



(L to R) West Carroll school board Chairman William Robinson, FFA members Ethan Mueller and Carson Cooper, FFA sponsor Noah Rogers and Director of Schools Preston Caldwell. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

West Carroll School Board Approves Mileage Rate Increase

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

ATWOOD (April 2) — The West Carroll Special School District Board of Education met Thursday with several items to address, most notably an increase in the mileage rate paid by the district. Board members approved the first reading of a policy update bringing the district's mileage rate in line with the U.S. General Services Administration approved travel rate of 73 cents per mile, up from 47 cents per mile. Director of Schools Preston Caldwell said, "As you go to the gas station these days, you're paying a pretty penny. The rate's going to go up to 73 cents, which I think is very appropriate." The board's approval also included procedural changes to the policy on charter school applications, a formality for West Carroll as there are no charter schools in the immediate area. The board approved several field trips for Beta Club members and band members. Maintenance Supervisor Mark Wright updated the board on the elementary school renovation project. The state has approved the plans, and a pre-bid walk-

through is on Thursday, April 9. Bids will be opened Thursday, April 30. Two FFA members and sponsor Noah Rogers addressed the board regarding the club's recent competitive successes and upcoming events. FFA member Carson Cooper reported on the club's year in competition. With over 20 active members competing in various contests, they have earned four district wins, a region win, a state win, two state FFA degrees and a Superior Chapter Award. Cooper himself was the state champion, earning first in the FFA Beef Production Supervised Agricultural Experience competition at the recent state FFA convention in Gatlinburg. Cooper also reported the club's goat shed was nearing completion, and a show team is in the works. Also, the aquaculture system to raise fish has been reassembled after a 12-year hiatus. FFA member Ethan Mueller thanked the board and administration for their support. He relayed that the annual plant sale is Saturday, April 18. He also spoke about the agriculture department's year-round utilization of the greenhouse to produce

tomatoes, lettuce, peppers, ferns, flowers and ornamental plants. The board acknowledged a resignation and two retirements effective at the end of the school year. Sandra Knight, a paraprofessional, will depart at the end of the semester. Rosemary Taylor, a primary school cafeteria worker, and Kim Allen, elementary school interventionist, are retiring. A reception will be held in June. Director Caldwell announced that legally-required firearm safety training for all students would be upcoming. He assured that the programs will be age-appropriate. More details will be announced prior to the safety programs. Thursday's meeting began with a moment of silence for the Kenwood Middle School community and for the families of two West Carroll teachers, one former and one current. Billy Windsor, a West Carroll teacher and football coach, and Gayle Kendrick, a former West Carroll teacher and basketball coach, both recently died unexpectedly. The meeting adjourned after 45 minutes. Board member Betty Wallace was absent. The board meets next on Thursday, May 7 at 6:30 p.m.

McKenzie City Council Meets Thursday

The McKenzie City Council meets Thursday, April 9 at 6 p.m. The following items are listed on the agenda: Citizens Input - hear from Randa Lipman on National Donate Life Month; Discussion/Approval for TDOT Miscellaneous Safety Improvements and J-Turn Intersection plans in regards to south of SR-124 at SR-423; and hear recommendations for the Depot Entrepreneur Project.



Shoppers could place bids in-person or through WHDM Radio. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Cancer Bake Auction Nets Over \$16,000

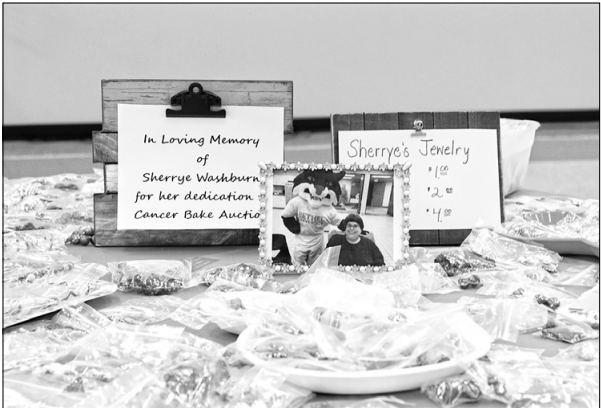
BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE — Carroll County Relay for Life hosted its annual Cancer Bake Auction March 30 – April 3 at McKenzie Church of Christ. This year's auction was dedicated in memory of Sherrye Washburn, a devoted Relay for Life member and Cancer Bake Auction volunteer who died in October 2025. In her memory, the Carroll County Relay for Life team put together a table selling Washburn's handmade jewelry and auctioned off some of her jewelry-making tools. The Relay for Life team matched up different auctioneers each day, pitting McKenzie and Huntingdon Mayors Ryan Griffin and Chad Edwards against each other for one auction, and pitting brothers Kenny and Tim McBride against each other for another. Other auctioneers included Brother Chance Steen, Terry Howell, Baptist Memorial Hospital Chaplain Michael Dennison, Carl Byars, Brother Kenny Carr and Craig Lunn.

The auction was streamed daily on WHDM Radio, 98.9 FM or 1440 AM. Each day, bidders showed out, competing to purchase their choice of baked goods, casseroles, crafts and more. The unofficial total raised at this year's five-day Cancer Bake Auction was \$16,694, according to a Carroll County Relay for Life representative. The official total will be announced at a later date.



Above, Huntingdon and McKenzie Mayors Chad Edwards and Ryan Griffin were guest auctioneers Wednesday, April 1. Below, This year's Cancer Bake Auction was dedicated in loving memory of Sherrye Washburn. The Relay for Life team sold some of her handmade jewelry and auctioned off some of her jewelry-making tools. Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner



U.S. Rep. David Kustoff speaks to area leaders at the Carroll County Shooting Sports Park. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Kustoff Addresses Historic DHS Shutdown During County Visit

BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (April 3) — U.S. Rep. David Kustoff visited the Carroll County Shooting Sports Park on Good Friday, continuing an annual tradition of meeting with local leaders and discussing federal and regional issues. Kustoff spoke with county officials and community members during the event, addressing questions on employment, election policy and federal funding. Responding to a question about jobs, Kustoff said recent employment numbers have exceeded expectations but emphasized the need for skilled workers across trades. Kustoff also discussed federal election legislation, including requirements for voter identification. He said he supported a measure that would require proof of U.S. citizenship to vote and mandate photo identification in federal elections. "I think that's common sense," Kustoff said, comparing voter ID requirements to identification needed for activities such as air travel or opening a bank account. He noted challenges in

advancing such legislation in the Senate, where most bills require 60 votes to pass, and referenced ongoing discussions about using the budget reconciliation process to move certain measures forward. Kustoff's visit landed amid a historic partial government shutdown involving the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The shutdown entered its eighth week April 6, and Congress is in recess from March 30 to April 10. Kustoff addressed questions about federal funding for the DHS. He said funding legislation has passed the House multiple times but has stalled in the Senate. "It's not just ICE, it's not just Border Patrol," Kustoff said. "It's also the Coast Guard. It's also FEMA. It's also the United States Secret Service. There are a number of different departments that go under that big umbrella, and they hadn't been paid." He said some federal employees have gone weeks without pay, noting the impact on morale and household finances. "If you miss one or two or three paychecks, that hurts," Kustoff said. "Everybody's

got bills." The Senate previously approved legislation to reopen and fund most of the DHS during the shutdown, excluding Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and part of Customs and Border Protection (CBP), but House conservatives opposed the Senate legislation. The House voted late Friday, March 27, to pass a short-term bill to fund the entirety of DHS for 60 days. The bill has yet to be approved by the Senate, who returns from recess April 13. During the event, State Rep. Tandy Darby (R-Greenfield) thanked Kustoff for his accessibility and responsiveness, citing ongoing communication with the congressman and his staff. The Good Friday gathering has become a recurring event, paused only during the COVID-19 pandemic. Kustoff thanked the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce for hosting and said he looks forward to returning next year. At the conclusion of the event, the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce recognized the Leadership Carroll County Class of 2025.

McKenzie FFA Honored At State Convention

Students Wade Chandler, Dylan Barton and Kellen Finley represented McKenzie High School's Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter at this year's state convention. This year's convention took place over McKenzie's spring break, March 22-25, at the Gatlinburg Convention Center. While McKenzie students did not compete in any competitions while at the convention, the chapter took home the State Superior Chapter Award and the Golden Plow Award. The Superior Chapter Award is a high honor for an FFA chapter to receive. It is awarded to chapters that meet the National Quality Chapter Standards (NQCS) and complete the required activities to demonstrate strong leadership, personal growth and career success in agriculture. McKenzie FFA also received the Golden Plow Award, which is named for FFA's Passing Literacy OnWard (PLOW) initiative. The initiative challenges chapter members to do personal reading beyond regular academic requirements. The McKenzie FFA chapter accumulated between 60 and 74 hours of personal reading this year. Agriculture teacher and McKenzie FFA advisor Lindsey Parham invites



McKenzie FFA officers Wade Chandler, Dylan Barton and Kellen Finley attended the Tennessee FFA Convention in Gatlinburg with their advisor, Lindsey Parham. Submitted photo

the community to stop by the school's annual FFA Plant Sale, which began Friday, April 3, and ends Friday, April 10, to see FFA students' work on display. The greenhouse is open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. during the Plant Sale.

Bill

...From Front Page

of the 147 public school districts in Tennessee.

There are 65 virtual schools in Tennessee with 25 of those schools operating state-wide. However, South Carroll's virtual schools are the only ones affected by this legislation.

White reportedly asked Tennessee Attorney General Jonathan Skrmetti to give a notification of the bill's un-constitutional nature.

Articles within the Ten-nessee Constitution prohibit impermissible class legislation. This has been interpreted to guarantee Tennesseans a right to equal protection that mirrors the U.S. Constitution, Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause.

Article XI: Section 8 of the state Constitution reads, "The Legislature shall have no power to suspend any general law for the benefit of any particular individual, nor to pass any law for the benefit of individuals inconsistent with the general laws of the land; nor to pass any law granting to any individual or individuals, rights, privileges, immunitie, [immunities] or exemptions other than such as may be, by the same law extended to any member of the community, who may be able to bring himself within the provisions of such law."

The issue arose when South Carroll Special School District sought to solve its own funding issues by launching two state-wide virtual schools on July 1, 2025, Clarksburg Virtual Academy (Grades 6–12) and Clarksburg Adult Virtual High School, which serves learners aged 17 and older throughout Tennessee.

In May 2025, Dr. Lisa Norris, Director of Schools and Principal of the new virtual programs, said, "South Carroll is expanding to ensure we remain competitive in a rapidly changing education market. The Education Freedom Act has challenged us to engage in a statewide academic environment, and these virtual options allow us to do just that—while continuing to meet the diverse needs of today's learners."

The virtual addition has boosted South Carroll's enrollment, but the success hasn't exactly been well-received by the other districts that stand to lose funding due to the current funding formula.

Sen. Stevens worked with local legislators, including state representatives Tandy Darby and Brock Martin, along with the Tennessee Department of Education and legislative attorneys, to craft language addressing

the problem.

The proposed amendment would require that only students who live within a district or county be counted when calculating enrollment totals used in the formula for distributing the state share of local sales tax. Students enrolled in virtual programs would not be included in that count.

Meaning, South Carroll would still have the virtual school enrollment and related expenses, but not the state-allocated funding to go along with it.

Tennessee public schools' current funding model, TISA, requires 30% of funding to come from local option sales tax. The other 70% comes from TISA's four-part funding criteria.

"It's just part of the TISA formula," said Dr. Norris, "and it's needed for operations."

Both of South Carroll's virtual programs are 100 percent tuition-free, so the district does not receive funding directly from students. Upon admission, students receive a laptop provided by the school. The school district also hired two state-certified instructors for the virtual program.

Stevens said his bill would bring the distribution method closer to the system previously used.

Local sales tax revenue in Carroll County is divided among districts based on average daily enrollment. As the virtual school's state-wide enrollment increases, the district's share of the county's sales tax revenue also rises.

School leaders across the county have warned that the situation could reduce funding for their districts.

Director of Schools Dr. Justin Barden said McKenzie Special School District could face an estimated loss of about \$126,000.

Dr. Jonathan Kee, director of the Huntingdon Special School District, said his district could lose at least \$125,000 if no legislative action is taken.

Preston Caldwell, director of the West Carroll Special School District, said earlier in March his district could lose up to \$67,000 if the formula remains unchanged.

South Carroll has yet to receive any additional funding for its virtual schools because funding is determined by the previous school year's enrollment. The estimated totals are projected based on the 2025-2026 school year's TISA funding. Official numbers are expected in June 2026.

TISA stands for Tennessee Investment in Student Achievement. It is the new public school funding formula signed into law in May 2022.

TISA takes into account the base funding amount provided for every pub-

lic-school student; weighted funding to address individual student needs including those students who may be low-income, students with disabilities, or live in a sparse or small community; direct funding intended to support early literacy, career and technical education (CTE) programming, and postsecondary readiness; and outcomes funding based on student achievement.

Stevens said lawmakers considered a proposal that would have required sales tax revenue to be collected from each virtual student's home county. However, he said such a plan would likely fail because it would affect multiple counties across the state.

"That would kill the bill because, obviously, other counties and other members who would lose their money would kill the bill," Stevens said, describing the idea as a "poison pill" for the legislation.

Instead, the amendment was written so that the legislation applies only to Carroll County and does not alter funding formulas elsewhere in Tennessee.

SB 2188/HB 2388 reads, "An act to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 5 and Title 49, Chapter 3, relative to the apportionment of education funding in a county in which an LEA has established a public virtual school.

"Local Education Agencies [LEAs] - As introduced, limits, for Carroll County, the weighted full-time equivalent average daily attendance [WFTEADA] for which the county is required to apportion all school funds collected by the county for current operation and maintenance purposes to that generated by students whose primary legal residence is located in Carroll County. - Amends T.C.A. Title 5 and Title 49, Chapter 3."

On March 30, on third and final consideration, Stevens referred the bill back to the Senate Calendar Committee, with no objections.

The calendar committee is responsible for scheduling bills and resolutions for consideration by the Senate.

Sen. Stevens represents Tennessee District 24, which encompasses Benton, Carroll, Gibson, Henry, Houston, Obion, Stewart and Weakley counties.

Rep. Martin represents Tennessee District 79, which includes the southern half of Carroll County and portions of Gibson and Henderson Counties.

Both White and Skrmetti's offices were contacted for comment and documentation of this development, but did not respond by press time.

Updates will be provided as they become available.



Left, Meghan Cowan and Savannah Donat prepare to plant new flowers in a Cedar Street decoration. Right, Wave Hixson and Jakari Haynes pull weeds outside of the McKenzie Depot. Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

MHS

...From Front Page

gardening pots. Under her direction, six students planted an assortment of asparagus fern, coleus, sweet potato vine, petunia, marigold, geranium, lantana, dusty miller, dianthus and canna plants.

This community service opportunity was the students' reward for taking the ACT exam in the morning. Senior students were also given the opportunity to tour colleges or job shadow during the afternoon.



Kellen Finley, Dylan Barton and Maddox Shiell remove last year's flowers from flower pots in downtown McKenzie. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Grant

...From Front Page

better equip our students for post-secondary training and future careers," said Dr. Norris.

"We were excited to collaborate with the other districts on this joint project and are grateful for the opportunity to strengthen learning environments across our community."

Huntingdon SSD will designate its grant funds toward purchasing large-screen interactive displays and computers.

Huntingdon SSD Technology Supervisor Scott Carter said, "It is vital we continue to invest in technology that will promote student engagement in the classroom."

Huntingdon Director of

Schools Dr. Jonathan Kee said, "We are thankful to receive this grant to support our technology needs. We appreciate South Carroll Special School District for submitting the grant application in collaboration with the other participating districts."

McKenzie SSD will designate its grant and matching funds toward purchasing large-screen interactive displays, tele-health and tele-counseling systems, and media-center equipment for large spaces and conference rooms.

"As we continue to invest in technology that will promote student engagement in the classroom, enhance staff access to advanced resources, and outfit our schools with large-space equipment, we are thankful for the support of the USDA through the DLT grant," said Dr. Dianne

Anderson, technology supervisor at McKenzie SSD.

McKenzie Director of Schools Dr. Justin Barden said, "We are thankful to receive this grant to support our system and make continued technology upgrades for our schools. We appreciate South Carroll Special School District for submitting the grant application in collaboration with the other participating Carroll County school districts."

The DLT grant program aims to increase access to education, training and healthcare resources in rural areas by leveraging advanced telecommunications technologies. This investment will support both classroom instruction and telemedicine capabilities, helping to bridge gaps in access and prepare students for success beyond graduation.

Radio

...From Front Page

and emergency services secured funding to purchase Tennessee Advanced Communications Network (TCAN) radio equipment.

The amended budget for the Sheriff's Office accounts for \$440,000. The expenditure comes at no additional cost to taxpayers, as \$180,000 is a line-item adjustment and \$260,000 will be moved from the Drug Fund's Fund Balance.

For several years, county agencies, along with local municipalities, have had various issues with the current radio system. With the advancement of technology, most local agencies and utility companies, as well as state agencies, are joining the TCAN system.

TACN is a statewide radio system that provides communication connectivity infrastructure for local, state, and federal first re-

sponders. With TACN, first responders, including law enforcement, fire, EMS, and healthcare providers, have reliable communications capabilities for daily operations and the ability to talk to each other to coordinate at the local, regional, and statewide levels to respond in the event of an emergency or disaster.

TACN is made up of mobile and fixed radio transmission sites across the state so that, from Tennessee's urban to most rural areas, first responders will have consistent communication coverage. No matter where you are in Tennessee, even when other means of communication fail, TACN offers seamless communication for our partners. TACN has built-in redundancy to ensure the network will still offer statewide coverage in the event any location becomes inoperable after a natural or man-made disaster.

Resolution 4-07-2026 to approve an updated payroll policy and transition

to a semi-monthly pay for days worked structure. The current payroll structure includes advance payment practices that do not align with recommended accounting standards.

Resolution 4-02-2026 amends the General Fund Budget for Circuit Court in the amount of \$1000.

Resolution 4-03-2026 amends the General Fund Budget for Carroll Academy in the amount of \$500; this covers the cost of an assistant coach for the basketball team.

Resolution 4-04-2026 amends the General Fund Budget for County Clerk in the amount of \$10,200 for new computers.

Resolution 4-05-2026 amends the Solid Waste Fund Budget in the amount of \$1,945 for part-time.

Resolution 4-06-2026 amends the Grant Fund Budget with an increase of \$10,098 to be applied towards the Highway Safety Grant and the Sheriff's Recruitment Grant.



(L to R) Front Row: Theodore Zamecnik, Elizabeth Hritz, AnaLee Murray and Joy Bryant. Back Row: Ethan Mueller, Hunter Malm, Caleb Sylvester, Carson Cooper and Gunner Martin.

Cooper

...From Front Page

Experience competition. Supervised Agricultural Experiences, commonly known as SAEs, are a key component of agricultural education and the FFA organization. These student-led projects provide opportunities for students to gain practical experience, develop career skills and explore potential pathways in agriculture. Cooper first earned the title of West Tennessee Regional winner, advancing to the state level where he was selected as the top

competitor in his category. Cooper's project focused on beef production placement through his family farm. Cooper helps manage and background 650 feeder steers for market. His responsibilities include daily feeding, monitoring herd health, tracking growth rates and ensuring each animal receives proper nutrition for optimal performance. Beyond daily care, Carson analyzes market trends and helps make decisions on when to sell to maximize profitability. In addition to the feeder steer operation, Carson contributes to managing the family's commercial cow-calf herd, focusing on improving genetics

to enhance meat quality and overall herd health. His experience has provided him with valuable skills in beef production, business management and sustainable agriculture—skills he plans to continue developing as he grows the operation in the future. West Carroll's FFA chapter was also awarded the honor of Superior Chapter, and had two senior members, Joy Bryant and Elizabeth Hritz, receive their State FFA Degree. The chapter's Agronomy team competed at the state level and earned twelfth place out of over 45 teams, placing sixth out of teams from the Western Region.

Isbell

...From Front Page

States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, announced the sentence Thursday.

The investigation in this case revealed that Isbell used a cell phone to record himself sexually assaulting a seven-year-old child. The video was subsequently sent to the child's mother via a social media application, and she immediately reported it to the police. After being confronted with the video, Isbell admitted to law enforcement officers that he had made the

video and stored it on his cell phone. The incident occurred in November 2019.

Following the defendant's guilty plea to possession of child pornography, Senior United States District Judge J. Daniel Breen sentenced Isbell to 15 years in federal prison and five years of supervised release. There is no parole in the federal system.

Isbell also has a related pending state indictment in the Circuit Court of Carroll County, where he has been charged with the Class B felony offense of Aggravated Sexual Battery for engaging in unlawful sexual contact with a victim under 13 years of age.

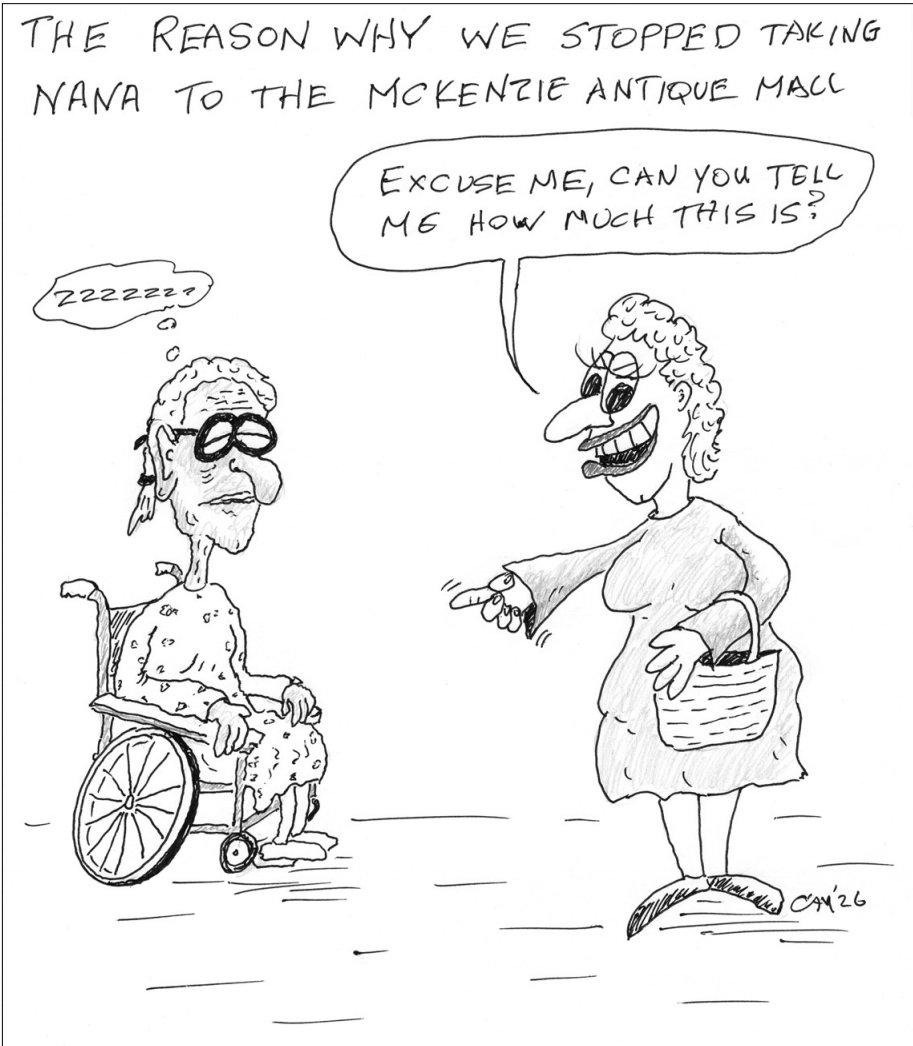
U.S. Attorney D. Michael

Dunavant said, "Sexual predators who victimize children cannot hide from ultimate detection and aggressive prosecution by this office. Production and possession of child pornography victimizes, harms and exploits vulnerable children in a horrific way, and must be met with significant consequences."

This case was investigated by members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the McKenzie Police Department and the Tennessee Department of Children's Services.

Assistant United States Attorney Josh Morrow prosecuted this case on behalf of the government.

Things In My Head with Charles Manfredi



HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

Making Silk Purses Out Of Sows’ Ears

I go downtown at 8 a.m. to get Irene to cut my hair, and I can’t find a place to park. Tourists are already there, buying wind chimes, purple scarfs, and cinnamon glazed apple fritters. I circled around town twice before I spied a Wisconsin car backing out of a spot next to Ace Hardware.

As I’m holding up traffic, waiting for Wisconsin to move on, I got to thinking about a trip to Green Bay with my youngest son. We saw the Packers play the Bears on the coldest day ever recorded in Wisconsin in November. It was a special father/son trip that will live in my memory forever....

I hadn’t hardly gotten out of my truck when a young couple stopped me, asking where they could find a good restaurant serving breakfast. I invited them to walk along with me as I was going right by Sisters’.

They were from Johnson City, Tennessee. Well now, I took a liking to them immediately! Johnson City is in the far eastern part of the state. We talked a little Volunteer football and the joy of the freshness of an early April morning in the Appalachian Mountains.

They “found” Port St. Joe because Molly’s parents had vacationed here years before. John worked at a hospital in Johnson City. They were childhood sweethearts, grew up in the same neighborhood, and went to the same high school. It was really a nice story. And they were a precious couple.

It crossed my mind to tell them I once played in a baseball tournament in Johnson City. But it was much more fun listening to them. We got to Sisters’ too quickly. John shook my hand twice and Molly gave

me a hug. I invited them to stay at our house the next time they came to St. Joe.

I ran into an entire family as they were coming out of Sweet Buns. “How are y’all doing this morning? Where are you from?”

“Cleveland, Georgia.”

That was no surprise. Half of the state visits Port St. Joe on an annual basis. I asked if any of them attended Truett McConnell University; did they know the clockmaker in Cleveland, his name is Keith Seabolt; and did they ever visit nearby Toccoa Falls?

They were a delightful family. I leaned down to their youngest daughter, Angie, who was in the first grade and couldn’t wait to get to the beach, “You know Ang, if I had a chocolate covered donut as big as yours, I’d give you a bite of mine.”

I met Ken and Dorine Matthews standing in front of the old Port Theatre. They looked to be maybe a tad older than me. That is a feat in itself these days. They were from Upland, Indiana. We discussed watching Roy Rogers and Lash LaRue at our respective movie venues several decades ago.

Ken had on a Vietnam hat, and we spent a few minutes back in the late 1960’s. That somehow got us into Folk Music. So, we exchanged some of our favorite Kingston Trio and Peter, Paul, and Mary songs. I thanked him for his service, but he just waved me off like they always do, “That was a long time ago.”

I didn’t say it so as not to embarrass either of us, but he is still a hero to me. They all are!

Before I could invite them to stay with Cathy and me the next time they came to town, Irene had

me by the elbow dragging me across the street. “Listen Coach, I got a business to run. Your appointment was an hour ago. You are messing up my whole schedule!”

“Yes ma’am.” You don’t argue with Irene. But I did ask her to take it easy on my sideburns....

There are folks in town who do not take kindly to all the visitors that bless our shores. It’s nothing personal, they just feel the crowds can be overwhelming at times. But I see this whole thing a bit differently.

And I owe it to my upbringing.

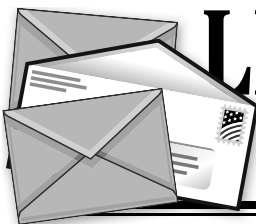
When I was a kid, we couldn’t get a stranger to visit our little town. We used to go out to the service station on the highway where the Greyhound bus stopped and hope someone would get off...and stay!

We’d hang out by Doctor Holmes’ office just to wave at the drug salesman who came by on Tuesday afternoons. Yogi and I would lay on the train overpass counting out of state cars passing underneath, praying one would have a flat tire. We then could casually RUSH down and say hello!

Brenda Whitehead moved to McKenzie when I was in high school. She was from North Carolina, which seemed like a foreign country to us. There is something special about a new face. With fresh and different ideas. I don’t care when or where you live. It is an opportunity to make a new friend, and maybe expand your own horizons.

I asked Brenda to marry me the second day she was in town....

Respectfully,
Kes
kesley45@aol.com



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Many Thanks...

Many thanks to everyone who helped to make the March 28th #NoKings rally in downtown McKenzie a success: Police Chief Ryan White and Jennifer Waldrup for providing guidance and information as to what was

required and allowed to use Veteran’s Park, McKenzie Police Department and the Carroll County Sheriff’s department for assigning officers to make certain that everything remained safe, all of the drivers and pas-

sengers in the cars honking horns, flashing peace signs and bumping their fists, Dr. Roger Johnson and Deborah Norwood for co-hosting with me, the staff at #NoKings for their support, and last but certainly far from least the participants. When I began planning this I told myself that if twenty people showed up it would be successful. Thirteen people registered on the website and twenty-seven showed up. Everyone’s contribution is very much appreciated!

Joyce Hale

THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

Prejudiced But Didn’t Know It; Part II

Nodding, I held up my small bag containing tennis shoes, shorts and t-shirt.

Coach Gibson called role, five brief instructions as to his expectations for the year and then dismissed everyone to change clothes.

Like a lemming I followed the other boys into the locker room. Wooden benches, with names and initials crudely etched in them, sat in front of wooden lockers without doors. Everyone started stripping down to get dressed up in their gym clothes. There was the typical laughing, joking and making fun of each other that boys engage in, though I was only an observer.

Looking around for a locker where I could change, I turned a corner and was stunned by what I saw.

In front of a locker was a Black boy, close to my age and size, changing his clothes. A Black boy! In my locker room!

As I stared at him, he stopped and looked at me without expression. After a pause and an audible sniff, he continued changing clothes.

Sitting down hard on the bench, my mind reeled. Much of my previous life I had lived in Alabama. The Deep South. Home to Governor George Wallace. I used public toilets that were for “whites only.” I avoided the water fountains that were for “colored only.”

The N-word was used as casually as breathing when referring to Blacks. Dehumanizing jokes were as common across elementary school yards as rocks on a gravel road.

Spellbound, I had watched the news on TV as water hoses tore the clothes off colored people’s backs. I even felt a sense of pride when Governor Wallace, flanked by soldiers, stood defiantly in a schoolhouse door to block the entrance of a Black student. “Nobody tells him what to do,” I thought.

I knew there were schools for Blacks, but I never saw one, never gave it any thought. What did they have to do with me?

Yet, in the home I grew up in, the N-word was never uttered, and other people were not made fun of. My parents taught us that everyone was equal, and prejudice was an offense to God. Therefore, the juxtaposition of the prej-

udiced world I faced every day and the non-judgmental world I lived in at home created dissonance within me.

Friends that I enjoyed playing with, and their parents in whose homes I ate and spent the night, were obviously highly prejudiced against anyone who wasn’t white. But my parents, who I loved and respected, held a firm line against that kind of attitude.

At fifteen years of age, I bought into what my parents taught me and was certain I was a compassionate person who believed everyone should be treated equally. If you’d accused me of being prejudiced back then, I’d have staunchly and confidently denied it.

But standing in that gym locker room, three hundred and fifty miles and several cultural divides from the Apartheid-like world I spent my childhood in, I experienced feelings I didn’t believe lived in my heart.

“Why am I offended by this Black boy being in the locker room with me?” I asked myself. “Why do I feel like he shouldn’t be here? Why am I so uncomfortable?”

I was embarrassed and confused by how I felt.

It was obvious none of the other white guys seemed to even notice the boy quietly lacing his Converse high-top tennis shoes. When he finishes dressing, he took a puff on an inhaler, something I knew a little bit about as both my brothers had asthma. I remembered the times I was terrified by their gasping, wheezing sounds as they desperately scrambled to find their inhaler.

Looking again at the Black boy, I felt a bow pull across a small, sympathetic string in my heart.

Everyone filed out of the locker room as I quickly shed my street clothes and put on my gym clothes.

Hurrying out the door, I joined everyone on the gym floor.

The shriek of Coach Gibson’s whistle shattered my confused thoughts.

“Okay boys, let’s divide up and play some basketball.” Without consulting a class roster, he quickly called the names of ten boys and divided them into two teams.

The rest of us took a seat on the bleachers to watch.

The two teams raced up and down the court with

practiced speed and agility. They banked shots, dropped in layups, blocked shots, and executed fast breaks with precision.

Glancing around, I noticed the Black boy sitting by himself like me and watching with an air of indifference. I thought about the similarities between us and felt a tug at the corner of my conscience as a little light filtered into my heart.

“I wonder if he feels like I do, like an outsider.”

Coach’s whistle hooked me by the ear and jerked me out of my ruminating.

“Give me ten more boys.” He looked at his roll book and barked out ten names, including mine.

As I passed the boys who had been playing, I noticed them gasping for air and the sheen of sweat covering them. But what I noticed the most was their smiles and laughter, their connection to each other.

When Coach divided us into two teams, I suddenly realized the Black boy was on my team. A feeling of uncertainty filled me as opposing feelings bumped into each other.

Having played basketball in Alabama and intending to try out for the team, I was eager to impress Coach Gibson.

He handed the ball to the Black boy, and said, “Here, Eugene.”

I suddenly felt connected to Eugene, because he was the only boy on the floor whose name I knew.

Pointing at me, Coach told Eugene, “Throw the ball in to Johnson and let’s get going!”

Eugene’s stoic features shifted, and a wide, infectious grin took its place. Tossing the ball to me and then running past me, he said, “Let’s go Johnson.”

For the next fifteen minutes I ran up and down the court, exchanging passes with Eugene and the others. With each pass between me and him, the differences in us melted away. I shouted words of encouragement to him. He smiled and laughed with me when we assisted one another in scoring.

My first time playing with a Black person.

The third portion of Prejudiced But Didn’t Know It will continue next week.

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

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ters, not libelous or harmful, will be published. The editorial staff may restrict the number of letters dealing with the same subject matter. The signature of the writer must be affixed to the letter with a verifiable address and phone number. The address and phone number will not be published at the request of the writer, however the name will be published. Tri-County Publishing does not publish unsigned letters of opinion.

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OUR STAFF

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

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

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

TERESA WASHBURN
Office Manager • Accounting
teresa@mckenziebanner.com

Honorary (Former) Staff **LINDA BOLTON** Associate Editor Emerita

JANNA PRATT
Graphic Designer • Circulation
design@mckenziebanner.com

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

RAMONA WASHBURN Publisher, 1985-2015

BRAD SAM
News & Sports
brad@mckenziebanner.com

LYNDSY SUMMERS
Graphic Designer • News
lyndsey@mckenziebanner.com

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Obituaries

MARY MARGARET WILSON
1951 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Mary Margaret Wilson, 74, of Huntingdon, died Friday, April 3, 2026, at her home.

Funeral services were Tuesday, April 7, 2026, in the Chapel of Dilday-Carter Funeral Home. Interment was at Carroll Memorial Gardens.

Mary was born July 22, 1951, in McKenzie, to the late Wilbert Herndon and Mildred Herndon. She was preceded in death by a brother, Teddy Herndon; and a sister, Loretta Herndon.

She is survived by her husband, Charles Wilson; and six sisters, Martha Ann Lowe, Shirley Jane (Michael) Reed, Delores Sue Green, Mildred Kay Willis, Nadine Herndon, and Tena Melissa Hicks.

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

JERRY CLEMENTS
1944 – 2026

BRUCETON — Mr. Jerry William Clements, 81, of Bruceton, died Tuesday, March 31, 2026, at Jackson Madison County General Hospital.

Funeral services were in the Chapel of Bruceton Funeral Home on Friday, April 3. Burial was in McAuley Cemetery.

Mr. Clements was born April 2, 1944, in Siloam, Ga., to the late Virgil Clements and Bertha Bramlett Clements. He was also preceded in death by a daughter-in-law, Karen Clements. Jerry came to Tennessee after graduating high school to attend Nashville Auto/Diesel College.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Peggy Cle-

ments; a daughter, Rachel Clements of Bruceton; a son, Scott (Vickie) Clements of Buena Vista; three brothers, Edward Clements of Siloam, Georgia, Donnie (Nancy) Clements of White Plains, Ga., and Kelvin Clements of Siloam, Ga.; five sisters, Emily Calloway, Annette (Tom) Leach, Betty (Jack) Northington all of Greensboro, Ga., Dale Temple of White Plains, and Audrey (Mike) Kelly of Mount Airy, Ga.; five grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.

PEGGY GLOVER
1943 – 2026

BRUCETON — Mrs. Peggy Glover, 82, of Bruceton, died Monday, March 30, 2026, at Lifecare Center of Bruceton.

Funeral services were conducted in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home. Bro. Philip Halter officiated. Interment was in New Prospect Missionary Baptist Church Cemetery in Decatur County.

Peggy Glover was born August 16, 1943, in Holaday, Tenn., to the late Alexander Ledbetter and Bertha Mae Inman Ledbetter. She was a member of New Prospect Missionary Baptist Church in Decatur County. She was preceded in death by her husband, Doug Glover; a sister, Betty Jean Cary; and a brother, Hollis Ledbetter.

She is survived by her daughter, Bonita McMackins (Mike) of Buena Vista; two sons, Greg Rimmer and Elvis Glover (Tracy), both of Buena Vista; and eight grandchildren; and twenty-two great-grandchildren.

ELIZABETH THOMSEN
1927 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Elizabeth Thomsen, 98, of Huntingdon, died Monday, March 30, 2026, at Harmo-

ny Hills.

Funeral services were in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home on Saturday, April 4, 2026. Burial was in the Leach Seventh Day Adventist Cemetery.

Mrs. Thomsen was born July 10, 1927, in Huntingdon, to the late Clyde and Kate (Kelly) Jarrett. She was a retired LPN; she loved to sew and was a member of the Huntingdon Quilting Club. She was also a member and longtime treasurer of Leach Seventh Day Adventist Church. She was also preceded in death by her husband of 69 years, John Wilford Thomsen; a brother, Roy Gene Jarrett; and a sister, Mildred Lewis.

She is survived by three daughters, Betty Wallace (Paul) of McLemoresville, Mary Verona (David) of Tucson, Ariz., and Deborah Barger (John) of Franklin; six grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

JIMMY HUBBARD
1968 – 2026

MADISON, Ala. — Jimmy Hubbard, 57, formerly of McKenzie, died Sunday, March 29, 2026, in Huntsville, Ala.

There are two memorial services.

On Saturday, April 11 at 1 p.m., there is a Celebration of Life service at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 786 Hughes Road in Madison, Ala., with a reception to follow.

On Saturday, April 25 at 2 p.m., a Celebration of Life service is at First United Methodist Church, 17 McTyre Street in McKenzie, Tenn., with Vince Edwards playing the organ per Mr. Hubbard's wishes. A reception with light refreshments will be held afterward in the fellowship hall.

Memorials can be made to: St. Matthew's in Madison, your local Humane Society, or to the McKenzie High School Alumni Association scholarship fund.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

25 4 17 1

ALA UNIT 47 FAMILY DANCE NIGHT

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 47 hosts a Family Dance Night every Thursday night from 7-9 p.m. at the Carroll County Civic Center, 201 Fairgrounds Rd, Huntingdon. A different band is featured each week. All are welcome – singles and/or partners. Admission is \$8. Limited snacks and refreshments available for purchase. For band schedule check out our Facebook page: American Legion Auxiliary, Huntingdon, TN Unit 47.

MACEDONIA COMMUNITY CENTER CAKEWALK

The Macedonia Community Center is hosting a cakewalk on April 10 with live music and food. Hamburgers and hot dogs are on the menu. Serving starts at 5:30 p.m. and the cakewalk is 7 p.m. The center is located at 4680 Highway 423, McKenzie.

SPRING REVIVAL AT FAIRVIEW MISSIONARY BAPTIST

A Spring Revival is April 19-24 at Fairview Missionary Baptist Church, 1375 Fairview Church Road, McKenzie. The times are 6 p.m. on Sunday, and Monday to Friday at 7 p.m.

MHS CLASS OF 1976 REUNION

McKenzie High School Class of 1976 is holding a 50-year class reunion on September 26, 1 p.m. at Chandler Farms in McKenzie. The event is in conjunction with the MHS Alumni Association annual reunion. For more information, e-mail Amy Rich Carter at amryrcarter58@gmail.com or Marsha Spain Smith at smithmarsha99@yahoo.com.

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT #47

We are the male and female spouses, grandmothers, mothers, sisters, daughters and direct and adopted descendants of veterans! ALA Unit 47 meets the first Monday of each month in the lower level of the Carroll County Courthouse in Huntingdon at 6 p.m. If you value patriotism, volunteerism and advocacy for veterans, the military and their families, you will feel right at home! Info: Pamela Davis Moss 731-415-5171 or Mary Lou Ozee 731-415-8066 (text only) or Face-

book: American Legion Auxiliary, Huntingdon, TN Unit 47.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB AT HOMETOWN HEALTH CLINIC

Everyone is invited to The Breakfast Club every Monday from 9-10:30 a.m. for coffee, snacks, mingling and a light activity. Take the chance to connect and socialize before getting interactive with games, light exercise and fun! Bring a friend and come make new ones at Hometown Health Clinic - Pediatrics/Specialty Entrance. We can't wait to see you there!

McKENZIE TOPS MEETS WEEKLY

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

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

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

CARROLL HUMANE SOCIETY EVENTS, NEWS Cat Vouchers

Cat spay/neuter vouchers are always available for \$60. To purchase by phone for use at Paris Vet Clinic, call 731-514-0878 and leave a message. These are available to anyone regardless of residency. We now offer cat vouchers to Carroll County residents for \$60 at the Huntingdon Animal Clinic. These must be purchased in person at the shelter with cash or card, and proof of residency is required. How-

CARROLL COMMISSION MEETS MONTHLY

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

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Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

Living Lord's Last Supper Portrayed at First CP Church

McKENZIE (April 2) — McKenzie First Cumberland Presbyterian Church hosted a living Lord's Last Supper on Thursday, April 2. Members of the church portrayed the disciples during the event in the church's sanctuary.

Re-enactors were Bill Kreuter - Andrew, Andrew

Webb - James the Lesser, Matthew Espey - Judas, Lee Lawrence - Nathaniel, Eli Surber - Philip, Thaddeus - Terry Howell, Daniel Gipson - James, Jody Trout - John, Jon Davis - Matthew, Tim Nanney - Thomas, Kevin Milton - Simon the Zealot, and Chuck Hutcheson - Peter.

Brother Rob Harris led the evening service. The church family observed communion again on Easter Sunday.

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Left, Monica Heath receives a certificate for completing the Tennessee Workforce Development Academy. Right, Ryan Griffin receives a certificate for completing the Tennessee Workforce Development Academy. Submitted photos

Griffin, Heath Attend Tennessee Workforce Development Academy

McKenzie Mayor Ryan Griffin and McKenzie Chamber of Commerce and Industrial Development Director Monica Heath joined workforce development professionals from across the state in Cookeville March 3-5 for the Tennessee Workforce Development (TN-WFD) Academy.

The multi-day professional development experience focused on strengthening Tennessee's workforce system through expert-led instruction, applied learning and shared expertise.

The academy attracted 51 professionals representing communities across Tennessee and reflected the diverse stakeholders shaping workforce development efforts statewide. Participants included representatives from state government agencies, local workforce development boards, the private sector, higher education and economic development

organizations.

Over the two-and-a-half-day training, participants engaged in interactive sessions centered on practical strategies, emerging trends and peer-to-peer learning. These sessions were designed to enhance workforce development practices while supporting stronger alignment with economic development priorities.

Equally important, the academy created space for meaningful dialogue, allowing participants to learn from one another's experiences and build connections that will last beyond the academy.

The course concluded with a graduation ceremony that recognized the participants' commitment to professional growth and collaboration.

"This class helped strengthen my understanding of how closely workforce and economic develop-

ment are connected," said Heath. "One of my biggest takeaways was that strong communities do not happen by accident—they are built through partnerships, planning and being intentional. I also took away how important it is to listen to employers, use workforce data and make sure education and training are aligned with real industry needs. With how fast technology is changing, it is also clear that soft skills, adaptability and digital skills are more important than ever."

Strong attendance and engagement throughout the TNWFD Academy showed the continued commitment of Tennessee's workforce professionals to lifelong learning and collaboration, two key components in building a resilient workforce and supporting the state's long-term economic growth.



The Leadership Carroll County Class of 2025 is pictured with U.S. Rep. David Kustoff. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

2025 Leadership Carroll County Class Recognized at Kustoff Event

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsommers@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (April 3) — The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce recognized the Leadership Carroll County Class of 2025 at the conclusion of U.S. Rep. David Kustoff's speaking event on Friday.

"Leadership development plays a vital role in the Carroll County Chamber's mission," said Carroll County Chamber of Commerce Director Brad Hurley. "For more than 35 years, The Chamber has dedicated itself to fostering leadership skills among the members

of our local community."

The following individuals were honored for graduating Leadership Carroll County in 2025:

Blake Bargery, West Tennessee Public Utility District; Dr. Lawanda Staten, educator and district instructional coach in Henderson County; Dr. Perry Moulds, Bethel University president; Shunna Toombs, Carroll Bank and Trust in McKenzie; Jill Stafford, Carroll Bank and Trust in McKenzie; Erin Lewis, business teacher at West Carroll Jr./Sr. High School; Hayle Fuller, loan assistant at First Bank in Hunting-

don; Melissa Gurley, 24th Judicial District – Benton County assistant victim witness coordinator; Erin Crockett, library director at Carroll County Library; Brittany Smith, Carroll County Sheriff's Department Office of Re-entry; Michael Denison, director of pastoral care for Baptist Memorial Healthcare – Carroll County, Ryan White, McKenzie Police Department.

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce has graduated more than 1100 individuals through its leadership program, according to Hurley.

New Study Will Determine McKenzie's Hotel Feasibility

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsommers@mckenziebanner.com

Does McKenzie need a new hotel?

That's the question the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development plans to answer through a new hotel feasibility study, which was awarded to McKenzie's Industrial Development Board (IDB) in March.

The study helps evaluate McKenzie's potential for hotel development and provide insights that can support strategic tourism and economic development planning.

Monica Heath, IDB director, said this study is the first step McKenzie can take to attract investors for a new hotel. It can serve as a marketing tool for the IDB for up to five years.

In late March, Heath sent a survey to various businesses in McKenzie to see how often they use area hotels. Soon, a hotel feasi-

bility expert will meet with Heath to tour local destinations and amenities. Information gained from the survey and the in-depth tour will contribute to McKenzie's feasibility report. The IDB owns 62 acres of property on Highway 22 across from McKenzie High School. Heath said the group hopes to sell 10-15 acres of that property for hotel use. The proposed hotel would stand adjacent to Shiloh Road.

McKenzie currently has two motels — Best Western and Relax Inn — but no hotels.

Bethel University brings many visitors to McKenzie. However, visiting sports teams are not allowed to stay overnight in motels where rooms are directly accessible from the outside.

Heath says most college teams stay overnight in Paris is when they play against Bethel University — and McKenzie misses out on

tourism revenue as a result.

Heath hopes to attract a well-known hotel chain, so visitors can receive reward points for their stays. She said this would make industries more likely to book rooms in McKenzie.

This isn't to say McKenzie will see a new hotel on Highway 22 any time soon. It is a long process that has only just begun. Once the feasibility study is concluded, the IDB will begin searching the market for potential investors. Once the IDB lands on an investor, it will sell the property. Then, it could take two years or more to build the hotel.

For now, individuals are invited to participate in the following survey to help the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development determine McKenzie's need for a hotel: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NewMcKenzieTNHotel>

McKenzie Fire Department Installs Safe Haven Baby Box

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsommers@mckenziebanner.com

McKenzie's Safe Haven Baby Box is officially installed, but it is not yet fully operational according to the McKenzie Fire Department.

The box, which was installed on the front-facing exterior wall of McKenzie's fire station, is still in a testing phase. Individuals are asked to not open the box until all phases are complete.

Once operational, Safe Haven Baby Box will give local mothers in crisis an anonymous, last-resort option to ensure the safe surrender of infants.

The Safe Haven Baby Box's exterior door will lock automatically after a newborn is placed inside. An interior door allows medical personnel to promptly and securely retrieve the baby, ensuring immediate care and protection.

"We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to bring this life-saving re-



McKenzie's baby box is attached to the front-facing exterior wall of McKenzie's fire station. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

source to our community and have a community that meets the needs," said the McKenzie Fire Department.

McKenzie's nearest Safe Haven Baby Boxes are located in Jackson, Tenn. (39

miles away) and Murray, Ky. (35 miles away). The next closest option is almost 100 miles away.

The State of Tennessee allows face-to-face and baby box surrenders for infants up to 45 days old.

Easter Kindness In Action

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsommers@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (April 4) — Paris resident John Paul Jones visited Cherrywood Post Acute Saturday afternoon to share Easter cheer. He arrived at the nursing home with a basket of assorted eggs -- some real, hand-painted eggs and some plastic eggs containing candy — to share with residents.

Jones, a former McKenzie resident and a Webb School alum, said, "I've been blessed, and I want to give back."

Jones walked into residents' rooms, announcing, "Uh, oh! Uh oh! The Easter Bunny's coming to see you!" among other variations of "Happy Easter!" before presenting residents with an Easter



John Paul Jones gifted Easter eggs to residents at Cherrywood Post Acute on Saturday, April 4. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

egg or two.

The Easter visit was well-received by residents,

who matched Jones' cheer with high spirits of their own.



Left, March Feature Teacher Kara Atkins (left) with Gleason Principal Lee Lawrence. Right, March Feature Teacher Missy Estes (center) with Sharon Principal Michelle Clements (right) and Assistant Principal Beth Davidson (left). Photos courtesy WCS

Weakley County Schools Announce March 2026 Feature Teachers

COURTESY WEAKLEY COUNTY SCHOOLS

Weakley County Schools is proud to recognize our March Feature Teachers, two educators whose leadership, innovation and commitment to student growth are making a meaningful difference in our classrooms.

This month, we honor Kara Atkins from Gleason School, representing the Pre-K-5th grade band, and Missy Estes from Sharon School, representing the 6-12th grade band. Both educators go above and beyond to support their students, build meaningful relationships and keep learning right alongside them.

As part of the tradition, honorees were surprised by school and district leaders and presented with the district's 6-foot traveling Feature Teacher trophy, a symbol of excellence that remains in their classroom for the month.

At Gleason School, Kara Atkins is being recognized for the thoughtful and creative ways she supports her students. She's created

hands-on learning spaces and added activities that help students build strength and confidence, while also sharing those ideas with other teachers.

"Mrs. Atkins saw what her students needed and took the action to make changes that would truly help them," said Lee Lawrence, Principal at Gleason School. "She's created a classroom where students can learn in ways that meet their needs, and that's making a real difference not just for those students, but for our entire school."

At Sharon School, Missy Estes is being honored for stepping outside her comfort zone to expand opportunities for students. She leads the school's garden initiative connected to the Innovate Africa grant and has introduced 3D printing in her classroom, increasing engagement and real-world learning. Known for strong relationships, she creates an environment where students feel supported and heard.

"Mrs. Estes is always thinking about how she can do more for her students and bring new op-

portunities into her classroom," said Dr. Michelle Clements, Principal at Sharon School. "She creates a space where students feel supported, stay engaged and truly enjoy being part of the learning process."

Assistant Director of Schools Betsi Foster noted the broader impact of this month's honorees.

"Mrs. Atkins and Mrs. Estes each reflect what it means to put students first," said Foster. "Mrs. Atkins' focus on meeting student needs and Mrs. Estes' willingness to step in and create new opportunities highlight how intentional teaching shapes student success across our district."

March Feature Teachers will also be celebrated in upcoming Classroom Closeups on social media. We are proud to highlight the strong relationships, dedication and focus on student growth that continue to drive success across Weakley County Schools.

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

Finalists Announced for Second Annual Cornerstone Tourism Awards Honoring The Best of Northwest Tennessee Tourism

NORTHWEST TENNESSEE — The Northwest Tennessee Tourism Association (NWTTA) announces the finalists for the Second Annual Cornerstone Tourism Awards, celebrating the people, places, and experiences that are shaping Northwest Tennessee into a vibrant and welcoming destination.

Winners will be announced at the Cornerstone Tourism Awards on Thursday, April 23, at Discovery Park of America. The evening will feature a cocktail hour beginning at 5:30 p.m., live music from Ryan Holladay of Levon and Benjamin Duffey, and a celebration of the individuals and organizations driving tourism across the region. Tickets and tables are available now, and guests are encouraged to reserve their seats at <https://nwtntourism.com/cornerstone-awards/>.

The 2026 Cornerstone Tourism Awards are presented by Discover Reelfoot, with additional support from L.I. Smith & Associates, J&S Professional Services, Garland's RVs of Tennessee, and the Tennessee Department of Tourist Development. Their investment in regional tourism helps make this celebration and the continued growth of Northwest Tennessee possible.

With more than 125 nominations submitted from across the nine-county region, this year's finalists represent excellence in hospitality, creativity in experience development, and a deep commitment to telling the story of Northwest Tennessee. From family-owned farms and local restaurants to community leaders and tourism partners, each finalist plays a meaningful role in creating memorable experiences for both visitors and residents.

2026 Finalists Include:

Experiences – Cornerstone Champion Attraction

- Green Acres Farm
- Lavender Kisses Farm
- Moore Family Century Farm

• White Squirrel Winery & Vineyard

Experiences – Cornerstone Champion Dining

- Reelfoot Brewing Company
- Bus Stop Cafe

(Dyersburg)

- Woodfire Pizza Kitchen

Experiences – Cornerstone Champion Event/Festival

- Newbern Depot Days
- Reelfoot Arts & Crafts Festival
- Rhythm on the Rails (Discovery Park of America)

Experiences – Cornerstone Champion Lodging

- Blue Bank Resort
- Magnolia Manor & Chapel
- The Lodge at Paris Landing
- White Squirrel Winery & Vineyard

Experiences – Cornerstone Champion Shopping

- Final Flight Outfitters
- Pennington Seed & Supply Co.
- The Iron Place
- White Squirrel Winery & Vineyard

Experiences – Cornerstone Champion Venue

- Paris Station
- The Caldwell Inn & Chapel
- The Lodge at Paris Landing

Individuals – Cornerstone Star Attraction

- Lauren Jones (Discovery Park of America)
- Denton Parkins (Green Acres Farm)
- Clare Saum (Discovery Park of America)

Individuals – Cornerstone Star Dining

- Kevin & Stacie Herrell (Higher Ground Coffee Company / Vantage Coffee Roasters)
- Olena & Kosta Kostanian (Bizinka Bakery)
- Blake Stoker (Blake's at Southern Milling)

Individuals – Cornerstone Star Lodging

- Nigel P. Duffett (Premier Hotel Corporation)
- Pulani Hodge (Holiday Inn Express, Union City)
- Marc & Starr Peterson (Paris Landing / Kentucky Lake KOA)

Individuals – Cornerstone Star Shopping

- Jennifer Cagle (Deep South Boutique)
- Tiffany Douglass, Tonya Ferrell (The Flower Station)
- Sharon Maloan (Sugar & Spice Ladies Clothing & Jewelry)

Individuals – Cornerstone Volunteer Star

- Ben Jakubowski (Gibson County)
- Luz Morales (Obion County)
- Sandy Moss (Gibson County)

Individuals – Emerging Excellence Award

- Deb Edwards (Union City Hospitality)
- Danielle Rotgers (Woodfire Pizza Kitchen, Sammies, & The Grind)
- Garrett Sanderson (White Squirrel Winery & Vineyard)

Partners – Star Cornerstone Champion DMO

- Benton County – Camden Chamber of Commerce
- Discover Reelfoot
- Gibson County Tourism

Partners – Star Cornerstone Champion Partner

- Lorie Matlock (Benton County – Camden Chamber of Commerce)
- Pete Morgan & Amos Smith (Surviving Reelfoot)
- Lindsay Theobald (Obion County Chamber of Commerce)

“These finalists represent the very best of Northwest Tennessee,” said Kasey Muench, Executive Director of NWTTA. “Their passion, creativity, and commitment to excellence are what make our region special. We are honored to celebrate their work and the impact they are making on tourism across our communities.”

The Cornerstone Tourism Awards continue to grow as a signature event for Northwest Tennessee, bringing together industry leaders, partners, and community members for an evening of recognition, connection, and celebration.

About Northwest Tennessee Tourism Association (NWTTA)

The Northwest Tennessee Tourism Association promotes the nine-county region of Benton, Carroll, Crockett, Dyer, Gibson, Henry, Lake, Obion, and Weakley counties by highlighting attractions, events, and experiences that make the area a destination for visitors. Through collaborative marketing, events, and advocacy, NWTN Tourism supports local businesses and drives economic growth across the region.

West Carroll Elementary School Honors Principal's List Students



Eighteen students earned placement on West Carroll Elementary School's Principal's List for the third quarter. This distinction is awarded to students who achieved all A's on their report card, reflecting outstanding academic performance and a strong commitment to learning. The students pictured include (L to R) Back Row: Faith Pitts, Sofia Blacketter, Jemma Hanks, Eva Gibson, Kinley Box, Olivia Willis, Paisley Bennett, Madalyn Cook, Atticus Hanks and Rylan Cherry. Front Row: James Parsons, John-Thomas Holley, Jackson Meals, Landon Moffler, Korben Womac, Alyza Martin, Cooper Pinson and William McAlpin. West Carroll Elementary School congratulates these students on their hard work and continued success throughout the school year.



Lindsey Parham's greenhouse management class is pictured in front of some of the plants for sale at McKenzie High School's greenhouse. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

McKenzie High School's Spring Plant Sale Returns

BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS
lsommers@mckenziebanner.com

McKenzie High School's annual Future Farmers of America (FFA) Plant Sale began Friday, April 3, in the FFA Greenhouse behind the high school. The sale continues during school hours (8 a.m. to 3 p.m.) this week, ending Friday, April 10.

All semester, agriculture teacher Lindsey Parham and her greenhouse management and agriscience classes tended to the young plants in the school's green-

house, preparing them for the big sale. Now, the plants are bright, colorful and ready for planting.

In addition to plants, shoppers can purchase eggs from school-raised chickens.

During school hours, shoppers are asked to ring the greenhouse doorbell for assistance. It plays "Take Me Home, Country Roads" for Parham's classes, indicating for Parham or a student volunteer to step out of class and offer some help.

Proceeds from the plant

sale go to support McKenzie High School's Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapter and agriculture classes.

Several area schools' FFA chapters will hold their plant sales later this month, on Saturday, April 18:

- Dresden High School, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Henry County High School, 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- West Carroll Jr./Sr. High School, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Clarksburg School April 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

THIRD NINE WEEKS

McKenzie Middle School Honor Roll

McKenzie Middle School recently released its All A's and A's and B's honor rolls for the third nine weeks.

All A's

Eighth Grade — Andrew Arnold, Jackson Barden, Bella Batton, Abby Carroll, Charlie Cassidy, Finn Evans, Milania Long-Townes, Sami Mathis, Cason Mayo, William Newman, Ulises Ramirez, Seth Stafford, Case Wall

Seventh Grade — Kayden Adams, Ruthie Adkins, Brooklyn Andrews, Deacon Barden, Aiden Blackwell, Macy Brooks, Cooper Cunningham, Eli Davis, Malcolm Evans, Sonny Fuller, Alice Gallimore, Xander Morgan, Madison Nelson, Mallorie Price, Graham Seavers, Olivia Shank

Sixth Grade — Lola Batton, Addilyn Brown, Zane Campbell, Emilee Harris, Easton Johnsonius, Kaylee Keys, Ben McCaig, Anna Robertson, Bentley Siler, Anna Kate Tucker, Samantha Umstead, Parker Wolski, Colin Yeley

Fifth Grade — Braylee Byrd, Jayna Gauthier, Aimee Harris, Jaxon Hochreiter, Baylee Hornsby, David Neighbours, Olivia Neville, Kane Phillips, Abby Price, Dakota Pride, Casen Roberts, Macie Seavers, Jacob Stafford, Vera Tippitt, Lily Trev-

athan, Landon Wilson, Miles Workman

A's and B's

Eighth Grade — Aurora Aggers, Fisher Allen, Savannah Arvizu, Caleigh Ball, Kaylee Berryhill, Lane Brown, Colton Cobb, Dakota Cowan, Miles Fontana, Dierks Ghyers, Jake Ghyers, Andres Hernandez, Nevaeh Herries, Emily Jackson, Noah Johnsonius, Cooper Jones, Soksombath Long, Bailee Lovell, Kate-lynn Martin, Ed Maynard, Joseph McCann, McCoy Merrick, Madilyn Milam, Kallie O'Rourke, Charles Scott, Reid Warman, Margaret Webb

Seventh Grade — Layla Arnold, Ashton Blackwell, Annabelle Bobb, Nevaeh Bond, Isabella Brock, Peyton Cox, Micah Dickenson, Reed Gaskins, Kingsten Gibbs, Stefani Gooch, Sofia Guzman, Jonah Henson, Jazmin Hernandez, Miranda Hood, Syerra Horton, Cecil Lessenberry, Emma Lifsey, Brntzen Melton, Hayden Nolen, Sunny Norris, Allie Ochoa, Na'Vadius Owens, Aurora Ozment, Jake Parish, Genevieve Phipps, Kiya Priddy, Brooke Ruprich, Shelby Shaw, Anna Summers, Gabriel Sutton, Nate Sweat, Jamair Weatherford, Rena Weaver

Sixth Grade — Kassidee Arvizu, Zoe Avila, Skylar

Bass, Samuel Berry, Brycen Broyles, Callie Davidson, Ava Diller, Adisyn Doede, Andrew Ellis, Olivia Fontana, Brooklyn Fowler, Tate Gilbert, Johnathan Ham, Neyland Harris, Tyneleigh Kornegay, Avacyn Latham, Eli Mann, Cohen Martin, Maggie Merrick, Paisley Morgan, Jaden Pate, Zack Reeder, Aubree Roberts, Zuri Taylor, Amelia Walker, Cord Wall, Rumor Weatherford, Grayson Wilson, Karlee Wright

Fifth Grade — Emmalynn Adkins, Adalynn Anderson, Avery Anderson, London Andrews, Remington Broyles, Madilyn Chappell, Ashlynn Cobb, Nathan Coradini, Emilyn Cowan, A'Jana Cox, Zion Crawford, Bodie Cunningham, Bryson Davis, Merritt Ghyers, Maylie Gotshall, Karson Hairrell, James Ham, Elliah Henson, Jeremiah Hernandez, Kaiden Holebrook, Harper Irwin, Kason Knight, Raylan Long, Braxton Milam, Xayden Morgan, Alicyn Ninness, Conner Oakes, Gunner Oakes, Isabella Ochoa, Kinsly Parish, Naksh Patel, Caroline Perry, Coby Poore, Charlotte Rodgers, Blake Ryg, Brantley Sanders, Ty Scott, Christina Smith, Larry Smith, Alton St. Clair, Ronan Stenberg, Kingston Stewart, Hayden Wallace

Local Students Named to Fall 2025 UT Martin Chancellor's Honor Roll

MARTIN — The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Fall 2025 Chancellor's Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for the Chancellor's Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor's Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

Highest Honors

Atwood — Hannah B. Fowler, Lindsay M. Gardner, Allison R. Giles, Erin L. Norman

Bruceton — Taylor L. Anthony, Anna G. Kee

Cedar Grove — Amie L. Autrey, Noah B. Hickman, Spencer J. Kee

Hollow Rock — Nevaeh S. Davis, Addison K. Hampton

Huntingdon — Aubrey J. Abbott, Libby C. Autry, Jaxon B. Bennett, Juan F. Bernal, Ava R. Canovan, Carter B. Coleman, Kelby M. Crossno, Seth G. Hatchett, Charles T. Johnson, Hannah K. King,

Natalie E. Kreuziger, Lydia M. O'Bryant, Emma G. Ross, Margaret A. Singleton, Grace E. Smothers, Alexis C. Stevens, Josey E. Stokes, Jacob W. Sullivan, Brady T. Warbritton, William A. Woods

Lavinia — Kendall R. Hicks

McKenzie — Bobby A. Bush, Addison J. Clark, Maddox A. Clark, Brooklyn G. Hudgins, Aubrey G. Jackson, Carter M. Kee, Sawyer C. Phipps, Lillyann G. Sumrok, Tate P. Surber, Sierra P. Tyler

McLemoresville — Ashley M. Ramlow

Trezevant — Sondra K. Hilt, Bonnie E. Nance

Westport — Ashlyn G. Smith, Angela Storey

High Honors

Atwood — Mackenzie S. Lusk, Chloe J. McPherson, Paul L. Moore,

Bruceton — Caden E. Dean, Haden K. Mitchell, Mariadalys Santiago, Casey J. Walker

Cedar Grove — Claire B. Bradley

Hollow Rock — Brandon A. Rogers

Huntingdon — Lainey C. Bales, Graham C. Bartholomew, Joshua A. Blankenship, Lauren G. Colvett, Jace J. Crossett, Alyssa J. Dearman-Shankel, Nicholas W. Douglas, Austin C. Ezell, Ellia G. Lewis, Grant S. Livingston, Samantha A. Mast, Jazalyn E. McCord, Kaleb J. Pearson, Josie C. Sanders, Sophie Singleton, Samuel A. Sturgis, Sydney M. Vinson

Lavinia — Malachi R.

Allen

McKenzie — Kyla F. Beveridge, Braden N. Birmingham, Rachel L. Culver, Clara I. Kallaos, Nathan H. Lease, Landon B. Priestley

Trezevant — Sarah C. Browning

Westport — Megan G. Wood, Morgan G. Wood

Yuma — Sarah C. Caruthers, Chloe R. Crum, Riley A. Hill, Marley M. Scott

Honors

Atwood — Nathaniel J. Barrios, Angus O. McCoy

Buena Vista — Lucy J. Heuring

Huntingdon — Braydon I. Bales, Maggie E. Berry, Easton L. Byars, Gabriel S. Fosnot, Karlie R. Foster, Mary M. Mann, Kaley Pearson, Jason E. Postlethwait, Emma J. Powell, Ashlyn M. Rich, James P. Tippitt

McKenzie — Kamryn D. Brewer, Reese N. Carroll, Jackson B. Cassidy, Katie L. Chesser, David M. Garriott, Macey N. Mayo, Annabelle N. Medford, Jayson M. Ritz, Joshua D. Sutton, Sierra P. Tyler, Connor M. Viana

Trezevant — John C. Crouse

UT Martin is a comprehensive regional institution in the University of Tennessee System offering 23 bachelor's degree programs and eight master's degree programs. The main campus in northwest Tennessee is one of five primary UT campuses. For more information, visit utm.edu.



Above, The entire group of students and adults who traveled to Greece: Paisley McClure, Amy Lawrence, Lee Lawrence, Luke Lawrence, Bethel Professor Stacie Freeman, Mason Green, Veronica Perkins, Hylan Leach, Heather Leach, Dr. Keith Herris-Bethel University Dean, Melissa Herris, Joel Washburn, Amber Garrison, Kayi Lee, Hadley Garrison, not pictured - Teresa Washburn. The background is a mountainside monument to the Greek deity, Apollo. Below, High School students from Gleason and Henry County who traveled with Bethel University Global Studies to Greece. In the background is a cliffside monastery. Each student received three hours of college credit while traveling. Pictured are: Luke Lawrence (Gleason), Mason Green (Henry County), Bethel Professor Stacie Freeman, Hadley Garrison, Paisley McClure (Gleason), Kayli Lee (Henry County), Hadley Garrison (Gleason), and Hylan Leach (Gleason).



Gleason, Henry County Students Travel To Greece with Bethel Global Studies

BY JOEL WASHBURN
washburn@mckenziebanner.com

ATHENS, Greece — A group of high school students and adults, organized by Bethel University Global Studies, journeyed through Greece from March 21–29, 2026, for a trip described as “unforgettable.” Ranging in age from 14 to 69, the travelers embraced the country’s geographical and historical wonders.

The group, led by Bethel University Global Studies Director Stacie Freeman and Co-leader Lee Lawrence, principal of Gleason School, began their exploration in Athens, visiting historic landmarks such as the Acropolis and the Parthenon. A major highlight was a stop at the first Olympic stadium in Olympia, which dates back to 776 B.C. Throughout the journey, the participants were immersed in learning the history of Greece, from its conflicts to its celebrations.

“Our study abroad program in Greece brought learning to life in a way no classroom or textbook ever could,” said Professor Freeman. “To see our students walking through ancient history, asking questions, making connections, trying new things, and growing in confidence is one of the great joys of my life - it’s incredibly rewarding to be their teacher!”

Traveling by air and mo-

torcoach, the itinerary also included the breathtaking region of Meteora, where the students and adults visited the incredible cliff-side, or “floating,” cliff-side monasteries and ornate churches. Further stops included Delphi, a crossing of the impressive Corinth Canal, and a visit to the stunning island of Santorini to admire its iconic white houses and blue domes.

Gleason School Principal Lee Lawrence said, “Traveling with Bethel Global Studies to Greece was one of the best experiences of my life. The trip was an excellent mix of history, culture, and excursions that enlightened us about their country and how it compares to the USA. There is no way you could receive as much value from a single trip if you tried to book it on your own. Bethel University should be proud of this program and the wonderful opportunities it offers students and community members to have complete cultural immersion. You will not regret traveling with Mrs. Stacie. My family is grateful to have experienced this together.

We look forward to being part of future trips and forging new friendships with group members.”

The 15-person group, which included Amy and Luke Lawrence, Amber and Hadley Garrison, Keith and Melissa Herris, Heather and Hylan Leach, Paisley

McClure, Kayli Lee, Mason Green, Veronica Perkins, and Joel and Teresa Washburn, shared many experiences, including dance lessons and a celebratory dinner involving the tradition of breaking dinner plates.

The high school students included: Gleason students Luke Lawrence, Hadley Garrison, Hylan Leach, Paisley McClure, and Henry County students, Kayli Lee and Mason Green. Each received three hours of college credit from Bethel University. Scholarships are available for student travel.

Bethel University has upcoming trips to Japan, Europe, Central America, Africa, South America, and North America. Check out Bethel University’s Global Studies upcoming travel plans at its logistic partner, gcastravel.org (Global Citizen Adventure Corps). Community members, high school and college students are welcome to travel with GCAC and Bethel.

About Bethel University

Bethel University, located in McKenzie, Tennessee, is a Christian institution committed to academic excellence and personal growth. Offering a diverse range of undergraduate, graduate, and professional programs, Bethel equips students to lead with purpose and impact in their communities and beyond.

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Lady Bulldogs Fall to Dresden, 6-2

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

GLEASON (March 30) — Gleason High School hosted Dresden Monday for a district softball contest. The visiting Lady Lions enjoyed a big second inning en route to a 6-2 win.

Dresden scored five runs in the top of the second and added one in the fourth. Gleason’s two runs came in the home half of the fourth.

Lady Lion Emma Parham was 3-for-4 with a double, an

RBI, a run scored and two stolen bases. Riley Brooks was 3-for-4 with three RBIs. Gracie Adams was 1-for-3 with a double, a walk, two RBIs and a run scored. Jacie West was 1-for-3 with a walk, a run scored and a stolen base. Kendall Melton was 1-for-4 with a run scored. Kayden Barnett and Molly Robinson were each 1-for-4.

Lady Bulldog Kinley Baumgartel was 3-for-4 with a double and a run scored. Kadence Witherspoon was 1-for-3 with a double and two

RBIs. Zoe Healy was 2-for-4 with a run scored and a stolen base. Olivia Scarbrough was 1-for-3 with a walk. Kristiana Addison and Sophie Beasley were each 1-for-3. Ava Bennett was 1-for-4.

Jacie West earned the complete-game win for Dresden, allowing two earned runs on ten hits while walking one and striking out ten.

Olivia Scarbrough took the complete-game loss for Gleason, allowing six earned runs on 11 hits while walking three and striking out 11.



Baptist Hospital-Carroll County donated to McKenzie Rotary Club’s new Peace Project. Michael Dennison, chaplain at Baptist, said the medical facility donated to assist with the project that provides food and support for people in the community who find themselves in a time of need. Pictured are Rotary VP Armand Hebert, Baptist Hospital Chaplain Michael Dennison, Kim Bell-Webb - Chairwoman of the Rotary Peace Project, and Rotary President Ricky Price.

Commissioner Andy Holt Details \$103.8 Billion Industry, Tackles Farm Challenges at McKenzie Rotary Club

BY JOEL WASHBURN
washburn@mckenziebanner.com

Mr. Andy Holt, Tennessee Commissioner of Agriculture, spoke to the McKenzie Rotary Club on Tuesday, March 31, detailing the significant economic force of agriculture and forestry in the state, his priorities for the department, and major challenges facing Tennessee farmers.

The McKenzie Rotary Club meets each Tuesday at noon, at Bethel University.

Holt, a Dresden, Tenn., resident and first-generation farmer, described his path to the role as unlikely. He was born into a poverty-stricken home in a Knoxville ghetto where education was not a priority. He learned to read in the second grade when his teacher, Ms. Parker, kept him from recess and taught him using books about agriculture, which led him to decide he would be a farmer, despite having never stepped foot on a farm.

Before becoming commissioner last October, Holt represented the area in the Tennessee General Assembly as a member of the House of Representatives from 2010 to 2020. He then worked his way up through the Department of Agriculture, serving as a manager, director, assistant commissioner, and deputy commissioner before being named Commissioner by Governor Lee.

Holt emphasized that agriculture and forestry combined constitute Tennessee’s largest industry category, totaling \$103.8 billion. This figure is more than triple that of the state’s next-largest industry, tourism, which is valued at \$32 billion. The state has approximately 69,000 farms, with an average size of 152 acres.

Over 50% (52–53%) of Tennessee is covered in forested material, 80% of which is hardwood. Tennessee, alongside Kentucky and Missouri, is one of the top three states selling hardwood, and is considered the world’s most sustainable hardwood producer. He also highlighted that, apart from the Amazon, the Great Smoky Mountains National Forest is the second most biodiverse spot globally. The state’s top commodities are soybean, corn, cattle, and forest products.



Tennessee Agriculture Commissioner Andy Holt spoke to McKenzie Rotary on March 31. Pictured are Rotary VP Armand Hebert, Commissioner Holt, and Rotary President Ricky Price.

Holt outlined key priorities for the Department of Agriculture:

Increased Access to Markets (Domestic and International): He mentioned visiting 11 countries in the last 18 months, focusing on emerging markets such as India, Vietnam, and Morocco to sell Tennessee products, including hardwood, grain, livestock, and genetics.

In-State Value Creation, Development, and Diversification: Holt advocates for re-establishing the priority of natural and sustainable materials, such as wood fiber, cotton, and linen, in daily life over cheap, plastic alternatives.

Increased Interaction with Non-Agricultural Public: Since the average American is two or three generations removed from direct agricultural exposure, he views his job as advocating for agriculture to people who do not farm. He encouraged children to visit working farms. Holt operates a farm in Weakley County and hosts groups and individuals to visit.

The Commissioner addressed the significant economic pressures facing the industry:

Row Crop Economics: Farmers are being squeezed by extremely high input prices—including fertilizer, energy, seed, and chemicals—coupled with relatively low prices for their products on global markets.

Projected Losses: The estimated loss in Tennessee on four major crops—cotton, soybean, corn, and wheat—was \$492 million in 2025 alone, with the vast majority of that loss occurring in West Tennessee. Projected losses per acre included \$409 for cotton, \$184 for soybeans, \$125 for corn, and \$23 for wheat.

Land Conversion: Tennessee is arguably the second or third worst state in the nation right now, for land conversion, from agricultural and forested land into non-agricultural use.

White-Tailed Deer Overpopulation: This issue is having a strong negative impact on agriculture by eating young crops, is causing “hundreds of millions of dollars” in automobile insurance costs annually, and is contributing to high amounts of coliform and E. coli found in natural waterways.

Holt concluded by discussing consumer-driven food trends, noting that the “Make America Healthy Again” (MAHA) focus has led to a greater emphasis on preventive health and chronic disease awareness. He added that agriculture must meet the demands of consumers, noting current trends toward clean and simple baking, increased protein and fiber consumption, and reduced processed foods. He explained that the high price of beef is due to the long production lag of 18 to 24 months, compared to 5 weeks for chicken or 5 months for pork.

He encouraged attendees to visit the Tennessee Products website for locally made artisan products.

I would encourage you if you’re looking for whether holiday gifts, something special that you want to buy for somebody, you want to show something appreciation, I would encourage you to look at our Tennessee products website, and that website can direct you to local producers, all across the state over 3,000 producers that can help me find artisan products that are made right here in the state of Tennessee.

Tennessee Highway Safety Office Launches ‘Operation Hands Free’

TENNESSEE — On Wednesday, April 1, the Tennessee Highway Safety Office (THSO) and Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP), divisions of the Tennessee Department of Safety and Homeland Security, are partnering with Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), local law enforcement, and other traffic safety partners for “Operation Hands Free” to crack down on violators of Tennessee’s Hands-Free Law during National Distracted Driving Awareness Month.

The purpose of this campaign is to educate Tennesseans about the state’s “Hands Free Law,” known as Public Chapter No. 412, which took effect on July

1, 2019. This law requires drivers to put down their phones and focus on the road.

According to Tennessee’s Hands-Free Law (T.C.A. § 55-8-199), it is illegal for drivers to do the following:

- Hold a cell phone or mobile device with any part of their body
- Write, send, or read any text-based communication
- Reach for a cellphone or mobile device in a manner that requires the driver to no longer be in a seated driving position or properly restrained by a seat belt
- Watch a video or movie on a cellphone or mobile device
- Record or broadcast video on a cellphone or mobile

device

Violation of this law is a Class C misdemeanor and can result in points on an individual’s driving record. A traffic citation based on this violation is considered a moving traffic violation. Fines for violations of the law include:

- \$50 = First-time offense
- \$100 = Third-time offense or higher; violation results in a car crash
- \$200 = Violation occurs in a work zone while workers are present; violation occurs in a marked school zone while flashers are in operation

Drivers can learn more at www.HandsFreeTN.com.

Lady Tigers Defeat Lady Rebels

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

BRUCETON (March 30) — Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School hosted McKenzie Monday for a district softball contest. The visiting Lady Rebels struck first, but the Lady Tigers took over the game for a 17-2 win in four innings.

Lady Tiger Kyleigh Baker was 3-for-4 with two doubles and five RBIs. Abby Baker was 3-for-3 with two doubles, two RBIs and two runs scored. Emy Olds was 2-for-3 with a double, two RBIs and two runs scored.

Amelia Bennett was 2-for-3 with two RBIs and two runs scored. Lilly McGee was 1-for-1 with two walks, a sacrifice fly, two RBIs, two runs scored and a stolen base. Madison Holder was 1-for-3 with a double, a walk, three runs scored and a stolen base. McKenzie Castleman was 1-for-2 with a walk, two RBIs and two runs scored. Cloe Morgan was 1-for-4.

Lady Rebel Addyson Littleton was 1-for-2 with a home run. Kailie Hudgins was 1-for-1 with a double. Maggie Hall was 1-for-2 with a double. Aurora Johnson was 0-for-2 with

an RBI. Kynadie Brown was 0-for-2 with a run scored.

Kyleigh Baker earned the complete-game win for Central, allowing two runs (one earned) on three hits while walking one and striking out four.

Aurora Johnson took the loss for McKenzie, allowing ten runs (five earned) on eight hits while walking three and striking out one in two and two-thirds innings. Braylin Auvenshine pitched the final two-thirds of an inning, allowing seven runs (five earned) on six hits and a walk.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

McKenzie Blanks Stewart County, 3-0

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

DOVER (April 3) — Stewart County High School hosted McKenzie baseball Friday for a battle of Rebels versus Rebels. A three-run second inning was all McKenzie needed to claim a 3-0 win.

McKenzie's Maddox Shiell was 2-for-3 with two doubles, an RBI and a run scored. Aiden Legens was 1-for-3 with a double and

two RBIs. Xander Johnsey was 2-for-3 with a walk. Fletcher Holt was 0-for-2 with a walk and a run scored. Parker Ross was 0-for-3 with a run scored and a stolen base.

Stewart County's Anthony Bisogno was 2-for-3. Jonathan Byrd and Collin Henry were each 1-for-3. Ben Hendricks was 1-for-4.

Xander Johnsey earned the win for McKenzie, allowing no runs on two hits while walking none and

striking out one in three innings. Avery Brown threw four innings of relief, allowing no runs on three hits while walking one and striking out two.

Ben Hendricks took the loss for Stewart County, allowing three runs (two earned) on four hits while walking two and striking out nine in six innings. Brigham Page pitched the final frame, allowing no runs on one hit with no walks.

Bulldogs Defeat War Eagles

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

ATWOOD (April 3) — West Carroll High School hosted Gleason baseball Friday afternoon. After two lead changes early, the visiting Bulldogs pulled away for a 14-4 win in five innings.

Gleason struck first with a pair of runs in the top of the first frame. West Carroll answered with one in the home half, then scored three to take the lead in the second. The Bulldogs tied it with two runs in the top of the third, then scored five each in the fourth and fifth innings to claim the win.

Bulldog Drake Lehmkuhl was 2-for-4 with a home run, a double, three

RBIs and two runs scored. Ashton Morgan was 1-for-4 with a double, three RBIs and two runs scored. Ty Keeling was 2-for-3 with two runs scored. Trey Mayo was 2-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs scored. Caleb Jones was 1-for-1 with a walk, three runs scored and a stolen base. Parker Morgan was 2-for-4 with two runs scored. Brody Sanders was 1-for-3 with a walk and a stolen base.

War Eagle Jason Roberts was 2-for-2 with a run scored. Caleb Vermilion was 0-for-0 with two walks, a run scored and a stolen base. Eli Bryant was 0-for-1 with two walks and an RBI. Ethan Baker was 0-for-1 with a walk, a run scored and a stolen

base. R.Q. Thompson was 0-for-2 with a walk, a run scored and a stolen base. J.W. Rushing was 0-for-3 with an RBI and a stolen base.

Drake Lehmkuhl got the start for Gleason, allowing two earned runs on no hits while walking four and striking out one in an inning and a third. Bryce Pettit pitched three and two-thirds innings of relief and earned the win, allowing two earned runs on two hits while walking three and striking out four.

Eli Bryant took the loss for West Carroll, allowing 12 runs (five earned) on eight hits while walking four and striking out five in four and a third innings. Sawyer Jackson pitched the final two-thirds of an inning, allowing two unearned runs on two hits and a walk.

Rebels Rout Dresden Lions

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

DRESDEN (March 30) — Dresden Middle School hosted McKenzie baseball Monday, and the Rebels dominated both sides of the ball for a 10-1 road win.

McKenzie scored two runs in the top of the first, three in the second and five in the top of the fourth. Dresden's lone run came in the home half of the fourth.

Rebel Seth Stafford was 2-for-4 with a triple, a double, an RBI and a run scored. Jackson Barden was 2-for-2 with a walk, a run scored and two stolen bases. Dierks

Ghyers was 2-for-4 with two RBIs, a run scored and a stolen base. Jake Ghyers was 1-for-3 with three RBIs and a run scored. Lane Brown was 1-for-2 with a walk and a run scored. Reed Gaskins was 1-for-3 with a double, two RBIs and a run scored. Leighem Broyles was 2-for-4 with a run scored. Rex Thompson was 0-for-3 with an RBI, two runs scored and a stolen base. Lawson Ownby was 0-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored.

Lion Will Forrester was 1-for-2 with a walk and a run scored. Izalin Hodges was 1-for-2. John Robert Jol-

ley was 0-for-1 with a walk and an RBI.

Lane Brown earned the win for McKenzie, allowing no runs or hits while walking three and striking out five in three innings. Mason Davidson pitched the final two innings, allowing one earned run on two hits while walking two and striking out three.

Josh Peterson took the loss for Dresden, allowing five runs (two earned) on one hit while walking two and striking out two in one inning. John Robert Jolley pitched the final four frames, allowing five runs (four earned) on ten hits with no walks and two strikeouts.

Bethel University Thanks Corporate Sponsors During NAIA Women's Basketball Tournament

MCKENZIE — Bethel University Athletics extends its sincere appreciation to the corporate sponsors whose generous financial and in-kind contributions helped make the First and Second Round NAIA Women's Basketball National Tournament a successful event at Crisp Arena.

Through the support of these valued partners, Bethel Athletics was able to provide a welcoming and memorable tournament experience for the visiting teams, coaches, administrators, and fans who traveled to campus. The collaborative effort between the university and the local business community helped showcase Bethel University and the surrounding community as an outstanding host site for postseason competition.

Visiting coaches and

administrators from participating institutions expressed their appreciation for the hospitality they received from the Bethel staff and the Carroll County community throughout the tournament.

Vice President of Athletics Derek Horne emphasized the importance of corporate partnerships in creating high-quality events that benefit both the university and the community.

"Support like this is what will be the tipping point for our athletics department to make a positive impact in our community," Horne said. "I would like to thank Smith and Anderson Optometry, Carroll County Bank and Trust, the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, Centennial Bank, The McKenzie Banner, Pepsi Mid-America, Happy Book Stack, Virtual Acade-

my, and Nicky Joe Stafford Real Estate. Their support added tremendously to the success of this event."

Bethel Athletics values the relationships it has built with local businesses and organizations and recognizes that their partnership plays a vital role in hosting championship-level events. The university looks forward to continuing these collaborations and welcomes additional businesses interested in supporting future Bethel Athletics initiatives.

Organizations interested in becoming corporate partners or sponsors for future Bethel Athletics events are encouraged to contact the Bethel Athletics Department to learn more about partnership opportunities that help support student-athletes while promoting community engagement.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Mustangs Sweep Scotts Hill in Home-Away Set

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

REAGAN/HUNTINGDON (March 30-31) — Huntingdon High School and Scotts Hill baseball played a home-away set to start the week. The Mustangs earned an 8-7 road win Monday, then completed the sweep Tuesday with a 5-3 victory at home.

Mustangs 8, Lions 7

In Monday's game, Scotts Hill struck first with a run in the bottom of the first. Huntingdon tied it in the top of the third, but the Lions scored one in the home half to regain the lead. The Mustangs tied it again in the fourth, then opened up a big lead with six runs in the fifth. Scotts Hill plated one in the sixth, then came up just short of the comeback with four in the bottom of the seventh.

Mustang Silas Sharp was 1-for-3 with two walks and two RBIs. Hayes Eubanks was 1-for-5 with a triple, three RBIs and a run scored. Caleb Ezell was 1-for-1 with two RBIs and a run scored. Colt Wood was 1-for-3 with a walk, a run scored and two stolen bases. Owen Kreuziger was 1-for-4 with a triple and a run scored. Cy Hankins was 0-for-3 with two walks and two runs scored. Broox Bennett was 0-for-2 with a walk and a stolen base. Braylin Dearmon was 0-for-3 with two walks and a stolen base. Owen Huguely was 0-for-3 with a walk and a run scored.

Lion Ridley Clenny was 2-for-2 with two doubles,

two walks and two runs scored. Avery Holmes was 2-for-4 with an RBI, two runs scored and a stolen base. Mason Beers was 1-for-4 with a double and two RBIs. Silas Puckett was 1-for-1 with a walk, an RBI and a run scored. Hade Britt was 1-for-2 with two walks, an RBI and a stolen base. Cooper Petty was 1-for-3 with a walk and an RBI. Deacon Todd was 1-for-4 with a run scored. Jonas Howard was 1-for-4. Ty Bartholomew was 1-for-5 with an RBI.

Caleb Ezell earned the win for Huntingdon, allowing three earned runs on seven hits while walking four and striking out three in five and a third innings. Braylin Dearmon pitched the final inning and two-thirds, allowing four earned runs on four hits while walking three and striking out five.

Mason Beers took the loss for Scotts Hill, allowing one unearned run on one hit while walking three and striking out one in three innings. Trevor Johnson pitched an inning and a third of relief, allowing four earned runs on two hits and three walks. Benjamin Yarbrow threw a third of an inning, allowing three earned runs on one hit while walking three and striking out one. Silas Puckett pitched the final two and a third innings, allowing no runs on one hit with no walks and two strikeouts.

Mustangs 5, Lions 3

On Tuesday, Scotts Hill again struck first, scoring

two runs in the top of the first and adding one in the third. Huntingdon cut the deficit with two in the bottom of the fourth, then took the lead with three in the fifth.

Mustang Broox Bennett was 2-for-3 with a double and a run scored. Kenton Smith was 1-for-2 with a walk and an RBI. Braylin Dearmon was 1-for-4 with a run scored and a stolen base. Silas Sharp was 0-for-1 with two walks and a run scored. Caleb Ezell was 0-for-0 with three walks. Hayes Eubanks was 0-for-3 with a walk, an RBI and a stolen base.

Lion Mason Beers was 2-for-3 with a walk, two runs scored and a stolen base. Hade Britt was 2-for-3. Cooper Petty was 1-for-2 with a walk and an RBI. Ridley Clenny was 1-for-4 with a double, an RBI and a run scored. Ty Bartholomew was 1-for-3 with an RBI. Jonas Howard was 1-for-2 with a walk and a stolen base. Benjamin Yarbrow was 1-for-3.

Hayden Strop got the start for Huntingdon, allowing three earned runs on seven hits while walking two and striking out three in three innings. Kenton Smith pitched the final four frames, allowing no runs on two hits while walking two and striking out two.

Jonas Howard started for Scotts Hill, allowing five runs (three earned) on four hits while walking six and striking out six in five innings. Hade Britt threw the final frame, allowing no runs or hits with one walk.

Mustangs, Panthers Split Home-Away Set

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

DECATURVILLE/HUNTINGDON (April 2-3) — Huntingdon High School baseball split a home-away set with the Riverside Panthers to end the week. Thursday, the Panthers hosted and took an 8-1 win. Friday, the Mustangs avenged the loss at home with a 14-4 victory in five innings.

Panthers 8, Mustangs 1

Thursday in Decaturville, Huntingdon struck first with a run in the top of the first frame. Riverside tied it with one in the bottom of the second, then opened up a lead with four in the third and three in the fourth.

Mustang Caleb Ezell was 2-for-3. Silas Sharp was 1-for-4 with a double. Broox Bennett was 0-for-2 with an RBI sacrifice fly. Colt Wood was 1-for-1. Hayes Eubanks was 1-for-3 with a walk and a run scored. Cy Hankins and Maddox Holmes were each 1-for-3.

Panther Cole Yarbrow was 2-for-3 with a walk, two runs scored and a stolen base. Cody Brasher was 2-for-4 with an RBI and a stolen base. Colt Brooks was 1-for-1 with a walk and an RBI. James England was 1-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs scored. Anderson Thompson was 1-for-3 with a walk and a

run scored. Asher Creasey was 1-for-3 with a run scored and a stolen base. Landon Vaughan was 1-for-3 with a run scored. Brilan Crawford was 1-for-4 with a run scored.

Colt Brooks earned the complete-game win for Riverside, allowing one earned run on seven hits while walking one and striking out one.

Cy Hankins took the loss for Huntingdon, allowing five runs (four earned) on six hits while walking one and striking out two in two innings. Kainan Moore pitched one inning of relief, allowing two earned runs on two hits while walking one and striking out one. Maddox Holmes threw the final three frames, allowing one unearned run on two hits while striking out two and walking two.

Mustangs 14, Panthers 4

Friday in Huntingdon, Riverside struck first with a run in the top of the second inning. The Mustangs took the lead with a pair in the home half. The Panthers scored three to regain the lead in the top of the third, and Huntingdon tied it with two in the bottom half. The Mustangs took the lead with another pair in the fourth, then erupted for eight in the fifth to end the game.

Mustang Braylin Dearmon was 3-for-3 with two home runs, a triple, a walk,

five RBIs and three runs scored. Broox Bennett was 3-for-4 with a double, an RBI and a run scored. Kenton Smith was 2-for-2 with a double, a walk, an RBI and two runs scored. Caleb Ezell was 1-for-2 with two RBIs. Silas Sharp was 2-for-3 with a walk and two runs scored. Cy Hankins was 2-for-3 with a walk and a run scored. Hayes Eubanks was 1-for-4 with two RBIs. Kainan Moore was 0-for-1 with two walks and two runs scored.

Panther James England was 2-for-3 with a home run, three RBIs and a run scored. Colt Brooks was 2-for-2 with a run scored and a stolen base. Landon Wyatt was 1-for-2 with an RBI. Cole Yarbrow and Landon Vaughan were each 1-for-3 with a run scored.

Owen Kreuziger earned the complete-game win for Huntingdon, allowing four runs (three earned) on eight hits while walking none and striking out four.

Cole Yarbrow took the loss for Riverside, allowing four runs (two earned) on six hits while walking three in three and a third innings. Kahlil Strobe pitched two-thirds of an inning, allowing five earned runs on three hits while walking three. Landon Wyatt threw the final third of an inning, allowing five runs (three earned) on five hits with no walks.

War Eagles Crush Liberty Tech Crusaders, 21-10

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

JACKSON (April 2) — Liberty Tech hosted West Carroll High School Thursday for a baseball contest. The visiting War Eagles scored early and often in a dominant, 21-10 victory over the Crusaders in five innings.

West Carroll set the tone with eight runs in the top of the first frame. Liberty answered with a pair in the home half. The War Eagles added nine runs in the second, and the Crusaders responded with three. West Carroll plated three in the top of the third, and Liberty pushed four across in

the bottom half. Each team added a run in the fifth.

War Eagle Caleb Vermilion was 2-for-5 with two doubles, four RBIs and three runs scored. Harlan Hames was 3-for-5 with a double, three RBIs, three runs scored and two stolen bases. Briggs West was 2-for-4 with a walk, four RBIs, a run scored and two stolen bases. J.W. Rushing was 2-for-4 with a triple, a walk, two RBIs and a run scored. Ethan Baker was 2-for-2 with a walk, an RBI, two runs scored and a stolen base. R.Q. Thompson was 2-for-5 with an RBI, three runs scored and a stolen base. Eli Bryant was 1-for-3 with two walks, an

RBI and two runs scored. Sawyer Jackson was 0-for-1 with four walks, two runs scored and two stolen bases. Jason Roberts was 0-for-3 with a walk and a run scored.

Briggs West got the start for West Carroll, allowing seven runs (three earned) on five hits while walking one and striking out four in two and two-thirds innings. Ethan Walls pitched a third of an inning of relief, allowing two unearned runs on one hit while walking one and striking out one. Harlan Hames threw the final two frames, allowing one unearned run on no hits while walking two and striking out four.

Huntingdon Police Reports

Theft of Property Report — According to a report made on March 16, Officer Brad Allen took a report from a U-Haul area field manager regarding a stolen enclosed utility trailer.

The manager advised that Roy Tippitt rented a U-Haul trailer on January 12 from a storage location on Buena Vista Road and was supposed to return it to San Antonio, Texas on January 17. The trailer was not returned, and multiple attempts to contact Tippitt by phone and mail were unsuccessful. The trailer was entered into NCIC as stolen, and a warrant was issued for theft of property valued between \$2,500 and \$10,000. At the time of the report, neither Tippitt nor the trailer had been located.

Shoplifting Report — According to a report made on March 25, Officer Angie Barker responded to a shoplifting incident at Walmart.

Georgia Willis-Cooksey attempted to leave the store without paying for a shirt. The item was recovered and was unable to be resold. The total property loss was estimated at \$7.66, and restitution is due to Walmart in that amount.

Driving on Suspended License Arrest — According to a report made on March 28, Officer Daniel Inman conducted a traffic stop on Lexington Street due to a vehicle's tail lights not functioning.

Upon making contact with the driver, Eli Justin Brown, a records check revealed his driver's license was suspended by the Department of Human Services. Brown was informed of his status and placed into custody without incident.

He was transported to the Carroll County Jail for booking. A passenger with a valid license was allowed to take control of the vehicle and drive it from the scene.

Shoplifting Report — According to a report made on March 17, Officer

Brad Allen responded to Walmart in reference to a shoplifting incident. Store security advised that Deyanna Renee Teague had taken several items from the store without paying. The property was recovered, and the total value of the items was \$203.00. Teague was cited into General Sessions Court for theft of property.

Disorderly Conduct, Resisting Arrest — According to a report made on March 28, Lt. Barker and Sgt. Ethan Parham were dispatched to Baptist Memorial Hospital ER regarding a disruptive subject identified as Clinton Hoard.

Upon arrival, staff advised that Hoard was causing a disturbance. Officers issued a verbal warning, and the situation was temporarily de-escalated. About an hour later, officers were dispatched back to the ER for the same issue. Upon arrival, Hoard was observed yelling and making lewd statements toward staff, interfering with their ability to treat patients. Staff advised that Hoard had repeatedly left his room, followed staff members, and continued the disruptive behavior.

Lt. Barker and Sgt. Parham placed Hoard under arrest. As Lt. Barker attempted to apply handcuffs, Hoard pulled away in an aggressive manner, leading officers to believe he was preparing to strike. He was then successfully placed in handcuffs.

Hoard was escorted from the ER to Lt. Barker's patrol vehicle and transported to the Carroll County Jail. During the escort, he was defiant toward lawful orders and had to be physically escorted multiple times.

Hoard was charged with disorderly conduct and resisting arrest.

Driving on Suspended License, Unregistered Vehicle — According to a report made on March 18, Officer Daniel Inman

conducted a traffic stop on Main Street West after observing a vehicle with a suspended registration.

Upon making contact with the driver, Christopher Mancell, a records check revealed his driver's license was suspended and the vehicle registration was also suspended. Mancell was issued citations for driving on a suspended license and operating an unregistered vehicle and was advised of the book-in process.

Driving Under the Influence Arrest — According to a report made on March 29, Officer Daniel Inman observed a vehicle fail to maintain its lane while traveling on Main Street East near Sonic Drive-In.

The vehicle was swaying between lanes and had a malfunctioning brake light. A traffic stop was conducted in Wendy's parking lot, where both the driver and passenger were observed reaching into the back seat, and appeared to be covering something up.

As Officer Inman approached the vehicle he observed an open 12-pack of Busch Light in the back seat.

Upon contact with the driver, Cayden B. Gilliam, Officer Inman observed slurred speech, slow responses, glassy eyes, and detected the odor of alcohol. An open container of Busch Light was observed in the driver's cup holder.

The passenger admitted that both had been drinking and stated they had each consumed approximately eight beers while driving through town. The passenger handed Office Inman two cases of beer, one from the back seat and the other from under his feet, having approximately nine unopened beers.

When asked, Gilliam stated he had only taken two sips of beer then agreed to perform field sobriety tests and showed multiple indicators of impairment. Based on his performance and the totality of the circumstances, he was placed under arrest and transported to Baptist Memorial Hospital for a blood draw before being taken to the Carroll County Jail.

Another officer remained on scene and waited for the passenger's parents to arrive and take custody of him and retrieve the vehicle.

Gilliam was charged with driving under the influence, first offense.

Driving on Suspended License, Light Law Violation — According to a report made on March 19, Officer Daniel Inman conducted a traffic stop after observing a vehicle with a defective headlight.

Upon making contact with the driver, Amanda L. Mayberry, a records check revealed her driver's license was suspended due to a failure to appear. Mayberry was issued citations for driving on a suspended license and violation of light law and was advised of the book-in process.

America Saves Week 2026 Encourages Financial Wellness

KNOXVILLE — University of Tennessee Extension joins organizations across the nation in celebrating America Saves Week 2026 from April 6-10. This is an annual call to action that encourages individuals and families to strengthen their financial futures through saving and debt reduction. This year's theme is "Own your financial story: small steps, big impact."

America Saves Week has been celebrated since 2007 as a nationwide movement empowering everyday Americans to commit to saving successfully. Thousands of organizations, including nonprofits, educational institutions, financial institutions, government agencies, military services and community groups, work together each year to promote financial confidence and resilience.

Chris Sneed, associate professor and consumer economics specialist in the UT Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, works

to help individuals improve personal financial success. "America Saves Week is an opportunity for Tennesseans to pause, reflect and take practical steps toward financial wellness," says Sneed. "Small, consistent actions can lead to meaningful long-term change."

America Saves Week provides an opportunity for individuals and families to "check in" on their finances, reviewing goals, strengthening savings habits and building long-term financial stability. Even for those facing financial challenges, the week serves as a starting point for creating realistic, goal-based savings plans and taking control of their financial future.

For organizations like UT Extension, participation strengthens community impact by promoting research-based financial education, increasing financial confidence and helping Tennesseans build resilience. Participation also

connects local communities to a broader national conversation about the importance of saving, reducing debt and planning for the future.

Sneed adds that during the 2025 America Saves Week celebration, more than 5,000 individuals representing organizations nationwide reached over 28.5 million Americans with messages and resources focused on saving and financial well-being. Participating banks and credit unions reported more than \$155 million in deposits directly resulting from their America Saves Week efforts.

Participation in America Saves Week is simple and free. Sign up to be a saver by taking the America Saves Week pledge online at americasaves.org/pledge. At this site, you can set a savings goal, take the savings pledge and make a plan to get started. The site also has excellent resources, tips and personal stories designed to help and inspire your savings.

Carroll County General Sessions Court Report

HUNTINGDON (April 1) — The following cases were heard in Carroll County General Sessions Court on April 1.

The following cases resulted in a guilty plea or finding:

Christina Baker, Vale Lane, Holladay, guilty, Probation Violation – Booked, no fine, six months, supervised probation for six months, unsupervised probation once all conditions are met, extended for six months.

Ronnie G. Layhew II, Barnett Street, Huntingdon, guilty, Driving While License Revoked Due to Conviction of DUI, no fine, 30 days, unsupervised probation for 30 days, must make steps to obtain a valid driver's license, payment arrangements through clerk's office.

Stacey Parker, Rozzell Street, Humboldt, guilty, Probation Violation – Booked, no fine, six months, supervised probation for six

months, unsupervised probation once all conditions are met, probation extended for six months, may attend rehab and recommend credit if successfully completed.

Stacy Parker, Trenton, guilty, Failure to Appear, no fine, 10 days.

Kimberly Warfle, Rison Street, Paris, guilty, Disorderly Conduct, no fine, 30 days, unsupervised probation for balance, time-served credit 19 days; dismissed, Possession of Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia Uses and Activities; dismissed, Resist Stop, Arrest, Search (No Weapon).

The following cases resulted in judicial diversion.

Dallas Cody Boone, Hatch Lane, Yuma, judicial diversion, Possession/Casual Exchange, \$250 fine, 11/29, supervised probation for minimum 90 days then unsupervised probation if conditions met, cognitive behavioral training course, forfeits interest in Weston. 40

caliber handgun to Carroll County Sheriff's Department; dismissed, Driving While License Suspended – Second or Subsequent; dismissed, Possession of Firearm Intent to Go Armed – Dangerous Felony; dismissed, Possession of Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia Uses and Activities.

John D. Ripley, Highway 104 West, Lavinia, judicial diversion, Meth – Possession or Casual Exchange, \$750 fine, 11/29, supervised probation for balance, cognitive behavioral training course, alcohol drug evaluation and recommendations, time-served credit five days.

The following cases were dismissed:

Karen Ann Corrado, Highland Street, Bruceton, dismissed, Financial Responsibility Law; dismissed, Driving While License Revoked; dismissed, Registration Expired.

Mindy B. Dill, Cherry Blossom Drive, Huntingdon, dismissed, Resist Stop, Arrest, Search (No Weapon); dismissed, Public Intoxication.

The following case was rescheduled: Kimberly Warfle.

McKenzie Police Reports

Aggravated Criminal Trespass — Timothy S. Hickey, Brighton, Tenn., was charged with Aggravated Burglary and Aggravated Criminal Trespass on April 1.

Patrolman Timothy Dillon, Patrolman Raspberry, and Investigator Beauchamp responded to a Reynolds Street residence, where the suspect was reported to be inside the home, where he had previously been banned. The owner, who was not at the premises, gave officers permission to enter the home. They located Hickey hiding behind a refrigerator. Hickey was arrested and transported to Carroll County Jail.

Driving on Suspended License — Robert Lee Bunce, III of Milan, was charged with Driving on Suspended Li-

cense on April 1.

Officer Dillon stopped Bunce's vehicle after observing the expired registration. A driver's license check revealed the driver's status as suspended for failure to appear in Milan City Court. The officer searched the vehicle after he smelled marijuana and located drug paraphernalia, which was seized for evidence without criminal charges. Bunce was cited into General Sessions Court.

Driving on Suspended License — Netisha Gordon, Walnut Circle, McKenzie, was charged with Driving on a Suspended License after a traffic stop on April 3.

Officer Michael Cunningham initiated a traffic stop after observing Gordon's vehicle had an inoperable passenger-side taillight. A check of her driver's license revealed it was suspended for failure to satisfy court costs out of Madison County.

Warrant Service — Miles Estes, Trenton, was arrested on an outstanding warrant on April 1.

Officer Timothy Dillon went to Estes' residence and served a warrant for Violation of Probation out of Milan. He was transported to Carroll County Jail, where he was held for Milan authorities.

Violation of Order of Protection — Matthew Bell, Park Circle, McKenzie, was charged with Violation of an Order of Protection on April 2.

Officer Timothy Dillon was dispatched to a Walnut Circle address, where the female occupant stated Bell phoned her in violation of his order of protection. Bell was incarcerated at Carroll County Jail at the time. The jail's phone call log indicated that Bell called the victim.

Public Intoxication — Matthew Scott Celusta, Bethel Court, McKenzie, was charged with Public Intoxication and Resisting Arrest on April 5.

Officer Billy Burson responded to Celusta's apartment after a neighbor reported loud music late at night. Celusta and the complainant discussed the situation before the officers arrived. Officers could hear the music at the complainant's upstairs apartment. The officers went to Celusta's downstairs apartment and asked him to turn down the music. Celusta turned down the music, but indicated it was not yet quiet hours, which start at 11 p.m. The officers indicated that Celusta became more argumentative and aggressive, leading to his arrest.

Marriage Licenses

Sheldon Lance Spearman, 52, of Huntingdon to Shelly Lynn Martin Cobb, 44, of Huntingdon.

Kelly Adonita Nunes, 23, of McKenzie to Tyree Celeste Gray, 38, of Huntingdon.

Steven Patrick Liss, 55, of Huntingdon to Erin Rae Miller Burch, 45, of Huntingdon.

Laura Agnes Keeton, 59, of Bruceton to Brian Keith Wood, 59, of Lexington.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Planning Commission of the Town of Trezevant, Tenn., meets Thursday, May 7, 2026 at 6 p.m. at the Trezevant Community Center. The purpose of this meeting is to discuss a citizens request to rezone property located at 5340 Broad Street from R-1 (Residential) to B-1 (Business). The property involved is identified as: Map 077C, Group B, Parcel 008.01, Map 077C, Group B, Parcel 008.00. This property is commonly known as the Hillsman Property. All interested citizens are invited to attend and will be given the opportunity to speak regarding the proposed rezoning.

Date of Meeting: Thursday, May 7, 2026

Time: 6 p.m.

Location: Trezevant Community Center

A394/13-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE CASE NO: 2026PE47

ESTATE OF: JANE ANGELYN COLE, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Notice is hereby given that on the **30TH** day of **MARCH, 2026** Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of **JANE ANGELYN COLE** deceased, who died **NOVEMBER 10TH, 2025**, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk & Master of Carroll County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required by law to file the same with the Clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

(1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this Notice to Creditors at least sixty (60) days before date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or

(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the Notice to Creditors, if the creditor received a copy of the Notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting) as described in (1) (A); or

(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death.

All persons indebted to the above Estate must come forward and make proper settlement with the undersigned at once.

This 30TH day of MARCH, 2026.

THIS NOTICE WILL RUN TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

FILE CLAIMS IN TRIPPLICATE WITH:

KENNETH TODD - CLERK & MASTER

99 Court Square, Suite 105, Huntingdon, TN 38344

HERSHEL WILKES, JR., Executor/Administrator

DWAYNE D. MADDOX III, Attorney

KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master

A561/R27352/14-2

PUBLICATION NOTICE

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

APRIL DAWN OWENS,
PLAINTIFF,
VS.
DAVID RANDALL OWENS,
DEFENDANT,

DOCKET NO. 2026DR42

TO: DAVID RANDALL OWENS

In this Cause, it appearing from the Complaint which is sworn to, that the whereabouts of the Defendant, DAVID RANDALL OWENS, is unknown and cannot be ascertained by the diligent search and inquiry made to that end. DAVID RANDALL OWENS is therefore, hereby, required to appear and Answer the Complaint filed in this Cause against him/her in the CHANCERY Court of CARROLL County, Tennessee, within thirty days of the last publication of this Notice and served a copy of Answer on Howard F. Douglass, P.O. Box 39, Lexington, TN, 38351, Attorney for Plaintiff, within said time. If you fail to do so judgement by default will be taken against you for relief demanded in the Complaint at hearing of the cause without further notice.

It is further Ordered that this Notice be published for four consecutive weeks in *THE MCKENZIE BANNER*.

This 2nd day of April, 2026.

Kenneth Todd, Clerk & Master

A8515/R27353/14-4

Carroll County Sheriff’s Reports

Theft Investigation — On March 29, Deputy Milholen responded to a residence on Leach Road in reference to a reported stolen firearm. Upon arrival, the deputy made contact with the complainant, who advised that his handgun had been taken from his vehicle during the early morning hours while he was at another residence. The complainant stated the firearm had been left in the glove compartment and was last seen at a residence on West Main Street in Huntingdon. The firearm was described as a Smith & Wesson 9mm handgun valued at approximately \$600. This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Possession of Schedule II — On March 26, Deputy McClure initiated a traffic stop on a white Chevrolet Impala on Highway 220 after observing a defective taillight. Upon contact, the driver was identified as John Dylan Ripley, 32, of Lavinia. The deputy observed signs of extreme nervousness, including shaking hands and heavy breathing. Ripley was asked to exit the vehicle, and during a pat-down, a baggie was located on his person. A strong odor of marijuana

was also present. Ripley admitted to having marijuana and consented to the removal of the items. A cigarette case containing approximately 1.2 grams of methamphetamine was discovered. Ripley admitted the substance was meth. He was taken into custody and transported to the Carroll County Jail for possession of Schedule II (methamphetamine). This incident occurred in Carroll County. **Identity Theft / Impersonation Report** — On March 30, Deputy Williams spoke with a complainant regarding possible identity theft involving her child. The complainant reported that her taxes were denied because her child had already been claimed by another party. She advised that no one else should have been able to claim the child and that the IRS would not provide information on who submitted the claim. She was advised to report the issue to the IRS for further investigation and to notify authorities if additional fraudulent activity occurred. This incident occurred in Carroll County. **Death Investigation** — On March 25, Deputy Williams responded to a residence on Highway 70

in reference to a deceased individual. Upon arrival, the deputy observed a male subject on a porch swing at the residence. Emergency personnel and the county coroner were on scene. Photographs

were taken, and the individual was transported to the county morgue. Next of kin was notified. This was determined to be a natural death. This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Simple Possession of Schedule VI — On March 28, Deputy Scott conducted a traffic stop on Highway 79 for speeding. While speaking with the occupants, the deputy detected the odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. A passenger was identified as Daniel Cody Lott, 33, of Atwood. Lott admitted

to smoking marijuana earlier. A search of the vehicle resulted in the discovery of approximately 26 grams of marijuana. Lott stated the driver was unaware of the marijuana. He was cited for simple possession of Schedule VI. This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Property Transfers

Michael W. Demorato to Jay O'Rourke. No district listed. Hunter and Bryanna Haynes to Greg N. Cooper in District 16. Dianne Johnson and others to A & W Management, LLC in District 11. Jadrea Romines to Anne Bailhache Johnson in District 9. GL Land, LLC to Otis Nesbitt. No district listed. Max H. and Pansy Ruth Cary to Max H. and Pansy Ruth Cary, trustees in District 24. Max H. and Pansy Ruth Cary to Max H. and Pansy Ruth Cary, trustees in District 24. Max H. and Pansy Ruth Cary to Max H. and Pansy Ruth Cary, trustees in District 24. Ethan E. Lee to Ethan E. and Macy M. Lee in District 16. Frank P. and Christy McGinnis to Judi Ann Murphy in District 16. The Perkins Corporation to Larry Joe Ivy in District 11. Candi Lynn Collier to Opendoor Property Trust I, a Delaware statutory trust in District 2. James Stephen Anderson to Camp Tyson Road Trust

in District 22. Jonathan Charles and Meagan Lorraine Mullikin to Glenn Alan Kelsey and others in District 11. Billy J. Ringold to Nona Hall as trustee of the Ringold-Hall Trust in District 13. Susan Davis to Janson Davis in District 4. James David Bullington to Darrell Ridgely in District 21. Cachengo, Inc. to Amarjeet Singh. No district listed. Linda Diane Johnson to Linda Diane Johnson in District 12. Linda Johnson to Linda Diane Johnson in District 12. Bruce Melvin and Juanita King to Heather Foster and others in District 16. Mary D. Cole Estate to Ross L. Cole in District 16. James Kevin Price to John Thomas Price. No district listed. Fred S. and Martha J. Morris to Curtis L. and Barbara D. Fitzgerald-Schlack in District 4. Zachary David Taylor and others to Matthew Edward and Joanna Michelle McAdams. No district listed. Neil Taylor as trustee to Neil Taylor as trustee. No district listed.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
PROBATE CASE NO: 2026PA43
ESTATE OF: DONNIE MANN, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE
Notice is hereby given that on the **24TH** day of **MARCH, 2026** Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of **DONNIE MANN** deceased, who died **AUGUST 7TH, 2025**, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk & Master of Carroll County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required by law to file the same with the Clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:
(1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this Notice to Creditors at least sixty (60) days before date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or
(B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the Notice to Creditors, if the creditor received a copy of the Notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting) as described in (1) (A); or
(2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent's date of death. All persons indebted to the above Estate must come forward and make proper settlement with the undersigned at once.
This 24TH day of MARCH, 2026.
THIS NOTICE WILL RUN TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.
FILE CLAIMS IN TRIPPLICATE WITH:
KENNETH TODD - CLERK & MASTER
99 Court Square, Suite 105, Huntingdon, TN 38344
MATTHEW R. WEST, Executor/Administrator
ALEXANDRA BLACKBURN, Attorney
KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master

SAMPLE BALLOTS FOR MAY 5, 2026 ELECTIONS			
COUNTY PRIMARY ELECTIONS			
The Carroll County Election Commission announces VOTING for the County Primary, May 5, 2026. Registered voters, in Carroll County, may cast a ballot on Election Day by personal appearance at their designated polling location.			
State law requires voters to present a Federal or State government issued photo ID to vote, unless an exception applies. College student IDs will not be accepted. This photo ID requirement includes Early Voting and Election Day at your assigned polling place.			
EARLY VOTING FOR THE MAY 5, 2026 PRIMARY will be Wednesday, April 15 through Thursday, April 30. Weekday voting will be 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday voting during Early Voting will be April 18 & 25, 9 a.m.-12 p.m. NOON.			
SAMPLE BALLOT FOR CARROLL COUNTY PRIMARY ELECTION HELD ON May 5, 2026		Precinct NEWSPAPER	
Please use a black or blue ink pen to mark your ballot. To vote for your choice in each contest, completely fill in the box next to your choice. Carroll County Election Commission Ronald R. Reiter, Chairman Michael Corrado, Secretary Linda Wallace, Member Michael K. Tate, Member Judy D. Alexander, Member Peggy J. Hamlett, Administrator of Elections	SHERIFF Vote for One (1) ☐ Timothy W. Pratt ☐ Eric W. Sawyers ☐ Write-in	WEST CARROLL SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER Old Trezevant District Unexpired Term Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY CLERK Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in
	CIRCUIT COURT CLERK Vote for One (1) ☐ Sarah Bradberry ☐ Write-in	WEST CARROLL SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER Old Trezevant District Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	REGISTER OF DEEDS Vote for One (1) ☐ Natalie McCullough Porter ☐ Write-in
	COUNTY CLERK Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY BALLOT COUNTY MAYOR Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	ROAD SUPERVISOR Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in
	REGISTER OF DEEDS Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 1 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	CARROLL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD District 1 Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in
	ROAD SUPERVISOR Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 2 Vote for Two (2) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	CARROLL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD District 2 Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in
	CARROLL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD District 1 Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 3 Vote for Two (2) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	CARROLL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD District 3 Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in
	CARROLL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD District 2 Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 4 Vote for Two (2) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 15th District Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in
	CARROLL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD District 3 Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 5 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District, Town of Bruceton Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in
	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 15th District Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 6 Vote for Two (2) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District, Town of Hollow Rock Unexpired Term Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in
	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District, Town of Bruceton Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 7 Vote for Two (2) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in
COUNTY COMMISSION District 5 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 8 Vote for Two (2) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 6 Vote for Two (2) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 9 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 7 Vote for Two (2) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 10 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 8 Vote for Two (2) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 11 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 9 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 12 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 10 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 13 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 11 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 14 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 12 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 15 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 13 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 16 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 14 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 17 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 15 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 18 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 16 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 19 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 17 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 20 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 18 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 21 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 19 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 22 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 20 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 23 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 21 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 24 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 22 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 25 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 23 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 26 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 24 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 27 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 25 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 28 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 26 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 29 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 27 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 30 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 28 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 31 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 29 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 32 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 30 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 33 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 31 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 34 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 32 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 35 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 33 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 36 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 34 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 37 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 35 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 38 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 36 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 39 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 37 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 40 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 38 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 41 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 39 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 42 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 40 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 43 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 41 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 44 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 42 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 45 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 43 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 46 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 44 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 47 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 45 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 48 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 46 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 49 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 47 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 50 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 48 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 51 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 49 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 52 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 50 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 53 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 51 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 54 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	
COUNTY COMMISSION District 52 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	COUNTY COMMISSION District 55 Vote for Three (3) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ No Candidate Qualified ☐ Write-in	

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Above, McKenzie High School soccer seniors (L to R) Jackson Cantrell, Aiden Mason, Kadein Wimberly, Eli Vinson, Cash Garner and Morgan Christman. Below Left, Rebel senior Morgan Christman scores a midrange goal. Below Right, Tiger goalkeeper Gavin Case makes a stop in a crowd near the goal for one of his 23 saves. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Rebels Cage Tigers on Senior Night

BY BRAD SAM

brad@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (March 30) — McKenzie High School hosted Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central Monday for a district soccer match and celebrated Senior Night. Six senior players were honored at halftime of the game, which the Rebels won 10-1. Senior Rebels Jackson Cantrell, Morgan Christman, Aiden Mason, Cash Garner, Eli Vinson and

Kadein Wimberly were recognized on the field, joined by family members and other supporters. Following senior honors, McKenzie Middle School and McKenzie Youth Soccer League players were invited to the field to be recognized as well. Rebel Wyatt Brewer had a hat trick (three goals) and a pair of assists. Jon Hernandez also had a hat trick. Aiden Mason scored a goal

and had two assists. Morgan Christman had one goal and one assist. Liam Moore and Cole Harrison each scored a goal, and Kadein Wimberly had a pair of assists. Tiger Michael Frederick scored Central's lone goal, assisted by Diego Zaragoza. McKenzie goalkeepers Sawyer Nunnery and Brody Davis each recorded two saves. Central goalkeeper Gavin Case had 23 saves.



McKenzie Middle School volleyball eighth graders (L to R) Front Row: Caleigh Ball, Bella Batton, Sami Mathis and Willow Stenberg. Back Row: Serenity Bobo, Madilyn Milam, Charlie Cassidy, Adrianna Gordon, Abby Carroll and manager Kristy Towne. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Lady Rebels Close Inaugural Season in Thriller

BY BRAD SAM

brad@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (March 31) — McKenzie Middle School concluded its inaugural volleyball season in thrilling fashion Tuesday. The Lady Rebels took the first set, but the visiting Henry County Lady Patriots rallied to take the next two and claim the 2-1 win. It was also Eighth Grade Night, and nine players and one manager were honored on the court with family. Eighth graders recognized were: Willow Stenberg, Madilyn Milam, Caleigh Ball, Bella Batton, Adrianna Gordon, Charlie Cassidy, Abby Carroll, Serenity Bobo, Sami Mathis and manager Kristy Towne. The team also presented a certificate of appreciation to Centennial Bank and representatives Noah McEwen and Kim Gilmore for their generous support of the team in their inaugural season.



Lady Rebel Willow Stenberg makes a leaping strike. Stenberg had four kills. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

McKenzie claimed the first set, 25-21, then Henry County took the second, 25-18. The third and deciding set (played to 15) went to extra points as a team must win by two points. After multiple ties and match points, the Lady Patriots edged out an 18-16 victory.

Lady Rebel Serenity Bobo had six aces, a kill and four blocks. Charlie Cassidy had five aces, a dig, a kill and a block. Sami Mathis had four digs, and Willow Stenberg had four kills. Abby Carroll had an ace and a dig. Macy Brooks had two aces, and Layla Arnold had a dig.



Left, Lady Rebel Raychel Oliver makes a return in doubles play. Center, Rebel Tobey Brooks makes a return in singles play. Right, Mustang Alijah Hastings makes a return in singles play. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Rebels, Mustangs Tie; Fillies Earn Sweep

BY BRAD SAM

brad@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (March 31) — McKenzie High School hosted Huntingdon at Bethel University's tennis courts Tuesday for district matches. The boys tied 2-2, while the Fillies swept McKenzie 7-0. In boys' doubles, the Rebel duo of Owen Walker and Davarion Gilbert defeated Mustangs Kyle Byrd and Eli Hays (8-3). In singles, Tobey Brooks

secured the lone McKenzie win over Caden Cargile (8-6), while Mustang Shawn Simpson bested Walker (8-2) and Alijah Hastings topped Gilbert (8-3). In girls' doubles, Huntingdon duo Jazmine Seiber and Mary Kendall Stevens defeated Lady Rebels Ava Hastings and Ashley Dunavant (8-2), and Celeste Perez and Lila Reed topped Raychel Oliver and Lola Sumrok (8-3). In exhibition, Fillies Kensley Rich and Madisyn Barton bested

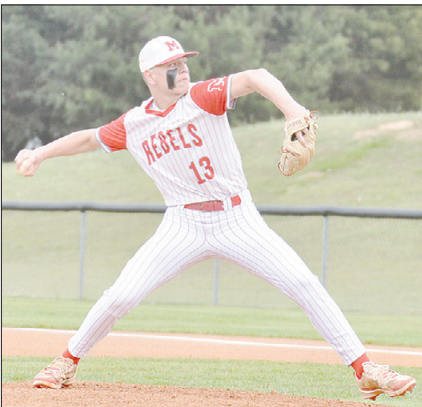
Morgan Little and Lillian Brown (8-5). In singles, Seiber defeated Hastings (8-2), Stevens topped Dunavant (8-1), Perez bested Oliver (8-6), Reed defeated Little (8-4) and Rich topped Brown (8-1). The Fillies also swept four exhibition matches as Barton defeated Sumrok (8-1), Mandie Hodge topped Molly Drewry (8-6), Maria Barreto De Vicente bested Mary Ryan Morris (6-2) and Vicente defeated Aurora Nix (6-1).

Gleason Bulldogs Top Rebels, 7-4

BY BRAD SAM

brad@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (April 2) — McKenzie Middle School hosted Inman baseball Thursday afternoon. The visiting Bulldogs held off a late Rebel rally for a 7-4 win. Inman struck first with a pair of runs in the top of the first. McKenzie answered with one in the home half. The Bulldogs added a run in the third, three in the fourth and one in the fifth. The Rebels rallied for three runs in the bottom of the fifth. Rebel Leighem Broyles was 1-for-2 with a double and two RBIs. Jake Ghyers was 1-for-2 with a run scored. Dierks Ghyers was 1-for-3 with a run scored. Seth Stafford was 1-for-2 with a walk and a run scored. Reed Gaskins was 0-for-2 with an RBI. Rex Thompson was 0-for-2 with a run scored. Mason Davidson was 0-for-2 with a walk. Bulldog Ezra H. was 2-for-3 with a triple, a walk and three runs scored. Paxton M. was 2-for-3 with an RBI and two stolen bases. Cannon T. was 1-for-2 with a walk, a run scored and a stolen base. Carter A. was 1-for-2 with an RBI and a



Left, Rebel Seth Stafford took the loss, allowing three runs (one earned) on four hits while walking three and striking out six in three and a third innings. Right, Rebel first baseman Leighem Broyles gets under a fly ball in shallow right field for the out. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

stolen base. Brody D. was 0-for-2 with two walks, two runs scored and two stolen bases. Ryker S. was 0-for-2 with two walks, an RBI and a stolen base. Luke R. was 0-for-1 with a walk and an RBI. Braden F. was 0-for-2 with a walk, a run scored and a stolen base. Ezra H. earned the win for Inman, allowing one unearned run on three hits with no walks and eight strikeouts in three innings. Cannon T. threw an inning and two-thirds of relief, allowing three earned runs on one hit while walking

one and striking out four. Finn W. pitched the final third of an inning, allowing no runs or hits with one walk. Seth Stafford took the loss for McKenzie, allowing three runs (one earned) on four hits while walking three and striking out six in three and a third innings. Lane Brown pitched two-thirds of an inning, allowing three earned runs on one hit while walking four. Rex Thompson threw the final frame, allowing one earned run on one hit and one walk.



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