anxiety in all jobs, but here with events and campus operations, you know it's not life-or-death. It's an important decision, a decision about whether or not something is going to go as planned, but for the most part, you can keep that to yourself and fix it behind the scenes so nobody else knows. In [social work], everybody knows."

"The connection, I think, although it translates differently, is caring for other people. It's providing per-

haps something that they didn't have. It's hospitality. It's extending kindness and a sense of fun and a sense of meaning perhaps in situations where there may not have been that."

"I think our students come to us in a certain mindset, and throughout all of the experiences, whether it's an event or their classes, they develop a broader worldview and they develop different ways of looking at things. For our faculty, for our staff, for the students, I want them to have a good experience, a holistic experience. I want them to be able to think back on their time as an employee or a student at Bethel and think, 'Wow, that was fun. We did this.'"

"I want them to carry on something that we as a whole have given them."

She named some of her favorite Bethel experiences. "Bethel Blast was always fun. One year we had hot air balloons and invited the community. We did the Twinkle Ball for about ten years. That will always be one of my

favorite things. I hope a whole generation of little girls have fond memories, and their mommas. The events that I've partnered with the city for have always been fun. The Boo Bash, the Easter egg hunt."

She added, "I love graduation. Some of the students that have been most involved, I love to see them going off into their future. I'm always teary-eyed at graduation. And I've loved the partnerships that I've gotten to do with the Carroll County Humane Society and Companion Pet Rescue."

Myra serves as the president of the McKenzie Chamber of Commerce, and Jon is minister at First Presbyterian USA.

Myra spoke about the progress of women in her lifetime. "Women's roles have expanded greatly in my lifetime. I think little girls of my generation were taught that you can be and do anything you want to be and do. And we've seen that. There's a way to go, but we've seen that over the years. We've

QUOTE

"I had absolutely the best parents and the best childhood... I felt like every child deserved as much as possible to have a great childhood. And If I could be any part of making that happen, then that's what I was gonna do."

— Myra Carlock

had female astronauts. Women on the Supreme Court. Women as executives. Women candidates for the presidency. We've had women in all sorts of positions that probably in past generations would not have been open to them, and I see the horizons expanding for the upcoming generation."

"I don't think there's any stopping what women can do, what they can be, what they aspire to. And I think that girls should be encouraged, just as much as little boys."

"I have been very fortunate. My parents really did instill the belief in me that I could do and be whatever I wanted to be. I have had to prove myself. And that's absolutely something that I have been willing to do."

"I guess the worst probably is I've had people doubt me, doubt that I was going to be able to do what I said that I could do, and my response is generally 'Watch me.'"

"I have been so fortunate. I have been welcomed, I've been loved. I hope that I show that love to other people through actions, things that I do, events that we have, the way that we take care of our students and the way that we take care of our faculty and staff. I hope I mirror the examples that I was given."

"Women belong in all places where decisions are being made."

— Ruth Bader Ginsburg

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

Super Drugs

DISCOUNT PRESCRIPTIONS

John Motheral, D. PH. • Paul Motheral, Pharm. D.

WE DELIVER!

2340 Cedar Street, McKenzie, TN 38201

731-352-3242

A66

Celebrating Women's History Month

STAMBAUGH ROOFING INC.

25660 Hwy 22 • McKenzie

731-352-9261

A24



Left, Elizabeth Lott completes her first 5K run in McKenzie. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner Center, Elizabeth Lott is all smiles after her HHS cross country teams won the region championship (girls) and region runner-up (boys) in 2020. Right, Elizabeth Lott and husband David at the finish line of the Lake Champlain Half-Marathon in Vermont. Submitted photos

Elizabeth Lott

Sharing a Love of Reading and Running

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

Elizabeth Lott has been a teacher for 42 years, including for 33 years at Huntingdon High School. She’s the school librarian, cross country coach, personal finance teacher and ACT Prep instructor.

She was born in Paris to Charles Ray and Charlotte Jones and grew up in McKenzie.

Her father was a wholesale candy seller for C.H. Summers, and her mother worked in “every factory in McKenzie.”

Elizabeth graduated from McKenzie High School in 1979 and attended the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she majored in Early Childhood Education with an emphasis on Preschool Education. She then earned a Masters degree in Child Development and Family Relations.

In 1984, she married David Lott, and the two moved to Knoxville for David to attend veterinary school.

Elizabeth taught at Maynard Elementary for three years, then they moved to Huntingdon in 1987.

The school year began with Elizabeth still without a job. Luckily, when Kindergarten began at McKenzie Elementary, there were too many students, so the school created another class, pulling students from the others, and hired Elizabeth. She told The Banner, “Parents were not excited about that, but it worked.”

She was at MES until 1993, also teaching second grade, when she accepted the librarian position at HHS. During her time at MES, she had earned her library certification through Lambuth University.

Elizabeth said, “Going

from elementary straight to high school, it was a shock that first day. And then I realized that they really weren’t any different.”

Her foray into athletics would come later. “When I was about 40, I decided I’d like to run. I started in the first 5K I ever did in McKenzie. Joel [Washburn, of The Banner] made my picture crossing the finish line, and I still have it in my house with the time, because that was monumental for me. It was always my goal at that time to get under 30 minutes.

I just enjoy how it makes me feel. I enjoy the freedom of being able to get out and do it, and it just gives me a sense of accomplishment when I finish.

In 2012, a parent asked if Elizabeth might be interested in coaching cross country. “They talked me into it. The school board approved it, and so we started the team. It was very popular. We had a large number of children who ran. Most of the other teachers thought it would be a joke and that we’d never accomplish anything. But I just decided we were going to do that. It was pretty exciting. We’ve had pretty good teams since we started in 2012. All but three years we’ve had people qualify for state.”

Prior to taking up running, Elizabeth was admittedly not athletic. “No, I tried out for basketball my whole life, never made it. I played a little racquetball at Martin. Zero athletic ability. Anybody can run if I can do it. All it takes is being a little bit stubborn. Putting one foot in front of the other, and that’s it.”

She eventually pulled David into her new world. “He started running with me as well. Then we started kind of making a game of how many states we could

QUOTE

“Anybody can do this, anybody can put on a pair of shoes and walk outside. You don’t have to run, but you can move. And you just take the worst day you have, and you put on your shoes and you go outside and you spend a few minutes outside, your whole day completely changes.”

— Elizabeth Lott

go to and run. So we’ve been traveling. We pick a state and we go run a race. Some 5K, some 10K, some half-marathons, some marathons. During spring break, we’re going to do Tulsa, Oklahoma and then we’re going to do Washington state and Alaska this summer. So we’ll be up to 32 or 33 states.”

She and David participate in the charity races at St. Jude almost every year. “It’s just such a phenomenal event. It’s not about you. Nothing’s about you, about your time, your pace, your distance. Because when you run through St. Jude, it’s an emotional time.”

Elizabeth has run two marathons, one in Tupelo, Miss., and one in Savannah, Ga. “I’m pretty proud that I’ve done two. I don’t know if I ever have another one in me or not, because the training is just brutal. A marathon will crush your spirit if you’re not prepared. You can’t play around with a marathon. You better have your training done.”

No matter the distance, she said, “You have to run your own race. I’ve gotten slower, and it hurts my feelings. I used to run eight and a half minute miles, then nine and a half, and ten and a half, and now I’m at 11 and a half. And it hurts your soul, but it’s

11 and a half or nothing. You just have to pick your battles.”

She spoke about her choice of education as a career. “I thought about all the important people in my life who were teachers and some of the fantastic teachers I had. Mr. Terry Howell was my teacher one of the first years he taught school. Jimmy Hampton and Nancy Holland. Mr. Charles Pruneau was our band director. He believed in me.

“You could just go on for ages about people who made differences in our lives, and I kind of thought, maybe I could do that. I love going to school. People keep asking me when I’m going to retire. I just can’t imagine not getting up and going to work. I still like going to school. I still like kids. I get mad at them sometimes. And things have changed so much, with technology. When I started in the library, there wasn’t even a computer in the library and now look what’s happened in just a short period of time. And you just wonder what’s going to happen in the next few years. Are libraries still going to be around? Do people still see the value in libraries and reading? That’s challenging, to get children to read. I do have a core group of

children that still read. I have incentives for them to try to get points. I still do Accelerated Reader. I don’t care if people think that’s juvenile or not, I still have that program at the school. And if you can get 500 points, I will take you to Oxford to my favorite bookstore, Square Books, and I’ll let you buy three books. And you can keep those books. That’s such a great event, to be able to go to a bookstore when you’re a reader. We just keep trying to push children into reading, that’s all we can do.”

Elizabeth spoke about the progress of women in her lifetime. “I think we have made strides. I’m pretty excited that we have made strides. When Mrs. Harris was running for president, I thought, how exciting that was, whether you’re for her or against her, that she and Hillary and those people have made the chance for women to be able to do that.”

She named some influential women in her life. “Diana Crawford, excellent teacher, always believed in all of her students, and she treated us with respect and kindness, and never seemed to pick favorites, and that’s always a good one. I try to remember that all the time from teachers that I saw treat everybody fairly. I want to do exactly the same thing, and that’s a great thing to pass on, if you love everybody.”

“Sue Kelley taught at the primary school. I grew up in church with her and respected her so much. I saw how she treated others.

“I looked to those people, and I saw how to treat people and how not to treat people. I hope that I can remember those things and be kind to everybody. Sometimes that’s hard.

“My mother worked

hard and she wanted me to always make the right choices and do the right things. I didn’t always do the right things and make the right choices, but of course she never gave up on me. She taught me so many good things, making me go to college and making me finish my degree, so I would have a better future than she had financially. She passed away last January; she was 91 years old. It was time for her to go, but I still miss her presence all the time.”

She shared her hope for women. “What I would like to say is that women just gotta take care of themselves. They gotta take control of their lives. They can’t let pettiness take over their life. They can’t worry about their wrinkles. We’re so consumed with our clothes and what people think of us, and we really need to be concerned more about how we take care of ourselves.

“I’m 64. I take a tiny little blood pressure medicine and that’s all I take. And I think it’s attributed to exercise. That’s what keeps me going, because I don’t want to sit down. I’m not ready to sit down yet, because when you sit down, it’s over, really, if you work, work, work and then don’t do anything. And it’s up to yourself, because anybody can do this, anybody can put on a pair of shoes and walk outside. You don’t have to run, but you can move. And you just take the worst day you have, and you put on your shoes and you go outside and you spend a few minutes outside, your whole day completely changes.”

Elizabeth and David have two children. Daughter Holly (Ward) is a nurse, and son Ben works for the state. The Lotts have four grandchildren.

“Every woman’s success should be an inspiration to another. We’re strongest when we cheer each other on.”
— Serena Williams

In support of

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



MCKENZIE BANKING COMPANY
A DIVISION OF FOUNDATION BANK

676 N Main St., McKenzie, TN 38201
15345 Highland Ave., McKenzie, TN 38201
731.352.2262 | bankmbc.com

A7201

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH



GARROLL COUNTY ELECTRIC DEPARTMENT

103 West Paris Street
Huntingdon, TN 38344
731.986.8284



A48



Left, Lisa Ramsay Cole. Right, Lisa Ramsay Cole is pictured with her family on her son Ramsay’s graduation day. Both of her children — Ramsay and Anna Grace (far right) — are in the legal profession. Submitted photos

Lisa Ramsay Cole

Reflects on Career, Family and Giving Back

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

When Lisa Ramsay Cole graduated from McKenzie High School in 1982, she thought her future might be in medicine or another science-related field. Instead, she built a decades-long legal career that eventually led her to become president and managing shareholder of Lewis Thomason, one of Tennessee’s largest law firms. Lewis Thomason is a four-office firm that employs 120 attorneys, operating in Knoxville, Memphis, Nashville and Sevierville. From her base in Nashville, Cole oversees the business side of the firm while also serving as its general counsel, helping guide everything from legal ethics to long-term strategy. Her work ranges widely. On a typical day, she might advise attorneys about cases, help resolve professional responsibility questions or meet with the firm’s leadership team about finances, staffing or operations. Cole oversees a structure that includes the firm’s chief financial officer, chief marketing officer and chief human resources officer, as well as leaders in the firm’s Nashville, Knoxville and Memphis offices. Beneath that are departments responsible for billing, technology

and administrative support. Cole’s path to leading the firm began decades earlier in her hometown of McKenzie, Tenn., where her family emphasized the importance of service and academics. Her father, Dana Ramsay, served as McKenzie’s postmaster and was one of only five brigadier generals in the National Guard from the town. Cole later named her son Ramsay in his honor. Cole’s grandfather once headed the mathematics department at Bethel College, and math was a common thread across several generations of the family. At Bethel College, now Bethel University, Cole studied broad area natural science, graduating cum laude in 1987. With a love for science and mathematics, Cole considered attending pharmacy or optometry school. She opted to wait a year after college before committing to either profession. Cole moved to Nashville that year to work in the Tennessee Department of Health and Environment. There, Cole spent time alongside attorneys in the department and began to see how the legal profession could combine her interest in science with her natural inclination toward working with people. “That was my first exposure to, really, what lawyers did,” she said.

QUOTE

“If somebody underestimates you when you walk into the courtroom, and you’re twice as prepared as they are, that only works to your client’s advantage.”

— Lisa Ramsay Cole

The experience changed her plans entirely. Cole enrolled at the University of Tennessee College of Law, earning her law degree in 1993. “Honestly, I think it was God’s plan for me all along,” she said. “He just waited until that moment to drop the bombshell on me.” After her first year of law school in 1991, she joined Lewis Thomason, working as a law clerk in the firm’s Knoxville office. She joined the firm full-time as an associate attorney in 1993 after finishing law school and passing the bar exam. She moved to Nashville in 1995, bringing her closer to West Tennessee and to the hometown of her husband, Jonathan Cole, whom she met in law school. He is also an attorney in Nashville. Over time, Cole built a career representing employers, health care providers and insurers in civil litigation. Much of her work involved medical malpractice defense, employment law and workers’ compen-

sation cases. Cole stayed with the firm as her career advanced. In around 2008, she became managing shareholder of the Nashville office, and in 2013, she was chosen to lead the entire firm after the previous president was elected to a judgeship in Knoxville. Throughout that time, she said she was fortunate to work for a firm that embraced diversity and the uniqueness all lawyers bring to the table. This diversity, she said, makes her firm better suited to support clients from many different walks of life. “I was blessed to work for a firm that absolutely supported women, from the time I walked through the door until today,” she said. Still, the profession presented challenges familiar to many women. Early in her career, Cole said she was sometimes mistaken for a court reporter or paralegal rather than the attorney handling a case. Opposing lawyers occasionally

underestimated her ability in the courtroom. She rarely challenged those assumptions directly, instead relying on preparation. “There were very few people who could outwork me,” she said. “If somebody underestimates you when you walk into the courtroom, and you’re twice as prepared as they are, that only works to your client’s advantage.” Balancing career and family also required careful choices. Cole and her husband have two children, Anna Grace and Ramsay. Both have followed their parents into law — Anna Grace now practices in Nashville, while Ramsay is a student at the University of Tennessee College of Law. “I guess my husband and I made the practice of law seem like a very rewarding career,” Cole said. Seeing both of her children enter the legal profession has been meaningful, she added, even though she once joked that having a doctor in the family might come in handy as well. While raising her children, Cole worked part-time for more than a decade so she could be present for their activities and school years. For 12 years, from the time her daughter was one year old until Cole became firm president, she maintained a reduced schedule while continuing to build

her legal career and client base. “I never wanted my career to take away from the time that I needed to spend with my family,” she said. During that time, she became an equity shareholder in the firm and continued expanding her practice. Cole said she has been fortunate in many ways — with her family, education and career — and she believes those blessings come with a responsibility to give back. Much of that effort connects her back to McKenzie. She serves on the board of trustees at Bethel University, and she occasionally returns to speak with local students and community groups. She also provided legal guidance when the McKenzie High School Alumni Association was formed, assisting organizers with nonprofit structure and corporate documentation. “To whom much is given, much is required,” Cole said, quoting a Bible verse that has long shaped her outlook on life. After decades in the legal profession, that principle continues to guide Cole’s career and her responsibility to serve others, mentor younger attorneys and support the communities that helped shape her.

Kim Carter

Serving the Public at Huntingdon City Hall

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

For more than two decades, Kim Carter has worked behind the scenes at Huntingdon’s City Hall, helping manage the financial and administrative work that keeps the town operating day to day. Today, she serves as town recorder for the Town of Huntingdon, a position she has held since 2017 and one that places her at the center of many of the town’s operations. “The town recorder has several responsibilities,” Carter said. “I’m director of finance, so I’m over the finance and administration office, the office staff. I’m the risk management director, and I serve as the recording secretary for several of the town boards.” Those boards include the planning commission, industrial board, beer board and the ADA access committee. Carter also prepares agendas and minutes for meetings and works closely with several town departments. Carter oversees the finance and administration office, working with staff members Jana Autry, payroll personnel clerk; Alisa Hampton, accounting clerk; Jennifer Breeden, accounts payable clerk; and Carla Jeffries, utility billing clerk. “It’s definitely a team effort,” Carter said. “It takes a large group to handle everything.”



Kim Carter. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

The office handles a wide range of responsibilities for the town. Residents may come in to pay utility bills or property taxes, apply for building permits or request services related to water utilities or public works. The office also manages the sale of cemetery lots at Oak Hill Cemetery and Clark Cemetery. “There are just lots of things that happen that City Hall handles that I think people do not know or realize,” Carter said. Carter has worked for the town for more than 22 years, and she loves the community that she serves. But she hasn’t always called Huntingdon her home. Carter grew up in Lex-

ington and graduated from Lexington High School in 1996. She later attended the University of Tennessee at Martin, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in business administration with an emphasis in accounting in 2000. She completed her Master of Accountancy the following year. After graduating, Carter worked part-time in the clerk and master’s office at the Carroll County Courthouse, assisting with chancery court. Her connection to Huntingdon began several years earlier. She moved to Huntingdon in 1997 after marrying Scott Carter, whom she called “a Huntingdon boy.”

QUOTE

“Helping my community. That’s what I feel that I’m here for, is just to help and make Huntingdon a good place to live.”

— Kim Carter

When an accounting position opened with the Town of Huntingdon, Carter applied. Carter was hired by then-Mayor Dale Kelley in June 2003 and worked as the town’s accounting clerk for more than a decade. During that time, she worked closely with longtime town recorder Martha Taylor, who became an important mentor. Taylor encouraged Carter to complete the Certified Municipal Finance Officer program through the State of Tennessee and the Municipal Technical Advisory Service. Carter finished the 11-month program in 2013. When Taylor retired in December 2016, Carter was appointed town recorder effective January 1, 2017. She became the second woman to hold the position in Huntingdon’s history. Taylor was the first, appointed in 1995. “For many years it was a man’s position, up until Martha was appointed,” Carter said. Taking on the role meant following in the footsteps of someone who had trained her for years.

“I have big shoes to fill,” Carter said. Taylor died in November 2024, and Carter does her best to carry the lessons she learned from her mentor. During her time with the town, Carter has served three different mayors. She has also seen several major projects take shape in the community. She worked as the town’s accountant during construction of the Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center and during development of Lake Halford, formerly known as the Carroll County Thousand Acre Lake. “I’ve said to people many times, ‘I never dreamed that I would be part of building a performing arts center and building a recreational lake,’” Carter said. Her role involved managing financial records and payments related to the projects as construction progressed. Working in City Hall has also helped Carter become more connected to the community she now calls home. “Because I am here in City Hall, I’m very involved

in the community and the things that are going on,” she said. “Through my job and working with the public, I’ve come to know a lot of the town and the citizens.” Outside of work, Carter spends most of her time with family and church. Her husband works for the Huntingdon Special School District as supervisor of instruction, overseeing technology for the district. He also serves as pastor of Shiloh Missionary Baptist Church, where he was called to serve in 2006. Carter grew up attending a small church in Lexington, and church life has remained an important part of her life. She and her husband have been involved in their congregation for nearly 20 years, helping organize youth activities and spending time with members who have become like family. She often visits her parents, Ricky and Brenda Lewis, and her two brothers, who still live in Lexington. She and her husband also enjoy spending time with their nieces and nephews. For Carter, the work she does at City Hall comes down to a simple purpose: helping the public. That commitment to service is what she hopes people remember about her, her work and the role she plays in the community. “Helping my community,” Carter said. “That’s what I feel that I’m here for, is just to help and make Huntingdon a good place to live.”

Mary Jo Hall

Trezevant’s Jill of All Trades

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

Mary Jo Hall wears many hats for the Town of Trezevant, currently serving as head of the Street and Parks departments. It's a continuation of an eclectic resume ranging from factory work to education.

She was born in Huntingdon to F. M. and Joe Ann Tidwell and lived in the Terry community of Carroll County. Her father was a farmer. Her mother was a homemaker and drove a school bus, the first woman to do so in the county.

Mary Jo attended Westview Elementary through eighth grade and graduated from Trezevant High School in 1980.

She was a standout basketball player, earning all-state honors and was at one time the top defensive player in the state. Her senior season was the first year of full-court basketball for girls, replacing the three-on-three format.

Mary Jo told The Banner, "Sports was all I had time for. It was different back then, hard to get to practice. I had good coaches, both Richard Welch and Barry Martin."

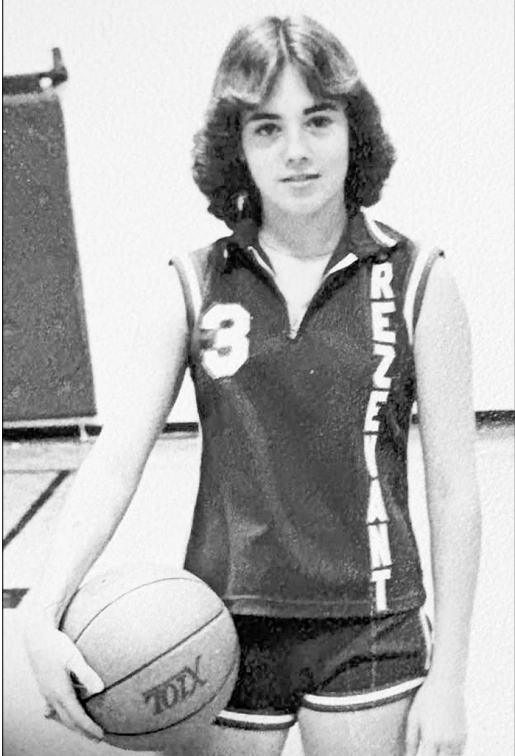
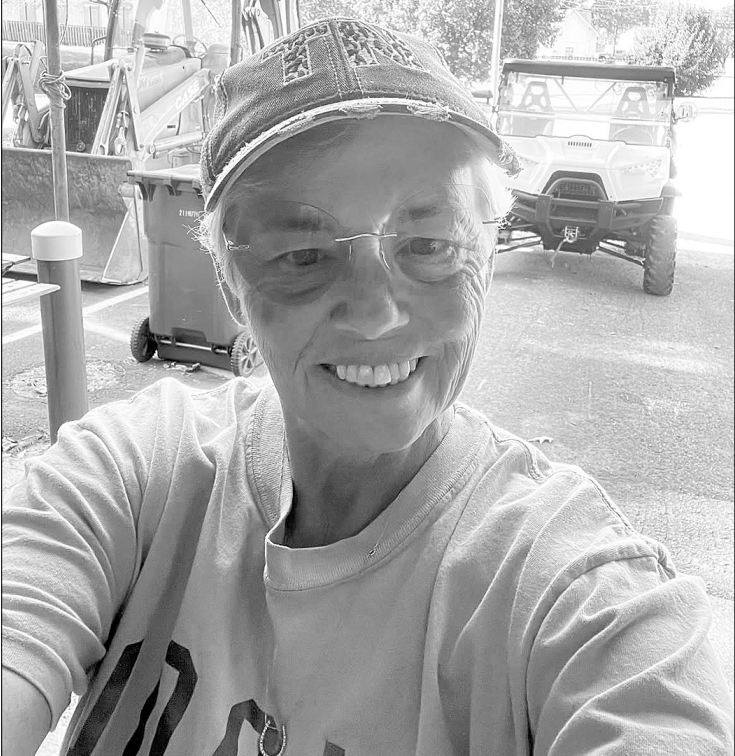
The summer she graduated, she married Terry Hall from Trezevant, and they've been married nearly 46 years.

Mary Jo worked at WSW, a pajama factory, for five years until she had her first child.

She was a homemaker until her three daughters, Lacey, Jennifer and Emily, started school, then she began substitute teaching at the three West Carroll schools, which she did for several years.

During that time, Mary Jo also coached high school softball and helped coach teams at the Little League field in Trezevant. Two of her Cal Ripken teams won state championships and competed at the national level.

She also directed traffic at the elementary school, her first job with the Town of



Left, Mary Jo Hall during a typical day at work in Trezevant. Right, Mary Jo Hall during her basketball days at Trezevant High School. Submitted photos

Trezevant.

Eventually, Mary Jo shifted her focus to contract cleaning, which she did for several post offices, churches and homes. That parlayed into a full time cleaning job at West Carroll Junior Senior High School for five years.

When the Trezevant parks and recreation position became open, a job Mary Jo had her eyes on for some time, then-Mayor Dennis Mitchell asked if she could also handle some water department duties until more help could be hired. Mary Jo replied that she would do it to the best of her ability.

And she did just that, handling responsibilities of multiple departments for about a year and a half, operating under the supervision of outside licensed water operators.

The water department was eventually restaffed, but Mayor Bobby Blaylock appointed Mary Jo head of the parks and street departments.

She said about the sudden slate of responsibilities, "Everybody was looking to

me all the time. It was different. I enjoy my job. I love everything about it. It can be hard at times, but all-in-all, I love this town, the people. It's been a perfect fit for me."

She said she enjoyed working on the projects and events, such as the Easter and Halloween events at the park, and her work with Rita Foster to improve the park. In recent years, a playground and walking track have been installed. "We're just trying to build the park," she said, "Make the town somewhere you want to live."

She said, "I'm lucky. I've got a good board, a good mayor and vice mayor. They trust me to make good decisions. They include me in decision-making. But when the mayor tells me to do something, I will do the best of my ability to get it done."

But her favorite part of the job, she says, is mowing. "I enjoy the mowing, being outside."

That hearkens back to her youth, growing up on a farm. "I grew up in the '60s, didn't

have an indoor bathroom. Had running water, but not hot water. We raised our own food, canned, butchered hogs and cows. From the time we were big enough, me and my brothers and my sister had to go out and work on the farm. There were cows we had to milk. I'd feed the horses and pick up hay. We drove a tractor.

"So, I knew how to run everything there was. Tractor, plow, bush hog. Things my daddy taught me."

Mary Jo spoke to the pressure of being part of a small team of go-to people when situations arise that affect the citizens. "It's hard, but I work with a good bunch. We ask the public to remember, there's three of us. Where a lot of other towns have 25 or 30, you've got three of us. Give us time, we'll get to you as quickly as we can. You check on the elderly first, and you go from there, make sure everybody is okay. We're lucky we've not had any major, major disasters."

She said one of the biggest

challenges is "just being a woman all the way around." She noted, "Somebody will come in, and they'll say 'I want to talk to the boss' and they don't expect it to be me. But it helps being from a community where everybody knows you."

She named some of the big influences in her life.

"My mother was a big influence. There was nothing she couldn't do. She could refinish furniture, she could do electrical work, plumbing work, painting." She also called her grandmother a "hard-working woman."

Joyce Scates taught English at Trezevant High. "She's always been a big influence in my life, from the time I was in high school, she's always been there for me. She's soft spoken, which I'm not, but she made me enjoy English. I love English now, I love to read, and as a matter of fact, I love "To Kill a Mockingbird." That's one of my favorite books of all time, and we had to read it in high school.

Mrs. Joyce gave me her copy of that book, and that made a big impression on me. But she's just a lady in general. That always meant a lot to me, that she was soft spoken, didn't have to get loud, and was well-respected. It seemed like everyone just loved her."

Besides their three biological daughters, another child, Michelle, also lived with the Halls. Mary Jo said, "We think of her as a daughter." Between the four daughters, Mary Jo has 12 grandchildren, one of whom passed away.

Mary Jo spoke about the progress women have made in her lifetime. "I've seen a lot of changes, from women staying home and raising their kids to going out into the workforce. Now it's a necessity for most women. When I was growing up, women didn't have to really work, she might choose to work to make a little extra money, but most didn't work a full time job. Now, most families couldn't survive if they didn't have two incomes.

"I've seen a lot of growth, women being more responsible for more things. Years ago, we barely had any women on the board." She mentioned that Pam Bryant, her "best friend in the whole, wide world," was a board member when Mary Jo was first hired. Bryant began her teaching career Mary Jo's senior year, and the two later coached together.

She noted another accomplished local woman. "I watched Janice McClain, which is another person that I love dearly. She became president of the bank and she started as just a teller, and she was mayor of Trezevant. You see people step up."

Mary Jo said, "I just want to see women be well-educated, however they choose, and choose their path. Don't be afraid to do what they consider a man's job. Don't be afraid to try. You'd be surprised with yourself."



Left, Judge Chappell is pictured in court. Center, Cindy Chappell (center) is pictured with her parents, Peggy and Richard Chappell. Right, Cindy Chappell rides in a helicopter during her 2022 campaign for Davidson County Criminal Court Judge. Submitted photos

Cindy Chappell

Turning a Passion for Justice into a Judgeship

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

Cindy Chappell did not set out to become a judge — or even a lawyer.

When she left McKenzie for college in the late 1980s, Chappell was more interested in law enforcement than the legal profession. She imagined working for a state police agency or possibly the FBI Law school, she thought, might simply be a step along the way.

Now, after almost 30 years of practicing law, Chappell serves as a criminal court judge in Davidson County, presiding over cases in Nashville.

Chappell moved to McKenzie as a child and began fourth grade in the McKenzie school system. She remained there through graduation, finishing high school in 1986 in a class of 86 students.

She stayed busy in school activities, playing basketball and softball and taking dance lessons for years. Education

was also a central part of life at home. Her father, Richard, worked in the school system as a coach and teacher, and her mother, Peggy, returned to college while Chappell was still in school to earn her degree and become a teacher.

After high school, Chappell attended Rhodes College in Memphis, graduating in 1990 with a psychology degree that focused on law and government. She was most interested in the abnormal psychology component of criminal law, but also in the jury process and the jury trial process.

In college, Chappell said she was fortunate to take the law school entrance exam. She did well on the test, earning a scholarship to the University of Memphis Law School.

"In my mind, I was still going to go into law enforcement," Chappell said, "but I wanted to get my law degree first"

While in school, Chappell worked for several attorneys

and spent time in court observing their cases. Those experiences gradually changed her plans.

"The more I spent time in and around the courtroom," she said, "the more I decided that I would start with law. I always kind of left it open that I might do something else, but I really became interested in practicing law."

Her first position after graduating came with Memphis attorney Russell X. Thompson, who hired her as an associate. Thompson, known for his work in civil rights and labor law, became an early mentor to Chappell and helped prepare her for the next stage of her career.

Working in a small office gave Chappell a close view of how a law practice operates.

"He [Thompson] spent a lot of time explaining to me how to be not just a lawyer, but also a solo practitioner and how the business side of law worked," she said.

Chappell eventually moved to Nashville and spent a short

time practicing with other attorneys before opening her own firm.

From 1999 until she was elected judge in 2022, she operated Chappell Law Offices as a solo practitioner.

Most of her work focused on criminal defense in both state and federal courts. She also handled other cases, including divorces, and developed a reputation that brought many fellow attorneys to her office when they needed legal representation themselves.

After nearly three decades practicing law, colleagues began encouraging Chappell to consider becoming a judge.

"I really loved being a lawyer," Chappell said. "I loved my job."

Still, after 29 years in practice, she believed she could bring experience and the right temperament to the bench.

When a judicial race opened in 2022, she decided to run.

Her campaign focused

largely on her years of courtroom experience and her reputation for being hard-working and honest. Four candidates ultimately appeared on the ballot.

Chappell won the election and now serves an eight-year term that runs through 2030.

The role changed her place in the courtroom but not her commitment to the legal system.

"I enjoy it very much," she said. "I get to watch lawyers work hard in the courtroom. I'm really seeing the criminal justice process at its best"

The cases can involve difficult situations and serious harm, she said, but the responsibility of the court is to focus on the law.

"It's critically important that we follow and adhere to the rule of law and not have emotion be the root of decisions," she said.

Outside the courtroom, Chappell stays involved in the legal community. She is active in the Lawyers' Association for Women and vol-

unteers as a judge for mock trial competitions. She also participates in expungement clinics, where judges help eligible individuals clear certain criminal records in a single setting.

Looking back on her career, she said some of the most meaningful work came from helping people who might otherwise struggle to find legal representation.

"There are such a shortage of services for people that don't have financial means," she said. "Those cases are probably some of the ones that you feel the best about."

For those considering a career in law, Chappell sees the profession as more than simply a job.

Lawyers take an oath to uphold the Constitution, she noted — a commitment to a document written more than two centuries ago that still guides the country today.

"If you want to have a career where you make a difference, this is one of them," Chappell said.



Left, The Gleason Gazelles are pictured during the 2025 Tater Town Special. Right, The Gazelles met for a Christmas party in December 2025. Submitted photos

The Gleason Gazelles

Preserving Community,
One Tater Week at a Time

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

For more than 50 years, a group of women in Gleason has worked behind the scenes to make sure their small town has at least one week every year when everyone can gather together.

The Gleason Gazelles, founded in the early 1970s, is best known for organizing the annual Tater Town Special, a weeklong series of events leading up to Labor Day weekend that draws residents, former residents and families back to town.

“Our job is to bring together the community of Gleason,” said longtime member Jennifer Cook. “That’s our whole job in a nutshell. We just want to bring our community together, to gather together.”

In 50 years, the group has built a legacy that speaks for itself. Twenty Gazelles currently serve the Gleason community, all of whom joined with the primary goal of keeping the Tater Town Special tradition alive. Some members, like Cook, also have a deeper tie to the group.

Cook, a registered nurse who serves as the Tennessee Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program coordinator for West Tennessee, can’t remember a time when she wasn’t connected with the Gazelles. Her mom was one of the group’s inaugural members in 1972. Cook was born a year later.

“When you’re a Gazelle, your whole family is unofficially a Gazelle,” Cook



The Gleason Gazelles are pictured during the 2025 Tater Town Special. Submitted photo

said. “As a Gazelle kid, you pick up sticks and you tote ice and you haul drinks to ice ‘em down. You do the grunt work.”

Now, Cook finds herself and other members continuing the tradition, enlisting their husbands and children to help with Tater Week preparations.

The Gazelles rotate leadership roles, with a president typically serving a two-year term. Cook served about five years as president.

“It’s a lot of work,” Cook said. “You meet once a month at the beginning of the year. Then, as we get closer to Tater Week, we start meeting every two weeks. Then we meet every day.”

Planning for the next Tater Town Special begins almost immediately after

the previous one ends. The group typically starts meeting again in late winter, months before the event takes place.

During Tater Week, the Gazelles organize a full schedule of activities for the community, from bingo games and contests to parades and other events.

To keep activities as free as possible, the group holds a few fundraisers throughout the year, including the Tater Town Beauty Review and a barbecue cookoff. Local churches, businesses and industries also donate money and prizes to help support the week’s activities.

“There are a lot of industries in Gleason that give back when it’s Tater Week time,” Cook said. “We are very, very, very blessed to live in Gleason.”

The Gazelles want to ensure the tradition continues long after the current members are gone.

“I really want my grandkids to enjoy it,” Cook said. “I want them to be able to look forward to and enjoy the Tater Town Special like I have my whole life.”

With that goal in mind, the Gazelles try to introduce younger women to the group, teaching them the traditions in hopes they will eventually take over the responsibility of organizing the event.

“We’re not going to live forever,” Cook said. “So we have to have other people who come alongside us and do those things.”

Currently, the Gazelles range in age from their mid-20s to their 60s, representing the perspectives of several generations. Member-

ship is by invitation only, with potential members recommended by current Gazelles.

When current Gazelles president Jennifer Baumgartel was invited to join the group, she said there was no question. She looked forward to the Tater Town Special every year growing up, and she wanted to jump in and help the Gazelles continue the tradition.

Baumgartel, who works in telephonic nurse case management for Optum and focuses on women’s health and fertility patients, has been a Gazelle for about six to eight years.

She became president earlier this year, taking on responsibilities such as organizing meetings and helping guide planning for the next Tater Town Spe-

cial. Still, she said the group functions more as a collaboration than a hierarchy.

“We all have that goal of trying to be together, working together to promote our community,” Baumgartel said. “It’s great to hear everybody’s ideas and see the heart that each woman puts into this event. I feel like they’re an extension of my family.”

For Baumgartel, the purpose of the group remains centered on the same idea that started it more than five decades ago: to give the people of Gleason an opportunity to get together and show pride in their town.

“Being from Gleason, it really is something special,” said Baumgartel.

National Women’s Hall of Fame Has Five Tennesseans

The National Women’s Hall of Fame, located in Seneca Falls, N.Y., has inducted 312 women since its 1969 incorporation. Inductees are honored for their achievements in arts, athletics, business, education, government, humanities, philanthropy and science. Here’s a special look at five Tennessee-born inductees.

Mary Breckinridge

Inducted in 1995, Mary Breckinridge, of Memphis, was described as the nation’s foremost pioneer in the development of American midwifery. Breckinridge was the founder of Frontier Nursing Service (FNS), which brought healthcare to rural communities in America. Within five years, FNS reached more than 1,000 rural families in an area exceeding 700 square miles.

The original FNS hospital in Hyden, Ky., is now named the Mary Breckinridge Hospital.

Anne Dallas Dudley

Inducted in 1995, Anne Dallas Dudley, of Nashville, is noted for her successful efforts to pass the 19th Amendment in Tennessee — the 36th and final state necessary to give women across the nation the right to vote.

In 2016, a monument was unveiled honoring Dudley and five of her peers for their work in the Women’s Suffrage Movement. The monument stands in Nashville’s Centennial Park.

Mary Engle Pennington

Inducted in 2002, Mary Engle Pennington, of Nashville, was once profiled by the New Yorker as the “Ice Woman.” Pennington was an innovator in the preservation, handling, storage and transportation of perishable foods. She created national standards for milk and dairy inspection and improved the safety and convenience of refrigerated and frozen foods. Pennington was the first female lab chief at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Wilma Rudolph

Inducted in 1994, Wilma

Rudolph, of Clarksville, was the first American woman ever to win three gold medals in the Olympics. At 20 years old, she competed in the 100-meter dash, the 200-meter dash and the 4x100-meter relay in the 1960 Olympics, setting world records in all three events. A track and field star, Rudolph gave women’s track a strong boost in America. She created the Wilma Rudolph Foundation to help train young athletes.

Bessie Smith

Inducted in 1984, Bessie Smith, of Chattanooga, was considered the “greatest blues singer of her time” by the National Women’s Hall of Fame. Smith earned stardom from her first record “Down Hearted Blues,” which sold two million records and eventually made more than 160 recordings with many of the country’s finest jazz musicians. Smith eventually earned the title “Empress of the Blues” from her friends and peers.

Color A Masterpiece

ELLEN OCHOA

May 10th 1958 - Present

First Hispanic female astronaut

Studied solar wind and the Earth's atmosphere

Received NASA's highest award: Distinguished Service Medal

Ellen Ochoa is the first Hispanic woman to go to space. Her paternal grandparents immigrated from Mexico to California, where Ochoa was born. She earned her master's and doctoral degrees in electrical engineering from Stanford before performing research at NASA. In 1993, she served as a mission specialist aboard the space shuttle *Discovery* and later became director of NASA's Johnson Space Center.



Left, Donna Waddell. Photo by Amy Bourne/Amy Bourne Photography Right, Waddell Clinic Primary Care and Aesthetics held its grand opening on March 15, 2024. Donna Waddell cuts the ribbon as associates, friends and family look on. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

Donna Waddell *Helping Patients Look And Feel Their Best*

BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

On a typical day at Waddell Clinic Primary Care & Aesthetics, Donna Waddell might treat a longtime primary care patient in the morning and perform cosmetic injections in the afternoon. Both services, she says, are ways she can help people feel healthy and confident in their own skin. Waddell opened Waddell Clinic Primary Care & Aesthetics in Henry in March 2024. She estimates about 75 percent of her patients visit for primary care, while about 25 percent see her for aesthetic services.

Many of those primary care patients have been seeing her for years, dating back to when she worked with Dr. Pagoaga in McKenzie. Waddell grew up in McKenzie and graduated from McKenzie High School in 1987. She then attended Bethel College, earning a degree in chemistry with a minor in biology in 1991. She returned to school soon after and earned her nursing degree from the University of Tennessee Health Science Center in Memphis in 1993. Her first job was in the surgical intensive care unit at Jackson General Hospital. The position meant

long drives from McKenzie and overnight shifts. After the birth of her first child, Dalton, in 1994, she switched to a more flexible schedule that allowed her to work when needed while spending more time at home with her family. Several years later, she returned to school again, earning her master's degree from Union University in 2008 and becoming a nurse practitioner. She began practicing in McKenzie in 2009, working with Dr. Pagoaga at the hospital clinic. After the hospital closed, she continued working in local clinics, including McKenzie Medical Center and later Christian Family

Medicine. At McKenzie Medical Center, Dr. Volker Winkler and Dr. Terry Colotta asked whether there were additional services she could provide that might bring in more patients. "I said, 'Well, I would love to do Botox and lip filler,'" she said. She completed hands-on training in Nashville and began offering injectable treatments at McKenzie Medical Center. When she joined Christian Family Medicine, which was classified as a Rural Health Clinic, she was unable to continue providing injectable treatments through the clinic. She instead hosted Botox parties at her and her husband's event space, the Venue at Waddell Place. After more than a decade practicing in McKenzie, Waddell decided she wanted more control over how she practiced medicine. That led her to Henry, where she opened Waddell Clinic Primary Care & Aesthetics just minutes from her home. While the clinic provides routine medical care, Waddell has also continued offering aesthetic services. "I like making other women feel better about themselves," she said. "Now that has carried over into this business where I do Botox and lip filler and try to help people feel like they look better." She said her goal is not to provide dramatic or obvious cosmetic work, but to provide subtle changes that improve someone's confidence. "I don't want people to look at you and say, 'Oh,

you had your lips done,'" Waddell said. "I want people to look at you and say, 'Oh, you're so pretty.'" Her interest in helping women feel confident about their appearance goes back years before she began offering injectables. For a long time, Waddell was involved with Mary Kay cosmetics, eventually becoming a sales director and earning the company's well-known pink Cadillac. Waddell said feeling good about appearance can affect more than just how someone looks. "How you look affects your self-esteem," she said. "It affects how you communicate with other people, too... If you feel better about yourself, you can be a better mom, you can be a better wife, you can be a better whatever."

Outside of medicine, Waddell and her husband, Ronnie, also operate The Venue at Waddell Place, a wedding and event venue on their property. The venue space on Joy Sparks Road includes a rustic, Amish-built barn and a white chapel. The couple built the venue in 2016 after their son Dalton's wedding revealed some things Waddell felt could be improved upon at similar venues. The venue hosted its first event that same year — McKenzie High School's prom — and it has since been a popular space for weddings and other gatherings. For Waddell, the venue offers another way to be part of important moments in people's lives. "It's fun meeting the different brides and seeing the different ways that people decorate," she said. "I've met so many people over the years doing that. That's the most fun part — just seeing other people's vision come to life." Asked about her biggest achievement, she points first to her family. She and Ronnie have three children — Dalton, Brittany and Lucas — and several grandchildren. Professionally, though, opening her own clinic stands out. "I'm glad I did it," Waddell said. "Looking back, I should have done it years ago."

Celebrating

WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

McKenzie Valve & Machining LLC

145 Airport Road
McKenzie, TN 38201

731-352-5027

mckenzievalve.com

Notable American Women Who Shaped the United States

Women born in the United States have had a profound impact on the nation's history. Women have led social revolutions, pioneered scientific discoveries and broken various glass ceilings. Here's a look at a handful of noteworthy women who have helped to shape the United States.

Susan B. Anthony

Anthony was a central figure in the women's suffrage movement, traveling the country giving speeches and organizing for the right to vote. Although Anthony died before the Nineteenth Amendment was passed in 1920, it is often referred to as the "Susan B. Anthony Amendment."

Katherine Johnson

Johnson's calculations of orbital mechanics were critical to the success of the first and subsequent U.S. crewed space flights. A

brilliant mathematician at NASA, Johnson's work was essential for the Apollo 11 mission, which helped to land the first humans on the moon.

Sandra Day O'Connor

When she was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court by President Ronald Regan in 1981, O'Connor became the first woman Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States. O'Connor served for 24 years and frequently became the swing vote on many noteworthy cases.

Rosa Parks

When she refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a Montgomery, Alabama, bus in 1955, Parks became a key figure in the Civil Rights Movement. Her quiet defiance sparked the Montgomery Bus Boycott and served as a pivotal moment that helped end legal

segregation in the U.S.

Eleanor Roosevelt

Roosevelt was one of the most active First Ladies in history. She redefined the role by becoming a diplomat, politician and activist in her own right. Roosevelt became the first chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights and was a champion of civil rights.

Serena Williams

Widely considered one of the greatest athletes of all time, Williams won 23 Grand Slam singles tennis titles. Apart from her work on the tennis courts, Williams is a prominent advocate for maternal health and a successful venture capitalist.

The United States has been transformed by key women throughout the nation's history.