



Mustangs Receive State Football Championship Rings

BY BRAD SAM
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HUNTINGDON (April 15) — A ring presentation ceremony was held Wednesday for the 2025 Class 2A state football champion Huntingdon Mustangs. Players, coaches, supporters and fans gath-

ered in the high school gym to again celebrate the monumental accomplishment. The rings and the event were sponsored by Granges Americas. Representatives of the corporation were present for the celebration and were presented a plaque featuring a jersey signed by the team declar-

ing appreciation for the company's "unwavering support and commitment" to the program. Huntingdon Director of Schools Dr. Jonathan Kee welcomed all to the ceremony and thanked everyone for their contributions. Granges Americas President Patrick Lawlor offered

his congratulations. He noted that a number of parents and fans in attendance are Granges employees and expressed his hope to see some of the Mustangs join the Granges team. Head Coach Eric Swenson said, "Tonight, we hand out these rings not just because we won a state

championship, but because you earned them the right way. Through early mornings, late nights, pain, sacrifice and belief in each other when no one else did. Every time you look at this ring, remember what it stands for: the price of excellence, the power of unity and the pride of being

champions. Wear it with honor. Carry this feeling with you for the rest of your life. I'm proud to be your coach. Congratulations, state champs." Swenson and Clint Ezell then presented the rings to each player, coach, manager, ball boy, support staff member and administrator.

Trezevant Passes Fireworks Ordinance, Considers New Permit Protocol

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
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TREZEVANT (April 14) — The Trezevant Board of Mayor and Aldermen addressed a wide range of municipal issues during its Tuesday meeting, including fire department funding, ongoing concerns about business regulation and enforcement, proposed permitting requirements, a new fireworks ordinance and steps toward forming an industrial development board.

Mayor Bobby Blaylock presided over the meeting with all aldermen present—Pam Joyner, Don Barger, Dan Dieringer, Leon Lyell and Mark Argo—beginning with department updates.

Dieringer reported that seasonal work is underway at the town park, including mowing and flower planting, and noted a successful Easter egg hunt. He also said sanitation services had no negative reports in the past month and announced that leaf pickup would begin later in the week.

Alderman Don Barger highlighted law enforcement activity, with 95 traffic stops conducted, resulting in 52 citations and 66 total violations. Officials noted that drivers were averaging 20 to 21 miles per hour over posted speed limits. Citations included speeding, stop sign violations and issues related to licenses, insurance and cell phone use.

Alderman Leon Lyell informed board members that the Trezevant Fire Department asked if the city could redirect their pay to go toward new equipment. Board members expressed concern about the

legality and fairness of this request.

Mayor Blaylock said, "I think we should keep paying them. We can find money somewhere in the budget to pay for what they need."

The board will discuss this matter further in future meetings, after Lyell speaks with the fire chief and determines potential equipment costs.

During public comments, resident John Quinn raised concerns about inconsistent enforcement of home occupation rules. Quinn argued that while he had followed the town's requirements, others had not faced similar scrutiny.

"You made the rules," Quinn said. "I'm following them. You've got multiple businesses in this town that have yet to go to the board of appeals and get a permit or an exception for their business."

Quinn also pointed out potential lost revenue from unlicensed businesses failing to collect sales tax, urging the board to enforce regulations more uniformly.

The board later discussed a proposed permitting system for construction projects and businesses, including a potential \$50 application fee.

Alderman Dieringer described the measure as a documentation tool to ensure compliance with existing codes and provide accountability. The proposal prompted extensive debate over fees, enforcement and the scope of regulation, with questions raised about inspections, mobile businesses and whether fees

would be refundable if permits were denied. No final decision was made, and the matter is expected to return for further consideration.

The board also approved a new fireworks ordinance on second reading, establishing specific dates and times for legal use, including July 1, 2 and 4 from 10 a.m. to 10:30 p.m., July 3 from 10 a.m. to 11:30 p.m., December 31 from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. and January 1 from 8 p.m. to 12 a.m.

One resident objected to late-night allowances extending into January 2, calling it "excessive" as January 2 is a workday. The ordinance ultimately passed without amendment after discussion.

In other business, the board moved forward with forming a planning commission, naming Mayor Blaylock and Alderman Mark Argo to serve. Officials also provided an update on the creation of an industrial development board, noting that candidates had been interviewed and would soon participate in a training session before final appointments are made.

Budget amendments for both the general fund and water and sewer fund were approved, largely to reallocate existing funds and better reflect current spending.

The meeting concluded with a vote to spend \$395 to include Trezevant on the Carroll County resource map and to purchase 25 copies for the town.

The Town of Trezevant's next meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen is Tuesday, May 12.

New Legislation Threatens Underperforming Virtual Schools with Closures

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
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NASHVILLE — Virtual schools are a major topic in Tennessee's current legislative session. While the bill targeting South Carroll Special School District's virtual school funding has made little movement in Nashville, one bill directed at underperforming virtual schools has made significant progress in both the House and Senate.

HB2420/SB2441, sponsored by Rep. Mark White (R-Memphis) and Sen. Bill Powers (R-Clarksville), will hold underperforming virtual schools accountable by requiring their closure.

Under current state law, the Commissioner of Education may only advise a school's closure if the school performed a Level 1 on the Tennessee Value-Added Assessment System (TVAAS) or landed on the priority list. In calculating a TVAAS score, a student's performance is compared to the performance of his or her peers who performed similarly on past assessments.

The new bill also prohibits a nonprofit or for-profit provider from contracting to operate or manage a new virtual school in Tennessee for a period of five years if a virtual school operated or managed by the provider is closed due to the virtual school's previous poor academic performance.

The original bill language indicated immediate closure upon receiving a Level 1 or priority list placement. The House and Senate adopted an amendment, compromising that any type of closure will be staved off for three years. If a virtual school is on the priority list or Level 1, it has three additional years to get off the list or grow to Level 2.

The Senate passed the amended bill on April 16 with bipartisan support from 27 Senators, including Sen. John Stevens (R-Huntingdon). The House moved to substitute and conform to the Senate Bill on April 13, in a vote of 69 ayes, 21 noes and two no-votes. Rep. Brock Martin (R-Huntingdon) voted in favor of the substitution, while Rep. Tandy Darby (R-Greenfield) voted no.

Education Instruction Subcommittee Chairman Rep. Scott Cepicky (R-Culleoka), co-chairman of the bill, spoke about the piece of legislation in an interview on the TNFirefly Podcast.

Of Tennessee's 65 virtual schools, 49 were created in the past five years, according to Rep. Scott Cepicky.

"The problem with a lot of our virtual schools is they're Level 1 or they're on the priority list of being in the bottom five in the state of Tennessee," Cepicky said.

He referred to virtual schools as the "most riskiest" delivery method of education to students.

To hold the schools accountable, he supported HB2420/SB2441's method of closing schools if they hold a TVAAS Level 1 or priority listing for three years.

According to Cepicky, this bill does not seek to eliminate virtual schools; it holds the schools to a higher accountability standard than before.

Stacy Stuppy, executive director of Volunteer State Virtual Academy (VSVA) in Lewis County, spoke in opposition of the bill during a subcommittee meeting March 24.

"Schools should absolutely be responsible for student outcomes," Stuppy said. "However, the original bill raises concerns about how accountability timelines intersect with the realities of school improvement — particularly for new schools."

VSVA is in its third year of operation, and its middle and high school programs landed on the TVAAS priority list for the academy's first two years. Under the proposed bill, the academy would be up for closure soon.

However, Stuppy said VSVA's placement on the priority list is not a good depiction of student output.

The middle school's designation was based on only two years of data. The first year, she admitted, resulted in poor student performance. The second year, the school implemented stronger systems to track and keep up with students, resulting in improved performance. She said the second year of data alone would not have placed VSVA on the priority list, but the average of the first and second years' scores did.

"Priority designation in Tennessee exists so that the state can provide schools with targeted support, resources and time to implement improvement strategies and demonstrate progress," Stuppy said.

But she doesn't feel like virtual schools are given enough space to improve under this legislation.

While brick-and-mortar schools are given two full cycles — six total years — to improve, virtual schools are only given one cycle under this bill. Stuppy asked for virtual schools to receive two full cycles as well.

"Accountability should ensure improvement — not prevent it," Stuppy said.

Cepicky countered Stuppy's argument during the subcommittee meeting.

"To say that virtual schools are treated the same as brick and mortar or charters is not a true statement," Cepicky said.

Unlike charter schools,

virtual schools do not undergo a rigorous application or approval process by the state, face enhanced financial oversight or ongoing evaluations or have fixed contract terms or a renewal process.

Rep. Sam McKenzie (D-Knoxville) also voiced opposition to the bill during a House Floor Session on April 13.

McKenzie's primary concern was that virtual schools will begin selecting students based on test scores in order to stay in business, leaving lower-performing students behind.

"How can we work to make sure that all of our kids are getting the education that they need?" McKenzie asked.

Students opt to attend virtual school for various reasons. Dr. Norris shared with The Banner in January that one Clarksburg Virtual Academy student was homebound, having enrolled in the virtual academy after receiving brain surgery. Another chose to do virtual school every day from 2:30 to 8:30 a.m. before taking her mother to receive chemotherapy treatments.

"For many students with unique circumstances, virtual learning is not just an alternative; it is the best fit for their educational success," Norris said.

Norris does not foresee this piece of legislation affecting South Carroll's virtual schools.

"Clarksburg Virtual Academy is structured with a different approach and strong support systems in place," Norris said. "We currently operate six testing sites across Tennessee and are committed to providing students with the tools they need to succeed. Parents have access to monitor their child's progress in real time, allowing for greater transparency and engagement. In addition, many students are supported by a case manager who regularly communicates with both the student and family, offering guidance and sharing best practices for successful online learning."

During the K-12 Education Subcommittee meeting on March 24, Cepicky noted that South Carroll's first-year performance was already showing promising results compared to some longer-established programs.

"This reinforces that a new model, when implemented with intention and support, can be effective," said Dr. Lisa Norris, South Carroll director of schools and Clarksburg Virtual Academy principal.

The Senate has already passed SB2441, but the House has yet to pass HB2420 — SB2441's corresponding bill.

Another virtual school bill, HB2388/SB2188, targets South Carroll Special School District's virtual school funding. The bill has not yet been heard by the House.

Huntingdon School Board Approves Policy Updates

BY BRAD SAM
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HUNTINGDON (April 15) — The Huntingdon Special School District Board of Education met Wednesday afternoon in the high school library. The meeting was brief, but board members approved a dozen wide-ranging board policy updates.

Two of the updates amend policies regarding drugs and alcohol. One adds language allowing for drug and alcohol testing triggered by reasonable suspicion, while the other establishes procedures surrounding the testing process.

One update amends the personnel records policy to include disciplinary action and responses from the employee.

Another approved change adds language that telework is not permitted outside of times of emergency.

Updates were approved

to separation practices for three categories of district employees: tenured, non-tenured and non-certified. In each case, language was added to allow for temporary removal from duty not to be considered disciplinary "but rather a precautionary measure until a determination can be made" about further actions.

The sick leave policy was amended to require a doctor's statement when an employee is absent for five consecutive working days.

Another update clarifies language prohibiting employees with a contagious or communicable disease from performing duties in a location that might endanger the health of students.

The policy on political activities was updated to reiterate that district-owned property may not be used for political

promotion of solicitation and that employees shall not use audio or video messages to engage in such activity during school hours.

A policy was updated to state that teachers who engage in private tutoring do so as independent actors and that the district shall not be liable for any claims or damages arising from such services.

Finally, a policy was amended to clarify that the director of schools is the only employee directly employed by the board of education and that all others are employed, supervised and managed under the authority of the director.

Board members also approved a field trip for the high school JAG program.

The meeting adjourned in just under 20 minutes.

The board meets next on Wednesday, May 20.

McKenzie Planning Commission Meets April 22

The McKenzie Municipal-Regional Planning Commission meets Wednesday, April 22 in the meeting room at McKenzie City Hall at 3:30 p.m. The following items are on the agenda:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call / Establishment of a Quorum
- III. Citizens Comments
- IV. Approval of Minutes
- V. Old Business
- VI. New Business
- A. Site Plan – Casey Drewry (Mini-Storage Proposal)
- VII. Other Business
- VIII. Adjournment

According to Community Planner Donny Bunton, an individual submitted a site plan for the construction of three mini-storage buildings at 17900 Highland Avenue. Casey Drewry owns the

1.34-acre property, which is zoned as B-2 (Highway Business).

The combined size of the three proposed structures is 14,950 square feet.

The property, which currently contains one existing mini-storage building, has access to municipal water and sewer services and does not appear to be located in a designated flood hazard area, according to Bunton. The existing mini-storage building encroaches on the front setback line, and Bunton is unaware if a variance for such encroachment was ever sought or received.

The submitted site plan does not show the area's topography, nor does it show the nearest water main, sewer main and fire hydrant to the property.

The eastern property boundary is partially paved with no landscaping or trees proposed, which presents a problem to Bunton, as an unpaved landscape zone is required along all property boundaries and these landscape zones should include at least one tree every 30 feet.

The southern boundary has the required landscape zone in the middle of the property, but not on its eastern or western edges.

Ahead of the meeting, Bunton recommended the above noted concerns being addressed prior to the Planning Commission's approval.

This is member AJ Maxwell's last meeting, as he will be deployed to the Middle East in May.



A post-crash photograph shows the left-front view of the dump truck involved in the March 27 crash. Photo from the Tennessee Highway Patrol

Bus

...From Front Page

a Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) dump truck and a Chevrolet Trailblazer.

The report, titled "School Bus Centerline Crossover and Multivehicle Collision" reads as follows:

On Friday, March 27, 2026, about 11:35 a.m. central daylight time, a 2024 Blue Bird Conventional Type C school bus operated by the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System was traveling west on US-70 between Cedar Grove and Huntingdon in Carroll County, Tennessee.

The school bus was occupied by a driver, four adult chaperones, and 24 student passengers. The bus was taking students from Kenwood Middle School in Clarksville to a school event in Jackson.

At the same time, a 2013 International WorkStar dump truck, operated by the Tennessee Department of Transportation, and a 2024 Chevrolet Trailblazer sport utility vehicle (SUV) were traveling east on US-70. The dump truck and the SUV each were occupied by a driver and one passenger.

As the vehicles approached each other, the school bus crossed the centerline of the roadway and entered the eastbound travel lane. The left side of the school bus struck the left side of the dump truck in a sideswipe collision. After impacting the dump truck, the school bus collided with the SUV, departed the roadway to the south, and came to rest facing down the roadside embankment but remained upright.

As a result of the crash, two student passengers in the school bus died. The school bus driver sustained serious injuries, and the remaining bus passengers sustained injuries ranging from minor to serious. The two occupants of the dump truck sustained serious injuries. The occupants of the SUV were uninjured.

At the time of the crash, the weather was clear and the roadway was dry. At this location, US-70 was a

two-lane roadway with one eastbound traffic lane and one westbound traffic lane. The speed limit in this section of US-70 was 55 mph.

Parties to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigation are:

- *Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration*
- *Tennessee Highway Patrol (THP)*

All aspects of the crash remain under investigation while the NTSB determines the probable cause, with the intent of issuing safety recommendations to prevent similar events.

Information previously published in The Banner:

During a media briefing Friday, March 27, THP Major Travis Plotzer confirmed two middle school students were pronounced dead at the scene of the crash. Loved ones later identified the two children killed in the crash as eighth-graders Arianna Pearson and Zoe Davis, of Clarksville.

Multiple individuals remained hospitalized for several days after the crash.

THP's preliminary report, released Monday, March 30, confirmed there were 24 Kenwood Middle School students, four adults and a driver on the school bus at the time of the crash. The students were en route to the Toyota Hub City Grand Prix Greenpower USA race in Jackson, Tenn., to race an electric car they had built.

The March 30 report revealed that Sabrina R. Ducksworth was driving the school bus registered to the Clarksville-Montgomery County School System.

Dennis E. Coleman, Jr. was driving the TDOT dump truck. The truck was also towing an attenuator. James Bays was driving the blue 2024 Chevrolet Trailblazer.

During the March 27 media briefing, Major Plotzer said it did not appear the TDOT truck had any "contributing factors" to the crash.

"All these victims, the families — everybody's in our prayers tonight," Carroll County Sheriff Andy Dickson said during Friday's media briefing. "But also keep all our first responders in your prayers."

All four units of Baptist Priority Ambulance Ser-

vice of Carroll County responded to the scene on Friday. One unit from Baptist Ambulance Service of Obion County, four units from Medical Center EMS in Jackson and one unit from Henderson County EMS were also on the scene, joined by the Carroll County Fire Department, Huntingdon Fire Department, McKenzie Fire Department and the Carroll County Rescue Squad.

Baptist Priority Ambulance requested nine ambulance helicopters to respond to the scene. Of those, seven were used to transport patients to the following hospitals: Baptist Regional Medical Center in Memphis, Lebonheur Children's Hospital, Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt, Vanderbilt University Hospital and Skyline Medical Center.

The THP sent chaplains and peer support groups to the scene, and they continued to assist affected families and communities. Support services remain in place for students, families and staff affected by this tragic incident.

As the Clarksville-Montgomery County community mourns, some individuals have set up GoFundMe fundraisers for both of the children who died in the crash as well as individuals who were critically injured. The funds will reportedly be used for funeral expenses, medical expenses and to help cover the burden of food and shelter while families and teachers care for their loved ones or recover in the hospital.

"I ask that everyone pray and wrap their arms around these students, employees, their families and the entire Kenwood community," said Clarksville-Montgomery County Director of Schools Dr. Jean Luna-Vedder.

Communities across the state have rallied their support for the families affected by this incident. Locally, school districts in Clarksville, Hollow Rock-Bruceton, Huntingdon, McKenzie and West Carroll encouraged students to wear black and gold on Monday, March 30, in support of the Kenwood Middle School community.

Eubanks

...From Front Page

program at Huntingdon High School... Coach Eubanks was a Mustang baseball player for four years and graduated from HHS in 1996. After high school, he played college baseball at Jackson State and Union University.

"After serving as an assistant coach, Coach Eubanks was hired in 2004 to take over the reins as head coach of the Mustang baseball program. Over the last 23 years, Mustang players and fans have witnessed the passion and love the Eubanks family has for their community, school, and Mustang baseball. We celebrate our Head Coach and his family tonight because of how their love for the blue and gold has inspired them to give back so others for generations to come would represent Huntingdon with the same honor and pride it deserves.

"Coach Eubanks has of-

ten expressed how he has benefited from those who came before him. Well, tonight, we celebrate and say thank you to Coach Eubanks and the Eubanks family because we all are drinking from a well they all played a part in digging."

Under the leadership of Coach Eubanks, the Mustang baseball team has won 16 district championships and seven regional championships. They have appeared in a sectional game 13 times and advanced to the state tournament nine times with three appearances in the state championship game. Over the last 23 years, our Mustang players and coaches have won nearly 500 games.

Bush concluded, "Tonight, we honor everyone who has contributed to the Mustang baseball program. Tonight, we honor the Eubanks family. Tonight, we honor our head coach, Coach Alan Eubanks. We are proud that future comeback wins, game saving catches and Huntingdon Mustangs will be remem-

bered on this very field. Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to Eubanks Field."

Bush read a few personal notes to Coach Eubanks from each of his sons — Gray, Hayes and Mac.

Director of Schools Dr. Jonathan Kee and school board Chairman Dr. Lee Carter presented Eubanks and his wife, Kelly, a replica of Eubanks Field.

"I didn't think it'd be a big deal," Eubanks said, "but it's all about what's behind me. All these players and former coaches — family, too... I'm so grateful, so humbled for this. I thank Dr. Kee. Dr. Carter, the school board. When we started this 23 years ago, this was never the goal. The goal was always to try to create an environment where people wanted to come watch us play and to create something that our players wanted to take pride in. Is it the best field? It's not. But it's our field, built by a lot of Mustangs. Seeing all of these guys back, it means a lot. Former and current players. And I couldn't tell you how thankful I am."

Found

...From Front Page

Sheriff's Department during the afternoon on Friday, April 17.

According to authorities, the last known contact with Fields was at around 7:30 a.m. in her residence on McAdams Road in Huntingdon.

First responders staged at the Mixie Fire Department on Friday, and a ground

search began at around 2:30 p.m. More than a dozen volunteers with the Carroll County Rescue Squad searched in the nearby woods and fields, using advanced mapping software to assist in their mission.

First responders located Fields just before 1 a.m. Upon finding her, Fields was reportedly severely dehydrated and was taken to TriStar Skyline Medical Center in Nashville for recovery. Her son, Seth Fields, said she was unable to stand

or do more than mumble a few words.

Seth shared an update Sunday morning that Fields began showing signs of improvement after receiving fluids and antibiotics. They were still waiting on test results at the time of his update.

"We can worry about the exact cause over the next few days, but the getting better is a blessing," Seth said.

More information will be provided at a later date.

Radio

...From Front Page

amended the General Fund Budget and Drug Fund Budget for the Sheriff's Office for the TACN Radio System. 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 TACN system.

TACN is a statewide radio system that provides communication connectivity infrastructure for local, state, and federal first responders. 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 approved 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. The change comes at the recommendation of the County Technical Assistance Service (CTAS) due to concerns about future audits and liability associated with carrying over pay into an additional fiscal year. In order for a payroll policy to go into effect, Tennessee law requires a 45-day notice thus the reason for the rushed passage.

Several Commissioners, along with county employees, wanted to know how the policy change would affect employees who would technically have their pay held to adjust for the schedule adjustment.

At the time of the meeting, Central Finance nor members of the Finance Ways and Means Committee

could provide a definitive answer but promised that employees would not lose any pay with the change. A possible fronting of pay that would be paid back over a period of time, and a one-time inconvenience bonus have been mentioned.

Other items on the agenda approved were as follows:

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

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

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

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

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

In other business, the following were elected notaries: Bonnie Autry, Carlos Ballhagen, Gina G. Burton, Brad Hurley, and Sandi Roditis.

The next meeting of the Carroll County Commission is on May 11 at 7 p.m. at the Carroll County Government Complex in Huntingdon.

Fire

...From Front Page

that the department's average fleet age is now somewhere in the 20s, with the oldest vehicles being from the 1990s.

Of the new trucks, four are tankers, two are mini-pumpers and six are fire engines. The four tankers were the first shipment, arriving in September. The two mini-pumpers arrived in November, and the six engines arrived in February. All 12 trucks were purchased from Fouts Fire, Inc. Because these trucks are the first new vehicles the department has received in recent decades, they have newer technologies that the firefighters needed to learn. For example, the tanker trucks have built-in computer systems that help firefighters adjust the hoses' water pressure.

Gaskins said the new trucks will help reduce response times, lower maintenance costs and make CCFD's firefighters more efficient overall.

"It's just a great investment for the entire county, all the way around," said



Carroll County Fire Chief Jonathan Gaskins shows County Commissioner Lori Dillahunt and her daughters what's inside the storage compartments in a new fire truck. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Gaskins. Trevor Foster, Carroll County Emergency Management Agency Director said the new vehicles will help with fire response throughout the county. He said the investment also shows firefighters that the county is behind them and supporting them.

"This equipment is a lot safer," Foster said. "Some of the old equipment that we surplussed didn't have seat belts in them. They just had lap belts."

County Commissioner Suite, chairman of the Rural Fire Department Committee, said the county will likely make more strategic

purchases in the future to keep the department's fleet more up-to-date.

"This was really a catch-up purchase," she said. "I think a plan going forward, maybe, is to purchase a new piece of equipment every other year so that we don't get into the situation where we need to make a purchase this large ever again."

The trucks went to county stations with the oldest trucks and the highest call volumes. All of the vehicles are currently in service, and Gaskins said some of them have already been used to respond to calls.

HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

Leon Invented Carpe Diem

We grew up playing basketball, football, and baseball. We'd never heard of soccer or synchronized swimming. And golf was too expensive.

Plus, we didn't have a golf course in McKenzie until the early sixties. Leon worked there while it was being built. I was in junior high. David Mark was a year behind me.

I was too busy with the sports I loved to try something new. Besides, money was fairly scarce for us.

And money would not have made any difference seeing as how we didn't know how to play. We had no clubs. Or shoes. Or really much of an inclination to chase a tiny ball across a cow pasture.

None of that bothered Leon one bit. As soon as it opened, he drug me and David out to the course. We rented one set of clubs. And we had one ball, which Leon had found, borrowed, or been saving for a "rainy" day.

I had never seen anyone swing a golf club in my life. We studied Roe Alexander and Joe Gooch as they teed off. Leon let them get way down the fairway, and he hit our only ball like a rocket ship taking off straight down the middle. Leon could just do things like that.

He made David run down and put a tee in the ground where the ball rested and bring it back to us. I made a practice swing and Leon immediately stopped me, "Slow down, you are not trying to hit a baseball over the service station behind the leftfield wall!"

I swung and missed. A couple of times. I finally hit it short and to the right. I ran over, marked the spot, and threw the ball back to the tee box so David could hit.

I think Roe and Mr. Gooch had finished their round before we walked off the first hole.

We found a ball beside the pond we had to hit over on the second hole. And we found another one in the woods on the left of the fourth hole. By the fifth hole each Colbert brother was playing his own ball.

Naturally, I lost my "new" ball on the next hole. "Leon, what are we doing out here? We don't know nothing about playin—"

"It's springtime. In America! We are enjoying the most beautiful day God ever made. And we are playing for the Championship of the Known World. Nobody but you would complain on a day like this!"

We didn't hit a ball for a while, while he talked about

my negative attitude and explained to us the history of golf. Leon could tell you everything about everything whether he actually knew anything about it or not.

He was giving us four shots a hole and beating the pants off of both of us.

He played our first round of golf as Arnold Palmer. He made me "be" Dow Finsterwald, David was Ben Hogan. Leon also began to announce our shots, like it was a radio broadcast, "Finsterwald is over his putt on the fifth hole here at Augusta; this one will break left towards Rae's Creek," he whispers. "Dow pulls the putter back, the ball is rolling, rolling...oohh, it just slides by the right side of the cup!"

Leon didn't have many turn down days.

He made us hit every shot on every hole. "We didn't come out here to mess around." He won the championship on that first occasion. He also won it for the next 100 rounds we played together.

Nobody on earth liked golf, or life, more than Leon.

In July we would play in the British Open. Leon paid for all of us. And again, he won by a wide margin. He was Arnold Palmer, always. But he began to let me and Dave choose which professional we wanted to be. We had our own clubs by then. And he still did "play by play" on every shot....

David Mark came back from Vietnam, practiced enough to get a golf scholarship to Bethel College and beat me and Leon on a regular basis. I went to work at the golf course in the summers, practiced when they weren't looking, and finally won the championship a time or two.

We played a lifetime of golf together. Leon still paid for most of it. When we tried to argue he would wave us off by saying, "I'm having more fun than both of you put together." Leon died in 2014. Golf, and life, have never been the same.

But what a gift he gave us making us go with him on that first day back in 1961.

He would walk into the pro shop at a new course he had found for us over the years and ask loud enough for all to hear, "Where is the first tee...and what is the course record?"

And remind Dave and me when we found that tee, "I'm hitting first. We are going by age today. And guys, play hard. This is for the Championship of the Known World!"

Love you like a brother,
Dow
kesley45@aol.com

Things In My Head with Charles Manfredi



Tennessee Approves Private-School Voucher Expansion

BY SAM STOCKARD
From TennesseeLookout.com and the Tennessee Legislature's website

The Tennessee State Senate approved a private-school voucher bill Thursday, expanding the program to 35,000 students, despite concerns it could drain the state budget and force local public school districts to collect students' Social Security numbers.

Checking children's Social Security cards when they register for classes could lead to a legal challenge for potentially violating federal discrimination laws that require public schools to educate every child. The provision also puts a burden on school districts to manage students' private information, opponents said.

The program is expected to cost more than \$270 million to nearly double the number of students receiving vouchers worth \$7,500 each to enroll in private schools.

The Senate voted 18-14 to pass a House version of the bill that was narrowly adopted in that chamber Monday night when it received two more votes than constitutionally required for passage.

House members voting for the expansion included local State Representatives Brock Martin (R-Huntingdon) and Tandy Darby (R-Greenfield) and State Senator John Stevens (R-Huntingdon). In the 2025 vote, Darby

voted against the voucher program, but in 2026, voted to expand it.

According to the official Tennessee state website, the following votes were recorded.

Representatives voting Aye were: Alexander, Atchley, Baum, Boyd, Bricken, Bulso, Butler, Capley, Carlinger, Cepicky, Crawford, Darby, Davis, Doggett, Eldridge, Faison, Farmer, Gant, Garrett, Gillespie, Grills, Hale, Helton-Haynes, Hicks G, Hicks T, Hill, Hulsey, Jones R, Keisling, Kumar, Lafferty, Lamberth, Lankford, Leatherwood, Littleton, Lynn, Maberry, Marsh, Martin B, Martin G, McCalmon, Moody, Moon, Powers, Raper, Reedy, Reeves, Rudd, Rudder, Scarbrough, Slater, Stevens, Stinnett, Terry, Todd, Towns, Vaughan, Vital, White, Williams, Wright, Zachary, Mr. Speaker Sexton -- 63.

Representatives voting No were: Barrett, Behn, Brooks, Camper, Chism, Clemmons, Cochran, Dixie, Freeman, Fritts, Glynn, Harris, Haston, Hawk, Hemmer, Hurt, Johnson, Jones J, McKenzie, Miller, Mitchell, Parkinson, Powell, Reneau, Russell, Salinas, Shaw, Warner -- 28.

Representatives present and not voting were: Sparks -- 1.

Senators voting Aye were: Bailey, Crowe, Haile, Harshbarger, Jackson, Johnson, Lowe, Massey, Powers, Reeves, Roberts, Rose, Stevens, Taylor, Watson, White, Yager, Speaker McNally -- 18.

Senators voting No were: Akbari, Bowling, Briggs, Campbell, Gardenhire, Hatcher, Hensley, Kyle, Lamar, Oliver, Seal, Southerland, Walley, Yarbro -- 14.

The measure heads to Governor Bill Lee's desk for signature, wrapping up his main initiative over two four-year terms in office, though the total number of vouchers approved was 5,000 fewer than he requested in the program's second year.

Senate Majority Leader Jack Johnson, who sponsored the bill for Lee, told lawmakers they would take up a \$58 billion budget that includes \$9 billion for traditional K-12 schools.

"We are committed to public education, making it the best it can be," Johnson said. Yet he added that the Senate should satisfy its "constitutional obligation" to give parents the option to use state funds to send their children to private schools.

Eight Republicans joined six Democrats in voting against the bill, including GOP Sen. Joey Hensley of Hohenwald.

"We ought to stick with what we promised people," Hensley said.

When the legislature adopted the program last year, it contained a provision allowing it to expand by 5,000 students annually, subject to approval of funding. The law also required the state to pay local school districts for lost enrollment. The new bill pays back districts only

for students who take the voucher funds, but to receive the money, districts will be required to check students' Social Security numbers.

Nashville Democrat, Sen. Jeff Yarbro, contended that the Social Security number provision doesn't necessarily challenge Plyler v. Doe, a 1982 U.S. Supreme Court decision requiring schools to enroll all students regardless of immigration status. Yet he said it violates federal privacy laws to receive funds for students who leave the district.

"This is just a phasing out of the 'hold harmless' statewide on a faster timeline," Yarbro said, using the term used to describe efforts to keep school districts from hemorrhaging money.

Democratic Sen. Heidi Campbell of Nashville warned colleagues that "a reckoning" is coming because of the burden the program will put on the state budget as it grows annually.

Campbell and Democratic Sen. Charlane Oliver of Nashville argued that they're spending more per student on private-school vouchers than on increasing funding for public schools.

"For the small percentage of parents who need something else, let's give them that avenue," said Republican Sen. Adam Lowe of Calhoun.

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THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

She Was a Long Shot

It's an amazing and mysterious process that brings us into contact with people who influence and affect our lives.

In 1951 an illegitimate child was born that was not wanted, so the mother left her in the hospital where she was taken care of by nurses. Six weeks passed before the mother's parents came and took the baby and raised her for the first year of her life.

During that year, the mother of the baby married and eventually took possession of her little girl. Whether that was a good thing or not, you, the reader, can decide, but what is certain is that the young girl's life quickly took on the

semblance of the early pages of the Cinderella story or the bleak life of a Charles Dickens' character.

The mother began having babies every other year until there were nine children, the end result being the life of the hero of this story evolved into the role of caregiver. The family lived in abject poverty not always knowing where the next meal would come from. Often the next meal didn't come. The various rental and tenement houses they moved in and out of had little if no heat in them. To stay warm during the cold Indiana winters the children piled into the same bed and huddled together for warmth. Their hair was

stringy and unkempt, and their clothes didn't match. Ridicule by peers was at every turn.

The harsh words that came out of the mouth of the girl's stepfather were as destructive as lava—destroying the trees of self-esteem, searing the grass of familial love, and crushing the rocks of self-confidence.

When it seemed things couldn't get worse—they did.

She was thirteen years old when her mother was stricken with cancer. It was not the type of cancer that attacks like a savage beast, quickly killing and devouring but rather was the kind that gradually drains life away like a leaking hot water heater.

In a short period of time, this girl forfeited what was left of her childhood and became an adult, a mother to her brothers and sisters,

especially the youngest who was only a few months old. She missed an entire year of high school, cooking, cleaning, chopping wood, hauling water, and seeing to her bedfast mother. Occasionally, her mother would ask her to bring the baby to her bedside so she could sing to her.

It took nearly two years until the frayed thread that tied her mother's spirit to her body finally broke, and she died.

Then the sun, moon, and stars hid their faces from another approaching storm.

The stepfather sent seven of the children to various family members to live, and he took the baby and our heroine to live with him where she constantly had to fight off his sexual advances. Terror-filled nights became the norm.

Some months later, the

stepfather rounded up all nine children and began driving south out of Indiana, through Kentucky, to Tennessee. None of the children knew where they were going but knew better than to ask questions. Eventually, he pulled into a driveway that led past several two-story buildings that were arranged in a horseshoe shape. He told them to get out and then drove off. Hours later they learned he'd left them at an orphanage.

Many people with this kind of history would have fallen into a life of despair and hopelessness, a life of low income, a sketchy job history, poor mental and physical health, unhealthy relationships, and even the path of addiction. But not the heroine of this story. No, this girl grew into a woman who went to col-

lege, held a steady job that required a person of impeccable character, fought her way through depression, learned to forgive the unforgivable, faced cancer and won, and became an inspiration to everyone who had the privilege of knowing her and her heart.

Both her daughters, her six grandchildren, and her husband of fifty years (which I have the privilege of being) rise up and call her blessed.

(Because she wants people who've had difficult childhoods to not give up, my wife, Brenda Johnson, readily shares her experiences with others not to gain sympathy but to hopefully inspire others to follow her example.)

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



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HOURS Mon.-Thurs. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.
Fri. 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sat.-Sun. Closed
DEADLINE Monday 10 a.m.
FOLLOW  @McKenzieBanner  @mckbANNER

(USPS 336080)
Periodical Postage
Paid at McKenzie, TN

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

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



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(L to R) Harlee Tidwell, Korben Womack and Trey Williamson.

West Carroll Spotlights Students of the Week

WEST CARROLL (April 16) — The West Carroll Special School District announced its newest round of students of the week from its primary, elementary and junior/senior high schools. The three students — Harlee Tidwell, Korben Womack and Trey Williamson — were each nominated for their leadership and determination in the classroom.

Kindergarten student Harlee Tidwell is West Carroll Primary School's student of the week, nominated by Mrs. Malorie Jo Watkins.

"Harlee is well-behaved, smart and is ready for anything," said Watkins. "She has started a pig business and has shared her knowledge during our unit on farms.

Harlee is a natural leader. She is ready to help wherever needed whether it is tying shoes or helping someone with their work. She is an asset to our classroom!"

Third grade student Korben Womack is West Carroll Elementary School's student of the week, nominated by Mrs. Lindsey Lindsay.

"Korben always comes to class excited and ready to learn. He's eager to participate, and that eagerness is contagious to his peers," said Lindsay.

Tenth-grade student Trey Williamson is West Carroll Jr/Sr High School's student of the week, nominated by Mr. Jaxon Stringer.

"Trey is an exemplary model of an incredible stu-

dent-athlete," said Stringer. "He accomplishes every task put in front of him with dedication, whether that be inside or outside of the classroom. Trey is respected by his peers and teachers for his honesty, kindness and integrity. Most importantly, he has never backed down from a challenge. It is a privilege to see Trey grow into an exceptional young man, and he has a bright future ahead of him. Thank you for your leadership and for representing the best of West Carroll, Trey!"

The West Carroll Special School District also recognized West Carroll Primary School preschool teacher Mallory Smith as teacher of the week.

Museum, Genealogical Library To Host Ribbon Cutting Sunday

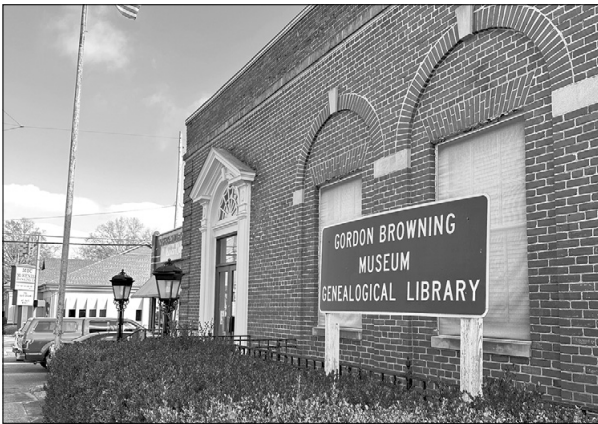
McKENZIE — The grand reopening of the updated Gordon Browning Museum and Genealogical Library is Sunday, April 26, 2 p.m. at 640 N. Main Street, McKenzie. The event includes a ribbon-cutting and an open house.

The volunteers from the Carroll County Historical Society closed the museum in 2025 to complete a significant reorganization. The library is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesdays through Saturdays beginning April 29. Volunteers are needed at the library.

About Gordon Browning

The museum is the official library for the late Governor Gordon Browning, who was born in a log cabin near Atwood.

The Gordon Browning Museum is a publicly-supported museum and repository for documents, images and artifacts that represent the history and culture of Carroll County, Tennessee. The museum is named in honor of the two-time Governor of the State of Tennessee, Gordon Browning and contains numerous papers, photographs and personal effects of the former governor. In cooperation with the



city of McKenzie, county of Carroll and state organizations, the Carroll County Historical Society operates and maintains the museum and repository.

During the First World War, he served as an artillery officer in the Tennessee National Guard and in France before the war's conclusion. He returned from the war to Huntingdon to resume his law practice. In 1923, Browning was elected to the United States House of Representatives and would serve for five successive terms until 1935. On his return from Congress, he launched a campaign to run for governor. He won the 1937 election and served as governor until 1939. The governor was

unsuccessful in his bid for re-nomination. During the Second World War, he was re-appointed as an officer in the United States Army. He served as deputy head of the Belgium-Luxembourg mission and later served in the military government in Germany soon after the war. On his return to Tennessee, he began another campaign for governor and was elected governor again in 1949. His attempt for re-election failed in 1952 and again in 1954. Governor Browning retired from public service following his last campaign for the governorship and returned to practicing law and dairy farming in Huntingdon. He died May 23, 1976 and is interred in Oak Hill Cemetery, Huntingdon.

HUNTINGDON HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Several members of Anita Boyd's family attended Wednesday's meeting. Pictured are (L to R) Pam Hurt, Ted Hurt, Linda Allen, Samuel DeVille, Fran Utley and Anita Boyd. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Anita Boyd Recalls Bruceton's 'Golden Age'

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
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HUNTINGDON (April 15) — At just short of 97-years-old, Mrs. Anita Boyd has a long-term memory that is still as sharp as a tack. Boyd visited the Huntingdon Historical Society Wednesday morning to share some of her earlier memories, recalling what she considers to be the town of Bruceton's golden age.

Boyd, a 1947 graduate of Bruceton High School, is on a mission to share memories of her hometown's former glory, despite now living in Camden. She shared stories about Bruceton in the 1930s and 1940s. "To me, that was the heyday of Bruceton, the Golden Days of Bruceton, and it was all because of the railroad," Boyd said.

Recounting her memories, Boyd described her hometown in a way that most of its inhabitants today would think inconceivable.

Bruceton, once only known as "New One," was a booming young town during Boyd's youth.

It was the central hub of the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis railroad, chosen to handle the traffic moving from Nashville to Memphis and from the Paducah-Hickman area to the Mississippi River.

In the span of five years, "New One" became known as "Junction City," and then was renamed "Bruceton" for its 1925 incorporation. The town was named for W.P. Bruce, an executive on the railroad.

With four to 10 passenger trains stopping daily, Bruceton rapidly grew into a busy and flourishing small town.

"Folks from all around came to open businesses and to work on the railroad," Boyd said.

Boyd's family, even, relocated to Bruceton because of the railroad. Her grandfather, Herchel "Crappie" Aden moved to Bruceton from Huntingdon in 1906 to help lay the railroad tracks. He later worked as a car repairman until his retirement in 1946. Her Uncle Virgil was a brakeman and worked on the trains until his retirement.

During Boyd's youth, Bruceton had a bank, two



Anita Boyd addresses the Huntingdon Historical Society. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

doctors, five churches, a telephone office, a lumber shed and a large ice plant that served both the railroad cars and the community. At one point, there were 13 stores in the downtown area alone, Boyd said.

There was also a cotton gin, a dry cleaning shop, four gas service stations with mechanics on duty, a telephone business office, two grocery stores, a dry goods store, a Western auto store, a trolley car cafe, the Dugout, a basement restaurant with rental rooms on the upper floor, a wholesale house, a blacksmith shop, a skating rink and a funeral home.

And, Boyd boasted, she can still name the owner or operator of every business she mentioned.

Bruceton even had a newspaper, called the Twin City Times. Boyd brought two newspaper copies — one from 1930 and one from 1936 — to donate to the Huntingdon Historical Society's museum.

Boyd talked about growing up during the Great Depression, interacting with hobos as they crossed into Bruceton. Her house was on the south end of town, farthest from the railroad, but she remembers hobos walking that far to ask if they could split wood or help out in any way. Her Memea would give them leftover food, usually cold biscuits with ham or sausage.

"We had no fear of them," said Boyd. "They were just trying to make their way in hard times."

Boyd spoke about life in Bruceton and how the Bruceton Post Office became the "meeting place for socializ-

ing" during World War II.

"After standing in line for your turn, if you received mail, that was just the icing on the cake," Boyd said. "Visitors to the community were always amazed at this daily vigil by so many people. Small town fellowship is not easily understood by city folks."

Railroad employees were paid on the first and fifteenth day of each month. Boyd remembered going with her Memea to "settle up" at the grocery store or "any place that she might have charged something during the month." They would order their home-delivered groceries from the Ralph Page grocery store on Highway 70, just a block from her house. When paying their bills, she said Page would always give her a piece of candy or a stick of gum. "Such good memories we were making, but [we] never realized at the time how exciting it was to grow up in a small railroad town that had so much to offer," said Boyd.

Boyd said Bruceton took a heavy blow in the 1950s. A large tornado struck, and the last of the "gasping for breath" steam engines arrived and departed.

"The war years were behind us, and folks had money, cars and the means to venture out into the big world outside of Bruceton and the other small communities throughout the nation — and that's what we did," Boyd said.

Bruceton's economy took a blow with the demise of the railroad, as railroad salaries were considerably higher than most jobs in the area. Then H.I.S. closed, adding to the toll.

"The great little town that was born and flourished for 100 years or so practically died and, like a vapor, disappeared," Boyd said. "Bruceton now is a lovely, nice, quiet, serene bedroom community with many of its citizens having no knowledge of its former glory," Boyd said. "Such a shame to those that remember."

Several of Boyd's family members attended the Wednesday meeting, including 8-year-old Samuel DeVille, to hear Boyd's presentation.

Bethel/Eastside FCE Chapter Focuses on Service, 'Joy Spotting' at April Meeting

The Bethel/Eastside Family and Community Education (FCE) club held its April meeting on April 9th, gathering at the home of Penney and Mary Mays with six members and their agent in attendance. President Gail Eubanks called the meeting to order, opening with the reading of the Club Creed.

Hostess Jean Wininger led the monthly devotion, discussing the topic of "No judging" and citing Matthew 7:1. For roll call, members shared their favorite movies. The treasury report was given and accepted, showing no change in the balance.

Community Service and Cluster Meeting Prep

The club reviewed recent community service success in old business: "Booboo bunnies" were delivered to the nursing home in time for Easter. Seventeen "meals in a bag" have been provided to the Carl Perkins Center this year.

A major topic of discussion was the upcoming cluster meeting, for which the Bethel/Eastside FCE is responsible for the break-

fast. Plans are underway to feed approximately sixty people, with Gail Eubanks coordinating the coffee, tea, sugar, creamer, and artificial sweetener. The breakfast spread will also include a large fruit tray, bite-sized muffins, cheese sticks, and orange juice. Members were asked to arrive at the church by 9:30 a.m. to set up.

In the new business, the club voted to approve a \$50 donation to the National Association to assist with their convention.

Educational Program: A Guide to Joy

Following the business session, Jean Wininger presented an educational program titled "A Joy Spotters Guide". The guide encouraged members to find happiness in their surroundings by engaging their senses and perspective. Key tips included:

- **Look up and look down:** Notice things around you and see what is hiding at your feet.
- **Find color:** Identify what colors bring joy.
- **Follow the curve:** Re-

member that not everything is in a straight line.

- **Seek out symmetry and abundance:** Harmony brings joy, as do signs of plenty.
- **Appreciate the tiny joys and the invisible:** Examples include ladybugs, butterflies, wind, and light.
- **Have an adventure:** Go where the wild things are.
- **Use all your senses and take the scenic route.**
- **Look for weirdness:** Being unique can bring happiness.

Wininger concluded with the advice, "The more you look the more you will see. And always be kind". The meeting's conversation starter was, "What did you do that was naughty?"

Members are reminded of the following dates: May 1 — Cluster meeting in McKenzie. May 14 — Picnic at the lake (Next meeting, hosted by Gail Eubanks). May 28 — Spring Rally, where members should bring cultural arts. August 8-16 — Carroll County Fair. August 12 — Mini Conference.



Above, West Carroll FBLA advisors Ryan Mansfield (left) and Erin Lewis (right) are pictured with FBLA students Jack Robinson, Kahli Baum, Taylor Robinson, Chandler Rimmer, Emma Stout, Arlexis Perry and Bryler O'Neal. Below Left, West Carroll students Bryler O'Neal, Chandler Rimmer, Taylor Robinson, Emma Stout, Arlexis Perry, Kahli Baum and Jack Robinson are pictured with their awards from the FBLA State Leadership Conference. Below Right, Hayden Weaver is pictured with her finalist award in Organization Leadership, and Caleb Vermillion is pictured with his finalist award for Healthcare Administration. Submitted Photos



West Carroll FBLA Excels at State Conference

West Carroll Jr./Sr. High School students recently traveled to Chattanooga to compete in the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) State Leadership Conference, where they achieved outstanding success, securing their invitation to Nationals.

Students competed in a variety of business-related events, including Agribusiness, Human Resource Management and Organizational Leadership, among others.

Students also participated in conference leadership sessions and had the

opportunity to connect with peers from across the state. The trip also allowed time for students to explore Chattanooga and build relationships outside of the classroom, making the experience both educational and memorable.

Every student competitor from West Carroll placed in the top four in their respective events, an impressive accomplishment that reflects both preparation and dedication. As a result of their top finishes, these students have earned the opportunity to advance to the FBLA National Leader-

ship Conference, held this summer in San Antonio, Texas.

There, students will compete alongside top competitors from across the country and world.

The FBLA program at West Carroll continues to provide students with opportunities to develop leadership, communication and career-ready skills through real-world application and competition. West Carroll is proud of these students for their success and looks forward to supporting them as they prepare for the national stage.



Left, Rebel shortstop Cole Brown makes a leaping throw to first after fielding a sharp ground ball in Monday's home game. Right, Rebel Aiden Legens rips a double in Monday's game. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Rebels Split Home-Away Set with McEwen

BY BRAD SAM
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McKENZIE/McEWEN (April 13-14) — McKenzie High School baseball began the week with a home-away set against district foe McEwen, splitting wins with the Warriors. Monday, McEwen earned a 2-0 road win in a pitching duel. McKenzie returned the favor in a big way Tuesday, running away with a 13-5 victory in McEwen.

McEwen Warriors 2, McKenzie Rebels 0

Monday's game at McKenzie remained scoreless until the top of the sixth, when the Warriors pushed across the only two runs of the game.

Rebel Aiden Legens was 1-for-2 with a double. Cooper Davidson was 1-for-3. Ace Brown was 0-for-1 with a stolen base.

Warrior Tylon Carter was 2-for-3 with a triple, an RBI and a run scored. Kainan Gill was 1-for-3 with an RBI. Mason Oliphant was 1-for-4 with a run scored. Cane Burdette and Colt Tummins were both 1-for-3.

Knox Parham earned the complete-game shutout win for McEwen, allowing two hits while walking none and striking out five.

Xander Johnsey took the

complete-game loss for McKenzie, allowing two earned runs on six hits while walking none and striking out four.

Rebels 13, Warriors 5

McKenzie struck first at McEwen Tuesday with four runs in the top of the first. The Warriors answered with a pair in the home half. McKenzie added two runs in the fourth and again in the fifth, then blew the game open with five in the sixth. McEwen plated a pair in the bottom half and a final run in the seventh.

Rebel Fletcher Holt was 4-for-4 with a home run. Lelan Gordon was 3-for-4 with a double, a walk, two RBIs, three runs scored and a stolen base. Cooper Davidson was 2-for-4 with a walk, a run scored and a stolen base. Cole Brown was 2-for-5 with a double, an RBI, a run scored and a stolen base. Xander Johnsey was 2-for-5 with an RBI and a run scored. Parker Ross was 1-for-4 with a double, a walk, two RBIs and a run scored. Aiden Legens was 1-for-5 with an RBI and a run scored. Ace Brown was 1-for-2 with a walk, an RBI, a run scored and a stolen base. Maddox Shiell was 0-for-2 with two RBIs and a stolen base.

Warrior Kainan Gill was 2-for-4 with a triple, a double, two RBIs and a run scored. Jack Grigsby was 3-for-4 with an RBI. Logan Wilson was 1-for-1. Knox Parham was 1-for-3 with a double. Mason Oliphant was 1-for-4 with a double and a run scored. Tuck Littleton was 0-for-2 with an RBI. Ben McPherson was 0-for-4 with an RBI. Tylon Carter was 0-for-2 with two runs scored.

Fletcher Holt earned the win for McKenzie, allowing five earned runs on eight hits while walking two and striking out seven in six and a third innings. Lelan Gordon pitched the final two-thirds of an inning, allowing no runs or hits with one walk.

Caden Wallace got the start for McEwen allowing eight earned runs on 11 hits while walking two and striking out one in four innings. Tylon Carter pitched an inning and a third of relief, allowing three earned runs on no hits while walking three and striking out one. Collin Swearns threw two-thirds of an inning, allowing two earned runs on four hits with no walks. Logan Wilson pitched the final frame, allowing no runs on three hits with no walks.

Bulldogs Erase Nine-Run Deficit To Defeat Tigers in Extra Innings

BY BRAD SAM
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GLEASON (April 17) — The Gleason High School Bulldogs hosted Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central Friday for a baseball contest. The visiting Tigers stormed out to a 9-0 lead, but the Bulldogs scratched their way back to tie it in the second inning and again in the bottom of the seventh to force extra innings. Gleason capped the comeback with a walk-off, two-out single in the eighth for a 14-13 win.

Central exploded out of the gate for nine runs in the top of the first. Gleason scored three in the home half, then tied it with six in the second. The Tigers pulled ahead again with three runs in the third, then added one in the fifth. The Bulldogs cut the gap with two in the bottom half, then tied it again with two in the seventh. Ashton Morgan won it in the eighth with a walk-off single.

Bulldog Drake Lehmkuhl was 4-for-5 with a home run, a double, seven RBIs

and three runs scored. Ashton Morgan was 2-for-4 with a walk, an RBI, three runs scored and a stolen base. Trey Mayo was 1-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs scored. Parker Morgan was 1-for-5 with a double, a sacrifice fly, an RBI and a run scored. Ty Keeling was 1-for-4 with two walks and two runs scored. Brody Sanders was 1-for-5 with an RBI and two stolen bases. Bryce Pettit was 0-for-2 with three walks and a run scored. Brock Dilday and Caleb Jones were each 0-for-3 with a walk, a run scored and a stolen base.

Tiger Gage Weatherly was 4-for-5 with a walk, two RBIs, two runs scored and a stolen base. Brayden Maness was 3-for-5 with a double, a walk and two RBIs. Brody Huff was 3-for-5 with a sacrifice fly, two RBIs, two runs scored and a stolen base. Dalton Howard was 3-for-4 with a run scored and two stolen bases. Tanner Walters was 2-for-6 with a walk, three runs scored and a stolen base. Braxton Howard

was 1-for-3 with two walks, an RBI and two runs scored. Drake Hollingsworth was 1-for-5 with a double, a sacrifice fly, an RBI and a run scored. Parker Boyd was 1-for-5 with a walk, an RBI and a run scored.

Ashton Morgan got the start for Gleason, allowing nine runs (eight earned) on six hits while walking two and striking out two in two-thirds of an inning. Ty Keeling threw seven and a third innings of relief and earned the win, allowing four earned runs on 12 hits while walking four and striking out three.

Tanner Walters started for Central, allowing six earned runs on one hit while walking one and striking out three in one inning. Brody Huff pitched three frames, allowing four runs (two earned) on three hits while walking four and striking out one. Parker Finley threw the final three and two-thirds frames and took the loss, allowing four earned runs on six hits while walking three and striking out two.

Lady Rebels Defeat Lady Red Devils, 13-7

BY BRAD SAM
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BRADFORD (April 14) — Bradford High School softball hosted McKenzie Tuesday. The visiting Lady Rebels' lineup produced offense from top to bottom as they took a 13-7 road victory over the Lady Red Devils.

McKenzie struck first with a run in the top of the first. Bradford briefly took the lead with two runs in the home half, but the Lady Rebels tied it in the top of the second and pulled away with five runs in the third and three in the fifth. The Lady Red Devils rallied for five in the bottom of the fifth, but McKenzie added three more in the sixth.

Lady Rebel Haylee Beard was 2-for-5 with two dou-

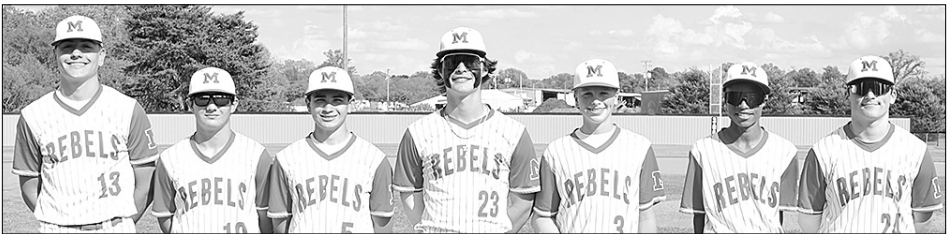
bles, an RBI and a run scored. Ridley Holt was 2-for-4 with a double, two RBIs and two runs scored. Kailie Hudgins was 3-for-4 with two runs scored. Addyson Littleton was 2-for-5 with an RBI and a run scored. Maggie Hall was 2-for-5 with a run scored and a stolen base. Danie Parker was 1-for-4 with two RBIs and three runs scored. Braylin Auvenshine was 1-for-5 with an RBI and two runs scored. Aurora Johnson was 1-for-4 with a walk and a run scored. Kynadie Brown was 0-for-5 with an RBI.

Lady Red Devils Cara Copous and Abby Glisson were both 2-for-4 with a double, an RBI, two runs scored and a stolen base.

Paige Allen was 1-for-2 with a double and an RBI. Leah Page was 1-for-3 with a double, a walk and an RBI. Rylee Jorgensen was 0-for-2 with a walk, a run scored and a stolen base. Calley Graves was 0-for-3 with a walk and a run scored.

Braylin Auvenshine earned the complete-game win for McKenzie, allowing seven runs (five earned) on six hits while walking four and striking out six.

Olivia McAfee got the start for Bradford, allowing seven runs (two earned) on six hits while walking one in three innings. Cara Copous pitched the final four innings, allowing six runs (one earned) on seven hits while walking none and striking out four.



MMS Baseball Celebrates Eighth Grade Night

McKENZIE (April 16) — McKenzie Middle School baseball celebrated Eighth Grade Night Thursday. Seven Rebel eighth graders were honored on the field, joined by their parents (L to R) Seth Stafford, son of Jana and Brian Stafford; Jake Ghyers,

son of Angie and Nick Ghyers; Dierks Ghyers, son of Michelle and Mark Ghyers; Leighem Broyles, son of Amber and Keith Freeman and Colton and Megan Broyles; Lane Brown, son of Josie and Chad Brown; Jackson Barden, son of Allyson and

Justin Barden; and Fisher Allen, son of Megan and Jeremy Allen. The Rebels jumped out to a big lead over Milan in the ensuing game, but it was unfortunately cancelled in the second inning due to thunderstorms. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Mustangs Blank Eagles, 11-0

BY BRAD SAM
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JACKSON (April 16) — Jackson Christian School baseball hosted Huntingdon Thursday, and the visiting Mustangs dominated the Eagles for an 11-0 shutout in five innings.

Huntingdon scored three runs in the top of the first, two in the second and six in the third.

Mustang Hayes Eubanks was 3-for-4 with two doubles, an RBI and a run scored. Kenton Smith was 1-for-3

with three RBIs and a run scored. Broox Bennett was 1-for-3 with two RBIs. Silas Sharp was 1-for-1 with two walks, an RBI and two runs scored. Kainan Moore was 1-for-1 with two runs scored. Braylin Dearmon was 1-for-3 with a walk, an RBI and two runs scored. Caleb Ezell was 1-for-3 with an RBI and a run scored. Colt Wood was 1-for-3 with a walk and an RBI. Cy Hankins was 0-for-2 with a walk, an RBI and a run scored.

Eagle Miles Wilson was 1-for-1 with a double. Mat-

thew Melton was 2-for-3.

Owen Kreuziger earned the win for Huntingdon, allowing no runs on one hit while walking one and striking out one in three innings. Hayden Strop pitched the final two frames, allowing no runs on two hits with two walks.

Max Collins took the loss for Jackson Christian, allowing 11 runs (five earned) on seven hits while walking two and striking out three in two and two-thirds innings. Micah Hunt pitched the final two and a third innings, allowing no runs on three hits while walking three and striking out one.

War Eagles Split Home-Away Set with Middleton

BY BRAD SAM
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ATWOOD/MIDDLETON (April 13-14) — West Carroll High School baseball began the week with a home-away district set with Middleton. Monday, West Carroll hosted, but the visiting Tigers took the win in a high-scoring affair, 13-9. The War Eagles exacted revenge Tuesday on the road with a lopsided victory, 14-3.

Middleton Tigers 13, West Carroll War Eagles 9

In Monday's game, West Carroll struck first with a run in the bottom of the second inning. Middleton took the lead with three in the top of the third. The War Eagles scored one in the home half, then took the lead with three in the fourth. Middleton regained the edge with three runs in the fifth, then added three in the top of the sixth. West Carroll tied it with four in the home half, but the Tigers scored four in the seventh for the win.

War Eagle R.Q. Thompson was 2-for-4 with a triple, a walk, two RBIs, two runs scored and two stolen bases. J.W. Rushing was 2-for-3 with a double, an RBI, two runs scored and a stolen base. Caleb Vermillion was 2-for-4 with a walk, an RBI, a run scored and a stolen base. Eli Bryant was 1-for-3 with a walk and an RBI. Harlan Hames was 1-for-4 with an RBI, two runs scored and a stolen base. Jeremiah Petty was 1-for-3 with an RBI and a run scored. Sawyer Jackson was 0-for-2 with two walks, an RBI, a run scored and a stolen base.

Tiger Annyn Cardwell was 1-for-5 with a double, three RBIs and a run scored. Brody

Elkins was 1-for-3 with a double, an RBI, two runs scored and a stolen base. Will Baker was 1-for-5 with two RBIs and two runs scored. Brody Cornelius was 1-for-3 with a walk, a sacrifice fly, an RBI and a run scored. Grayson Gladish was 1-for-3 with an RBI and a stolen base. Westen Ross was 1-for-4. Joseph Coupe was 0-for-3 with three walks and three runs scored. Christopher Wright was 0-for-1 with three walks, a run scored and a stolen base. Kamren Bumpus was 0-for-2 with two walks, three runs scored and a stolen base.

Brody Cornelius got the start for Middleton, allowing five runs (three earned) on five hits while walking five and striking out two in four innings. Christopher Wright pitched the final three frames, allowing four runs (three earned) on four hits while walking one and striking out one.

Ethan Baker started for West Carroll, allowing nine runs (two earned) on six hits while walking five and striking out five in six innings. Harlan Hames faced three batters, allowing three runs (two earned) on no hits and two walks. Sawyer Jackson pitched the final frame, allowing one unearned run on no hits with two walks.

War Eagles 14, Tigers 3

On the road Tuesday, West Carroll struck first with three runs in the top of the first. Middleton answered with one in the home half. The War Eagles added a pair in the second, and the Tigers plated one. West Carroll pulled away with four in the third. Each team plated a run in the fourth, and the War Eagles

scored four in the fifth to end the game early.

War Eagle Sawyer Jackson was 2-for-3 with a triple, a double, a sacrifice fly, four RBIs, a run scored and two stolen bases. R.Q. Thompson was 3-for-4 with a double, an RBI, three runs scored and a stolen base. Briggs West was 2-for-4 with a double, an RBI and two runs scored. Caleb Vermillion was 2-for-3 with an RBI, three runs scored and a stolen base. J.W. Rushing was 1-for-2 with a walk, a sacrifice fly and two RBIs. Ethan Baker was 1-for-3 with two RBIs and a stolen base. Harlan Hames was 1-for-4 with two RBIs. Eli Bryant was 0-for-3 with a walk and two runs scored.

Tiger Kamren Bumpus was 2-for-2 with a double, an RBI and a stolen base. Westen Ross was 1-for-1 with a walk. Grayson Gladish was 1-for-3. Joseph Coupe was 0-for-1 with a walk, a run scored and a stolen base. Brody Elkins was 0-for-1 with a walk and a run scored. Brody Cornelius was 0-for-2 with a walk and a run scored.

Eli Bryant earned the complete-game win for West Carroll, allowing three runs (two earned) on four hits while walking four and striking out three.

Kamren Bumpus got the start for Middleton, allowing nine runs (one earned) on eight hits while walking one and striking out two in three innings. Will Baker pitched one inning of relief, allowing one unearned run on one hit with no walks and one strikeout. Westen Ross threw the final frame, allowing four runs (one earned) on three hits while walking one and striking out one.

Rockets, Tigers Split Home-Away Set

BY BRAD SAM
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CLARKSBURG/BRUCE-TON (April 13-14) — The Clarksburg High School Rockets and Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central Tigers began the week with a home-away district baseball set. Monday, the Rockets hosted and claimed a 4-3 win on a late rally. Tuesday, the Tigers avenged the loss with a 5-0 home shutout.

Clarksburg Rockets 4, Central Tigers 3

Clarksburg struck first at home Monday with a run in the bottom of the third. Central tied it in the top of the fourth, then took a lead with a pair in the fifth. The Rockets cut the deficit to one with a run in the home half, then scored two in the bottom of the seventh for a walk-off win.

Rocket Walker Aston was 3-for-4 with a double and three RBIs. Trae Cobb was 2-for-3 with two runs scored. Maddox Robbins was 1-for-3 with a run scored. Greysen

Jones, Garrett Bartholomew and Reagan Halter were each 1-for-3.

Tiger Brody Huff was 1-for-4 with a double, an RBI and a run scored. Gage Weatherly was 2-for-3 with an RBI and a run scored. Tanner Walters was 2-for-3 with a run scored and a stolen base. Braxton Howard was 1-for-3. Dalton Howard was 0-for-3 with an RBI.

Trae Cobb earned the win for Clarksburg, allowing three runs (two earned) on six hits while walking two and striking out eight in six innings. Jayden Reed pitched the final frame, allowing no runs, hits or walks.

Drake Hollingsworth took the complete-game loss for Central, allowing four runs (three earned) on nine hits while walking none and striking out seven.

Tigers 5, Rockets 0

Tuesday's game was scoreless through three innings until Central scored a run in the bottom of the fourth, then added four in the sixth.

Tiger Brayden Maness was 1-for-2 with a walk, two RBIs and a run scored. Drake Hollingsworth was 1-for-3 with two runs scored. Tanner Walters was 1-for-3 with a run scored and a stolen base. Parker Boyd was 1-for-3 with an RBI. Braxton Howard and Dalton Howard were each 1-for-3. Brody Huff was 0-for-3 with an RBI, a run scored and two stolen bases.

Rocket Trae Cobb was 1-for-1 with two walks and a stolen base. Walker Aston was 1-for-3. Taylor Lawler and Samuel Wallace were each 0-for-2 with a walk.

Gage Weatherly earned the complete-game shutout for Central, allowing two hits while walking four and striking out eight.

Greysen Jones took the loss for Clarksburg, allowing four runs (one earned) on five hits while walking one and striking out five in five innings. Jayden Reed threw the final frame, allowing one unearned run on one hit with no walks and one strikeout.

Rebels Defeat Union City, 5-2

UNION CITY (April 17) — McKenzie High School soccer faced district foe Union City on the road Friday and earned a 5-2 win.

Rebels Aiden Mason and Jony Hernandez each scored two goals and each had an assist. Diego Hernandez scored a goal, and Wyatt

Brewer had an assist. McKenzie goalkeeper Sawyer Nunnery had two saves and Brody Davis recorded six saves.

Lady Tigers Defeat Dresden, 12-3

BY BRAD SAM
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DRESDEN (April 13) — Dresden High School softball hosted the Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central Lady Tigers Monday. Central scored early and often to earn a 12-3 victory.

The Lady Tigers struck first with a pair of runs in the top of the first. The Lady Lions tied it with two in the home half, but Central scored a run in both the third and fourth, then pulled away with three in the top of the fifth. Dresden managed one run in the bottom half. The Lady Tigers sealed the win with five runs in the sixth.

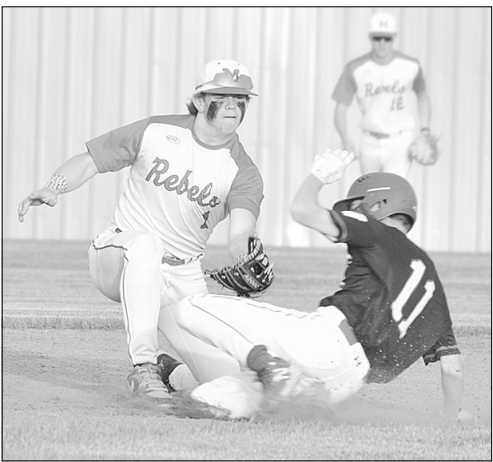
Lady Tiger Kyleigh Baker

was 1-for-4 with a home run, two RBIs and one run scored. Amelia Bennett was 2-for-3 with a triple, a sacrifice fly, an RBI, two runs scored and a stolen base. McKenzye Castleman was 2-for-4 with an RBI, a run scored and a stolen base. Abby Baker was 2-for-5 with an RBI and two runs scored. Cloe Morgan was 1-for-3 with a triple, a sacrifice fly and two RBIs. Madison Holder was 1-for-4 with a walk, an RBI, two runs scored and a stolen base. Lilly McGee was 1-for-4 with two runs scored and a stolen base. Emy Olds was 1-for-4 with an RBI. Addison Tucker was 1-for-4 with a run scored and two stolen bases.

Lady Lion Jacie West was 1-for-3 with a double and an RBI. Molly Robinson was 1-for-3 with two RBIs. Gracie Adams and Kayden Barnett were both 1-for-3 with a run scored.

Kyleigh Baker earned the complete-game win for Central, allowing three runs (one earned) on four hits while walking none and striking out eight.

Jacie West took the loss for Dresden, allowing seven runs (four earned) on eight hits while walking one and striking out one in five innings. Caylin Boaz pitched the last two frames, allowing five earned runs on four hits with no walks.



Left, Rebel right fielder Avery Brown runs down a fly ball for the out. Right, Rebel second baseman Xander Johnsey tags out a runner attempting to steal. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Rebels Fall to Chargers

BY BRAD SAM
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MCKENZIE (April 17) — McKenzie High School baseball hosted Westview Friday evening. One big inning by the visiting Chargers doomed the Rebels to a 16-6 loss in six innings.

Westview struck first with a run in the top of the first, but McKenzie responded with a pair in the home half to take the lead. The Chargers scored three in the third, answered by the Rebels with one run. Westview scored two in the fourth, and McKenzie added a pair in the fifth. The Chargers pulled away with ten runs in the top of the sixth, and the Rebels managed just one in the home half.

Rebel Cole Brown was 2-for-3 with a home run, a walk, an RBI and two runs scored. Lelan Gordon was 2-for-4 with a double, two RBIs and a run scored.

Fletcher Holt was 2-for-2 with two walks. Aiden Legens was 1-for-2 with a walk and two RBIs. Xander Johnsey was 1-for-4 with a run scored.

Charger Graham Simpson was 2-for-3 with a double, two walks, three runs scored and four stolen bases. Christopher Damron was 3-for-4 with a walk, two RBIs, two runs scored and a stolen base. Kohen McWherter was 2-for-3 with a double, two walks, an RBI, four runs scored and two stolen bases. Wes Hatler was 2-for-3 with a walk, an RBI and a run scored. Thomas Myers was 1-for-3 with two walks, two RBIs and two runs scored. Casen Spaulding was 1-for-4 with a double, a walk, two RBIs and a run scored. Poston Essary was 1-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored. Myles McEwen was 1-for-5 with an RBI and a run scored.

Graham Simpson got the start for Westview, allowing five runs (four earned) on

five hits while walking three and striking out five in four innings. Casen Spaulding faced three batters, allowing no runs on one hit and two walks. Charlie Sutherland pitched the final two frames, allowing one earned run on two hits while walking none and striking out four.

Aiden Legens started for McKenzie, allowing three earned runs on six hits while walking two and striking out one in two innings. Maddox Shiell pitched three and a third innings of relief, allowing six runs (five earned) on three hits while walking five and striking out three. Ripken Thompson faced three batters, allowing three earned runs on one hit and a walk. Tucker Redmond pitched a third of an inning, allowing four runs (three earned) on three hits and a walk. Hudson Garrett threw the final third of an inning, allowing no runs, hits or walks.



Left, Marcie Mitchell earned the complete-game win for Huntingdon, allowing three runs (two earned) on nine hits while walking none and striking out three. Right, Fillies catcher Camdyn Sellers tags out a Milan runner attempting to score. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Fillies Charge Back to Defeat Milan, 7-3

BY BRAD SAM
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HUNTINGDON (April 14) — Huntingdon High School softball hosted Milan Tuesday for a district contest. The visiting Lady Bulldogs took an early 3-0 lead, but the Fillies stormed back in the final innings to claim a 7-3 victory.

Milan scored a pair of runs in the top of the first, then added a run in the third. Huntingdon exploded for five runs in the fifth to take the lead, then added two in the sixth.

Filly Camdyn Sellers was 2-for-3 with an RBI and a sto-

len base. Grier Bartholomew was 1-for-2 with a double, a walk and two runs scored. Gracey Martin was 1-for-3 with a stolen base. Kylie Tippitt was 1-for-4 with a run scored. Emalynn Maness was 0-for-1 with a run scored. Ellie Wilson was 0-for-4 with an RBI. Millie Luther was 0-for-2 with an RBI, a run scored and a stolen base. Aubry Castleman was 0-for-3 with a run scored.

Lady Bulldog Mia Pearson was 3-for-4 with a double and two runs scored. Hailey Williamson was 2-for-4 with a stolen base. Rylee Hensley was 1-for-3 with two RBIs.

Camryn Green was 1-for-3 with an RBI and a sacrifice fly. Maycee Masters was 1-for-4 with a run scored. Lizzie Hayes was 1-for-3.

Marcie Mitchell earned the complete-game win for Huntingdon, allowing three runs (two earned) on nine hits while walking none and striking out three.

Camryn Green took the loss for Milan, allowing seven runs (two earned) on five hits while walking one and striking out three in five innings. Mia Pearson pitched the final frame, allowing no runs, hits or walks with one strikeout.

Lady Tigers Defeat Lady Rebels

BY BRAD SAM
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MCKENZIE (April 17) — McKenzie High School softball hosted Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central Friday for a district contest. It was a tight contest until a huge fourth inning by the visiting Lady Tigers sealed a 16-3 win in five innings.

Central struck first with a run in the top of the first, but the Lady Rebels answered with two in the home half to take the lead. The Lady Tigers regained the advantage in the third with three runs. McKenzie plated one in the bottom half. Central pulled away with nine runs in the fourth and added three in the fifth.

Lady Tiger Addy Baker was 2-for-4 with a home run, six RBIs and two runs scored. Amelia Bennett was 4-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored. Lilly McGee was 3-for-4 with a double, two RBIs, three runs scored and a stolen base. Madison Holder was 2-for-5 with a triple and two RBIs. McKenzye



Left, Lady Rebel Haylee Beard drives the ball for a base hit. Right, Lady Tiger Lilly McGee rips a double. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Castleman was 2-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored. Kylie Craig was 2-for-4 with a stolen base. Cloe Morgan was 1-for-4 with a double and three RBIs. Addison Tucker was 1-for-3 with a double, a walk and two runs scored. Kyleigh Baker was 0-for-2 with a walk and a run scored.

Lady Rebel Aurora Johnson was 1-for-2 with a home run, a walk, an RBI and two runs scored. Addyson Littleton was 1-for-3 with a dou-

ble and a run scored. Haylee Beard was 1-for-1 with a walk and an RBI. Maggie Hall was 0-for-2 with a walk.

Madison Holder earned the complete-game win for Central, allowing three runs (two earned) on three hits while walking three and striking out five.

Aurora Johnson took the complete-game loss for McKenzie, allowing 16 runs (ten earned) on 17 hits while walking two and striking out one.



Left, Mustang Kenton Smith got the start for Huntingdon in Tuesday's home game, allowing three runs (one earned) on seven hits while walking none and striking out five in five innings. Right, Mustang right fielder Broox Bennett catches a deep fly ball in Tuesday's home game. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Mustangs Sweep Waverly in Home-Away Set

BY BRAD SAM
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WAVERLY/HUNTINGDON (April 13-14) — Huntingdon High School baseball started the week with a home-away set against district foe Waverly. Two very different games ended with the same result: a Mustang win. On the road Monday, Huntingdon dominated the Tigers in five innings, 13-1. Tuesday, at home, the Mustangs trailed early before tying the score in the fifth and winning on a walk-off in the seventh, 4-3.

Huntingdon Mustangs 13, Waverly Tigers 1

The Mustangs wasted no time in Monday's road game, scoring seven runs in the top of the first. Waverly's lone run came in the home half. Huntingdon's bats cooled until a six-run burst in the fifth ended the game early.

Mustang Hayes Eubanks was 3-for-3 with a double, a walk, five RBIs, two runs scored and a stolen base. Silas Sharp was 1-for-3 with a walk, two RBIs and two runs scored. Kenton Smith was 2-for-3 with a walk, an RBI and a run scored. Cy Hankins was 1-for-2 with two walks and a run scored. Colt Wood was 0-for-1 with three walks and two runs scored. Owen Kreuziger was 0-for-2 with a walk and two runs scored. Caleb Ezell was

0-for-1 with two runs scored. Tiger Bryce Griffin was 2-for-2. Brenden Dilley was 1-for-3 with a run scored. Kycen Damesworth and Brodie Davis were each 1-for-3.

Caleb Ezell earned the complete-game win for Huntingdon, allowing one unearned run on five hits while walking two and striking out eight.

Brenden Selph took the loss for Waverly, allowing seven runs (one earned) on one hit while walking eight and striking out six in an inning and two-thirds. Cole Bailey pitched two and a third innings, allowing four runs (three earned) on three hits while walking none and striking out three. Kaz Cooksey threw two-thirds of an inning, allowing two earned runs on three hits while walking one and striking out one. Kerry Johnson faced one batter and recorded the final out.

Mustangs 4, Tigers 3

Waverly struck first in Tuesday's game with a run in the top of the first, then added another in the second. Huntingdon got on the board with a run in the bottom of the third. The Tigers added a run in the top of the fifth, and the Mustangs tied it with two in the home half. Huntingdon walked off with a run in the bottom of the seventh.

Mustang Kenton Smith was 2-for-3 with a double, a walk and an RBI. Braylin Dearmon was 1-for-3 with a double, a walk, an RBI and a run scored. Cy Hankins was 1-for-1. Broox Bennett was 1-for-4 with a run scored. Hayes Eubanks was 0-for-1 with two walks and a run scored.

Tiger Malachi Burns was 2-for-4 with two doubles and an RBI. Brodie Davis was 2-for-3 with a double, a sacrifice fly, an RBI and a run scored. Lucas Wilson was 1-for-2 with a double, a walk and an RBI. Brenden Dilley was 1-for-4 with a double and a run scored. Bryce Griffin was 1-for-1. Brenden Selph was 1-for-3 with a run scored.

Kenton Smith got the start for Huntingdon, allowing three runs (one earned) on seven hits while walking none and striking out five in five innings. Cy Hankins pitched the final two innings and earned the win, allowing no runs on one hit and a walk.

Bryce Spann started for Waverly, allowing three runs (one earned) on four hits while walking five and striking out three in five and two-thirds innings. Kycen Damesworth pitched the final two-thirds of an inning and took the loss, allowing one unearned run on one hit with no walks and a strikeout.

Lady Tigers Defeat Clarksburg

BY BRAD SAM
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BRUCETON (April 16) — Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School softball hosted Clarksburg Thursday for a district contest. The host Lady Tigers had a big second inning and cruised to a 13-1 win in four innings.

Central scored eight runs in the second. Clarksburg's lone run came in the top of the third, and the Lady Tigers responded with four in the home half. Central tacked on a run in the fourth to end the game early.

Lady Tiger Emy Olds was

3-for-3 with a triple and two runs scored. Addison Tucker was 3-for-3 with a double, two RBIs and two runs scored. Madison Holder was 1-for-2 with a triple, a sacrifice fly, two RBIs and a run scored. Amelia Bennett was 1-for-3 with two RBIs, a run scored and a stolen base. Cloe Morgan was 1-for-1 with a walk and an RBI sacrifice fly. McKenzye Castleman was 1-for-3 with two runs scored. Abby Baker was 1-for-3 with a run scored. Lilly McGee was 0-for-2 with a walk, three RBIs and two runs scored. Kyleigh Baker

was 0-for-1 with a walk.

Lady Rocket Brooklyn Laws was 1-for-1 with a run scored and a stolen base. Lainey Glosson and Natalie Scott were each 1-for-2.

Kyleigh Baker earned the complete-game win for Central, allowing one unearned run on three hits while walking none and striking out seven.

Addison Milam got the start for Clarksburg, allowing no runs, hits or walks with one strikeout in one inning. Carlie Swinford pitched the final two and a third innings and took the loss, allowing 13 runs (three earned) on 11 hits and three walks.

McKenzie Police Reports

Driving on Canceled License — Theotis Staten, Walnut Circle, McKenzie, was charged with Driving on a Canceled License on April 15.

Officer Michael Cunningham observed Staten disregard a stop sign and initiated a traffic stop. A check of Staten's license revealed it was canceled.

He was cited into Carroll County General Sessions Court.

Theft — A resident of Oaklawn Drive reported the theft of several items from the residence on or about April 13. Stolen were porch rails, trailer hitches, two breaking plows - all valued at \$970.

Natural Death — On April 16, McKenzie Police officers responded to an Elm Street address where a female was unresponsive. Family members were in attendance and the home health worker, who noted the lady had a do-not-resuscitate document in effect. EMS and the coroner responded.

Property Transfers

Phillip and Alicia Halter to Dylan and Hannah Kyle in District 13.

Charles Edward Prater to CSG Stores, LLC in District 11.

J & E Properties, Inc. to CSG Stores, LLC in District 11.

Lanny and Vicky Throckmorton to Devin and Thomas Daffron. No district listed.

Kelly Family Properties, LLC to Cristian Ruiz Correa. No district listed.

Adam Dowland to Jonathan G. and Katlyn White in District 4.

Linda Edwards as executrix to Tommy Martin and others in District 22.

Dustin Storm and James Hunter Ray to Hunter and Bryanna Haynes in District 17.

Angela and Mark Winters to Irene Rochelle Lancaster. No district listed.

GL Land, LLC to Karl W.

Card in District 2.

Ricky Miller and others to Robert H. III and Robyn Ellis in District 5.

Secretary of Veterans Affairs to Lacoste Holdings LLC in District 12.

Michael and Shirley Reed and others to Mark and Cathy Forrester in District 16.

Corri Fuller to Freddie Mitchell in District 13.

Paul W. Hasselbrink to Edward Daniel and Linda Ann Curtis Draper in District 9.

Alan Grant Arnold to Adam Grant Arnold in District 16.

Timothy Mark and Alan Grant Arnold to David Justin Allen in District 16.

Richard and Janett Goodwin to Richard T. and Janett Goodwin in District 16.

Richard and Janett Goodwin to Windie and Joey Richardson in Dis-

trict 11.

Jannie Boles and others to Jannie Boles and others in District 6.

Lisa J. Hutcherson to Dillon W. Mann and others in District 11.

Jack T. and Carolyn E. Greer to Garrett Green in District 11.

Mitchell D. and April V. Roberts to Steadfast Home Buyers. No district listed.

Thomas and Janelle Stear to Eric Dale in District 11.

Corey R. and Brandy L. Kemp to Antonio Allen in District 12.

Harlan J. Johnson to Jonathan Johnson. No district listed.

Dan Miles to Jacob and Samantha Malone in District 11.

Lakeview Loan Servicing, LLC to Ashley and Heather Goodrum Barker as joint tenants with rights of survivorship. No district listed.

Kristopher C. Stenberg, Holmes Street, Trezevant, guilty, Probation Violation - Booked, no fine, 11/29, can get day-for-day credit for successful completion of treatment.

The following cases were dismissed:

Hope C. Abbott, Bear Creek Road, Pinson, dismissed, Contributing to Dependency/Neglect, litigation taxes only.

Earl Kinder, Hwy. 114, Bruceton, dismissed, Probation Violation - Booked.

Chaslyn Irene Lockhart, Jessie Lane, Huntingdon, dismissed, Burglary - Other Than Habitat or Non-Public Building.

Witt Wallace Mitchum, Main Street North, McKenzie, dismissed, Driving While License Suspended.

James Adam Vermillion, Carroll Street, McKenzie, dismissed, Driving While License Suspended; dismissed, Financial Responsibility Law.

Kaitlynn Autumn Webb, Woodside Drive, Dresden, dismissed, Probation Violation - Booked.

The following case was rescheduled:

Jamie Lyn Barker, Bradley Keith Douglas, Skyler L. Hays, Maurice Lawrence,

Marriage Licenses

Cailey Lynn Lanciloti, 24, of Trezevant to Dalton Cam-

eron Raley, 20, of Trezevant. Caleb Thomas Carter, 29,

of Humboldt to Sarah Grace Duncan, 25, of Lavinia. Barbara Jean Haley, 77, of Huntingdon to Lyndol Lee Scott, 85, of Huntingdon.

Carroll County Sheriff's Reports

Recovered Property — On April 9, Deputy Verner recovered a firearm that had been located on top of a trash can at a residence on Clarksburg Road after a Republic Services driver reported finding it. The firearm, along with .22 caliber ammunition, was handed over to Corporal Crowe and was entered into evidence.

The firearm was later traced, and the owner was located. The owner advised the firearm had been accidentally left on the trash can while picking up sticks and had been reported missing. The firearm and ammunition were returned to the owner.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Theft from Motor Vehicle — On April 10, Deputy Boaz spoke with a complainant regarding a stolen firearm from a vehicle at a residence on Barren Springs Road in Hollow Rock. The complainant reported the firearm had been missing for approximately two months but had just reported it.

The complainant stated the firearm had last been left inside the vehicle and could not be located after searching both the residence and vehicle. The complainant had been to multiple locations within the county and was unsure where the firearm had been taken.

Deputies searched pawn databases and local records but were unable to locate the firearm.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Unlawful Possession of a Firearm — On April 13, Deputy Scott conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle for having no visible license plate and made contact with the driver, Blake Speer, 35, of Buena Vista. During the stop, Speer was found to be in possession of a 12-gauge shotgun.

Further investigation revealed Speer is a convicted felon and is prohibited from possessing a firearm. He was taken into custody and charged with unlawful possession of a firearm.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Burglary/Public Intoxication/Possession of Drug Paraphernalia — On April 14, Deputy McClure responded to a call at a church on Highway 70 in Cedar Grove regarding a male subject attempting to break into the building.

En route, additional information was received that the subject was in a sand pit on the property and was attempting to light an object on fire. Upon arrival, deputies located Gavin Rosson, 27, of Cedar Grove.

Rosson approached deputies and stated he was "just dancing" in the sand pit. Deputies observed erratic behavior and disorganized speech as he frequently changed topics mid-sentence, indicating intoxication. During the investigation, Rosson admitted he had entered the church through a window without permission and intended to take items such as food and a drink because he had previously attended church there. When asked if he had permission, he stated that he did not and that he was going to inform the church at a later time. Based on this information, Rosson was detained.

During a search of the area where Rosson has been standing revealed a glass pipe commonly used for smoking methamphetamine. Rosson admitted the pipe belonged to him and stated he had used it shortly before deputy McClure arrived. Based on his behavior and admission of recent use, it was determined he was intoxicated in a public place. Rosson also stated that he was currently on probation in Gibson County.

Rosson was taken into custody and transported to the Carroll County Jail. He was charged with burglary, public intoxication

and possession of drug paraphernalia.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Credit Card Fraud Investigation — On April 14, Deputy Crowe responded to a report involving fraudulent activity on a credit card. The complainant reported being contacted by her credit card company regarding a balance of \$815.80 despite not using the card since 2015.

The complainant advised two transactions had been made on March 3, each totaling \$407.90, and the company initially indicated the charges would be reversed. However, she later received conflicting information and believed the situation may be a scam.

The complainant was advised to continue working with the fraud department and to provide any additional information to authorities.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Theft of Property — On April 14, Deputy Coleman responded to a report of a stolen trailer at a residence on Highway 219 in Huntingdon. The complainant reported discovering the trailer missing and stated it had last been seen in November 2025.

The trailer was described as a black 14-foot electric dump trailer. The complainant advised the wiring had been replaced with all red wires, which may help identify the trailer. The value of the trailer was estimated at approximately \$7,400.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Carroll County General Sessions Court Report

HUNTINGDON (April 15) — The following cases were heard in Carroll County General Sessions Court on April 15.

The following cases were bound over to a grand jury:

Jamie L. Garrison, Hwy. 70, Cedar Grove, bound over, Driving While in Possession of Methamphetamine; bound over, Schedule II Drugs: Meth - Mfg., Deliver, Sell, Possess.

Mark Daniel Noah, Bluebird Lane, Huntingdon, bound over, Meth - Possess or Casual Exchange.

Kristopher C. Stenberg, Holmes Street, Trezevant, bound over, Public Intoxication; bound over, Disorderly Conduct; bound over, Assault on First Responder.

The following cases resulted in a guilty plea or finding:

Raymond Blackburn, Mt. Moriah Road, Huntingdon, guilty, Speeding, no fine, payment arrangements through clerk's office; dismissed, Driving While License Revoked.

Jamie L. Garrison, Hwy. 70, Cedar Grove, guilty, Probation Violation - Booked, no fine, 730 days, time-served credit nine days, can get day-for-day credit upon successful completion of treatment.

Chaslyn Irene Lockhart, Jessie Lane, Huntingdon, guilty, Theft of Merchandise - Up to \$1,000, no fine, 11/29, \$64.88 to Walmart, no contact with Walmart, supervised probation for sentence, cognitive behavioral training course, alcohol drug evaluation and recommendations, report to jail May 8 at 7 p.m.

David Scott, Bruceton Vale Road, Bruceton, guilty, Probation Violation - Booked, no fine, 11/29, concurrent with 26cr284-2, day-for-day credit if successfully completes rehab.

David A. Scott, Bruceton Vale Road, Bruceton, guilty, Domestic Assault, no fine, 11/29, no contact with victim, persistent domestic violence offender registry; dismissed, Public Intoxication.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE CASE NO: 2026PE69

ESTATE OF: JAMES GRADEN ROBINSON, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Notice is hereby given that on the 15TH day of APRIL, 2026 Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of JAMES GRADEN ROBINSON deceased, who died JANUARY 3RD, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk & Master of Carroll County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required by law to file the same with the Clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

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

This 15TH day of APRIL, 2026.

THIS NOTICE WILL RUN TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

FILE CLAIMS IN TRIPLICATE WITH:

KENNETH TODD - CLERK & MASTER

99 Court Square, Suite 105, Huntingdon, TN 38344

JAMES RANDALL ROBINSON, Executor/Administrator

W. KENT JONES, Attorney

KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master

A561/R27433/16-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE CASE NO: 2026PE68

ESTATE OF: BETTIE SUE HILL, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Notice is hereby given that on the 15TH day of APRIL, 2026 Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of BETTIE SUE HILL deceased, who died OCTOBER 31ST, 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 15TH day of APRIL, 2026.

THIS NOTICE WILL RUN TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

FILE CLAIMS IN TRIPLICATE WITH:

KENNETH TODD - CLERK & MASTER

99 Court Square, Suite 105, Huntingdon, TN 38344

BERTIE DOUGLAS, Executor/Administrator

LAURA A. KEETON, Attorney

KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master

A561/R27432/16-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE CASE NO: 2026PA64

ESTATE OF: NORA PAULINE MITCHELL, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Notice is hereby given that on the 10TH day of APRIL, 2026 Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of NORA PAULINE MITCHELL deceased, who died OCTOBER 30TH, 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 10TH day of APRIL, 2026.

THIS NOTICE WILL RUN TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

FILE CLAIMS IN TRIPLICATE WITH:

KENNETH TODD - CLERK & MASTER

99 Court Square, Suite 105, Huntingdon, TN 38344

MARK L. MITCHELL, Executor/Administrator

TRAVIS STRICKLER, Attorney

KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master

A561/R27398/15-2

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Top Left, 2026 Miss McKenzie and court (L to R) Third Maid Kailynn Cowan, 17; First Maid Ashley Dunavant, 17; Queen Madelynn Pewitt, 16; and Second Maid Kamyah Gordon, 16. Top Center, 2026 Teen Miss McKenzie and court (L to R): First Maid Addison Davis, 15; Queen Belle Glisson, 14; and Second Maid Olivia Carey, 13. Top Right, 2026 Miss McKenzie and court (L to R) Third Maid Callie Davidson, 11; First Maid Layla Jones, 10; Queen Shiloh Campbell, 10; Second Maid Marlee Wheat, 10; and Fourth Maid Ava Moore, 10. Above Left, 2026 Little Miss McKenzie and court (L to R) Third Maid Caroline Campbell, 7; First Maid Rachel Parham, 9; Queen Haizley Mann, 8; Second Maid Rowan Conger, 9; and Fourth Maid Caelyn Baker, 6. Above Center, 2026 Little Mister McKenzie and court (L to R) King Kody Cowan, 9, and First Page Gunner Amalong, 5. Above Right, 2026 Mini Miss McKenzie and court (L to R) First Maid Lainee Brown, 5; Queen Harper Moore, 5; and Second Maid Sophie Sellers, 5. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Top Left, Eighth Grade Honorees. Top Right, Seventh Grade Honorees. Above Left, Sixth Grade Honorees. Above Right, Fifth Grade Honorees. Below, Sami Mathis, an eighth grader, received the Melinda Garrett Award during the event. Pictured are Melinda's parents, Dale and Faye Garrett with Sami Mathis. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner

Herrin Urges Students to Embrace Effort, Failure, and Play for Future Success

BY JOEL WASHBURN
washburn@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (April 14) — Ninety-six students from McKenzie Middle School were honored at the annual McKenzie Middle School Honors Banquet and Program on April 14 in the school's gymnasium.

The McKenzie Rotary Club and the MMS Beta Club sponsored the event. Students who maintained a grade point average of 95 or higher were the honorees. The students enjoyed a banquet meal in the school's cafeteria before relocating to the gymnasium for the main event. Parents and family members were invited to attend as each honoree received a certificate of accomplishment. The top ten academic students in each grade, 5-8, received a plaque for their additional accomplishment.

Armand Hebert, vice-president of McKenzie Rotary Club, welcomed the students and guests to the event, which the local service club sponsors.

Teacher Josephine Wright, a Beta Club sponsor, announced the award recipients as each student came forward to receive a certificate. Rebecca Jones and Kenzie Jackson presented certificates.

Mrs. Jackson also presented the annual Melinda Garrett Leader of the Year Award to Sami Mathis. The award is given in memory of the late Melinda Garrett, who died as a young lady before fulfilling her dream of becoming a pharmacist. She was 23 years old. Melinda was described as a beacon of kindness and integrity.

McKenzie High School alumnus and educator, Mr. Hunter Herrin, delivered a compelling address challenging McKenzie Middle School honor students to redefine success in an increasingly distracted world. Drawing on his decade of experience teaching both middle and high school, Herrin, a 2010 McKenzie High graduate and 2016 University of Tennessee at Knoxville alumnus, highlighted critical cognitive trends and offered actionable advice for the next generation.

Herrin, who teaches Algebra One and Two, serves as assistant coach of the boys' basketball team and ministers to students at First Baptist Church, cited recent neuroscience research by Dr. Daniel Willingham. This research indicates a concerning decline in memory, attention span, standardized test scores, literacy, and numeracy among the current teenage cohort, a trend Herrin attributes largely to excessive screen time and a culture of "easy mode" living.

"This doesn't mean you are less intelligent," Herrin clarified, "but rather, you are cognitively distracted, programmed for ease rather than challenge."

He emphasized that while previous generations consistently outperformed their predecessors, the current one faces unique struggles due to habits that undermine persistence and deep focus.

Addressing the younger audience, Herrin positioned them as the "very forefront of a brand new generation," capable of driving significant cultural change, different from recent graduates. He outlined three core principles for their success:

Embrace Effort — Countering a high school culture that sometimes mocks visible effort, Herrin urged students to consistently give their best. He warned that high school, particularly junior year, demands significant effort, and those unaccustomed to hard work will struggle.

Failure is an Option (and a Necessity) — Herrin challenged the fear of failure, stating it's not just an option but a "necessity" for growth. He encouraged students to push themselves to the point of occasional failure, emphasizing that true learning happens when one steps outside their comfort zone and takes risks.

Rediscover the Joy of Play and Activity — Lamenting the loss of spontaneous play as children age, Herrin encouraged students to remain active. He highlighted that physical activities such as kicking a ball or climbing a tree are crucial for brain development, in contrast to the detrimental effects of prolonged screen time. He also pointed out that excessive phone use in social settings hinders the development of vital social skills. Herrin concluded by stressing the importance of individuality, passion, and gratitude. He called on students to be leaders, cultivate their unique strengths, and express thanks to their teachers and parents, acknowledging their foundational roles in shaping their futures.

Mr. Josh Kee, principal at MMS, thanked everyone for attending and congratulated the honorees. The honorees were:

Fifth Grade: Emmalynn Adkins, Ryker Andrews, Remington Broyles, Braylee Byrd, Zion Crawford, Jayna Gauthier, Merritt Sue Ghyers, Karson Hairell, Aimee Harris, Jaxon Hochreiter, Baylee Hornsby, Reece Milam, David Archer Neighbors, Olivia Neville, Alicyn Ninness, Isabella Ochoa, Kane Phillips, Coby Poore, Abby Price, Dakota Pride, Charlotte Rodgers, Ty Scott, Macie Seavers, Jake Stafford, Ronan Stenberg, Vera Tippitt, Grace Tre-



vathan, Landon Wilson and Miles Workman.

Sixth Grade: Lola Batton, Addilyn Brown, Zane Campbell, Ava Diller, Adisyn Doede, Tate Gilbert, Johnathan Ham, Emilee Harris, Easton Johnsonius, Kaylee Keys, Avacyn Latham, Taylor Little, Cohen Martin, Benny McCaig, Maggie Nell Merrick, Aubree Roberts, Gracie Robertson, Bentley Siler, Anna Kate Tucker, Samantha Umsted, Cord Wall, Rumor Weatherford, Parker Wolski and Colin Yeley.

Seventh Grade: Kayden Adams, Ruthie Adkins, Brooklyn Andrews, Deacon Barden, Aiden Blackwell, Annabelle Bobb, Cooper Cunningham, Eli Davis, Micah Dickinson, Julee Eubanks, Malcolm Evans, Sonny Fuller, Alice Gallimore, Xander Morgan, Madison Nelson, Na'Vadius Owens, Aurora Ozment, Genevieve Phipps, Mallorie Pierce, Sophie Price, Kiya Priddy, Graham Seavers and Olivia Shank.

Eighth Grade: Andrew Arnold, Jackson Barden, Bella Batton, Abby Carroll, Charlie Cassidy, Finn Evans, Dierks Ghyers, Andres Hernandez, Nevaeh Herris, Noah Johnsonius, Cooper Jones, Sami Mathis, Cason Mayo, Madilyn Milam, Will Newman, Ulises Ramirez, Case Wall and Reid Workman.

Fifth Grade Top 10: Jayna Gauthier, Aimee Harris, Jaxon Hochreiter, David Archer Neighbors, Olivia Neville, Kane Phillips, Abby Price, Vera Tippitt, Lily Trevathan and Landon Wilson.

Sixth Grade Top 12 (three-way tie for Top 10): Lola Batton, Addilyn Brown, Emilee Harris, Easton Johnsonius, Kaylee Keys, Benjamin McCaig, Cohen Martin, Maggie Nell Merrick, Aubree Roberts, Bentley Siler, Cord Wall and Parker Wolski.

Seventh Grade Top 10: Ruthie Adkins, Brooklyn Andrews, Deacon Barden, Aiden Blackwell, Cooper Cunningham, Julee Eubanks, Sonny Fuller, Alice Gallimore, Xander Morgan and Sophie Price.

Eighth Grade Top 10: Andrew Arnold, Bella Batton, Abby Carroll, Charlie Cassidy, Finn Evans, Dierks Ghyers, Cason Mayo, William Newman, Ulises Ramirez and Case Wall.

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