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Tuesday, May 12, 2026

McKENZIE, TENNESSEE

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Open Memorial Day, Closed Friday After

The Banner will be open on Monday, May 25 (Memorial Day) with limited staff. The office will be closed on Friday, May 29 in observance of Memorial Day. Thank you for allowing us this time with our families.

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OBITUARIES

Gerald Clayton Arnold, 65

Cynthia Brewer, 73

Lisa Jean Fields, 56

Bryce Gaston, Sr., 83

Janice Giaimo, 76

Kemp D. Lindsey, 76

Charles David Pruitt, 78

Jeanna Thompson, 52

Patricia A. Washam, 89



Grace

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11 a.m. – Morning Service

1:30 p.m. – Afternoon Service

WEDNESDAYS

7 p.m. – Mid-Week Prayer and Bible Study

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Fred Morris Associate Pastor

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Blaze Levels Henry Plastic Manufacturer

Above Left, Smoldering Rubble at Dawn — As the sun rose on Saturday morning, Yorkville Fire Department captured this photo of a firefighter atop a Milan Fire Department ladder truck battling the still smoking scene from above. *Photo by Yorkville Fire Department*
Above Right, An aerial photo of Sigma Renew 360 fully engulfed at noon on Friday, May 8 as firefighters began the nearly 24-hour battle to extinguish the blaze. Drone Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner
Right, Firefighter Justin Bennett of Latham Dukedom Volunteer Fire Department captured the scene at 9:42 p.m. on Friday. Photo by Justin Bennett/Latham Dukedom VFD

Fire Claims Sigma Renew 360 Facility

BY BRITTANY MARTIN
brittany@mckenziebanner.com

HENRY (May 8-10) — For Henry residents, what should have been a quiet Mother's Day weekend, by noon on Friday had escalated to a shelter-in-place warning and a large first responder presence in the vicinity of Mark I Drive. Sigma Renew 360, a plastic poly-ethylene pellet manufacturing facility, was fully engulfed, prompting a mutual aid request to almost every fire department within a 50+ mile radius.

At 1:49 p.m. Henry County Emergency Management Agency (Henry County EMA) issued a Shelter in Place warning, "Henry County EMA advises those within the immediate

area and north of Sigma Renew 360 to shelter in place due to a structure fire at the plant. Smoke and fumes from the fire may affect those with respiratory issues who should shelter in place. People in the surrounding area are advised to monitor their situations and react appropriately."

Wind was blowing the smoke north at approximately 11 mph.

The cause of the fire is currently undetermined pending investigation by the state fire investigator. Windy and dry conditions likely contributed to the incident. The facility was a total loss.

The assistant chief and incident

See FIRE on Page 3

McKenzie Man Arrested For Kidnapping, Sexual Exploitation of a Minor

McKENZIE (May 7) — A McKenzie man is facing serious criminal charges of Aggravated Sexual Exploitation of a Minor, Aggravated Kidnapping, and Possession of a Firearm During Commission of Dangerous Felony, after he engaged in an online conversation and lured an underage Florida female to come to McKenzie.

Terry Alexander Jaeger, Jr., 35, Paris Street, McKenzie, was arrested and transported to Carroll County Jail on a \$801,000 bond. His vehicle, handgun, and all electronics were

See McKENZIE on Page 3

CARROLL COUNTY PRIMARY ELECTION One Contested Race, Few Voters

CARROLL COUNTY (May 5) — The polls in Carroll County were quiet as only 1,288 voters cast ballots in the May 5 party primary elections for local county offices. That compares to 2,396 just four years ago. The lone contested race was that for the Republican nominee for sheriff with Eric W. Sawyers claiming the victory over Timothy W. Pratt, 662 to 341 for the Republican nomination.

Others winning uncontested party nominations in uncontested races for the Republican nomination were:

Joseph Butler, mayor; Darrell Ridgely, Commission District 1; Daniel Lee Willman, Commission District 2; Brandy Boyd, Commission District 3; Morris Rogers, Commissioner District 4; Jimmy Crossett and Cyril Ostiguy for Commission District 5 - where 3 will be elected in the general election; Madison Endres, Commission District 6; Lori Dillahunt, Commission District 7; Jay Phipps, Commission District 8; John Austin, Property Assessor; Sarah Bradberry, Circuit Court Clerk; Brandy Boyd, Hollow Rock-Bruceton School District 16; Eric Daniel Gonzalez, Hol-low Rock School District 16 at-large; Keith Hollowell, South Carroll School District.

In the Democrat Primary, Jimmie Sue Staten, Commission District 7; Natalie Porter, Register of Deeds.

Many candidates qualified as independents in specific races and will face these party-nominated candidates in the August general election.

For vote totals in the May 5 election, visit <https://carroll-countytnelections.com/>.



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CONTACT US

McKenzie Banner, 3 Banner Row, McKenzie, TN 38201

P: 731.352.3323 • F: 731.352.3322 • E: banner@mckenziebanner.com

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2026 MEMBER

 WE RECYCLE



Huntingdon Auxiliary to Honor Fallen Heroes with Poppy Drive, Memorial Services

HUNTINGDON — As West Tennessee prepares for the upcoming holiday weekend, members of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #47, Huntingdon, are issuing a heartfelt reminder that Memorial Day is about more than just the unofficial start of summer. This May, the local unit is launching its annual Poppy Month initiative to ensure the sacrifices of fallen service members are never forgotten.

The red poppy, famously known for blooming on the battlefields of France following World War I, serves as an international symbol of remembrance. For Cathy A. Corbin and the members of Unit #47, the flower represents a solemn debt of gratitude.

“It is our duty to honor

their sacrifices, to pray for their families, and to bow our heads in recognition of their service,” Corbin stated, emphasizing the importance of pivoting from “holiday celebrations” to true reflection on the lives lost in defense of American freedom.

Area residents will have several opportunities to show their support and honor the fallen throughout the month:

Poppy Distribution: On Saturday, May 16, Auxiliary members will be stationed at Cash Saver Grocery and Tractor Supply in Huntingdon from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Poppies will be distributed in exchange for donations. Organizers emphasize that 100% of all donations received during the drive will go directly toward supporting local veterans.

The community is invited to gather on Memorial Day for a series of commemorative events hosted by the American Legion and the Auxiliary:

Flag Presentation: A formal ceremony will take place at Thomas Park in Huntingdon, starting at 11 a.m.

Community Fish Fry: Following the ceremony, a fish fry will be held in the Cash Saver parking lot for residents and veterans alike.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit #47 remains active in the Carroll County community, meeting the first Monday of every month at 6 p.m. in the lower level of the Carroll County Courthouse.

For those seeking more information or looking to get involved, the Auxiliary can be reached via their Facebook page, “American Legion Auxiliary, Huntingdon, TN Unit 47,” or by contacting Pamela Davis Moss at 731-415-5171 or Mary Lou Ozee at 731-415-8066 (text only).

McKenzie School Board Approves Building Upgrades

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

The McKenzie Special School District (MSSD) Board of Education met Tuesday, May 5, at the MSSD Board Room with a packed agenda, discussing several building improvements.

In attendance were Chairman LaShonda Williams, Vice Chairman Spiros Roditis, Treasurer George Cassidy and board members Misty Aird, Chad Brown, Karen Fowler, Bobby Young and McKenzie High School (MHS) School Board Representative Gracie Aird.

The board discussed a drainage issue at the McKenzie Elementary School's (MES) bus loop area. Director of Schools Dr. Justin Barden informed board members that the area at the school's east door sits “almost in a hole,” with the playground sitting higher than the bus loop area.

Dr. Barden met with architects from TLM Associates to survey the area and look for potential remedies for the school's drainage issue, who recommended adding drainage culverts to both sides of the parking area.

The architect provided a budget estimate of \$110,800 for drainage improvements, which would include site demolition, sidewalk replacement, drainage piping, trench drains and full-depth concrete pavement replacement. The estimate also includes a contingency allowance to account for unforeseen conditions.

The board discussed next

steps but did not yet make a motion to continue with the improvements. Upon approval, the board will open the project for bidding.

The board also discussed and approved multi-faceted restroom upgrades at McKenzie Middle School (MMS).

The middle school restroom upgrades include updating toilet partitions in fifth through eighth-grade restrooms (32 total stalls). The partition project, including the purchase and installation of partitions, is quoted at \$25,530.

A bigger piece of the upgrade is installing new flooring in the fifth, sixth and eighth-grade boys and girls restrooms. Fuller Industries, who did the flooring in the middle school locker rooms, proposed to install granulated flooring over the current tile floor in the restrooms. The only thing requiring removal is the side trim in the restrooms. The quoted flooring installation cost is \$37,812.

With the board's approval, the district will open a bid process for the middle school's toilet partition and flooring upgrades.

Dr. Barden is also waiting on a quote to repaint the middle school restrooms.

The board voted unanimously to move forward with MMS restroom upgrades.

The board approved a \$56,255 bid from Culley Mechanical Services, LLC to install a Reznor make up air heater in the MHS kitchen. The bid includes the heater, electrical connections, gas

connections and a crane to set the unit.

Dr. Barden then presented the board with amendments to 11 policies in the MSSD Board of Education Policy Manual [see “McKenzie School Board Hears Policy Amendments”]. The amendments are in line with the Tennessee School Board Association.

The board approved a request for the MHS Lady Rebels to travel to Murray State University for a basketball camp.

In the human resources report, Dr. Barden reported the impending retirements of middle school music teacher Veda Haney and elementary school cafeteria manager Kathy Barcroft. Jennifer Allen, Tara Sharp, Molly Hannah Wilson and Christy Hampton turned in their resignations. Amy Reed was hired on as a McKenzie High School assistant for the remainder of the 2025-26 school year.

New hires for the 2026-27 school year include Victoria Ashley (MMS ELA), Jay Taylor (MMS Stem/Head Football Coach), Sydney Luker (MMS ELA), Brooke Rodriguez (MES Cafeteria Manager) and Valerie Dillion (MHS Education Assistant).

The May 5 meeting concluded Gracie Aird's term as MHS School Board Representative. Madelyn Morris is the incoming representative for the 2026-27 school year, starting in August.

The MSSD Board of Education's next meeting is a Budget Workshop on Tuesday, June 30.

Paris Police Chief Ricky Watson to Retire After 30 Years in Law Enforcement

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

PARIS (May 7) — Paris Police Chief Ricky Watson will retire July 31, ending a nearly 30-year career with Paris and Henry County law enforcement, according to Paris officials.

Watson began his role as chief of police in 2021.

Watson's departure is due to a “directional change” within the Paris Police Department, according to Paris City Manager Kim Foster. The City of Paris and Chief Watson have come to an agreement that is mutually beneficial and will allow him to reach retirement with a full 30 years of service.

Foster delivered the news to the Paris Police Department Wednesday night. Assistant Police Chief Ean Reed has agreed to fill the role of Interim Police Chief. It is not yet clear when the City of Paris will open the position and begin its search for a new police chief.

Watson began his law enforcement career with the Henry County Sheriff's Office in 1996. He began serving with the City of Paris Police Department in November 1999 and has served in many different roles within the department. In his time, he has been a patrol officer, a K-9

handler, a criminal investigator, a narcotics investigator with the Metro Crime Unit, the lieutenant of investigations, captain of the Paris Police Operations Unit, assistant chief of police and chief of police.

Watson attended various police training and leadership courses during his time in law enforcement, and he was named Paris Police Department Officer of the Year in 2002 and 2015.

Watson provided the following statement on his retirement:

“After a rewarding and fulfilling career serving the citizens of Paris, I am announcing my retirement from the City of Paris and the Paris Police Department.

“This decision comes with mixed emotions because this city has meant so much to me throughout my career. I love this city, and I love the Paris Police Department and all of its employees. It has been an honor and privilege to serve alongside so many dedicated individuals who work tirelessly each day for our community.

“Throughout my years in law enforcement, I had the opportunity to work with some truly outstanding officers — professional men and women who stood beside me during some very difficult

times. Their loyalty, professionalism, and commitment to the badge are things I will never forget. I will always be grateful for the friendships and relationships built during my time with the department.

“Like many law enforcement agencies across the country, the Paris Police Department has faced challenges involving recruitment and retention in today's workforce environment. Despite those challenges, I remain confident in the dedication and resilience of the officers and employees who continue to serve this community with pride.

“As I reflect on my career, I can honestly say there is nothing I would have changed. I am proud of the work we accomplished together, proud of the relationships built along the way, and proud to retire at the top of my career.

“I want to sincerely thank the citizens of Paris, my fellow officers, city leadership and all city employees for their support throughout the years. Serving this community has been one of the greatest honors of my life.

“I wish the City of Paris and all of its employees nothing but continued success and the very best in the years ahead.”

Animal Rescue Corps Saves 18 Dogs in McKenzie

NASHVILLE (May 11) — Animal Rescue Corps (ARC), a national non-profit animal protection organization, rescued 18 dogs and puppies in McKenzie, Tenn., after their owner suffered from a medical condition. The owner will not be able to return home to care for them.

The seven adult dogs, eight juvenile dogs and three small puppies were surrendered to ARC on Tuesday as part of Operation Plain Sight and have been taken to the ARC Rescue Center out-

side of Nashville, where they are receiving veterinary evaluations, medical treatment and nutritious meals.

At the time of rescue, the adults averaged about 50 pounds each, the eight juvenile dogs were all about 30 pounds and the three puppies were about 5 pounds each. All of the dogs suffer from insect bites and will receive treatment for fleas and ticks. Some also have skin wounds, eye and ear infections, dermatitis and fur loss. One has an abscess, and one has a her-

nia. Flystrike, or myiasis, was also observed.

“This is one of those situations where compassion and urgency have to go hand in hand,” ARC Executive Director Tim Woodward said. “These dogs suddenly lost the only home they knew, and while their caretaker's situation is tragic, our focus now is making sure each animal gets the care and stability they need so they can be adopted out to their forever homes.”

ARC's mission is to support rural communities with limited to no animal shelter resources, particularly in cases where large-scale rescues or owner surrenders would overwhelm local capacity.

CARROLL COUNTY COMMISSION

Discussions Continue on Payroll, Audit Report Presented

BY JASON R. MARTIN
jmartin@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (May 6) — On Wednesday, the Carroll County Finance Ways and Means Committee and the Audit Committee met as the 2025-26 Fiscal Year draws to a close.

The payroll change voted on last month has now been revised. Instead of establishing a payroll system divided into 24 semi-monthly payments for days worked, it is being divided into 26 semi-monthly payments for days worked.

Also recommended was a one-time bonus to non-elected employees of \$500 for full-time employees and \$250 for part-time employees. The bonus comes at a cost of \$100,000 to the county. The bonus would possibly be issued in the second week of July.

In other business, the Carroll County School budget was rejected by the Finance Ways and Means Committee as it had a deficit budget that would have to be force-balanced through budget reserves. For multiple years, the Carroll County School budget has had to dip into its budget balance. At their current rate of deficit spending, the reserves could be completely depleted in two years' time.

Finance Ways and Means Committee meets Thursday, May 14, at 9 a.m. in regard to finalizing the 2026-27 Fiscal Year Budget.

Two sets of finds were flagged during the meeting. The first came from the Office of Circuit, General Sessions, and Juvenile Courts Clerk based on the courts allowing a private probation company to collect court fines and costs on behalf of the county without adequate controls resulting in a cash shortage of \$16,787.

Judge Michael King's response to the auditor's report was as follows:

It is my understanding that the finding is related to a probation officer employed by a private entity, Supervisory Services, Inc. (SSI), who misappropriated funds. Those funds were court costs that the probation officer received from probationers that she then stole instead of paying those funds to the clerk.

SSI has been employed by Carroll County for more than 20 years. SSI's practice of allowing probation officers to collect court costs was put in place prior to both my administration and that of Sarah Bradberry, Circuit Court Clerk. Both Mrs. Bradberry and I voiced our concerns to the management of SSI about the practice. The probation officer, who misappropriated the funds, was not an employee of the county. Neither the court nor the clerk supervised the employee or set the internal policies of SSI.

Additionally, there is no legal basis for the clerk to refuse payments delivered by a third party private probation officer on behalf of a probationer, absent a contract. The county has

since entered into a written contract with SSI that prevents its probation officers from accepting payments for court costs.

The purpose of this response is to request that the finding be modified to more accurately reflect that the probation officer was an employee of SSI, not under the supervision of the courts or the clerk's office. Additionally, the finding should reflect that Carroll County has entered into a contract with SSI that prevents the collection of court costs by its employees in the future.

The second finding was based on the Office of the Assessor of Property. The auditor stated the following:

(1) The assessor did not maintain an adequate program for the verification of real property sales. During a monitoring review by the Division of Property Assessments for the 2025 fiscal year, the review found a high error rate in sales questionnaires, data entry, and deeds for items tested. The assessor is required to maintain documentation of the reason for the rejection of any sale for use in analyzing appraisals. This deficiency is the result of management's failure to properly comply with state statutes, and such errors on the sales verifications could result in the over or under assessment of property values. The auditor's recommendation is that the assessor should institute a proper maintenance procedure and quality control within their office to ensure an adequate program of sales collection and verification within their office. Property Assessor Rita Jones' response: We had sales listing and verification errors. We have corrected these. We have put into place some protocols to see that this does not happen again. We are trying hard to correct all issues. We have been minus one employee for about a year, which will be resolved shortly.

(2) The assessor did not adequately perform the visual inspections required to maintain accurate property records. In many cases, data found on the property records did not accurately represent the structures on the property. During a monitoring review by the Division of Property Assessments for the third quarter, two samples were selected. In the first sample, 45 of 208 parcels reviewed (22%) had errors affecting the property valuation, and in the second sample, 49 of 248 parcels reviewed (20%) had errors affecting the property valuation. Section 67-5-1601, Tennessee Code Annotated, requires the assessor to complete an on-site review of each parcel of real property over a four-year review period. This deficiency can be attributed to the failure of management to maintain an adequate system of internal controls to ensure

accurate reporting of on-site reviews. The auditor's recommendation is that the assessor should ensure that visual inspections are properly performed and accurately reflect the property.

Property Assessor Jones' response: There were some visual inspection errors discovered in my audit. We have addressed these errors. Part of the problem was the field man not doing his work. He is no longer employed. We have corrected these issues and have them keyed.

(3) The Assessor did not properly maintain personal property information

A. The office did not produce their personal property tax roll correctly or in a timely manner. Section 67-5-903(a), Tennessee Code Annotated (TCA), requires the assessor to furnish each business by February 1 with a schedule requiring the business to list all personal property (furniture, fixtures, machinery and equipment, supplies, raw materials, etc.) The office did not run these schedules until July 24, 2024, and they were based on an incorrect tax year.

B. Back Assessment Reassessments (BARA) were not completed timely, and some (9 of 36) could not be completed due to the certification deadline passing for their completion. Section 67-1-1005(b), TCA, requires the assessor to audit the personal property tax roll and to issue a back assessment or reassessment for errors or omissions found.

C. The assessor's office did not prepare the Tangible Personal Property schedules in a timely manner. Tennessee Division of Property Assessment (DPA) staff discovered on March 27, 2024, that the assessor's office was not working on the data entry for Tangible Personal Property (TPP) schedules even though the data entry for both real and personal property were required to be completed by April 19, 2024. DPA staff were required to visit the county on three separate occasions to assist with the preparation of the TPP schedules in order to meet the April 19th deadline.

The auditor's recommendation is that the assessor should ensure that the information and schedules related to personal property assessments are completed correctly and in a timely manner.

Property Assessor Jones' response: There were Personal Property issues that we have new protocols in place to make sure never happens again. We have addressed all the issues.

At the conclusion of the Audit Committee meeting, Commissioner Barry Mac Murphy recommended that the Finance Ways and Means Committee look for a way to move the Carroll County School System under its domain to further comply with the Comptroller's recommendation of full centralized finance.



Above, Dyer Fire Department checks the site with a thermal imaging camera on Friday night. Photo by Dyer Fire Department Above Right, The Aftermath — An aerial photo of the Sigma Renew 360 facility on Saturday afternoon after the blaze was extinguished. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner Right, Henry VFD responded to the scene when the Sigma Renew 360 fire rekindled on Sunday morning, Mother's Day. Photo by Henry VFD Far Right, Plastic poly-ethylene pellets found in the rubble of the Sigma Renew facility. Photo by Yorkville Fire Department

Fire

...From Front Page

commander from Henry Volunteer Fire Department (Henry VFD) said of the response, “First and foremost our department would like to send out a heartfelt thank you to all of the Henry County emergency first responders, Henry County EMA, FEMA, TEMA, OES, along with Carroll County Fire, Weakley, Benton, Henderson, Madison, Obion, Chester, Gibson, Huntingdon, McKenzie, Martin, Dresden, even as far as Nashville. The National Guard, Weakley and Henry County Forestry, Tosh Farms, Conroy Farms, Doyle Sims of Gleason, White Farms, and also some past Henry Fire personnel who responded to help at the drop of a call, and all of the people in the community!”

Yorkville, Milan, Camden, Eva, Mansfield Community, Latham Dukedom, Dyer, Gleason, Stewart County and possibly others were also on scene. The smoke plume was visible from neighboring counties and on weather radar. The scene quickly became regional and national news with television news stations in Nashville and CBS covering the story.

The Tennessee Emergency Management Agency (TEMA) deployed a district coordinator to assist with the structure fire.

“We are working with local emergency officials to respond to the fire and to make sure all local requests are fulfilled. Follow guidance from Henry County EMA and local officials for updates and any safety instructions,” TEMA said in its 6:30 p.m. Friday update.

TEMA provided another update at 8 p.m., “A Tennessee National Guard helicopter supporting training operations in the region has been assisting response efforts at the Henry County industrial fire by conducting water drops on hotspots inaccessible to ground crews. Using Bambi buckets, crews have completed multiple aerial drops in coordination with local responders as firefighting operations continue.”



TEMA remained in contact with local and state partners and continues to monitor the situation.

Local businesses and community members answered the call for drinks and food for the first responders battling heat exhaustion and dwindling resources as the fight dragged on into the evening.

Henry County EMA advised on Friday at 10 p.m., Smoke from the facility will continue for the next 24 hours, causing air quality issues in the area and could affect sensitive groups such as those with asthma, COPD, or heart conditions.

After battling the blaze for close to 24 hours, at 9:45 a.m. on Saturday, Henry County Emergency Management Agency (EMA) said, “The Sigma fire has been fully extinguished.”

“Multiple fire departments collaborated throughout the night and early morning to bring the blaze under control. We extend our gratitude to the Henry Fire Department, all participating firefighters and fire departments, state agencies, the Air National Guard, Emergency Medical Services, 911, and county Emergency Management Agencies for their assistance.

“We appreciate the community’s generous donations for the responders and the personnel managing the rehab center. Special thanks to Tosh Farms, Norwood Farms, Norwood Construction, and other supporters.”

“This incident saw an impressive response with over 20 agencies from outside the county providing aid.”

Henry County EMA concluded, “The site will be transferred to an environmental cleanup company, which will begin working on site to mitigate water runoff.”

According to multiple search results, Poly-ethylene pellets are highly flammable. When it heats

up it turns molten. Additionally, the melting point for polyethylene is 248 degrees Fahrenheit and the flash point (when the material ignites) is 644 degrees Fahrenheit. While Poly-ethylene pellets are not classified as an accelerant, it likely contributed to the intensity and sustainability of the blaze.

The longer a fire burns, the hotter it gets. Carroll County Fire Chief Jonathan Gaskins estimates the blaze reached 2-3,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

Carroll County Fire Department (CCFD) Chief Gaskins issued this statement, “A huge thank you to all of the Carroll County firefighters who responded to the Sigma plastic factory fire, as well as the firefighters who backfilled areas across the county to ensure Carroll County remained protected in the event of another emergency.”

“42 Carroll County FD firefighters assisted at the scene during this incident along with firefighters from Huntingdon FD and McKenzie FD from Carroll County. Two operational shifts were established to help reduce the risk of injuries and heat exhaustion while crews worked long hours under difficult conditions,” CCFD Chief Gaskins continued.

“We also want to thank every department from across West Tennessee that responded to assist. The teamwork, professionalism, and coordination between departments was outstanding and played a major role in extinguishing such a large and complex fire within approximately 24 hours.”

Additionally, Chief Gaskins extended a special thank you to Carroll County EMA for their assistance, coordination, and support throughout this incident.

“We are extremely proud of the

dedication shown by everyone involved and thankful for the strong mutual aid partnerships across our region,” Gaskins concluded.

Henry VFD expressed gratitude for the overwhelming response, “Without you all we would have not made it through the night. The fire was a complete loss despite all of the efforts. But we can not say enough about the fight and determination everyone on the scene had working together as one. We also had a tremendous rehab team set up and worked hard the entire night to keep guys and girls fresh, and for that Henry Fire and myself will be forever grateful knowing the teams we have that are just a call away!”

The fire reignited on Sunday morning, Henry VFD notified the public at 8:09 a.m.

It is important to note that rekindling and reigniting are common for lengthy, large fires. It has not and should not regain the strength that the fire had before extinguishment. The fire is being monitored closely. The situation is now manageable by a few people.

Latham Dukedom Volunteer Fire Department Chief Sean Fulcher added, “[The] large fire in Henry, Tennessee showed exactly why the fire service deserves more respect and support than it often receives. Departments from all over responded without hesitation, working together for one purpose — helping people in need.

“What many fail to realize is that a huge number of those firefighters are VOLUNTEERS. That means they left their paying jobs, walked away from family time, missed meals, lost sleep, and put themselves in dangerous situations — all with little to no compensation. They did it because somebody needed help.

“While most people were spending time with their families or relaxing at home, volunteer firefighters were gearing up, responding to a major incident, battling exhaustion, and risking injury for a community that may not even know their names.

“Volunteer fire departments are struggling everywhere. Lack of funding, lack of manpower, and lack of community support are becoming a serious issue. Yet when the tones drop, they still show up. Every single time.

“So the next time your local fire department has a fundraiser, asks for support, or is looking for volunteers, remember days like [May 8-9]. These departments are not ‘playing firefighter.’ They are protecting homes, property, and lives — including yours.

“Support your local fire department before your community realizes too late just how much it depends on them,” Chief Fulcher concluded.

About Henry VFD, “Henry Volunteer Fire Department is a non-profit 100% volunteer organization that serves and protects the city of Henry, Tenn. and at times its surrounding areas. Currently we service a total population of 464 citizens, 191 households, and multiple businesses, including industrial locations. We currently operate out of one station with 3 pumpers, 1 brush truck, and 20 active members. Additionally, we have 55 hydrants in the city of Henry.”

To our knowledge, there were no casualties during this incident. A handful of firefighters were treated for heat exhaustion.

A response from Henry County EMA was not returned by press time.

Class of 2026 High School Graduations

High school students across the area are set to walk the graduation stage this month. The Banner staff has compiled the graduation dates, times and locations for Clarksburg, Gleason, Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central, Huntingdon, McKenzie and West Carroll students. See our list:

Clarksburg School: Graduation is Friday, May 15 at 7 p.m. in the A.D. Jarrett Gymnasium at

Clarksburg School. The graduation ceremony will stream on NFHS Network.

Gleason School: Graduation is Friday, May 15 at 7 p.m. in the Frazier Gymnasium at Gleason School.

Huntingdon High School: Graduation is Saturday, May 16 at 6 p.m. at Paul Ward Stadium. The graduation ceremony will stream on NFHS Blue and Gold Network.

McKenzie High School: Gradu-

ation is Sunday, May 17 at 3 p.m. in the McKenzie High School gymnasium. Tickets are required for entry. McKenzie graduates will receive tickets at Wednesday’s graduation practice.

Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School: Graduation is Sunday, May 17 at 7 p.m. in the Central High School gymnasium.

West Carroll High School: Graduation is Friday, May 22 at 7 p.m. in the high school gymnasium. Doors open at 6 p.m.

McKenzie

...From Front Page

seized at the request of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

According to a report by MPD Sergeant Investigator Kyle Beauchamp, a special agent with the FBI contacted him about a 15-year-old female missing from the North Miami, Florida area. During the FBI’s investigation, they learned that the juvenile had contacted Jaeger through social media.

MPD Chief Ryan White, Sergeant Kyle Beauchamp, Sergeant Austin Jones, Patrolman Timothy Dillon and Patrolman Dalton Raspberry went to the Paris Street residence to investigate. Jaeger first stated that no one else was at the residence. The report indicated Jaeger appeared very nervous. Officers requested permission to search the home, but Jaeger asked if they

had a search warrant. Officers explained that the FBI had intercepted messages between Jaeger and the juvenile female, who had received money from Jaeger to leave the state of Florida.

While at the scene, Chief Ryan White read Jaeger his Miranda rights, and Officer Beauchamp phoned the FBI special agent. Jaeger reportedly admitted that the female was on the premises. After the suspect signed a Consent to Search form, officers entered the home. The juvenile was taken into custody and placed with the Department of Children’s Services.

Photographs of the female juvenile were found during the search. Both Jaeger and the juvenile admitted that those were photos of her, partially naked. Jaeger admitted he traveled to Georgia to pick up the juvenile female. In his possession during the trip was a loaded handgun.

Jaeger was transported to Carroll County Jail.

County Courtroom Bans Cell Phones, Recording Devices

BY LYNDESEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

The Carroll County Courthouse has made updates to its courtroom security rules and dress code — effectively banning cell phones and recording devices from the courtroom.

The updates — announced Tuesday, May 5, by the Carroll County Sheriff’s Office — are effective immediately.

Here is the courtroom’s updated

dress code and prohibited items list:

- No weapons of any type.
- No cell phones or recording devices of any kind. No pagers or electronics.
- No tobacco or smoking devices.
- No bags, purses or containers of any nature.
- No gang or drug-related articles.
- No caps, hats or head-covering of any type without prior court permission.*
- No shorts, halter tops, tank tops,

pajamas or see-through clothing.

- No clothing with obscene messages or symbols.
- No shoes that make audible sounds while walking, such as flip flops.
- No food or drink.

Additionally, children are expected to wait in the first-floor lobby with adult supervision.

*Individuals seeking accommodations may address the court officer at the door.

Things In My Head with Charles Manfredi



THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON Stress is Good for Us

I think God allows these things to happen to give us an opportunity to grow stronger. If we never had to struggle to get through hard times, our spirit wouldn't grow.

It would be like an athlete that never worked out. How could he get better if

he didn't work out and experience having sore muscles from a workout?

The only way to grow muscles is to put stress on them, and the only way to build our character, our inner being, is to be put under stress.

What God hopes we'll do

when we're under so much stress that we don't think we can endure it is to turn to Him and recognize our dependence on Him to meet all our needs.

And when we do that, we'll find we're just a bit stronger the next time trouble rolls around.

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

Musings from the Gordon Browning Museum

BY DR. VICKIE SUMMERS
Museum Executive Director

About the time I married Barry Summers many years ago, his younger brother Joel finished mortuary school in Cincinnati and moved home. Growing up in McKenzie, I knew about the Summers family, but I didn't know them first hand. Being new to the bunch, I started learning all the different personalities, talents and quirks. There was also a lot of collective family lore they loved to share, especially every time there was a gathering. They had lots of stories that they told over and over.

There were so many stories repeated so often, as the years progressed when Barry would start to tell one of them yet again, I would tell the kids, "That's number 37," or, "This one is number 42." Since Joel was the youngest of four children, he was the blunt of much torment.

I immediately learned about Joel's interest in all things about trains and railroads when he orchestrated buying and placing a caboose behind the family home on Forest Avenue. Though he already knew a lot about the train lines that first came through our part of the world, and how the system evolved through time, it appeared he was constantly researching and finding bits and pieces of information as he went along.

I soon learned Joel had an appreciation about all things old. It was important to know about things used

in the past, and the history of their purpose, how they were used and by whom. Pieces from the family homeplace along with things scavenged from near and far were placed around his home and office. He researched dairy farms, country stores, how the roads were configured, who was related to whom, local businesses, how the local government was run by whom and on and on and on. He even collaborated with my mom, picking her brain about things she had researched and lived through herself. They had a great relationship based on a mutual interest in history.

Joel had used the Governor Browning Museum and Library for research for many years. In the last few years, he has served as president of the Carroll County Historical Society, continuing to serve in that position now even though he has health constraints. He had tried to get me involved for several years. I kept telling him I would love to, but life was too busy. Last summer, he asked me to come on board as secretary/treasurer of the historical society to be the executive director of the museum. He said it had become congested and outdated with very little interest left in the community. The lady in that position was getting elderly and didn't live here, so she wanted out. They discussed options including closing the museum for good. His final argument to me was Barry had been gone a year, and this would be a good thing

for me to put my mind on. I finally said ok.

I came on board. Joel retained the position of president of the board. Miss Nola Hobbs retained her position on the board as well. Jennifer Waldrup was added as vice-president. Then we recruited the rest of the new board members. On advice of the state, we closed the museum and spent 9 months on renovations. We finally opened back up last week, thank goodness.

Last Friday, I had people from Ohio come wanting help to find information about their family and a country store they operated in Carroll County about 70 years ago. It turned out that Joel and Barry's great grandmother came from the family being researched. I had Barry's copy of that family history line to share, and I found a thing or two in the museum, but while they were here, I called Joel and put him on speaker. From the top of his head, even with severe health issues, he was able to give intensive detailed information that got them what they needed to find — where the store had stood, and possibly where it had been moved to, still standing. They were ecstatic. I was too. I was thankful for Joel's help. He gave us credibility when I felt like I was flying blind. That is a true blessing.

Visit the Gordon Browning Museum and Library, located at 640 North Main St., McKenzie, Tenn. Hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

Charlotte Hit The Nail On The Head

I did not graduate from high school as valedictorian. Buddy Wiggleton consoled me by reminding me that was not the goal. I was not the salutatorian either. Buddy Wiggleton consoled me by reminding me that was not the goal.

I did manage to graduate near the bottom of the lower quadrant. Buddy graduated somewhat farther down. He did, however, point out that WAS the goal! And besides, as he added with that wonderful deadpan, aided by a hint of sarcasm, delivery of his, "The good news is that neither of us have to get up and give a speech in front of the entire class and most of the town."

Buddy had a unique perspective on life that just made you feel better after talking to him.

Pam Collins straightened my tie twice before we started into the auditorium to pick up our diplomas. She had made it her mission to take care of me years before. And don't think that made me special. She did that for everyone in the class.

Larry Ridinger shook my hand as he whizzed past. He used the fire escape to slip out of school and bring back donuts. Larry is the one who suggested, the week after I got my driver's license, that we ride over to Huntingdon and look at this pretty girl. I could write a book about the year and a half I spent getting to know her. Wait, I think I already have!

LaRenda Bradfield hugged my neck after Pam finished with my tie. And I could see a hint of tears in her eyes. She would be the one who recognized the significance of the moment before any of the rest of us.

I wish I had a nickel for every day I had been in church with her. And Billy

Thompson (who was valedictorian) and Ruth Ann Wiley. I wouldn't need this graduation....

Richard Lynn Hale strolled over wearing a grin and a quizzical look, "Can you believe we've finally made it!" I remember days when if one of us had a dime, we both had money. You couldn't count the hours we'd shared a Frostie Root Beer sitting on a park bench in the town square, watching the world go by.

And talking about our hopes and dreams. In the early days it would be about playing baseball for the St. Louis Cardinals or owning a big cattle ranch in Texas. Later our conversations revolved around dating, and finding the "right" girl. But as graduation neared, it narrowed in on college or moving into the workforce and supporting ourselves.

And that concept permeated our class discussions at lunch in the cafeteria, at Frank's Dairy Bar, Motheral's Drugstore, and anywhere else we gathered up as our high school career wound down. We didn't know life without each other. And so, we hardly ever mentioned that this might be the last time we were all together.

It was easier to laugh about Jane Hill throwing up in the first grade. Or Bobby Brewer jumping out of Miss Belle's class window. Or the big fight in the school parking lot....

I marched into the auditorium beside Charlotte Melton. She was the first girl I ever kissed. We were holding hands as we walked down the aisle on this landmark occasion. She had left me for another man before we got to the ninth grade. Which stung a little, but not for long.

We never dated again, but we still rode horses together. She would call

me if she had a problem. I cheered my heart out for her when she was barrel racing or playing high school basketball.

She told me often we were all-time best friends forever. She believed that was true for our whole class.

Mr. W. O. Warren delivered the commencement address. I suppose he gave us the "you are the future" talk. I was just trying to make it through the event without shedding a tear or falling asleep....

If I had known in May of 1965 what I know now, I would have hugged Buddy's neck as soon as we marched out and told him I loved him. I would have recalled to his remembrance every moment we'd spent together for the past 18 years. I would have thanked him for his indelible, forever touch on my life.

Then I would have hugged Charlotte so hard she couldn't breathe and told her the same thing. And then Reggie Lawrence, and Phil Cook, and Emily Young, and James Hastings, and Diana Morris....

Congratulations to all the 2026 graduates. I wish you Godspeed! And I hope and pray you are smarter than I am. You should spend some time on graduation night refreshing your heart about the classmates sitting around you... no matter who is on stage talking about your future... and cherish how, and with whom, you reached this milestone.

The moment is special, the diploma will open lots of doors, but nothing can top going through life with a whole class of best friends spurring you on....

Respectfully,
Kes
kesley45@aol.com

250 Years of Tennesseans Shaping America

PARKERS CROSSROADS — Get ready to celebrate a quarter-millennium of Volunteer State impact! The Parkers Crossroads Battlefield Association and Beaver Elementary School are hosting a special community event on Saturday, May 16, 2026, from 9 a.m. to noon, to honor 250 years of Tennesseans shaping America.

The free event is at the Activities Building, 150 Federal

Lane, Parkers Crossroads.

The celebration offers a unique look at Tennessee's rich historical heritage.

Highlights include student-created displays showcasing the contributions of notable Tennesseans throughout history. Additionally, visitors can step back in time at the McPeake Cabin (Tour Stop 7) to experience demonstrations and interpretations of life in a historic

dog-trot log cabin.

This educational event aims to inspire students, families, and the public by fostering a deeper appreciation for Tennessee's pivotal role in the nation's story. The event is free and open to all.

For more details, please contact the Parkers Crossroads Visitor Center at 731-968-1191 or 731-968-4347, or visit www.parkerscrossroads.org.

Huntingdon Historical Society to Hear About Long Rock United Methodist Church

Kemmie Warren joins the Huntingdon Historical Society Wednesday, May 20, in the conference room of Huntingdon City Hall. Her historical presentation on the Long Rock United Methodist Church begins at 9 a.m.

The Long Rock United Methodist Church, located off Highway 77 on Long Rock Church Road in Huntingdon, was built in 1886 and is still in service today. The church is on the Historical Register.

The bricks used to build the church were fired on site of the church property. The leftover bricks were used to build the one-room school house that has been restored and is on the church property as well.

As with other churches that were built when the counties and cities were young, Long Rock United Methodist Church was used for more than holding church services. The church was also used for meetings and for singing conventions.

The Presson family, a gospel singing group, attended the church in the 1920s.

Born in 1933, Kemmie Warren is a lifelong resident of Carroll County, still living on the farm that her parents owned. Her grandparents were members of the Long Rock United Methodist Church, of which she has been a member since 1951.

Hear Warren's presentation May 20 at Huntingdon City Hall, located at 19810 East Main Street, Huntingdon.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

Letters to the editor bear the opinion of the letter writer, and not necessarily that of the newspaper management or staff. Letters of

opinion are not verified for accuracy of fact and truly stand only as the writer's opinion.

Letters to the editor of public

interest are solicited. Most letters, not libelous or harmful, will be published. The editorial staff may restrict the number of letters dealing with the same subject matter. The signature of the writer must be affixed to the letter with

a verifiable address and phone number. The address and phone number will not be published at the request of the writer, however the name will be published. Tri-County Publishing does not publish unsigned letters of opinion.

The McKenzie Banner reserves the right to refuse any item deemed libelous, not of public interest, or commercial in nature. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit the material while preserving the intent of the letter.

ter. Upon receipt in the offices of Tri-County Publishing, Inc., the letter becomes the property of the newspaper and will be retained in the files. Tri-County Publishing may solicit contrary opinion concerning the content of the letter.



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OUR STAFF

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

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

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

TERESA WASHBURN
Office Manager • Accounting
teresa@mckenziebanner.com

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

TERESA WASHBURN
Office Manager • Accounting
teresa@mckenziebanner.com

JANNA PRATT
Graphic Designer • Circulation
design@mckenziebanner.com

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

JANNA PRATT
Graphic Designer • Circulation
design@mckenziebanner.com

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

BRAD SAM
News & Sports
brad@mckenziebanner.com

LYNDESE SUMMERS
Graphic Designer • News
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

BRAD SAM
News & Sports
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BILL OF RIGHTS: AMENDMENT I



Obituaries

BRYCE GASTON
1942 – 2026

TREZEVANT — Grave-side funeral services for Bryce Eugene Gaston, Sr. were Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at the Tennessee Veterans Cemetery at Parkers Crossroads.

Mr. Gaston, 83, died at his residence on Friday, May 1, 2026. He was born in McKenzie on September 7, 1942, to Alma Singleton Dickson.

He is survived by his wife, Donna Garner Gaston of Trezevant; his children, Jeannie Snyder of Huntingdon and Bryce Gaston, Jr of Trezevant; and three brothers, Hank (Doris) Dickson of McKenzie, James (Sue) Dickson of Henry, Gordon (Anita) Dickson of Greenfield, and Robert (Kim) Dickson of Eurika Springs, Ark.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father, Ed Dickson.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home.

LISA FIELDS
1969 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Lisa Jean Fields, 56, born May 28, 1969, in Huntingdon, died at her home on May 7, 2026.

Funeral services were Tuesday, May 12, 2026, in the Chapel of Dillard-Carter Funeral Home. Interment was at Bethel Cemetery.

She was united in marriage to Jason Fields on June 23, 1987.

Lisa was a devoted mother to her three children, Morgan (Joseph) Morrissett of Lonoke, Ark., Seth (Julie) Fields of Ramer, Tenn., and Blane Fields of Huntingdon, Tenn.; and five grandchildren.

She is also survived by her mother, Jean (Phil) Doyle of Henry; and one sister, Amy (Nick) Oatsvall of Henry.

Lisa was preceded in death by her father, David Kirksey; one brother, Chris Kirksey; and her grandmother, Alice Kirksey.

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

KEMP LINDSEY
1949 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mr. Kemp D. Lindsey, 76, of Huntingdon, died on Wednesday, April 29, 2026, at his home.

Funeral services were on Saturday, May 9, 2026, in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home.

Mr. Lindsey was born August 1, 1949, in Huntingdon, to the late Gordan and LaRue (Rickman) Lindsey, who survives. Besides his father, he was also preceded in death by his wife, Janis Marie Lindsey; and daughter-in-law, Claudine Lindsey.

He is survived by his mother, LaRue Lindsey of Yuma; one daughter, Amanda Corley (Keith) of Brunswick, Ga.; two sons, Brent Lindsey (Kristin) of Hollow Rock, and Eric Lindsey of Huntingdon; a brother, Roger Lindsey (Pam); and a sister, Penny Cary (Jeff). He also leaves five grandchildren.

CYNTHIA BREWER
1952 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Cynthia Brewer, 73, of Huntingdon, died on

Thursday, May 7, 2026, in McKenzie.

Graveside funeral services were Saturday, May 9, 2026, at noon at Liberty Cemetery in McKenzie, with Bro. Josh Parker officiating.

Ms. Brewer was born on December 18, 1952, to the late Herbert and Evelyn (Pinson) Brewer. She worked in manufacturing at the Keiko Dog Food Plant and later worked as a sitter for the elderly. She is survived by a sister, Rosalind Cole of Huntingdon; a brother, Randell Brewer (Dianne) of Smyrna; a nephew, Chris Cole (Karla); and four nieces, Rhonda Walsh (Mike), Jennifer Meshotto (Rodney), Tina Campbell (Jeff), and Sybil Stafford (Matt). She also leaves seven great nieces and nephews, many cousins, and friends.

Chase Funeral Home.

PATRICIA WASHAM
1937 – 2026

GLEASON — Patricia A. Washam, 89, of Gleason, died at her home on May 5, 2026.

Mrs. Washam is survived by her three children, Schilda “Susan” Bond, Renee “Fluffy” Washam, and Steven Washam. She is also survived by three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, and three great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Anthony Washam; her parents, Oscar and Lottie Liscomb; her son, Gary Ball; and two sisters, Peggy and Kaye.

Williams Funeral Home of Gleason.

CHARLES PRUITT
1947 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mr. Charles David “Chuck” Pruitt, 78, of Huntingdon, died Friday, May 8, 2026, at Diversa Care in Martin.

Funeral services were Sunday, May 10, 2026, at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home. Interment was in Chapel Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Pruitt was born July 31, 1947, in Paris, Tenn., to the late Isiah Pruitt and Clara Lavell Reynolds Pruitt.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Peggy Rich Pruitt; two brothers, Dudley Pruitt and Donald Pruitt; and two sisters, Nancy Hoffman and Leola Vaughn.

He is survived by a daughter, Sherry Lynn Pruitt, of Ft. Worth, Texas; a step-daughter, Denise English, of Paris, Tenn.; a son, David Pruitt of McKenzie; a step-son, Mark Harder, of Newborn, Tenn.; a sister, Peggy Baham of McKenzie; and two brothers, Ricky Pruitt (Mary Ann) of McKenzie, and Doug Pruitt (Linda) of Huntingdon. He also leaves ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

JEANNA MARIE THOMPSON
1973 – 2026

BUENA VISTA — Mrs. Jeanna Marie Thompson, 52, of Buena Vista, died Tuesday, May 5, at the Baptist Memorial Hospital – Carroll County.

Funeral services were on Friday, May 8, 2026, at Mt. Nebo Baptist Church. Burial was in McAuley Chapel Cemetery.

Mrs. Thompson was born on October 30, 1973, in Paris, Tenn., to the late Donald “Buddy” Oneil Perry and Opal Mae Lowery Perry.

She is survived by her

husband of 34 years, Keith Thompson; three sons, Clay Thompson (Tyler) from Hollow Rock, Hunter Thompson (Halie) of Buena Vista, and Dillon Thompson (Hannah) of Clarksburg; a brother, John Perry of Paris; a brother-in-law, Chris Thompson of Memphis; and a sister, Joyce Noles (Randall) of Buena Vista. She also leaves three grandchildren.

Bruceton Funeral Home.

CLAY ARNOLD
1961 – 2026

BRUCETON — Gerald Clayton “Clay” Arnold, 65, of Bruceton, died Tuesday, May 5, 2026, at his home.

Clay worked many years alongside his father at a local grocery business. Clay was born in Gibson County, Tenn., on January 28, 1961. He was preceded in death by his grandparents, TD and Mattie Arnold of Gibson County, Tenn., and Joe and Sallie Bailey Barnes of Crockett County, Tenn.; parents, Gerald and Sandra Barnes Arnold of Carroll County, Tenn.; and sister, Regina Luther.

Clay is survived by his sister, Amanda Arnold Simonton; and stepdaughter, Christy Dougherty.

Funeral services were on Friday, May 8, 2026, in the Chapel of Bruceton Funeral Home. Burial was in Prospect Cemetery.

JANICE ARLEEN HARDER GIAIMO
1949 – 2025

McKENZIE — A Celebration of Life service for Janice Arleen Harder Giaimo, 76, is Sunday, May 17, 2026 at 2 p.m. at Union Primitive Baptist Church, 2020 Ross Road between McKenzie and Como. Bro. Ed Long will conduct the service.

Ms. Giaimo died November 24, 2025 at Cherrywood Post Acute in McKenzie after a hard-fought battle with cancer.

Ms. Giaimo, a former EMT, OTR truck driver and longtime member of the rescue squad was born May 30, 1949 to Epsie Kathleen (Edwards) and Arvin B. Harder. She is preceded in death by her parents and one brother, Thomas Harder.

She is survived by one brother, Kenneth Ray (Derotha) Harder of McKenzie; one daughter, Veronica M. (John) Davis of McKenzie; three sons, Michael (Trish) Giaimo of Cookeville, Tenn.; Gregory (Stephanie) Giaimo of Birmingham, Ala. and David (Deb) Giaimo of Alaska; grandchildren Paige (Justin) Huggins of Medon, Tenn. and Talia Salmon and Austin Giaimo, both of Birmingham, Ala. She is also survived by numerous other grandchildren and great-grandchildren in several states.

In lieu of flowers the family asks that donations in memory of their loved one be made to Carroll County Humane Society, The American Cancer Society or Carroll Arts, all of which are charities she avidly supported.

The family also thanks you for all the kind words, condolences and prayers and thanks everyone at Cherrywood Post Acute for taking such good care of Ms. Giaimo while she stayed there.



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CALENDAR
OF EVENTS

SECOND ANNUAL
McKENZIE ROTARY
BOSTON BUTT SALE

Make sure to purchase your tickets to the annual McKenzie Rotary Boston Butt Sale. It is fully cooked and ready to eat - just in time for Father's Day! Pick up day is June 20. For tickets, see a member of Rotary or use this link: <https://givebutter.com/boston-butt-sale-pprdop>. Please remember there will be a processing fee applied using the link. Or, purchase from any Rotary member for \$50.

McKENZIE ALUMNI
ASSOCIATION DECADES
REUNION

Plans are underway for the third annual MHSAA Decades Reunion weekend on September 25-26. All MHS alumni are invited to return to McKenzie to reconnect with friends, classmates, former teachers through many reunions and other planned events. Updates on the upcoming weekend will be on the alumni association's Facebook site and in The McKenzie Banner. For more information, email mckenziehsalumni.tn@gmail.com.

FARMVILLE CEMETERY
MEMORIAL DAY

The annual Farmville Cemetery Memorial Day Service is May 17, 2 p.m. There will be a time for congregational singing, and Brother Derrick Jowers will bring a message to everyone. Everyone is invited, especially those who have loved ones buried at Farmville, located four miles south of Yuma and three miles east of Wildersville.

YOUNG KINGS TALENT
AND LEADERSHIP
CAMP, MAY 30

Soaring for Greatness Youth Foundation presents its inaugural Young Kings Talent and Leadership Camp, a life-changing experience for middle and high school boys to discover their talent, build leadership skills, and create a legacy that lasts on Saturday, May 30, 2026, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at McKenzie Middle School, 80 Woodrow Avenue in McKenzie. To register or learn more, please contact Cynthia 731-415-2104.

BRUCETON IN MAY
IS MAY 16

Music and Food Trucks are part of the annual festival at Bruceton City Park, May 16, 11 a.m. For more information, phone 731-586-2401 or email brucetoninmay@townofbrucetontn.org.

ALA UNIT 47 FAMILY
DANCE NIGHT

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

refreshments available for purchase. For the band schedule, check out our Facebook page: American Legion Auxiliary, Huntingdon, TN Unit 47.

MHS CLASS OF 1976
REUNION

McKenzie High School Class of 1976 is holding a 50-year class reunion on September 26, 1 p.m. at Chandler Farms in McKenzie. The event is in conjunction with the MHS Alumni Association annual reunion. For more information, e-mail Amy Rich Carter at amycarter58@gmail.com or Marsha Spain Smith at smithmarsha99@yahoo.com.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB
AT HOMETOWN HEALTH

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

McKENZIE TOPS MEETS
WEEKLY

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

CARROLL COMMISSION
MEETS MONTHLY

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

CARROLL HUMANE
SOCIETY EVENTS, NEWS
Cat Vouchers

Cat spay/neuter vouchers are always available for \$60. To purchase by phone for use at Paris Vet Clinic, call 731-514-0878 and leave a message. These are available to anyone regardless of residency. We now offer cat vouchers to Carroll Coun-

ty residents for \$60 at the Huntingdon Animal Clinic. These must be purchased in person at the shelter with cash or card, and proof of residency is required. However, Carroll Co. residents can still use Paris Vet Clinic if preferred.

ADULT EDUCATION
CLASSES

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

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Thurs. 7:30

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2 (PG-13)

Tues. 7:35
Wed. 7:35
Thurs. 7:35

ANIMAL FARM (PG)

Tues. 7:25
Wed. 7:25
Thurs. 7:25

MICHAEL (PG-13)

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Bethel’s 2026 nursing graduates recited the Florence Nightingale Pledge, which is a time-honored oath often taken by students entering the nursing profession, establishing a high standard of ethical and professional care in the healthcare industry.

Bethel University Honors 13 New Nurses in Pinning Ceremony

BY JOEL WASHBURN
washburn@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (May 8) — Thirteen Bethel University nursing students were formally inducted into the nursing profession with a dinner and a pinning ceremony, marking the successful completion of their Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) degree studies.

The formal ceremony at the McKenzie Church of Christ recognized the students who completed the two-year Registered Nurse program. A deeply personal moment for the graduates, the pinning saw family members invited to place the nursing pin on each student’s lapel as they crossed the elevated platform.

The ceremony concluded

with each graduate receiving a symbolic Nightingale lamp, a Bible, and a tassel for the formal commencement exercise scheduled for Saturday morning. The Nightingale lamp is particularly significant as it honors the legacy of Florence Nightingale, the founder of modern nursing, and recalls the “Lady with the Lamp”. The Florence Nightingale Pledge is a time-honored oath often taken by students entering the nursing profession, establishing a high standard of ethical and professional care in the healthcare industry. Taking this pledge signifies a commitment to dedication, service, and upholding the integrity of the profession.

The 13 graduates who earned their BSN degree are: Kassey Briana Bish-

op, Martin; Kinsley Reagan Caruthers, White House, Tenn.; Rylee Grace Holladay, Huntingdon; Raina Lee Jones, McKenzie; Hilda Moyo, Chitungwiza, Zimbabwe; Riley Lee Jones, Gurley, Ala.; Alyssa E. Slack, Milan; Viviana Rebeca Villalobos Mora, San Jose, Costa Rica; Hailey Janae Wallace, McKenzie; Owen Michael Wheeler, Kingsport, Tenn.; Aislynn Faith Wiles, New Johnsonville; Alyssa Shae Williford, Humboldt; Isabelle Claire Wright, McKenzie.

The Bethel nursing faculty includes Ashley Johnson, PhD, RN; Dayna Edwards, RN; Jason Hypes, RN; Tonya Shumate, RN; and Mercedes Hardy, RN. Traci Shepherd, LPN, serves on the nursing staff.

McKenzie School Board Hears Policy Amendments

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

The McKenzie Special School District (MSSD) Board of Education heard 11 policy updates during its May 5 meeting at the MSSD Board Room. If approved, the amendments will affect policies relating to alcohol and drugs in the workplace, revenues, personnel records, separation practices for teachers and non-certified employees, personnel health examinations/communicable diseases, political activities, tutoring for pay and the Director of Schools.

The amendments follow policies provided by the Tennessee School Board Association.

The board heard the following proposed policy amendments:

Policy 1.804 – Drug Free Workplace: Proposed revisions rename the policy to “Alcohol & Drugs in the Workplace” and define “workplace,” “illegal drugs,” “unauthorized drugs” and “alcohol.” The updated policy also gives the Director of Schools the authority to require a breath or urine sample of an employee suspected of violating the policy. Violators may be subject to suspension, dismissal or referral for prosecution.

Policy 2.400 – Revenues: Proposed revisions allow approved district staff to collect funds through electronic payment methods, but the Director of Schools or designee must determine when this type of transaction may be used. At the individual school level, the principal will oversee the collection of funds. Another revision establishes rounding procedures for cash transactions due to the discontinuance of the penny. Cash transactions will be rounded to the nearest \$0.05.

Policy 5.114 – Personnel Records: A single-line update mandates that the public may not obtain the results of individual teacher evaluations. This revision follows Tennessee law.

Policy 5.200 – Separation Practices for Tenured Teachers, Policy 5.201 – Separation Practices for Non-Tenured Teachers,

Policy 5.202 – Separation Practices for Non-Certified Employees: Dr. Barden added optional language to three policies, establishing a procedure in the event that a teacher or employee receives allegations requiring temporary removal from duty. If an employee’s conduct goes under investigation, the Director of Schools may reassign the employee to alternate duties, place the employee on administrative leave with pay or temporarily remove the employee from the school setting. Such actions will not be considered disciplinary in nature but rather a precautionary measure until the investigation concludes.

Policy 5.200 – Separation Practices for Tenured Teachers: Proposed amendments remove clauses that allow temporary employment for retirees. One removed clause allowed employees retired under the Tennessee Consolidated Retirement System (TCRS) to substitute teach for up to 120 days per year without losing retirement benefits. Another removed clause allowed retired teachers to work full-time as K-12 teachers on a year-to-year basis if there were no other qualified individuals to fill the positions.

Policy 5.400 – Personnel Health Examinations/Communicable Diseases: If an employee is suspected of having a communicable disease that could endanger the health of children, a proposed amendment allows the Director of Schools to reassign the employee to alternate duties, place the employee on administrative leave with pay or temporarily remove the employee from the school setting. Current policy allows the Director of Schools to suspend any employee suspected of having a communicable disease.

Policy 5.403 – Drug & Alcohol Testing for Employees: Proposed amendments adjust the process school supervisors and the Director of Schools go through should they need to investigate reasonable suspicion for drug testing. Reasonable suspicion procedures may be invoked in chronic or acute cases. An employee

who tests positive on a reasonable suspicion test will be subject to termination.

Policy 5.606 – Political Activities: Originally named “Staff-Community Relations,” this policy clarifies that, while employees can campaign for or against any candidate or referendum on their own time, they cannot use the schools, classroom or system position for a political forum or engage in any political promotion or solicitation during school hours. Amendments clarify the extent of district-owned property, forbid district-owned property from being used as a location for filming or recording content intended for political promotion or solicitation, and forbid employees from using audio or video messages to engage in any political promotion or solicitation during school hours.

Director of Schools Dr. Justin Barden noted that this policy had been brought to his attention recently, as a sheriff candidate placed one of his candidate signs in front of McKenzie High School. While his sign placement was not on district-owned property, Dr. Barden thought it was important to reiterate that school property cannot be used for the endorsement of political activities.

Policy 5.608 – Tutoring for Pay: Amendments clarify that any teacher who enters into a private tutoring agreement with a parent or guardian does so as an independent actor and not as an agent of the school district and that no private teaching or tutoring should happen during regular school day hours.

Policy 5.800 – Director of Schools: Proposed amendments read that the Director of Schools is the only employee directly employed by the Board of Education and that all other district employees are employed, supervised and managed under the authority of the Director of Schools. The Director of Schools has the responsibility to oversee and manage all personnel matters within the district.

The proposed policies will go to a vote in a later meeting.

The MSSD Board of Education’s next meeting is a Budget Workshop on Tuesday, June 30.



Jack Brown (center) is pictured with firefighters from the Spring Hill Fire Department.

Jack Brown Recognized for Gift to Spring Hill Firefighters

SPRING HILL, Tenn. (May 11) — Former McKenzie residents Jamie, Stephen and Jack Brown were recently recognized for supporting firefighters in their new community.

Jack Brown donated a pork butt and all the trimmings from his recent Boy Scout fundraiser to crews at Spring Hill Fire Department Station 4 on Saturday, May 1.

The department praised

Jack and his family in a social media post.

“Since moving to Spring Hill in December of 2024, Jack has watched Station 4 take shape piece by piece each time his family traveled along Duplex Road,” the department said. “We learned last Saturday just how much the station and the firefighters assigned there meant to him. Wanting to give back in his own way, Jack donated a pork butt along with all the

trimmings from his recent Scout pork butt sale to the crews at Station 4.

“It is always special to see the support from our community, but it means even more when it comes from a young man with such a servant’s heart. Thank you, Jack, for thinking of us and for your generosity. We are grateful to have community members like you and your family supporting the Spring Hill Fire Department.”



ACT ACHIEVERS — On Thursday, May 7, West Carroll students were recognized for their ACT accomplishments during the school board meeting. Students who improved their score by two or more points, or scored a 21 or over on the test, were treated with dinner and a certificate for their accomplishments. (L to R) Front Row: Emma Stout, Joy Bryant, Kalee Coleman, Hannah Pinson, Molly Price and Brylan Wilbanks. Back Row: Dr. Adam Douglas, Logan Jeter, Michael Dodd, Chandler Rimmer, Preston Nash, Elijah Neel, Hailey Mitchell and Preston Caldwell.

West Carroll School Board Honors Students for ACT Achievements

BY HANNAH WILSON
Courtesy of Mirror-Exchange, Milan

ATWOOD (May 7) — The West Carroll School Board met on Thursday, May 7. All board members were present. The meeting included a special group of students honored for their recent ACT achievements.

A group of West Carroll High School students attended Thursday night’s board meeting to be recognized for their accomplishments. Students who scored 21+, 25+, 30+, or improved their score by either 2, 3, or 4 points were recognized by the board for their success on the ACT.

Director Preston Caldwell offered remarks. “This is a big accomplishment. We really focused on improving ACT scores over the last year, and the students and teachers have worked tirelessly at this task. Congratulations to you all,” Caldwell said.

The tenure of six educators was brought before the board for approval. Caldwell provided insight into whether these teachers qualified. “I have reviewed the requirements that need to be met for tenure, such as test scores higher than four or five for at least two years and time spent teaching. Each of these individuals meets the requirements, so I would like to recommend these teachers for tenure,” Caldwell said. The board approved the tenure of Benjamin Bane, Olivia Bryant, Tammy Davis, Sonya Eaton, Beth Hysmith and Clinton Kee.

Discussion of a remodel project at the elementary school had been previously discussed and put out for bid. This project involves replacing windows, doors and other fixtures. It is estimated that around 145 openings will be replaced. The board was asked to approve Lashlee-Rich as the contractor for this project and a projected start date of June 2026. The board approved the project.

Director Caldwell reviewed his board-conducted performance evaluation. His overall score was 3.6

out of 5, which was an improvement from last year. Caldwell compared his self-evaluation with the board’s scores. Board member Betty Wallace pointed out something that stood out to her when comparing Caldwell’s self-evaluation with the board’s evaluation. “Director Caldwell scored himself lower than the board did. I think that speaks to his self-awareness on areas he needs to improve,” Wallace said. Caldwell thanked the board for participating in the evaluation. “I appreciate you all taking the time to do this. I know that I always have areas to improve,” Caldwell said.

Board member Paul Mueller gave a presentation on replacing the lights at the football, baseball and softball fields. Mueller conducted extensive research and provided the board with a packet outlining the cost, how it would save the school system money over time, and other reasons for replacing the lights. All three fields currently have halogen lights, whereas many schools have switched to LED lighting to save energy and reduce costs. Mueller calculated how much the school system would save by replacing the lighting system on all three fields with LED fixtures. “The lights I’ve looked at are supposed to last 100 years. If my calculations are correct, it will save the school system around \$711,000 over the next 50 years,” Mueller said. The estimated cost of the project is \$250,000. With a project of this magnitude, it would need to be researched further and put out for bid. The board decided to continue researching the proposal and discuss it at a later date.

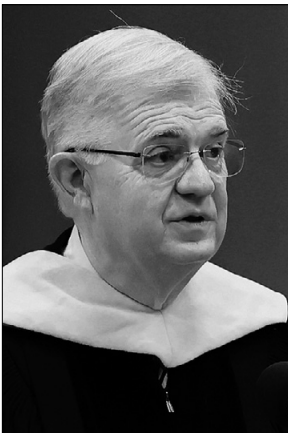
Jr./Sr. High Principal Dr. Adam Douglas asked for approval of an e-sports program for his school. This program would allow students to compete with other schools in online gaming. Douglas explained how this would benefit students. “There would be no cost to the students’ families, and the kids are really excited about this. We already have all of the equipment to get

started. My goal for this is to give kids who wouldn’t otherwise be involved in school activities an opportunity to participate,” Douglas said. He also mentioned that esports is a growing activity and colleges are starting to offer scholarships for it. The board voted to approve the program.

The Future Business Leaders of America Club was recognized for its accomplishments at a recent competition. Nine students qualified to compete at the national competition this summer. Erin Lewis, the club’s teacher in charge, discussed the growing interest in membership. “We currently have 33 students involved, and that is the largest number I’ve seen since being at West Carroll. We are even offering it to seventh- and eighth-graders now, and as far as I know, we are one of the very few schools in Tennessee to have middle school members,” Lewis said. Lewis also requested the board’s approval for a field trip to San Antonio from June 28 through July 3 for qualifying students to compete at nationals. The board approved the request.

A second field trip was brought forward for approval. This field trip is for the Future Farmers of America to travel to Doyle, Tennessee, where students will participate in a five-day leadership training camp. Noah Rogers, club sponsor, provided details of the trip. “If I had to pick one thing to do all year, it would be this. The kids get to learn a lot and connect with other students from across the state,” Rogers said. The board approved the trip.

Director Caldwell brought the 2026-27 teacher salary schedule before the board for review. “By law in the state of Tennessee, someone wanting to teach with a bachelor’s degree and no teaching experience must make a minimum of \$50,000. My plan is to have a 5% increase in salary for the rest of the salary schedule. I brought this forward just for the board to review. There is no need for a vote right now,” Caldwell said.



Above, Bethel President Emeritus Walter Butler delivers the commencement address. Right, Isabelle Wright of McKenzie receives her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing from President Perry Moulds. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner



Butler Delivers Commencement Address to Bethel Class of 2026

BY JOEL WASHBURN
washburn@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (May 9, 2026) — Bethel University honored 343 graduates during its Spring Commencement ceremony on Saturday morning at the Rosemary and Harry L. Crisp II Arena. The event featured a keynote address by President Emeritus Walter Butler, who returned to his home campus to share reflections on life, mistakes, and the importance of finding one's own path.

Butler, who retired as Bethel's president in late 2023, brought decades of public service experience to the podium. His career includes serving 16 years as Carroll County Trustee, a tenure as Carroll County Mayor, and roles as State Commissioner of Personnel and State Parks under Governor Don Sundquist. Butler's journey took him from local government to the state capital before he transitioned to Bethel's business office and eventually the executive office.

During his speech, Butler struck a relatable tone, admitting that even with his extensive background, he is "still not sure what I want to be when I grow up." He reminded the Class of 2026 that life after graduation does not come with a syllabus, which can be "overwhelming at times" but also "exciting" because it allows graduates to define success on their own terms.

A major theme of the address was the value of errors in the growth process. "You are going to make mistakes," Butler noted, sharing a humorous anecdote about an email error where he forgot to "insert the name" before hitting send. "Mistakes are part of the process... that's how you learn. That's how you grow."

Butler urged graduates not to compare themselves to the curated successes seen on social media. "What you don't see in social media is their setbacks, their doubts, and the moments



Ava Louise Isbell of McKenzie receives her diploma from President Perry Moulds with a degree of Bachelor of Science. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

where they're just as unsure as you and I are," he said. He emphasized that "different doesn't mean wrong; different means it's your time."

In closing, Butler challenged the new alumni to be a source of support for others. He humorously noted that simply being the person in a group project who responds to messages "will set you apart." He concluded by encouraging the graduates to "try things, work hard, and stay grounded" as they figure out their next steps, one mistake at a time.

Class of 2026 by the Numbers

- **College of Arts & Sciences:** 151 graduates, the majority of whom (92) are receiving Bachelor of Science degrees.

- **College of Professional Studies:** 82 graduates will receive degrees, including 65 Bachelor of Science candidates.

- **College of Health Sciences:** 63 graduates will enter the workforce, including 50 candidates for the Master of Science in Physician Assistant Studies (MSPAS) and 13 Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) recipients.

- **Graduate Programs:** 47 advanced degrees will be conferred, including 32 Master of Business Administration (MBA).

The event was presided over by current Bethel President Perry Moulds, PhD, who officially conferred the degrees. The ceremony opened with an invocation by Rev. Anne Hames, DMin, and each candidate for degrees was announced by Dr. Joe Hames, provost, as the candidate crossed the elevated platform.

Following the commencement address and the conferring of degrees, C. Scott Shepherd, DWS, led the graduates in the university's Alma Mater before a final benediction closed the morning's festivities.

About Bethel University

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



Atticus Ecker's parents, Blair Sage and Jacob Ecker (both seated), received copies of "The Fun and Strange Tales from the Halls of the WCP." Submitted photo

Students Dedicate Book to Fallen Classmate

McLEMORESVILLE (May 5) — West Carroll Primary School's Literacy Night on May 5 began with a book dedication ceremony led by the second grade class.

Under the guidance of Karen Talley, second grade students worked together to write and illustrate a book featuring their own imaginative stories, titled "The

Fun and Strange Tales from the Halls of the WCP."

The class chose to dedicate their book to their beloved classmate, Atticus Ecker, whom they lost during their kindergarten year.

Principal Jackie Wester presented Atticus Ecker's parents, Blair Sage (Skyler) and Jacob Ecker (Ashley),

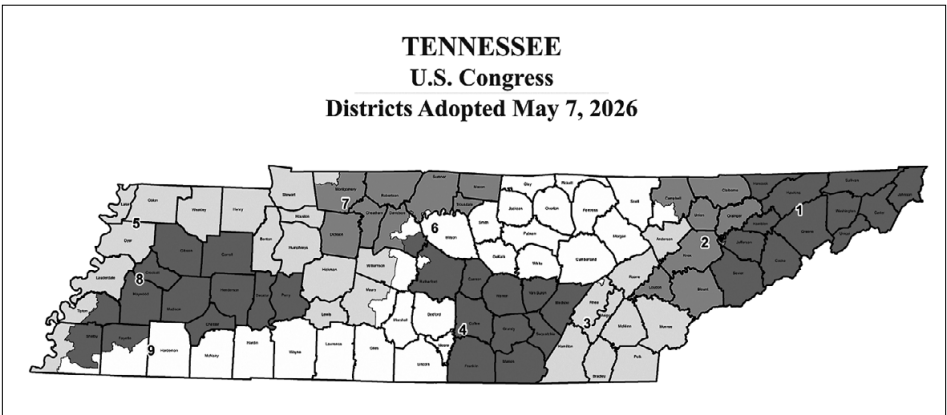
with a copy of the book.

"What an honor and so sweet that this group of children carry him with them even now... and forever," Sage said. "We are so grateful."

Literacy Night continued, with students eagerly working toward their goal of reading 100 books before the school year ends.

McKenzie Chamber Celebrates Local Teachers

McKENZIE (May 6) — The McKenzie Chamber of Commerce visited McKenzie's elementary, middle and high schools Wednesday morning, donating dessert trays to school staff in recognition of Teacher Appreciation Week. Pictured are chamber member Noah McEwen, McKenzie Middle School teacher Austin Chapman and Chamber Director Monica Heath. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner



McKenzie Divided Into Two Congressional Districts Following GOP Mid-Cycle Gerrymandering

NASHVILLE (May 8) — Tennessee Republicans approved a new congressional map during a special legislative session aimed at strengthening the party's hold on the state's congressional delegation and eliminating Tennessee's lone Democratic U.S. House seat in Memphis.

The overhaul splits McKenzie into two congressional districts. Previously located entirely in District 8 and represented by Rep. David Kustoff, R-Germantown, the city now also falls within the newly redrawn District 5. Weakley and Henry counties are now in District 5, while Carroll County remains in District 8.

District 5, represented by Rep. Andy Ogles, R-Culleoka, stretches from Memphis through northwest Tennessee into Middle Tennessee. It includes western Williamson County, parts of Maury and Montgomery counties, and extends through Stewart, Benton, Henry, Weakley, Obion, Lake, Dyer and Lauderdale counties before reaching downtown Memphis.

District 8 includes Carroll, Gibson, Madison, Crockett, Haywood, Decatur and Perry counties, along with portions of Fayette, Shelby and Tipton counties.

The map, approved months before the November midterm elections, divides Memphis into three congressional districts and is expected to create a 9-0 Republican congressional delegation, replacing the current 8-1 split.

The NAACP filed a lawsuit shortly after Gov. Bill Lee signed the legislation into law Thursday.

The new districts replace maps adopted in 2022 following the 2020 Census.

State officials who backed the redistricting effort included Gov. Bill Lee, House Speaker Cameron Sexton, Senate Majority Leader Jack Johnson and Sen. John Stevens, R-Huntingdon.

Stevens, who carried the Senate bill, said, "Tennessee is a conservative state and our congressional delegation should reflect that."

Sexton said the redistricting "will reduce the risk of future legal challenges while promoting sound and strategic conservatism."

All three Carroll County legislators — Rep. Brock Martin, Rep. Tandy Darby and Stevens — supported the new map.

To enact the mid-cycle redistricting, lawmakers first repealed a decades-old state law that prohibited congressional redistricting outside the census cycle.

The legislature also waived several election and transparency requirements, including public notice rules related to boundary changes and voter notification requirements for precinct changes. Lawmakers additionally suspended residency requirements for candidates running in the newly drawn districts.

The congressional map was introduced one day before final passage. Republican leaders rejected proposals to release the maps 72 hours before the vote and suspended standard parliamentary procedures to accelerate passage.

Republicans said the overhaul was prompted in part by a recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling in Louisiana v. Callais, which they argued gave states broader authority to prioritize partisan considerations in redistricting.

The effort also followed pressure from national Re-

publican leaders, including President Donald Trump and U.S. Sen. Marsha Blackburn, who urged Lee to call a special session ahead of the midterms.

Blackburn, who is running for governor, said the goal was "to cement President Trump's agenda and the Golden Age of America" and "to keep Tennessee a red state."

Opponents criticized both the substance of the map and the speed of the process.

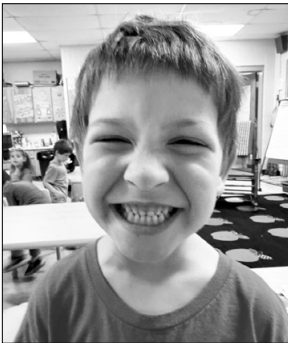
The Tennessee Coalition for Open Government said the process felt like "government pulling a fast one in the middle of an election that has already started," noting that candidate filing deadlines had already passed.

Labor and civil rights groups argued the new districts could dilute the voting strength of Black and underrepresented communities.

Following passage of the map, the Tennessee Secretary of State's office announced a new qualifying deadline for congressional candidates. Additional candidates may qualify for the ballot until noon May 15.

Candidates who already qualified under the previous map may continue running in districts with the same district number regardless of residency, or they may switch districts or withdraw by filing paperwork with the State Division of Elections.

State Sen. Brent Taylor, endorsed by Blackburn and Sen. Bill Hagerty, announced a campaign for the newly configured 9th Congressional District on May 7, saying the redistricting "created an opportunity to deliver another strong Republican voice to Congress."



(L to R) Samuel Everett, Michael Dodd and Delaynie Bennett.

West Carroll Spotlights Students of the Week

WEST CARROLL (May 7) — 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 — Samuel Everett, Michael Dodd and Delaynie Bennett — were each nominated for their hard work and positive attitudes.

Pre-K student Samuel Everett is West Carroll Primary School's student of the week, nominated by Ms. Mallory Smith.

"Samuel always comes in with a smile," Smith said. "He is funny and a good friend to everyone. Samuel keeps us laughing and makes sure everyone has a friend to play with outside."

Student Michael Dodd is West Carroll Elementary School's student of the week, nominated by Ms. Emily Bloodworth.

"Michael is always ready to help and support his fellow classmates," Bloodworth said.

Student Delaynie Bennett is West Carroll Jr/Sr High School's student of the week, nominated by Mr.

Aaron Johnson.

"Delaynie is a joy to have in class," Johnson said. "She is always up for a challenge whether she's in the classroom or the competitive cheer stage. She is very talented and will continue to be successful in and out of school."

The West Carroll Special School District also recognized teacher Brittany Watson as teacher of the week. West Carroll honors three students and one educator each week for their efforts in the classroom.

MEETING NOTICE

The Carroll County Emergency Communication Board of Directors meets for a called board meeting Thursday, May 21 at 8 a.m. The meeting is at 20405 East Main Street, Huntingdon. Citizens desiring to publicly comment at the meeting on an agenda item must register with the district at 731-986-8911. A copy of the Public Comment Policy may be obtained at the district office, temporarily located at 20405 East Main Street, Huntingdon.

A3264/19-1

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Source: Coda Ventures Market Study 2020



West Carroll Class of 1986 Keeps Tradition Alive with Reunion

ATWOOD — What began as a milestone reunion has grown into a lasting tradition for the West Carroll High School Class of 1986.

After celebrating their 30-year reunion in 2016, members of the close-knit class decided they didn't want to wait another decade to reconnect. Instead, they committed to gathering every year. Within a short time, that commitment evolved into biannual reunions, now held each May and September.

For many in the group, the bonds run deeper than high school memories. A large portion of the class first met as young children, starting kindergarten together at four and five years old in Atwood. With class sizes often ranging from just 30 to 40 students, they progressed through school side by side, forming lifelong friendships.

Their circle expanded in the ninth grade when students from Lavinia and Cedar Grove joined them at Atwood High School. A few years later, during their junior year, the newly consolidated West Carroll High School was established, marking another shared chapter in their educational journey.

Over time, the reunion group has continued to grow as more classmates reconnect and join the gatherings. This spring, the class celebrated a major milestone — the 40th anniversary of their graduation — with another successful reunion event.

Organizers say the goal remains simple: stay connected and keep the tradition alive. Efforts are ongoing to reach out to all classmates and encourage participation, ensuring that no one is left out of the opportunity to reconnect.

What started as a single reunion has become something much more — a testament to small-town roots, lifelong friendships, and the enduring bond of growing up together.



NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

THOMAS HARRIS ROBERTS
vs. CIVIL ACTION NO: 2024-CV-198
MARY ELIZABETH GANTT, ET. AL.

By the authority granted by an "ORDER" filed in the above styled Case, and entered of record in Minute Book: 241, Page: 087, I will on Saturday, May 23, 2026, at 10 a.m., offer for sale to the highest and best bidder the real property as set out in said "Order".

Said real property will be sold on the premises located at 5800 Main Street, Trezevant, Tenn. The sale will take place on Saturday, May 23, 2026, at 10 a.m., at 5800 Main Street, Trezevant, Tenn.

Said property consists of a residential lot upon which is located a brick home of approximately 1,698 S.F. of heated area, a 400 S.F. concrete front porch, a 400 S.F. enclosed concrete back porch, a detached garage and an outbuilding. The house has a living room with a fireplace with an oak mantle and hardwood floors, kitchen, Dining Room with a built in oak China cabinet, bath with ceramic tile and linen closet, Master Bedroom with fireplace and a full bath, two additional bedrooms, hall with 3 large closets. The house has Central HV AC and a paved drive. This property is in a great location and could be a showplace with a little TLC. This house has great character! DON'T MISS THIS SALE!

This property is located in the 2nd Civil District of Carroll County, Tennessee, and is identified as Map No: 077C, Group: D, Parcel No: 009.00, in the Office of the Property Assessor of Carroll County, Tennessee; and further described in Deed Book: 400, Page: 937, in the Register of Deeds Office of Carroll County, Tennessee.

A description of this real property will be given on the day of sale and may be had by calling the Office of the Clerk & Master (731-986-1920) during regular Office hours. Please call the Office of the Clerk & Master (731-986-1920) if you have any questions or for an appointment to see the property.

This property is being sold subject to the 2026 property taxes.

TERMS OF SALE: 10% DOWN WITH THE BALANCE DUE WITHIN THIRTY (30) DAYS UPON DELIVERY OF DEED. A LETTER OF CREDIT FROM A LENDER WILL BE REQUIRED FOR THE BALANCE OF THE BID.

Dwayne D. Maddox III, BPR#010805
Attorney for the Plaintiff
19695 East Main Street, Huntingdon, TN 38344

Kenneth Todd, Clerk & Master and Special Commissioner

A403/18-3



NOTICE OF AUCTION SALE REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY

VIRGINIA DARLENE LEDDY - DECEASED:
THE ESTATE OF: CIVIL ACTION NO: 2024-PA-12

By the authority granted by an "Order" filed in the above styled Estate and entered of record in Probate Minute Book: 51, Page: 371, I will on **SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026, at 10 A.M.**, offer for sale to the highest and best bidder the real and personal property as set out in said "Order".

LOCATION: **Both real and personal property will be sold on the premises of the real property located at 3775 Field School Road, McKenzie, Tennessee.** An auction sale sign will be placed in the yard prior to the sale. **The personal property will be sold beginning at 10 a.m. The Real Property will be sold promptly at 11 a.m.**

REAL PROPERTY: WILL SELL AT 11 A.M. A legal description of the property may be had by calling the Office of the Clerk & Master during normal Office Hours at (731) 986-1920.

TERMS OF SALE: 10% DOWN THE DAY OF SALE WITH THE BALANCE DUE WITHIN 30 DAYS UPON DELIVERY OF THE DEED. A LETTER FROM A LENDING INSTITUTION FOR THE BALANCE OF THE BID WILL BE REQUIRED. THIS PROPERTY WILL BE SOLD SUBJECT TO THE 2026 PROPERTY TAXES.

This property is located in the 09th Civil District of Carroll County, Tennessee, and described in Deed Book: 375, Page: 306, and Deed Book: 367, Page: 430, in the Register's Office of Carroll County, Tennessee, and further described as Map No: 029, Group: #E, Parcel: 005.00, in the Office of the Property Assessor of Carroll County, Tennessee. This property consists of approximately 1.27 acres, located at 3775 Field School Road, McKenzie, Tennessee. There is located on this property a modular home, of approximately 1,120 S.F. of heated area, Central Heat and Air Unit, a 1,380 S.F. Detached Garage (unfinished), Living Room, Kitchen/Dining Room, Laundry Room, 3 Bedrooms and 2 Baths. This property is close to the airport, Carroll Lake Golf Course, the City of McKenzie and still enjoy country living. **Don't Miss This Sale!!!**

PERSONAL PROPERTY: The personal property will be sold beginning at 10 a.m.

TERMS OF SALE: Cash or approved check for the full bid amount. You will take immediate possession and you will be responsible for removing all items of personal property. The following is a partial listing of the items to be sold:

LOTS AND LOTS OF SCRAP IRON - DON'T MISS THIS SALE!!!

Whirlpool Refrigerator, Sectional Couch w/Recliners, Floor Lamp, Drop Leaf Table, Music CDs, Kitchen Table and Chairs, Panasonic Microwave, Horse Drawn Farm Equipment, Single Trees, Old Hand Tools, Frigidaire Electric Cook Stove, Odd Tables, Recliner, Secretary, Twin Bedroom Suite, Dishes, Pots & Pans, Lots & Lots of Books, 4'X8' two wheel trailer, Cross Cut Saw Blades, Old Barber Chair, Scrap Iron - I Beams - Angle Iron - Aluminum Siding - Tin Roofing

FOLKS, THIS SALE HAS A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!! LOTS OF OTHER ITEMS NOT LISTED!!! DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS SALE!!

FOOD AND DRINKS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE AUCTION.

Mr. Steven L. West, Attorney for the Estate
West & West Attorneys, 19765 East Main Street, P.O. BOX 687, Huntingdon, TN 38344

Kenneth Todd, Clerk & Master and Special Commissioner

A403/19-3

Andrews Wins McKenzie's 'The Amazing Shake'

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (May 6) — McKenzie Middle School's seventh and eighth-grade students concluded "The Amazing Shake," a semester-long competition designed to teach and test soft skills like handshakes, eye contact, conversation and professional etiquette, on Wednesday, May 6.

Seventh-grader Brooklyn Andrews won first place in the dynamic competition, taking home a \$100 cash prize. Eighth-grader Sami Mathis won second, taking home \$75. Seventh-grader Olivia Shank took third place, winning \$50.

Developed by the Ron Clark Academy, The Amazing Shake is a dynamic live competition that rallies leaders and role models in a school's community to teach students about professional skills for success.

Jill Renfro, school librarian, decided to implement The Amazing Shake at the McKenzie Middle School this year, challenging students to develop early leadership skills. Retired teachers, school board members and volunteers from the McKenzie community offered to judge the five-part competition.

The five-round competition began in January, with 200 seventh and eighth-graders participating. The first round challenged students to shake hands and introduce themselves to a panel of guest judges in one minute.

The second round took place in February, with 100 students participating. The second round was similar to the first, but students were given three minutes to introduce themselves instead of one.

The third round was in March, with 50 students left. Students were tasked to create a video responding to the following prompt: If the school received a \$5,000 grant, what should they do with it and why?

In April, 25 students participated in the fourth round. They were given a new scenario — to interview for a camp counselor job. Students had 10 minutes to craft an elevator pitch before their interviews began.

The fifth and final round



McKenzie Middle School's "The Amazing Shake" Top Three Winners (L to R): Brooklyn Andrews, Sami Mathis and Olivia Shank. Submitted photo.

had only five student participants — Brooklyn Andrews, Sami Mathis, Olivia Shank, Julee Eubanks and Abby Carroll. They sat in a crowded gymnasium of their peers, all eyes on them, as they responded on-the-spot to various personal, leadership and critical-thinking questions.

"I'm very proud of our students," said Renfro. "They did an awesome job. A lot of them really came out of their shells."

The Ron Clark Academy created "The Amazing Race" to emphasize teaching students manners, discipline, respect and professional conduct. The Ron Clark Academy also developed the House System, which McKenzie Middle School follows.

Property Transfers

- Kory P. and wife Ashley Barker to Baylor and wife Madelyn Howell in District 19.

Briana Cole to Randolph Robert and wife Jeanette Joy Boyack in District 17.

Norris and wife Brooke Depriest to Randy and wife Lawanta Latch in District 21.

Dabbs Rentals LLC to Pecan 2025 LLC. No district listed.

Ruth Ann Martin to Fred Stephen Martin, trustee in District 20.

James E. and wife Ronda Marie Wilkes to Blake Dearmond and others in District 13.

Rickey N. Haddock as executor to Allen Priestly Simpson in District 11.

Melissa R. Cox to Melissa R. Cox. No district listed.

Bruce Thomas to Brittany D. Thomas and others in District 11.

Barsto Rental to Leland and wife Katharine Holland in District 11.

Angela J. Kelly and others to Angela J. Kelly in District 1.

Angela J. Kelly and others to Shiloh M. Coleman. No district listed.

Jeffery Carl Branch Jr. and others to Scott Edwin and wife Christine Lynn Williams in District 9.

Mary Ann and husband Steve Baker to Marion Denise and husband James Willis Sullivan in District 4.

Adolf A. and wife Noemi Herzog to Steven Tyler and wife Anna Thompson in District 4.

Shay Lynne and husband Pablo Galvin to Christian L.
- Martinez in District 4.

Lonnie S. and wife Mary R. Mast to GL Land, LLC in District 23.

Clint and Debra Reeves to Clint Reeves in District 24.

Lisa Iori to Harold H. McLain Jr., trustee of the Harold H. McLain Jr. Trust in District 5.

Jordan H. and wife Carson Bailey to Ingrid A. Walter in District 11.

David S. and wife Wendy Wilkerson Smith to Zachary Bryce Chandler and others in District 4.

Beverly Annette Hill as executrix of the estate of Joyce M. to Beverly Annette Hill in District 2.

Lori Beth Cain as trustee to Markus Sisk in District 11.

Fred K. and wife Jo Ann Haley to Geoffrey Britt in District 11.

Richard T. and wife Shari L. Fisk to Brandon W. England in District 17.

Alice Chapman to Richard and Grant G. Chandler in District 22.

Ray and wife Phyllis Walter to Milton Poole. No district listed.

Joe L. Lindsey to Mitchel W. and wife Ashley A. Horton in District 19.

Nancy Lee and husband Hilliard Hunt to Joseph and wife Linda Hollars. No district listed.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO SURFACE MINE

(H. C. Spinks Clay Co., Inc.) of (P.O. Box 820, Paris, TN 38242) , (731-642-5414) , has made application to the State of Tennessee, Division of Water Pollution Control, for a permit to mine **(Ball Clay)** in **(Carroll)** County. The proposed permit of **81** acres is located in USGS **(Clarksburg)** Quadrangle, **(Cane Creek)** watershed, and is drained by **(unnamed dry tributaries)**. Any interested parties may contact the Other Minerals Program, 3711 Middlebrook Pike, Knoxville, TN 37921, within thirty (30) days of this publication.

A4376/19-1

Carroll County Sheriff’s Department Reports

Fraudulent Use of a Debit Card — On May 2, Deputy Kenny Tucker responded to a report of unauthorized debit card use and spoke with a complainant who reported her debit card had been used without permission.

The complainant advised that the card was used at Kroger in Lakeland/Memphis for a total of \$1,603.92. She stated she did not authorize the transaction and was unaware of who may have used her card.

Deputy Tucker contacted the business and spoke with a store manager, who confirmed the transaction and advised that surveillance footage captured an individual using the debit card along with the correct personal identification number during the purchase.

The manager stated the footage would be reviewed further, and a copy would be provided to the Carroll County Sheriff’s Office for investigation.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Theft of Property — On May 2, Sgt. Bongiovanni responded to a report of theft at the BP Gas Station on Main Street in Atwood and made contact with the complainant, who advised that merchandise had been taken from a recent shipment.

The complainant, the owner of the business, stated he had received a bulk order of merchandise and, while conducting inventory, discovered one box missing. The box contained ten individual packages of Kratom with a total value of approximately \$399.90.

After reviewing surveillance footage from inside the business, the complainant observed an employee carrying the shipment into an office area. While inside, the individual was seen removing one box from the larger shipment and concealing it in her waistband before exiting the room.

The individual was identified as Angela Hartsock, 47, of Milan. After reviewing the footage along with a driver’s license photo and prior booking photo, deputies confirmed the individual in the video was Hartsock.

Hartsock was charged with theft of property under \$1,000.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Simple Possession of Schedule II — On May 3, Sgt. Bongiovanni observed a vehicle traveling on Brooks

Road in Atwood that failed to maintain its lane and did not stop at a stop sign at the intersection of Brooks Road and Bryant Road. A traffic stop was conducted.

Upon contact, the driver displayed unusually nervous behavior and began making unrelated statements about his travel plans. The driver also advised that his passenger was involved in a substance abuse recovery program and continued speaking about the program without being prompted.

A passenger was identified as Tracy Forrest, 50, of Bradford. Both occupants consented to a search of the vehicle and their persons.

During the search, deputies located a torn plastic bag inside Forrest’s wallet containing approximately 1.2 grams of a white crystalline substance. Another folded piece of paper inside the wallet contained additional residue consistent with a substance scraped from a pipe. Forrest stated he had forgotten the bag was in his wallet and admitted the residue had come from a pipe.

Both substances field tested positive for methamphetamine. No other illegal

McKenzie Police Reports

DUI — Travis Colt Davis, Bunn School Road, Henry, was charged with DUI-2nd Offense and Violation of the Open Container Law on May 10.

Patrolman Dillon and Patrolman Raspberry responded to a report of a driver ‘passed out’ at a fuel pump at a convenience store. The officers woke the person in the driver’s seat of the parked vehicle. Travis Davis initially stated he had not had an alcoholic beverage, but later changed his statement. A field sobriety test was offered, but Davis refused. A search of the vehicle revealed both full and empty containers of alcoholic beverages. Patrolman Michael Cunningham transported Davis for a blood-alcohol test and then to Carroll County Jail.

Domestic Assault — Athena Stafford, Elm Street, McKenzie, was charged with Domestic Assault after an incident involving her domestic partner on May 10.

Patrolman Michael Cunningham was dispatched to the residence, where the male occupant claimed Stafford assaulted him and slapped away his cell phone to prevent him from calling authorities. Stafford was charged with Domestic Assault and Interfering with a 911 call.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

CARROLL COUNTY ELECTION COMMISSION

The Carroll County Election Commission shall meet pursuant to its duties in T.C.A. 2-1-113 on **Thursday, May 14, 2026, 4:30 p.m.** in the Election Commission office at 625 High Street, Suite 113, Huntingdon, for the purpose of certifying the results of the May 5, 2026 Primary Elections.

A927/19-1

★

PUBLIC HEARING

The McKenzie Housing Authority is developing its Agency Plan for 2026 in compliance with the Quality Housing and Work Responsibility Act of 1998. It will be available in the Housing Authority’s Office located at 22 W. McDonald Avenue, McKenzie, TN 38201. The Authority’s hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. In addition, a Public Hearing to discuss the Agency Plan will be held on Tuesday, June 16, 2026, at 3 p.m. at the Authority’s office.

A473/19-1

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City of McKenzie Alcohol Board NOTICE OF MEETING

McKenzie Alcohol Board meets Thursday, May 14, 2026 at 5:45 p.m. at McKenzie City Hall, 2470 Cedar Street.

AGENDA

A. Call to Order

B. Roll Call

C. Review and Approval of Minutes from September 11, 2025

D. New Business

- New certificate for a Type B “On Premise” permit to Elizabeth Richardson, dba: McKenzie Taproom, 27 Broadway Street, McKenzie, TN 38201

E. Adjournment

A1/19-1

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NOTICE

City of McKenzie Water Customers

The 2025 Consumer Confidence Report for the City of McKenzie will be published in the May 19, 2026 Edition of the McKenzie Banner. This report will not be mailed to everyone individually; however, copies will be made available at McKenzie City Hall, and the McKenzie Water Dept. during regular business hours. It will also be available for viewing at https://www.mckenzietn.org/images/uploads/site-files/2025_Water_Quality_Report.pdf. If you have any questions or comments, please contact Earnest Umstead at 731-352-3114.

A467/19-1

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Carroll County, Tennessee

The Carroll County Mayors Office, on behalf of the Purchasing Committee of the Carroll County Legislative Body, is soliciting bids for audio reinforcement, video/projection, and stage lighting improvements for the Carroll County Civic Center. The intended work includes furnishing, installing, rigging, configuring, testing, documenting, and training County personnel on a complete operational system.

Proposals, bids, or responses must be submitted to the Office of the Carroll County Mayor, Joseph G. Butler, at 625 High St., Suite 101, Carroll County Office Complex, Huntingdon, Tennessee, 38344, **no later than 10 a.m. CST, Friday, May 15, 2026**, at which time the bids will be opened and considered.

Copies of bid documents may be obtained at the Carroll County Mayors Office, 625 High Street Suite 101, Huntingdon, TN 38344 or by email at jbutler@carroll.tn.org.

Please contact the Carroll County Finance Department at 731-986-1936 for more details.

All interested parties, without regard of race, color or national origin, shall be afforded the opportunity to bid and shall receive equal consideration. Title VI states “No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” Carroll County strives to protect individuals’ civil rights through active compliance with the requirements of Title VI.

The Owner (Carroll County) further reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any and all informalities and to negotiate contract terms with the successful bidder, and the right to disregard all non-conforming, non-responsive, or conditional bids.

A5605/18-2

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Carroll County, Tennessee

Please notice that the Carroll County Mayors Office shall accept sealed written bids for **Miller Road, beginning at Purdy Road go 1.4 miles, traffic control, 150 tons bushing, resurface with C.W mix, painted markings center and edge line, 20ft wide, 1.65lbs P.S.Y, virgin material, must meet all TDOT specs, project must be completed by September 30, 2026.**

Proposals, bids, or responses must be submitted to the Office of the Carroll County Mayor, Joseph G. Butler, at 625 High St., Suite 101, Carroll County Office Complex, Huntingdon, Tennessee, 38344, **no later than 10 a.m. CST, Friday, May 15, 2026**, at which time the bids will be opened and considered.

Copies of bid documents may be obtained at the Carroll County Highway Department, 14835 Hwy 22, Huntingdon, TN 38344 or by email at jbutler@carroll.tn.org.

Please contact the Carroll County Highway Department at 731-986-1998 for more details.

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A5605/18-2

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Carroll County, Tennessee

Please notice that the Carroll County Mayors Office shall accept sealed written bids for **Yuma Road, beginning at Henderson County Line at Ben Lane go west 1.5 miles, traffic control, 100 tons bushing, resurface with C.W mix, painted markings center and edge line, 19ft wide, 1.65lbs P.S.Y, virgin material, must meet all TDOT specs, project must be completed by September 30, 2026.**

Proposals, bids, or responses must be submitted to the Office of the Carroll County Mayor, Joseph G. Butler, at 625 High St., Suite 101, Carroll County Office Complex, Huntingdon, Tennessee, 38344, **no later than 10 a.m. CST, Friday, May 15, 2026**, at which time the bids will be opened and considered.

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A5605/18-2

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Carroll County, Tennessee

Please notice that the Carroll County Mayors Office shall accept sealed written bids for **Tate Road, beginning at Huntingdon City Limits go 2.3 miles, traffic control, 100 tons bushing, resurface with C.W mix, painted markings center and edge line, 20ft wide, 1.65lbs P.S.Y, virgin material, must meet all TDOT specs, project must be completed by September 30, 2026.**

Proposals, bids, or responses must be submitted to the Office of the Carroll County Mayor, Joseph G. Butler, at 625 High St., Suite 101, Carroll County Office Complex, Huntingdon, Tennessee, 38344, **no later than 10 a.m. CST, Friday, May 15, 2026**, at which time the bids will be opened and considered.

Copies of bid documents may be obtained at the Carroll County Highway Department, 14835 Hwy 22, Huntingdon, TN 38344 or by email at jbutler@carroll.tn.org.

Please contact the Carroll County Highway Department at 731-986-1998 for more details.

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A5605/18-2

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Carroll County, Tennessee

Please notice that the Carroll County Mayors Office shall accept sealed written bids for the following purchases for the period of July 1, 2026 through June 30, 2027:

- **ROCK PRODUCTS**
- **TIRES & TUBES**
- **LIQUID ASPHALT**
- **KOL-MIX OIL**
- **ALUMINIZED CULVERTS**
- **MOTOR & HYDRAULIC OIL/FLUID**

Proposals, bids, or responses must be submitted to the Office of the Carroll County Mayor, Joseph G. Butler, at 625 High St., Suite 101, Carroll County Office Complex, Huntingdon, Tennessee, 38344, **no later than 10 a.m. CST, Friday, May 15, 2026**, at which time the bids will be opened and considered.

Copies of bid documents may be obtained at the Carroll County Highway Department, 14835 Highway 22, Huntingdon, Tennessee 38344 or by email at cchighway@carroll.tn.org

Please contact the Carroll County Highway Department at 731-986-1998 for specifications.

All interested parties, without regard of race, color or national origin, shall be afforded the opportunity to bid and shall receive equal consideration. Title VI states “No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” Carroll County strives to protect individuals’ civil rights through active compliance with the requirements of Title VI.

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A5605/18-2

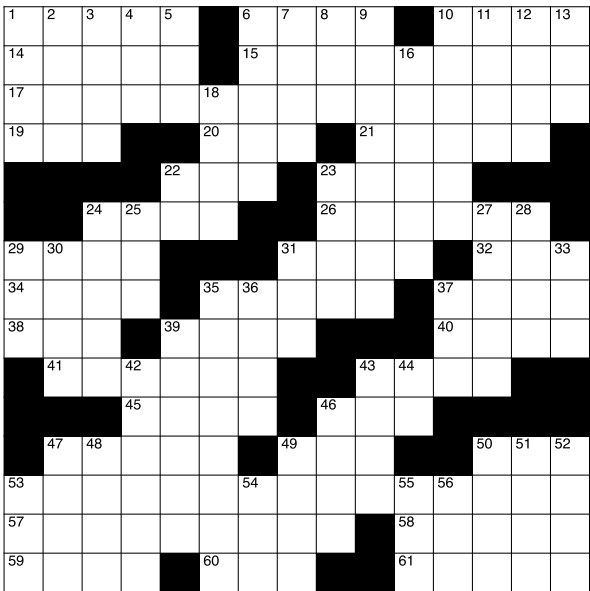
Color A Masterpiece



Weekly Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Notable casino destination
- 6. Current units
- 10. Roman military unit
- 14. American lizard
- 15. Fates
- 17. The Yankees have lots of these
- 19. Unhappy
- 20. Mimic
- 21. Remove from the record
- 22. Where cargo ships dock (abbr.)
- 23. A way to fight
- 24. Turfs
- 26. Contract
- 29. Country along the Arabian peninsula
- 31. Tree species
- 32. Pituitary gland secretion (abbr.)
- 34. Perfect
- 35. "Partner" to groans
- 37. Jewish calendar month
- 38. Where wrestlers work
- 39. Egotistical
- 40. Potted plants
- 41. Containers
- 43. Large, flightless birds
- 45. Part of a book
- 46. American spies
- 47. Pancakes made of buckwheat flour
- 49. Swiss river
- 50. Disfigure
- 53. Have surgery
- 57. Formal withdrawal
- 58. Early English council
- 59. Area units
- 60. 2,000 lbs.
- 61. Siskel and ____



CLUES DOWN

- 1. Animal jaws
- 2. Small water buffalo
- 3. An appliance has one
- 4. Every
- 5. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)
- 6. Very skilled
- 7. No more than what is specified
- 8. Tire measurement
- 9. Towers
- 10. Forward
- 11. Jacob ____, American journalist
- 12. Vale
- 13. Former CIA
- 16. Middle Eastern nation
- 18. Exhausts
- 22. South Dakota
- 23. The complete duration of something
- 24. Kids love him
- 25. Singular
- 27. Cod genus
- 28. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- 29. Resistance unit
- 30. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 31. Cast out
- 33. 60-minute periods
- 35. Most worn
- 36. European river
- 37. Atomic mass unit
- 39. Items of food
- 42. Body parts
- 43. Ireland
- 44. Partner to Pa
- 46. Sammy ____, songwriter
- 47. Dutch settler
- 48. Full-grown pike fish
- 49. Sun or solar disk
- 50. Minute arachnid
- 51. From a distance
- 52. A monthly expense
- 53. Young women's association
- 54. Brazilian state
- 55. Air freight provider
- 56. Pointed end of a pen

Week 19

See solution in next week's edition.

Meditation Word Search



Alignment
Awareness
Breathwork
Chakra
Clarity
Compassion

Enlightenment
Equanimity
Focus
Gratitude
Intention
Mantra

Mindfulness
Mudras
Nirvana
Pranayama
Presence
Samadhi

Stillness
Transcendence
Vipassana
Visualization
Zazen
Zen

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



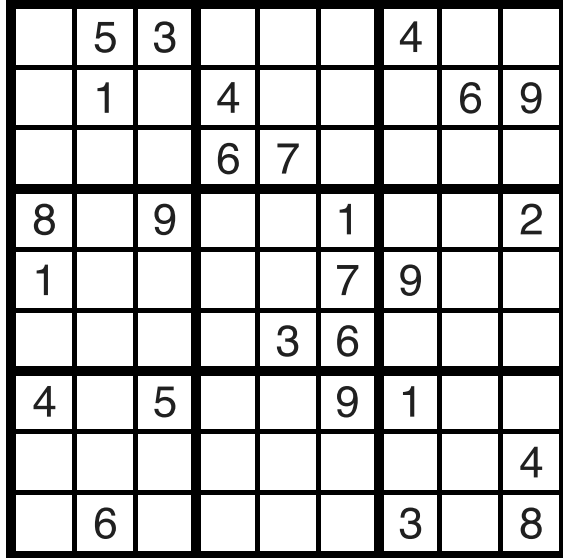
1602: Cape Cod is sighted by navigator Bartholomew Gosnold.

1905: The city of Las Vegas, Nevada is founded.

1940: Richard and Maurice McDonald open the first McDonald's restaurant.

SUDOKU

WEEK 19



Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

See solution in next week's edition.



Solve the code to discover words related to meditation. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 15 = E)

A. 3 15 4 25 15 6 14

Clue: Think deeply about

B. 3 15 25 10 7

Clue: Unwind

C. 17 14 3 15 17 17

Clue: Pressure or tension

D. 6 10 25 19

Clue: Quiet

Answers: A. reflect B. relax C. stress D. calm

LETTER MIX-UP

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

TRANSCENDENCE

- 1. _____
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. _____
- 11. _____
- 12. _____
- 13. _____
- 14. _____
- 15. _____
- 16. _____
- 17. _____
- 18. _____
- 19. _____
- 20. _____

Riddle Me This

You answer me, although I never ask you questions. What am I?

Answer: A telephone.

WORD SCRAMBLE

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

AHTNC

Answer: Chant

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actor born in California on May 12, 1981. I had minor roles in television shows before going on to more prominent work. My role in a television drama earned me an Emmy Award. My role as a larger-than-life rock band front man earned me several awards.

Answer: Romi Malek

Peace of Mind.

One of the many services we provide.

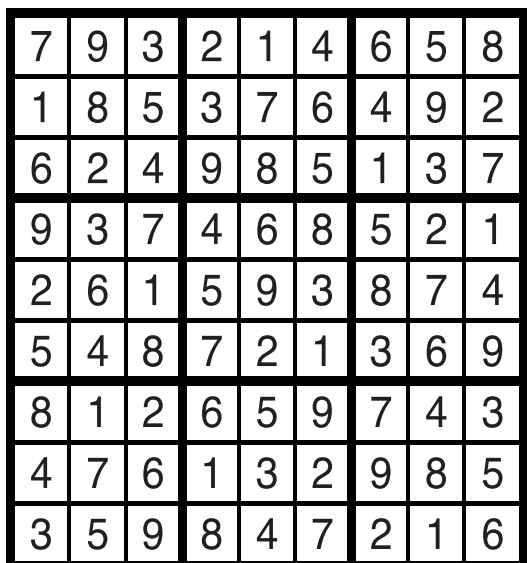


PUZZLE SOLUTION

Week 18 Crossword Puzzle Solution



SUDOKU SOLUTION WEEK 18





Above, Four McKenzie High School seniors were presented \$1000 renewable scholarships. (L to R): Rotary Vice-President Armand Hebert, Carlton Townes, Brody Berryhill, Gracie Aird, Coleson Cook and Rotary President Ricky Price. Below Left, Charli Weatherford was presented a \$2000 one-year scholarship to Bethel University. (L to R): Rotary Vice-President Armand Hebert, Charli Weatherford, Fannie Baxter Moore Fund Representative Jason R. Martin and Rotary President Ricky Price. Below Right, Jason R. Martin presented Hannah Dillingham a one-year \$2000 scholarship to Bethel University.



McKenzie Rotary Awards Six Scholarships

MCKENZIE (MAY 8) — The Rotary Club of McKenzie announced the recipients of six prestigious scholarships, totaling \$8,000 in local educational support. The awards, funded through the club and the Fannie Baxter Moore Fund, were presented to five McKenzie High School seniors and one Bethel University student following a recent selection process.

Among the top honors, MHS senior Charli Weatherford and Bethel University student Hannah Dillingham each received a \$2,000 scholarship to Bethel. These significant awards for Bethel scholarships are made possible through a partnership between the Moore Fund and Bethel University.

Four additional MHS seniors—Gracie Aird, Carlton Townes, Coleson Cook, and Brody Berryhill—were each

granted \$1,000 scholarships. These awards are renewable annually and can provide up to \$4,000 in support for each student throughout their college careers.

The program's expansion was led by club Vice-President Armand Hebert, who spearheaded the effort to establish an endowment in 2026 to sustain the scholarship funds. In years past, the scholarships have always been one or two, one-year, non-renewable awards of \$1,000.

The funding is provided by a scholarship endowment supported by Rotary members and the Moore Fund, dedicated to assisting "worthy, needy people" within the McKenzie community.

The selection process was rigorous, involving an application focused on academic achievement, community

service, and financial need. Following the teacher evaluations, candidates were interviewed in person on April 23 with a panel of Rotary Club members.

While the club also offered a specialized scholarship for the Tennessee College of Applied Technology in McKenzie, club officials noted that no applications were received for that specific track this year.

Beyond scholarships, the Rotary Club continues its commitment to local education by sponsoring annual Honors Banquets at McKenzie High. Additionally, the Moore Fund recently allocated \$750 to assist a few graduating seniors with the costs of caps and gowns for the 2026 commencement.

The McKenzie Rotary Club meets every Tuesday at noon at Bethel University.

National Beta Recognizes West Carroll

ATWOOD (May 7) — National Beta proudly recognizes West Carroll Special School District as a 2025–2026 National Beta District of Distinction, an honor awarded to school districts that demonstrate a strong commitment to academic achievement, leadership development and service engagement.

This distinction is reserved for districts in which every eligible school offers National Beta and actively inducts qualifying students in grades 4–12. West Carroll Special School District is among a select group of districts across the nation to earn this prestigious recognition for the 2025–2026 school year.

Through the leadership of Superintendent Preston Caldwell, along with the dedication of club sponsors and Beta members, West Carroll Special School District continues to foster a culture where students are empowered to lead, serve and excel. Their ongoing efforts reflect



West Carroll High School Beta Club members are pictured after winning big at the 2025 State Beta Convention — (L to R) Front Row: Arlexis Perry, Britni Shephard, Taytum Jenkins, Elizabeth Wascher, Alayna Lovelace and Aubrey Hammett. Second Row: Jada Bradshaw, Gracelyn Vernon, Ethan Mueller, Madison Galloway, Ava Pinson and Hailey Mitchell. Back Row: Jack Robinson and Gunner Martin. Submitted photo

a district-wide commitment to developing well-rounded students prepared for success in college, careers and their communities.

This recognition highlights West Carroll Special School District's focus on creating opportunities for students to grow academically while also building character and leadership skills through meaningful service. Across the district, Beta members

exemplify the organization's motto, "Let Us Lead by Serving Others," in both their schools and communities.

As part of this achievement, West Carroll Special School District will receive a National Beta District of Distinction award for display at the district office. In addition, each participating school will receive recognition commemorating their contribution to this accomplishment.

Wilbanks Receives First Carroll Arts Scholarship

BY LYNDESEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner

West Carroll High School student Brylan Wilbanks received the 2026 Carroll Arts Scholarship Thursday night during the High School Celebration of the Arts at The Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center.



West Carroll student Brylan Wilbanks is pictured with Carroll County Mayor Joseph Butler and Carroll Arts' Glynda Rich and Carol Armpriest. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

for Talented Youth. In 2025, Wilbanks was recognized as an honors scholar for 2026 at the University of Memphis. She has shown leadership and dedication through her involvement in band and extracurricular activities. She spent seven years playing the French horn in band, serving as section leader in 2024 and 2025, and stepping into the role of band leader for the 2025–26 school year along the way, earning awards such as Best New Marcher in 2022, Best Marcher in 2024 and 2025, Best Brass in 2025 and Best Soloist in 2024.

Wilbanks' future plans in-

clude being a part of the band at the University of Mississippi. Driven by her passion for helping people, she will major in psychology.

Wilbanks' other extracurricular activities include Art Club, Beta Club, and the Wit Lits Book Club. Dancing and theater were also important activities to Wilbanks.

West Carroll's theater arts teacher described Wilbanks as "a one of a kind student who will succeed at whatever life throws at her."

Carroll Arts' Glynda Rich and Carol Armpriest presented Wilbanks with her certificate of scholarship.

Mustangs are Runner-Up, Advance to Regionals

MARTIN (May 7, 9) — The Huntingdon High School Mustang soccer team advanced to the region tournament as the District 12A Soccer runner-up. Thursday, the Mustangs defeated McKenzie, 1-0, in the semifinals. Saturday, they were defeated by Westview, 1-0, in the title game. Huntingdon will travel to face Cheatham County Tuesday to begin the Region 6A tournament. Pictured is goalkeeper Gage Foster making a save against McKenzie Thursday. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner



Tigers Fall to Wayne County in Opener

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (May 8) — The Hollow Rock-Bruce-ton Central High School Tigers opened the Region 6A Baseball Tournament Friday afternoon with a tough loss on a big comeback by the Wayne County Wildcats for an 8-7 win in extra innings.

The loss moved the Tigers to the consolation bracket.

Central struck first with five runs in the top of the second inning and added two more in the top of the third for a 7-0 lead. The Wildcats scored four in the home half of the third, then tied it with three in the fourth. The score remained knotted until Wayne County pushed across the winning run in the bottom of the eighth.



Tiger shortstop Tanner Walters tags out a Wildcat runner sliding hard into third base. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Tiger Braxton Howard was 2-for-3 with a triple, a walk and three RBIs. Brody Huff was 2-for-4 with a double and a run scored. Parker Boyd was 1-for-3 with a walk and a run scored. Parker Finley was 1-for-3 with an RBI. Gage Weatherly was 1-for-3. Dal-

ton Howard was 1-for-4 with a run scored. Cole Baker was 0-for-1 with a walk, an RBI and a run scored. Easton Bullington was 0-for-0 with a walk and a run scored. Tanner Walters was 0-for-4 with a walk, an RBI and a run scored.

Wildcat Graeme Polk was 2-for-5 with a double, three RBIs and a run scored. Nate Bevis was 2-for-4 with an RBI. Kace Bryant was 1-for-4 with a double. Logan Davis was 1-for-4 with a run scored and a stolen base. Jacan Floyd was 1-for-5.

Graeme Polk got the

start for Wayne County, allowing seven runs (five earned) on seven hits while walking four and striking out two in three innings. Warren Camfield pitched the final five frames, allowing no runs on one hit while walking one and striking out three.

Drake Hollingsworth got the start for Central, allowing seven runs (one earned) one five hits while walking three and striking out three in six and a third innings. Gage Weatherly pitched the final inning, allowing one unearned run on two hits while walking one and striking out one.

Lady Tigers Fall to Houston County in Opener

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

BRUCETON (May 4) — The Hollow Rock-Bruce-ton Central Lady Tigers hosted a satellite game against Houston County Monday to begin the District 12A Softball Tournament. Momentum swung back and forth until the visiting Lady Irish pulled ahead in the fourth to claim an 11-8 win.

Houston County struck first with a pair of runs in the top of the first, but Central tied it in the home half, then took the lead with three runs in the second. The Lady Irish regained the lead with five runs in the third, and the Lady Tigers pulled even again with two runs in the fourth. Houston County took the lead for good with four runs in the fifth. Central's final run came in the

bottom of the seventh.

Lady Tiger Abby Baker was 4-for-4 with a home run, two RBIs and one run scored. Madison Holder was 4-for-5 with three RBIs and a run scored. Lilly McGee was 2-for-5 with two doubles, an RBI and two runs scored. Addison Tucker was 2-for-4 with a stolen base. Emy Olds was 1-for-1 with a run scored. Cloe Morgan was 1-for-3 with an RBI. Amelia Bennett was 1-for-4. Kyleigh Baker was 1-for-5. Kylie Craig was 0-for-2 with a walk, a run scored and a stolen base.

Houston County's Kenleigh Finch was 3-for-4 with a home run, two RBIs and one run scored. Brilee Anderson was 2-for-4 with a double and two RBIs. Ally Mitchell was 1-for-4 with a double, a walk, an RBI and three runs scored.

Emmaline Mitchell was 1-for-2 with a run scored. Madelynn Brooks was 1-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored. Peyton Brooks was 1-for-5 with two runs scored. Addie Horn and Preslee Moore were both 1-for-4 with a run scored.

Brilee Anderson earned the complete-game win for the Lady Irish, allowing eight runs (six earned) on 16 hits while walking one and striking out six.

Madison Holder got the start for Central, allowing seven runs (three earned) on six hits while walking one and striking out two in two and a third innings. Kyleigh Baker pitched the final four and two-thirds innings and took the loss, allowing four runs (two earned) on five hits while walking one and striking out one.

Area Track & Field Athletes Make State Meet

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MEMPHIS (May 8) — Several McKenzie and Huntingdon track & field athletes reached the podium at the TSSAA Class A West Sectional Championship Meet at Halle Stadium Friday and qualified for the TSSAA Class A State

Championship Meet on Tuesday, May 19 at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville.

McKenzie High School's Abigail Wallace earned first place in the 1600-meter and 800-meter races and second in the 3200-meter.

The MHS 4x800-meter team of Wallace, Autumn Haywood, Bella Sass, So-

phie Dameron and alternate Natalia Taylor finished third at the Sectional meet.

Huntingdon High School's Kaylen Cary finished first in the Long Jump.

HHS runner Blaine Todd earned second place in the 3200-meter.

Sycamore Edges Mustangs in Opener, 2-1

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (May 8) — The Huntingdon Mustangs began the Region 6AA Baseball Tournament with a 2-1 loss in extra innings to the Sycamore War Eagles Friday night, sending them to the consolation bracket on Saturday.

Sycamore got on the board quickly with a run in the top of the first. The score was stagnant until Huntingdon tied it in the bottom of the sixth. The

War Eagles scored the go-ahead run in the top of the eighth.

Mustang Broox Bennett was 1-for-3 with a double and an RBI. Hayes Eugbanks was 1-for-3 with a walk and two stolen bases.

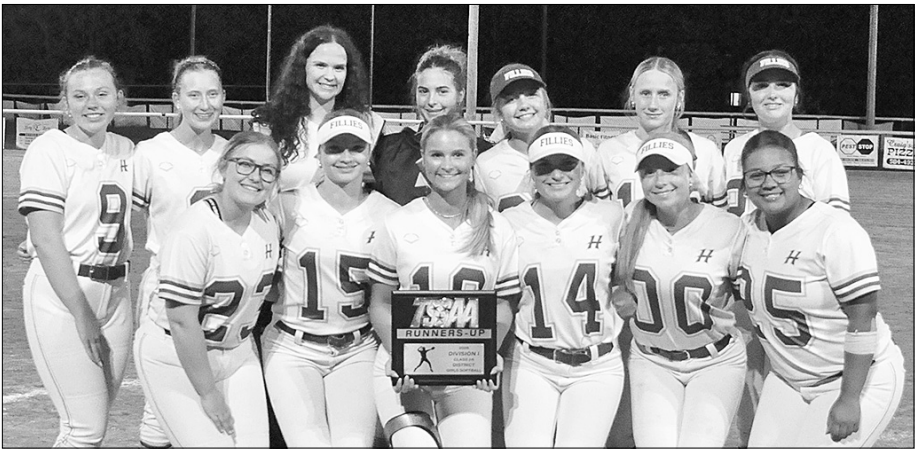
War Eagle Hazen Shirer was 2-for-3 with an RBI and a run scored. Nolan McVay was 1-for-2 with two walks and a stolen base. Owen McMahan was 1-for-3 with an RBI. Kyler Perkins was 1-for-2.

Owen McMahan earned the win for Sycamore, allowing one unearned run

on two hits while walking two and striking out 15 in seven and a third innings. Kyler Perkins threw the final two-thirds of an innings, allowing no runs, hits or walks with one strikeout.

Caleb Ezell got the start for Huntingdon, allowing one unearned run on three hits while walking three and striking out seven in seven and a third innings. Cy Hankins threw the final two-thirds of an inning and took the loss, allowing one unearned run on two hits with no walks.

DISTRICT 12AA SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT



The District 12AA Softball runner-up Huntingdon High School Fillies. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Fillies are Runner-Up as Camden Takes Two

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

CAMDEN (May 7) — The Huntingdon High School Fillies are the District 12AA Softball runner-up after two losses Thursday to Camden in the championship round. The Fillies needed just one win in two chances to claim the title, but the tournament-host Lady Lions’ bats came alive for wins of 13-5 and 10-4, respectively.

Both teams advanced to the region tournament, which began Monday evening. The Fillies traveled to face Stewart County. Results were unavailable before The Banner’s press deadline.

Following the title games, district awards were presented.

The All-District team included Fillies Marcie Mitchell, Gracey Martin and Kylie Tippitt.

The All-Tournament team included Fillies Ellie Wilson, Kylie Tippitt and Grier Bartholomew.

Camden 13, Huntingdon 5

In Game One, Huntingdon struck first with a pair of runs in the bottom of the first frame. Camden took the lead with three in the top of the third, then added one in the fourth. The Fillies tied it with two in the fifth, but the Lady Lions regained the lead with a pair in the top of the sixth. Huntingdon pulled closer with a run in the home half, but Camden opened up the lead with seven in the seventh.

Huntingdon’s Kylie Tippitt was 1-for-2 with two walks, two runs scored and a stolen base. Grier Bartholomew was 1-for-2 with two walks and a run scored. Camdyn Sellers was 1-for-3 with an RBI-sacrifice fly. Gracey Martin was 1-for-4. Ellie Wilson was 0-for-4 with two RBIs. Aubry Castleman was 0-for-3 with a walk and a run scored.

Lady Lion Addie Melton was 2-for-4 with a home run, a walk, four RBIs and



The All-Tournament team included (L to R) Fillies Ellie Wilson, Kylie Tippitt and Grier Bartholomew. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

one run scored. Kaitlyn Harris was 2-for-3 with a double, a walk and three runs scored. Abbi-Grace Wallace was 2-for-3 with a walk, a sacrifice fly, two RBIs and two runs scored. Annie Hedge was 2-for-3 with a walk, an RBI and two runs scored. Taryn Berry was 2-for-4. Carson Douglas was 1-for-5 with a double and two RBIs. Avery Wright was 1-for-4 with an RBI and two runs scored. Adriana Warren was 1-for-4 with a run scored.

Addie Melton earned the complete-game win for Camden, allowing five unearned runs on four hits while walking six and striking out six.

Marcie Mitchell took the loss for the Fillies, allowing 12 runs (six earned) on 12 hits while walking four and striking out one in six and two-thirds innings. Emalynn Maness pitched the final third of an inning, allowing one earned run on one hit with no walks.

Lady Lions 10, Fillies 4

In Game Two, Huntingdon scored first with a run in the top of the first, but Camden answered with two in the home half. The Fillies tied it with a run in the second. The Lady Lions pulled ahead with three in the fifth. Huntingdon got within a run with two in the top of the sixth,

but Camden pulled away with five in the bottom half.

Huntingdon’s Kylie Tippitt was 2-for-3 with a triple, an RBI and a run scored. Gracey Martin was 2-for-4. Grier Bartholomew was 1-for-2 with a walk and two runs scored. Ellie Wilson was 1-for-1 with an RBI. Camdyn Sellers was 1-for-4 with a double. Emalynn Maness was 1-for-2. Knox Bennett was 0-for-3 with a walk and a run scored. Millie Luther was 0-for-3 with two RBIs.

Lady Lion Adriana Warren was 2-for-4 with a home run, four RBIs and two runs scored. Addie Melton was 2-for-4 with a home run, two RBIs and a run scored. Carson Douglas and Kynneddy Pruitt were both 2-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored. Abbi-Grace Wallace was 1-for-3 with a walk, two runs scored and a stolen base. Avery Wright was 1-for-3 with a walk and a run scored. Annie Hedge was 1-for-4 with a stolen base. Kaitlyn Harris was 1-for-4.

Carson Douglas earned the win for Camden, allowing two earned runs on six hits while walking one and striking out two in five and two-thirds innings. Jaylin Hagler pitched the final frame, allowing two earned runs on two hits and two walks.

Fillies Top Camden, Advance to Title Game

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

CAMDEN (May 4) — The Huntingdon High School Fillies clinched an appearance in the District 12AA Softball championship game and in the region tournament with a 3-1 win over tournament host Camden Monday.

The Fillies struck first with a pair of runs in the top of the third and added another in the fourth. The Lady Lions’ lone run

came in the bottom of the seventh.

Huntingdon’s Ellie Wilson was 3-for-4 with a home run, two RBIs and one run scored. Camdyn Sellers was 2-for-4. Emalyn Maness was 1-for-1 with an RBI-sacrifice fly. Grier Bartholomew was 1-for-1 with a walk. Knox Bennett was 1-for-3 with a run scored. Kylie Tippitt was 1-for-4.

Lady Lion Carson Douglas was 2-for-3. Abbi-Grace Wallace was 0-for-2 with a

walk and a run scored.

Marcie Mitchell earned the complete-game win for the Fillies, allowing one unearned run on two hits with one walk and four strikeouts.

Carson Douglas took the loss for Camden, allowing three unearned runs on nine hits while walking one and striking out one in six innings. Addie Melton pitched the final frame, allowing no runs, hits or walks with one strikeout.

Lady Tigers End Season with Semifinal Loss

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (May 7) — The Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central Lady Tigers ended their season Thursday with a 3-2 loss to Houston County in the semifinals of the District 12A Softball Tournament.

The Lady Irish jumped ahead with two runs in the top of the second, then added another in the third. Central plated a pair of runs in the bottom of

the fourth.

Lady Tiger Lilly McGee was 2-for-3 with two stolen bases. Kyleigh Baker was 1-for-2. Addison Tucker was 1-for-3 with an RBI. Amelia Bennett was 1-for-3. Cloe Morgan was 0-for-2 with a walk and an RBI.

Houston County’s Jake-lyn Boone was 1-for-2 with a home run and a walk. Madelynn Brooks was 1-for-3 with a run scored and a stolen base. Kenleigh Finch was 1-for-3.

Brilee Anderson earned the complete-game win for the Lady Irish, allowing two earned runs on five hits while walking three and striking out six.

Madison Holder took the loss for Central, allowing three runs (one earned) on three hits while walking one and striking out one in four innings. Kyleigh Baker threw the final three frames, allowing no runs or hits with one walk and two strikeouts.

REGION 6A BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

Tigers are Runner-Up, Advance to Sectional

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (May 9) — The Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School Tigers are the Region 6A Baseball runner-up and advance to the Sectional round with a pair of wins Saturday afternoon. First, they topped Collinwood, 9-5, then avenged a Friday afternoon loss against Wayne County with an 15-4 victory.

The Tigers travel to face Richland Wednesday in a best-of-three Sectional series. The winner advances to the state tournament.

Central Tigers 9, Collinwood Trojans 5

Central got on the board first with two runs in the bottom of the second. Collinwood answered with one in the top of the third, but the Tigers pulled away with four in the home half, then added three in the sixth. The Trojans rallied for four runs in the top of the seventh.

Tiger Brayden Maness was 1-for-2 with a double, a walk, a run scored and two stolen bases. Brody Huff was 1-for-2 with two runs scored and a stolen base. Dalton Howard was 1-for-3 with a walk, an RBI, a run scored and a stolen base. Parker Boyd was 1-for-2 with a walk and an RBI. Parker Finley was 1-for-2 with a walk. Tanner Walters was 1-for-4 with a double and an RBI. Gage Weatherly and Drake Hollingsworth were both 1-for-4 with an RBI, a run scored and a stolen base.

Trojan Gentry Hart was 2-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored. Boston Moser was 2-for-3 with an RBI. Ayden Jones was 1-for-3 with a double, an RBI and a run scored. Tate Linville was 1-for-4 with a double. Shyston Rideout was 0-for-1 with a walk and a run scored.

Junah Smith earned the complete-game win for



Tiger Junah Smith earned the complete-game win against Collinwood, allowing five runs (four earned) on six hits while walking one and striking out four. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Central, allowing five runs (four earned) on six hits while walking one and striking out four.

Gentry Hart took the loss for Collinwood, allowing five runs (three earned) on five hits while walking none and striking out three in three innings. Luke Holt pitched the final three frames, allowing four runs (two earned) on three hits while walking four and striking out one.

Tigers 15, Wayne County Wildcats 4

Wayne County struck first with a pair of runs in the bottom of the first, but Central took the lead with three in the top of the second, then added five in the third, one in the fourth and one in the top of the sixth. The Wildcats scored a run in the home half. The Tigers added five more in the top of the seventh, and Wayne County tacked on a run in the bottom half.

Tiger Brody Huff was 4-for-5 with a double, five RBIs, three runs scored and two stolen bases. Parker Boyd was 2-for-4 with a double, a walk, four RBIs, two runs scored and two stolen bases. Gage Weatherly was 2-for-5 with two RBIs. Drake Hollingsworth was 1-for-2 with four runs

scored. Dalton Howard was 1-for-2 with two walks and a run scored. Parker Finley was 1-for-3 with a walk, an RBI and a stolen base. Braxton Howard was 1-for-5 with a run scored.

Wildcat Brady Stooksberry was 2-for-4 with a double and an RBI. Jacan Floyd was 2-for-4 with a run scored and a stolen base. Daniel Pike was 2-for-4. Nate Bevis was 1-for-4 with two RBIs. Weston Todd was 1-for-4 with a run scored and a stolen base. Kace Bryant was 1-for-4. Graeme Polk was 0-for-1 with three walks and a run scored.

Gage Weatherly earned the win for Central, allowing three earned runs on nine hits while walking three and striking out five in six innings. Brayden Maness pitched the final frame, allowing one earned run on one hit with no walks and one strikeout.

Kace Bryant took the loss for Wayne County, allowing eight runs (seven earned) on five hits while walking two and striking out two in two and a third innings. Weston Todd pitched the final four and two-thirds innings, allowing seven runs (six earned) on seven hits while walking four and striking out two.

Lady Rebels Fall to McEwen in Opener

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCEWEN (May 4) — The McKenzie High School Lady Rebels traveled Monday for a satellite game against McEwen to begin the District 12A Softball Tournament. The host Lady Warriors took the lead in the middle innings and held off a late McKenzie rally for a 6-2 win.

McEwen struck first with a run in the bottom of the third, then added three in the fourth and two in the fifth. McKenzie got on the

board with two runs in the top of the seventh.

Lady Rebel Kailie Hudgins was 1-for-2 with a walk and a run scored. Ridley Holt was 1-for-3 with an RBI. Addyson Littleton was 1-for-3 with a run scored. Braylin Auvenshine was 1-for-3. Haylee Beard was 0-for-3 with an RBI.

Lady Warrior Tylee Tummins was 2-for-3 with a home run, two RBIs and one run scored. Layla Fleming was 2-for-3 with an RBI. Ava Lastovka was 1-for-3 with an RBI and a run scored. Laila Darden

and Carley Baker were both 1-for-3 with a run scored. Kendall McNeil was 1-for-3. Neelyann Martin was 0-for-1 with an RBI. Morgan Henry was 0-for-3 with an RBI.

Ava Lastovka earned the complete-game win for McEwen, allowing two earned runs on four hits while walking one and striking out 16.

Aurora Johnson took the complete-game loss for McKenzie, allowing six runs (one earned) on eight hits while walking none and striking out three.

Lady Tigers Eliminate Lady Rebels

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (May 5) — McKenzie High School’s softball season came to an end Tuesday with an 11-1 loss to the Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central Lady Tigers on the second day of the District 12A Softball Tournament.

Central struck first with a run in the bottom of the second inning. McKenzie tied it in the top of the fourth, but the Lady Tigers erupted for seven runs in the home half, then added three in the fifth to end the

game early.

Lady Tiger Abby Baker was 1-for-3 with a home run, two RBIs and one run scored. Lilly McGee was 2-for-3 with two RBIs, two runs scored and a stolen base. Madison Holder was 1-for-4 with a double and two RBIs. Kyleigh Baker was 1-for-2 with a walk, two RBIs and a run scored. Emy Olds was 1-for-2 with a walk, an RBI and a run scored. Amelia Bennett was 1-for-2 with a walk and an RBI. Cloe Morgan was 0-for-2 with a walk, an RBI, two runs scored and a stolen base. Addison Tucker was

0-for-2 with a walk and a run scored.

Lady Rebel Aurora Johnson was 1-for-2 with a home run. Kynadie Brown was 1-for-2. Maggie Hall was 1-for-3. Danie Parker was 0-for-1 with a walk.

Madison Holder earned the complete-game win for Central, allowing one earned run on three hits while walking one and striking out seven.

Aurora Johnson took the complete-game loss for McKenzie, allowing 11 earned runs on seven hits while walking five and striking out four.

DISTRICT 12A SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Rebels Defeat Clarksburg, Advance to Semis

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (May 4) — McKenzie High School hosted Clarksburg Monday to open the District 12A Soccer Tournament. The host Rebels

defeated the Rockets, 6-0, to advance to the semifinal round. Clarksburg’s season ended with the loss.

Rebel Aiden Mason had a hat trick (three goals) and an assist. Jony Hernandez scored a pair of goals, and

Diego Hernandez scored one. Wyatt Brewer and Liam Moore each had two assists, and Triztan Vela had one.

McKenzie goalkeeper Brody Davis recorded four saves, and Sawyer Nunnery recorded three.

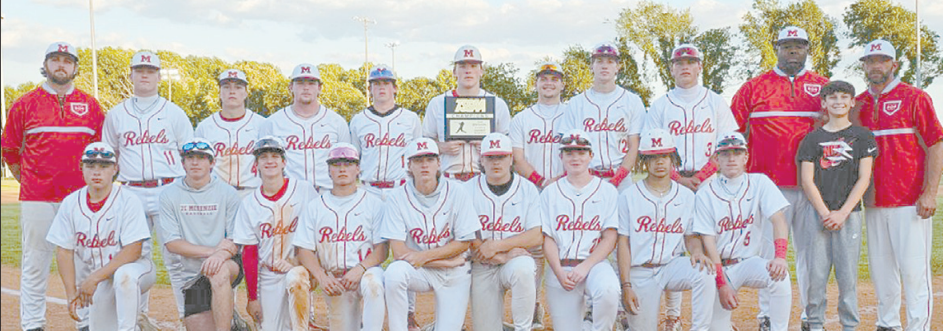
THANK YOU We appreciate your support.

McKenzie Baseball Seniors Honored



McKENZIE (May 8) — McKenzie High School baseball honored three seniors Friday prior to the Rebels' region contest. Pictured (L to R) Xander Johnsey with parents Evan and Jennie Johnsey and Courtni and Brad Campbell; Fletcher Holt with parents Lindsey and Matthew Holt; and Aiden Legens with parents Crystal and Jeremy Legens. *Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner*

DISTRICT 12A BASEBALL TOURNAMENT



District 12A Baseball Champion McKenzie Rebels. *Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner*

Rebels Claim Title, Tigers are Runner-Up

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

BRUCETON (May 4) — The District 12A Baseball Tournament, hosted by Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School, concluded Monday with the McKenzie Rebels emerging as champions after an 11-2 win over the host Tigers.

Both teams advanced to the region tournament.

Following the title game, the all-district team was announced: McKenzie's Fletcher Holt, Cooper Davidson, Cole Brown and MVP Xander Johnsey; Central's Braxton Howard, Drake Hollingsworth, Tanner Walters and Pitcher of the Year Gage Weatherly; Clarksburg's Trae Cobb and Greysen Jones; McEwen's Kainan Gill and Ben McPherson; and Houston County's Ryder Forrester and Samuel Ferrell.

McKenzie's Chris Wall was

named Coach of the Year.

The Rebels struck first in the title game, scoring three runs in the bottom of the third. The Tigers plated a run in the top of the fourth, but McKenzie answered with five in the home half. Central scored another run in the sixth, and the Rebels responded with three.

Rebel Xander Johnsey was 3-for-5 with a home run, one RBI, three runs scored and a stolen base. Parker Ross was 2-for-2 with two walks, two RBIs, a run scored and two stolen bases. Fletcher Holt was 2-for-4 with a walk, an RBI and two runs scored. Avery Brown was 1-for-2 with two walks, a run scored and a stolen base. Cole Brown was 1-for-3 with two walks, two RBIs, a run scored and two stolen bases. Lelan Gordon was 1-for-3 with a walk, an RBI, a run scored and two stolen bases. Hudson Garrett was 1-for-3 with a walk and

two RBIs. Aiden Legens was 1-for-3 with a walk and an RBI. Ace Brown was 0-for-3 with a run scored.

Tiger Braxton Howard was 2-for-3 with a double, an RBI and a run scored. Tanner Walters and Dalton Howard were both 1-for-3. Parker Finley was 0-for-1 with a run scored.

Xander Johnsey earned the complete-game win for McKenzie, allowing two runs (one earned) on four hits while walking none and striking out nine.

Junah Smith took the loss for Central, allowing three earned runs on five hits while walking three in three innings. Braxton Howard threw two innings of relief, allowing six runs (five earned) on three hits and seven walks with one strikeout. Drake Hollingsworth pitched the final frame, allowing two earned runs on four hits with no walks.

REGION 6A BASEBALL TOURNAMENT

Rebels Claim Title in Slugfest Over Wayne County

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (May 9) — The McKenzie High School Rebels are the Region 6A Baseball champions after a 15-9 win over the Wayne County Wildcats Saturday afternoon, also earning hosting rights to the Sectional round.

The Rebels host Eagleville Wednesday for a best-of-three Sectional series with a spot in the state tournament on the line.

Wayne County struck first with four runs in the top of the first, then added another in the top of the second. McKenzie tied it with five in the home half, then took the lead with two in the third and pulled away with six in the fourth. The Wildcats scored a pair in the fifth and added another in the top of the sixth. The Rebels added a pair in the home half. Wayne County plated one in the seventh.

Rebel Xander Johnsey was 4-for-5 with a home run, three doubles, five RBIs and three runs scored. Fletcher Holt was 2-for-3 with two



Rebel Xander Johnsey is greeted at home by teammates following a home run. Johnsey was 4-for-5 at the plate and earned the win on the mound. *Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner*

doubles, a walk, an RBI and a run scored. Ace Brown was 2-for-3 with a walk, two RBIs, three runs scored and a stolen base. Hudson Garrett was 2-for-4 with two RBIs and a run scored. Cole Brown was 2-for-5 with a double, three RBIs and a run scored. Cooper Davidson was 1-for-3 with a double, a walk and two runs scored. Parker Ross

was 0-for-2 with a walk, an RBI and three runs scored.

Wildcat Nate Bevis was 2-for-3 with a double, an RBI and two runs scored. Graeme Polk and Brady Stooksberry were both 2-for-4 with a double, an RBI, two runs scored and a stolen base. Jacan Floyd was 1-for-5 with a double, two runs scored and a stolen base. Weston Todd was 1-for-4 with two RBIs and a stolen base. Kace Bryant was 1-for-4 with an RBI. Logan Davis was 0-for-2 with a walk and a run scored. Warren Camfield was 0-for-4 with three RBIs.

Xander Johnsey earned the win for McKenzie, allowing eight runs (four earned) on seven hits while walking one and striking out four in five and two-thirds innings. Maddox Shiell pitched the final inning and a third, allowing one earned run on two hits with no walks and one strikeout.

Brady Stooksberry took the loss for Wayne County, allowing 11 earned runs on seven hits while walking five and striking out two in three and a third innings. Kyler Self pitched the final two and two-thirds innings, allowing four earned runs on six hits with no walks and two strikeouts.

REGION 7A TENNIS TOURNAMENT

Huntingdon's Simpson Advances to State

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (May 4) — Huntingdon's Shawn Simpson will compete in the 2026 TSSAA Class A Boys Tennis Singles State Championship following a title run in the Region 7A Boys Tennis Tournament.

In region play Monday at Bethel University's Dr. Deborah Thompson Tennis Complex, Simpson defeated Chester County's Cooper Sparks in straight sets (6-1, 6-0) in the semifinals and Chester County's Landon Ketchum in straight sets (6-2, 6-1) in the championship.

Simpson will face Reese Russell of Anderson County Thursday, May 14 at 10 a.m. in the Champions Tennis Complex in



Huntingdon's Shawn Simpson (center) is the Region 7A singles champion. Jazmine Seiber (left) finished as the girls singles runner-up, and Mary Kendall Stevens (right) also competed in the region. *File photo from the district championship.*

Chattanooga. A win will advance him to a semifinal match at 2 p.m.; the championship match is Friday, May 15 at 9 a.m.

Huntingdon was also well-represented at the region level in girls singles. Jazmine Seiber won her

semifinal over McNairy County's Sadie Huddleston in straight sets (6-1, 6-2). Mary Kendall Stevens was defeated by Collinwood's Saydee Powell (6-1, 6-2) in the semis. Powell defeated Seiber in the championship (6-2, 6-2).

REGION 6AA BASEBALL TOURNAMENT



Left, Mustang Braylin Dearmon celebrates a big home run with his teammates during the win against Sycamore. Right, Mustang Kenton Smith earned the complete-game win against Sycamore, allowing four runs (one earned) on five hits while walking two and striking out nine. *Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner*

Mustangs Finish Runner-Up

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (May 9) — The Huntingdon High School Mustangs are the Region 6AA Baseball runner-up and advance to the Sectional round with a pair of wins Saturday afternoon.

First, they topped Stewart County, 7-2, then avenged a Friday night loss against Sycamore with an 11-4 victory.

The Mustangs travel to face Cascade Wednesday in a best-of-three Sectional series. The winner advances to the state tournament.

Huntingdon Mustangs 7, Stewart County Rebels 2

Stewart County struck first with a run in the bottom of the first, but Huntingdon tied it in the top of the second and took the lead with a run in the third. The Mustangs added two more in the fifth. The Rebels scored a run in the sixth, and Huntingdon plated three in the seventh.

Mustang Hayes Eubanks was 1-for-3 with a home run, a sacrifice fly, three RBIs and one run scored. Silas Sharp was 1-for-1 with two walks, an RBI and a run scored. Colt Wood was 1-for-2 with two walks and an RBI. Cy Hankins was 1-for-2 with a walk and two

runs scored. Caleb Ezell was 1-for-3 with a walk and an RBI. Owen Kreuziger was 1-for-4. Kenton Smith was 0-for-1 with three walks, an RBI and a run scored.

Rebel Ben Hendricks was 2-for-3 with two runs scored and a stolen base. Brigham Page was 1-for-2 with a walk. Brayden Threatt was 1-for-3 with an RBI. Blake Lehman and Landon Green were both 1-for-3.

Owen Kreuziger earned the complete-game win for Huntingdon, allowing two runs (one earned) on six hits while walking two and striking out two.

Collin Howell took the loss for Stewart County, allowing four earned runs on two hits while walking nine and striking out three in five innings. Brayden Threatt pitched the final two frames, allowing three earned runs on four hits while walking one and striking out one.

Mustangs 11, Sycamore War Eagles 4

Sycamore got on the board quickly with a run in the top of the first, but Huntingdon answered with two in the home half to take the lead. The War Eagles tied it with a run in the top of the third, but the Mustangs again responded with two in the bottom half.

Sycamore knotted the score again with two in the top of the fourth, but Huntingdon put up four in the home half to secure the lead for good and added three more in the sixth.

Mustang Braylin Dearmon was 2-for-4 with a home run, five RBIs, three runs scored and a stolen base. Broox Bennett was 2-for-4 with a home run, two RBIs and one run scored. Hayes Eubanks was 3-for-4 with two doubles. Silas Sharp was 3-for-4 with a double, two RBIs and two runs scored. Caleb Ezell was 1-for-3 with two runs scored. Kenton Smith was 1-for-4 with an RBI.

War Eagle Drake Perry was 2-for-4 with a double, two RBIs and a run scored. Braxton Quinnan was 2-for-3 with an RBI. Nathaniel Batson was 1-for-3 with a run scored.

Kenton Smith earned the complete-game win for Huntingdon, allowing four runs (one earned) on five hits while walking two and striking out nine.

Wesley Parker took the loss for Sycamore, allowing eight earned runs on ten hits while walking none and striking out one in four innings. Drake Perry threw the final two frames, allowing three unearned runs on two hits while walking none and striking out one.

REGION 6A BASEBALL TOURNAMENT



Left, Rebel centerfielder Ace Brown makes a running catch for the out. Right, Rebel pitcher Fletcher Holt (complete-game, one-hit win) fights the sun and gets under a shallow pop-up for the out. *Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner*

Rebels Edge Collinwood in Opener, 3-1

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (May 8) — The McKenzie High School Rebels opened the Region 6A Baseball Tournament with a 3-1 win over the Collinwood Trojans Friday night.

All of the runs came in the first inning, with Collinwood striking first in the top half and McKenzie

jumping ahead in the home half.

Rebel Xander Johnsey was 2-for-3 with a triple and a run scored. Hudson Garrett was 1-for-2 with a double. Cooper Davidson was 1-for-3. Fletcher Holt was 0-for-0 with two walks. Cole Brown was 0-for-2 with a walk and an RBI.

Trojan Tate Linville was 1-for-3. Gentry Hart was 0-for-1 with two walks and

a run scored. Luke Holt was 0-for-3 with an RBI.

Fletcher Holt earned the complete-game, one-hit win for McKenzie, allowing one unearned run while walking two and striking out four.

Patch Craig took the complete-game loss for Collinwood, allowing three runs (one earned) on four hits while walking three and striking out two.



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1:30 p.m. — Afternoon Service

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