

Carroll County Sheriff Town Hall Coming Soon

CARROLL COUNTY (May 18) — Voters have an important decision to make on August 6, 2026 about who will lead the Carroll County Sheriff's Office, and the Carroll County news media entities are working together to help voters make an informed decision.

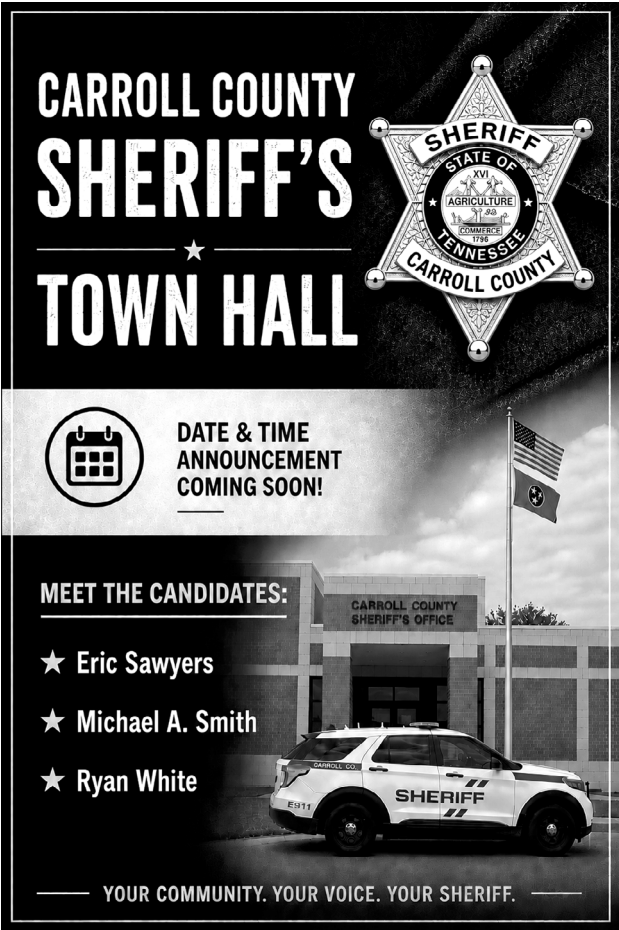
After the May 5 Republican Primary, the candidates vying for the position of Carroll County Sheriff are: Eric Sawyers, Michael A. Smith and Ryan White.

The early voting period is July 17 - August 1.

The McKenzie Banner, The Carroll County News-Leader, The Carroll County Observer and possibly others are partnering to organize a Carroll County Sheriff's Town Hall event, as an opportunity for voters to meet the three candidates and hear their ideas for the position.

Each candidate will be given time to make an opening statement and asked a series of questions related to the position and their vision.

We are waiting for each candidate to confirm the best date before officially announcing and promoting the event. As of press time,



one of the three candidates has confirmed his intent to participate. Stay tuned for updates as we move forward with this crucial process! The public is invited to attend.



Above, Rural Health Association of Tennessee members and supporters gather for the May 12 ribbon-cutting celebration. Below, The Rural Health Association of Tennessee received a three-year, \$2,000,000 grant from the Tennessee Department of Health to open the Huntingdon rural resource center. Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner



Ribbon-Cutting Held for Rural Health Resource Center

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
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HUNTINGDON (May 12) — The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony Tuesday, May 12, for the Rural Health Association of Tennessee's first-ever rural resource center, located at 159 Court Square in Huntingdon.

Supported by a three-year, \$2,000,000 grant from

the Tennessee Department of Health, the Huntingdon center provides essential resources — including a food pantry, a maternal health program and a rural community opioid response program — for Rural Health Association members. The Rural Health Association of Tennessee is a nonprofit membership organization that supports hospitals, schools, health-care clinics and mental and

behavioral health providers across the state. The Huntingdon resource center will serve Rural Health Association of Tennessee members in Carroll, Henry, Benton, Gibson, Weakley and Decatur counties. Interior construction is still underway at the Rural Health Association of Tennessee's Huntingdon resource center. The center will open in the coming weeks.

Trezevant Board Appoints IDB Members

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
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TREZEVANT (May 13) — The Trezevant Board of Mayor and Aldermen appointed 10 individuals to join the Town of Trezevant's newly-reconstituted Industrial Development Board (IDB) and determined their term limits during a voting process Tuesday, May 12.

The reconstituted IDB's first appointed members are Johnna Crouse (two-year term), Wes Gulley (two-year term), Kyle Foster (four-year term), Eddie Granger (four-year term), Jimmy Kelly (four-year term), Tim Pratt (four-year term), Janet Dickson (six-year term), Rita Foster (six-year term), Terry Schall (six-year term) and Bobby McAlexander (six-year term).

The ten individuals' terms

began Wednesday, May 13, 2026.

The Trezevant Board of Mayor and Aldermen formally reconstituted the town's long-dormant IDB in January 2026. In the months since, the board has determined the responsibilities and term limits for the new members.

The Trezevant IDB is expected to promote industry, trade, commerce, tourism and recreation, agriculture, housing and construction in the town of Trezevant. Members must follow the Open Meetings Act and properly advertise their meetings to the public before making any IDB-related decisions.

The IDB requires at least seven members and a maximum of 12 members, appointed by the Trezevant Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Once appointed, the

members will serve for staggered terms — two, four and six years — with the ability to be reappointed.

The board determined that individuals do not have to live in Trezevant, pay Trezevant taxes or be qualified voters in Trezevant to join the Trezevant IDB.

In March, several individuals signed up for consideration. Interested individuals then underwent interviews with the Trezevant Board of Mayor and Aldermen before undergoing an orientation process led by the University of Tennessee's Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS).

The IDB is soon expected to address the transfer and rezoning of the former Hillsman property located adjacent to Pat's Restaurant on Highway 79.

McKenzie Man Sentenced to 17 Years for Drug Charges

JACKSON — John David Forrest, 36, of McKenzie, was sentenced to 17 years in federal prison for distributing over 50 grams of actual methamphetamine. D. Michael Dunavant, United States Attorney for the Western District of Tennessee, announced the sentence today.

According to information presented in court, in the spring of 2024, Forrest sold methamphetamine to confidential informants who were working for law enforcement on multiple occasions. During the last controlled buy, Forrest sold an informant 55 grams of methamphetamine that was later found to be 99% pure. Officers were later able to obtain and execute a search

warrant at Forrest's home, which revealed more methamphetamine (around 112 grams that was 95% pure), six firearms, ammunition, a set of digital scales, drug packaging materials, and \$657 in cash. At the time he committed these offenses, Forrest was on parole for a felony drug conviction out of Carroll County, Tenn.

Following his guilty plea in federal court to distributing over 50 grams of actual methamphetamine, United States District Judge S. Thomas Anderson sentenced Forrest to 17 years in prison and five years of supervised release. There is no parole in the federal system.

U.S. Attorney D. Michael Dunavant said, "Forrest

is a recidivist drug dealer who was selling methamphetamine in dangerous purity and in possession of multiple firearms while on parole. Every minute of his 17-year sentence is well deserved and will ensure better public safety for the citizens of West Tennessee."

This case was investigated by members of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration, the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation, and the 24th Judicial District Drug Task Force in Tennessee.

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

Election Commission Certifies May 5 Primary Results Amid Low Turnout

CARROLL COUNTY (May 14) — The Carroll County Election Commission officially certified the results of the May 5 primary election during its meeting on Thursday at the Carroll County Office Complex. Despite the certification, officials noted a notably low voter turnout, largely attributed to a ballot featuring only one contested race.

The single competitive contest was the Republican sheriff nomination, where

Eric Sawyers emerged victorious over Tim Pratt. This state-mandated local primary drew a total of 1,288 ballots, including 16 mail-in votes and 13 cast from area nursing homes. Each of the winners of the primary advances to the August general election, when significantly more voters are expected to participate because of the contested sheriff's race.

A breakdown of the numbers shows 1,086 ballots

were cast in the Republican primary, while the Democratic primary, which featured no contested elections, saw 202 participants. During the certification process, Administrator of Elections Peg Hamlett distributed confirmation sheets to the commissioners for their signatures to formalize the results.

The Election Commission is scheduled to hold its next meeting on June 16.

Liberty All Memorial Day Program

The people of Liberty All Church, 2415 Old Stage Road, Huntingdon, will honor the seventy-eight veterans buried in its cemetery on Sunday, May 24, at 10:45 a.m.

The guest speaker is Lieutenant Colonel Emily Wolfe (Retired U.S. Air Force). She graduated from the University of Tennessee at Martin with a degree in nursing, then immediately joined the Air Force. During her distinguished 21-year military career, she served on active duty at Air Force bases in Mississippi and Ohio as a medical/surgical/pediatrics nurse, and in Japan as



a flight nurse and executive officer. As a reservist, she served at bases in Texas and California.

Emily deployed four times in support of Opera-

tion Iraqi Freedom, Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Inherent Resolve, and Operation Freedom's Sentinel, including two deployments to Germany and two to Afghanistan.

Emily's husband, Brett Wolfe, is a retired combat medic who served 23 years in the Air Force. They, along with their daughter Remy, live in Huntingdon.

Emily now serves as a civilian with the Joint Trauma System, Military Orthopedic Trauma Registry, continuing her commitment to caring for America's service members and veterans.

County Meets With Light May Agenda

BY JASON R. MARTIN
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HUNTINGDON (May 11) — The Carroll County Commission met Monday, May 11, at 7 p.m. at the Carroll County Government Complex in Huntingdon. The board had a light agenda for the May session. Included on the county agenda were the following:

Resolution 5-01-2026 reappointed Brad Hurley and Rita Jones to the Carroll County Board of Zoning Appeals and Carroll County Regional Planning Commission. These terms end in May 2030.

Resolution 5-02-2026 reappointed Barry Mac Murphy, Dr. Jay Phipps, and Darrell Ridgely to the Carroll County Audit Committee. These terms end in May 2030.

Resolution 5-03-2026 authorized the Carroll County Clerk to enter into a lease agreement with Memphis Communications Corporation for a Quadient Mailing System. The proposal includes an IX-AF Digital Postage System, along with the associated features and services necessary for County operations. The proposed agreement provides for a lease term of 63 months. The vendor offered a rebate to assist with the termination of the County's existing lease agreement.

Resolution 5-04-2026 would adjust the waste tire tipping fees. The following fee schedule was recommended by the Carroll County Solid Waste Committee based on tire rim size and tire mounted on rims, as indicated: Car Tires — \$6 (tire off rim) / \$10 (tire on rim). Light Truck — \$6 (tire off rim) / \$10 (tire on rim). Semi-Truck — \$25 (tire off rim) / \$50 (tire on rim). Implement/Agriculture — \$1/inch rim size (tire off rim) / \$2/inch rim size (tire on rim). Motorcycle — \$6 (tire off rim) / \$10 (tire on rim). Super Single Truck — \$35 (tire off rim) / \$70 (tire on rim). Loader — \$30 (tire off rim) / \$60 (tire on rim). Earthmover tires are \$25 a ton.

The following were elected notaries: Jason Wyatt Arnold, Andrew Lee Buchanan, Cicla Panto Buchanan, Casey Drewry and Patrick Michael Schuler.

The next regular meeting of the Carroll County Commission is June 8 at 7 p.m. The June agenda should contain the discussion and approval of the 2026-27 Fiscal Year Budget.

Trezevant Board Hears 2027 Budget Proposal

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
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TREZEVANT (May 12) — The Trezevant Board of Mayor and Aldermen approved a budget proposal for the 2026-27 fiscal year on first reading during the town's May 12 meeting.

Here's a breakdown of the budget proposal:

The proposed General Fund budget for the 2027 fiscal year is \$579,122. The budget appropriates \$149,662 to the General Government, \$161,492 to the Police Department, \$159,897 to the Street Department, \$40,351 to the Fire Department, \$21,667 to Culture and Recreation and \$29 to Debt Service.

The Town of Trezevant will likely end the 2026-27 fiscal year with \$46,025 in the General Fund, according to the proposal. This is a \$126,872 decrease from the 2025-26 fiscal year, largely due to a \$76,112 increase in Police Department funding.

The proposed Street Aid Fund budget is \$136,462 — a \$9,199 increase from last year's budget. Street lighting is expected to cost the town \$22,500.

The proposed Solid Waste Fund budget is \$184,283 — a \$2,158 decrease from last year. Landfill services are expected to cost the town \$88,914 from the Solid Waste Fund.

The proposed Drug Fund budget is \$3,266. Court fines

and costs are expected to bring \$250 in total revenues. The Town of Trezevant is not expected to spend any money from the Drug Fund during the 2026-27 fiscal year.

The proposed Water and Sewer Fund budget is \$3,141,321 — which includes the Town of Trezevant's reserves balance of \$2,759,421. The proposal expects total revenues to be \$381,900 and total appropriations to cost \$335,592.

Trezevant's property tax of \$0.4081 per \$100 of assessed value on all real and personal property will remain unchanged.

The 2027 fiscal year begins July 1, 2026.

Huntingdon to Honor Fallen Heroes with Memorial Services

HUNTINGDON — As West Tennessee prepares for the upcoming holiday weekend, members of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit #47, Huntingdon, and the Town of Huntingdon are issuing a heartfelt reminder that Memorial Day is about more than just the unofficial start of summer.

The community is invited to gather on Memorial Day for a series of commemorative events hosted by the

Town of Huntingdon and American Legion Auxiliary Unit #47:

1. Flag Presentation: The Town of Huntingdon's formal Memorial Day ceremony is at Thomas Park in Huntingdon, starting at 10 a.m.

2. Community Fish Fry: Following the ceremony, American Legion Auxiliary Unit #47 will host a fish fry in the Cash Saver parking lot for residents and vet-

erans alike. The fish fry is expected to begin at 11 a.m. 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).

Indicted

...From Front Page

internet service, including webcam communications between the dates of January 1, 2017 and September 5, 2024. He is charged with having unlawful sexual contact with intimate parts of a juvenile between June 1 and June 30, 2023. The charge of Sexual Battery is related to a charge of having sexual contact that was accomplished by force or coercion between the dates of June 1 and June 30, 2023.

Antonio Lamar Reynolds, no age or address listed, is charged with Sexual Exploitation of a Minor by Electronic Means. The indictment indicates Reynolds exposed the juvenile to material containing simulated sexual activity on February 7, 2026.

Steven Ray Martin, 69, no address listed, was charged with six counts of Aggravated Sexual Battery and Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child. The indictment indicates Martin had unlawful sexual contact with a juvenile between that dates of January 1 and December 31, 2024 and one count of Continuous Sexual Abuse of a Child between the dates of January 1 to December 31, 2024.

James Robert Carter, no age or address listed, is charged with Aggravated Sexual Battery.

The indictment states that between the dates of

December 1 and December 31, 2021, Carter had unlawful sexual contact with a juvenile.

In other indictments by the Carroll County Grand Jury:

Rondarious Joeman Weddle, indicted on one count of Threats of Mass Violence and two counts of Harassment. The indictment indicates Weddle communicated by phone on December 12, 2025 a threat of mass violence to a Huntingdon-based senior health center. He also was indicted for harassment in that same incident because it threatened the safety of his girlfriend.

Christopher Allan Hinson, no address or age, was indicted on one count of Theft of Property and one county of Criminal Attempt to Commit Burglary. The indictment indicates that on February 13, Hinson entered a vehicle without consent with the intent of committing theft. The second indictment indicates Hinson took cash of between \$2,500 to \$10,000.

Phillip Bishop Williams, no address or age listed, was indicted on charges of Tampering with Evidence and Accessory After the Fact. The indictment indicates that on or about August 21, 2025, Williams removed evidence to impair an investigation after an aggravated assault that was committed by another individual.

Randy Lynn Anderson, no address or age listed, was indicted on charges

of Possession of Methamphetamine with Intent to Deliver and Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia.

On or about November 23, 2025, Anderson did deliver a controlled substance of 26 grams or more of meth, according to the indictment. During the charges, Anderson did possess a glass pipe.

Warren Daniel Holbrook, no address or age listed, was indicted on Possession of Meth and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia. The indictment indicates that on February 27, 2026, Holbrook did have possession of Meth and Drug Paraphernalia.

Anthony Dalton Grant Young, no age or address listed, was indicted on charges Of Possession of Meth with Intent to Deliver and Possession of a Controlled Substance. The indictment indicated Young had less than .5 grams of meth and five grams of a substance identified as marijuana.

Corri Arnell Fuller, no age or address listed, was indicted for Possession of a Controlled Substance (3 counts), Unlawful Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, and Unlawful Possession of a Weapon with a prior felony conviction.

The indictment said Fuller had possession of a revolver handgun on July 22, 2025 as a felon. The indictment indicates Fuller had .5 grams of cocaine, schedule IV pills with intent to deliver, marijuana, and digital scales.

McKenzie to Recognize Memorial Day with Monday Service

The City of McKenzie hosts a Memorial Day Ceremony Monday, May 25 at 10 a.m. at Veterans Park.

This year's Memorial Day speaker is Tammy Host. Host is a retired Dental Technician Petty Officer –

Third Class for the United States Navy.

U.S. Army Sgt. Medic David Kellett Hochreiter will provide a prayer and read a Memorial Day poem.

Placing the Memorial Day wreath are retired U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Dana

Deem (American Legion Post 37) and retired U.S. Army E7 Sgt. First Class Tim Smothers (VFW Post 4939 Commander).

Chelsea Brown will provide patriotic music, and Riley Crafton will perform Taps.

The VFW Post 4939 Ladies Auxiliary will serve refreshments at the ceremony's conclusion.



Above, Kindergarten teachers (L to R) Rachel Hardy, Anita Burden, Lindsey Holt, Jana Stafford and Lauren Banuelos model their “granny pants” before the game begins. Below, MES students make a splash on one of four water slides at Carnival Day. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Carnival

...From Front Page

The students rotated between activities throughout the day.

A plethora of carnival

games were played in the front parking lot. In the gym, kids enjoyed a movie and popcorn. In the cafeteria, Bingo was played. On the lawn outside were the water slides, and a picnic lunch was served. In a different area outside, kids had slush-

es and played more games, such as the popular Granny Pants, where kids try to throw beach balls into their teacher's oversized “granny pants.”

The TVA grant was originally announced during field day a few weeks earlier. MES will use the funds to upgrade the gymnasium.

McKenzie

...From Front Page

During the first reading of the budget, it was noted that there is no tax increase for the 2026-27 Fiscal Year, and employees will receive a 3% pay raise. In the General Fund, the City of McKenzie anticipates collecting \$5,911,972. In estimated expenditures, the amount is \$6,107,481. In order to create a balanced budget, \$195,509 will be moved from the City's Fund Balance.

The majority of funds collected come from two items: Local Taxes estimated at \$2,818,087 and Intergovernmental Taxes estimated at \$2,074,380.

Expenditures are as follows: General Government - \$1,091,895; Police Department - \$2,217,243; Fire Department - \$836,027; Streets and Highways - \$1,154,013;

Parks Department \$436,473; Tourism and Economic Development - \$73,080; Street Lighting - \$52,250; Debt Services - \$246,500.

Other budgets include the Theatre Fund with an anticipated revenue of \$49,700 and an estimated expenditure of \$49,400. The Solid Waste Fund has an anticipated revenue of \$582,200 and an estimated expenditure of \$522,383. The Drug Fund has an anticipated revenue of \$26,000 and an estimated expenditure of \$21,850. The Water and Sewer Fund has an anticipated revenue of \$2,103,500 and an estimated expenditure of \$2,691,690 with an additional \$36,00 from Nonoperating Revenue along with \$527,000 through grants.

Resolution 26-005 was approved, calling a November Municipal Election. The mayor's seat and three council seats will be placed on the November ballot. The

incumbents for the seats are Mayor Ryan Griffin, Bobby Young, Carol Armpriest and Tom Alexander.

Ordinance #578 is the rezoning of the property owned by the Perkins Corporation along Highland Drive that comprises Dollar General, Factory Connection, and Subway. At the request of Ed Perkins, who has a possible buyer for the property, the property will be zoned as B-2 (Highway Business) instead of being split into B-2 and R-3 (High Density Residential).

Prior to the meeting, the Council met with the McKenzie Alcohol Board and granted a Type B “On Premise” beer permit to Elizabeth Richardson dba The McKenzie Taproom, located at 27 Broadway St.

The next meeting, which will include the final reading of the 2026-27 Fiscal Year Budget, is June 11 at 6 p.m. at McKenzie City Hall.

Surplus

...From Front Page

into view.

Noted during the Thursday meeting, the Committee, along with the Central Finance Department, was able to create a budget that would include no tax increases and provide a 3% raise for employees.

First, in the General Fund, which is the largest portion of the budget, the total anticipated revenue is \$16,742,384. The total budgeted expenses are \$16,585,876. This creates a small surplus of \$156,508 to be added to the Reserve Fund Balance.

The largest expenses were based through the Public Safety at \$9,629,238. This includes the Sheriff's Depart-

ment (\$3,178,590), the Jail (\$3,873,843), Juvenile Services (\$1,789,716), the Fire Department (\$561,143) and additional departments.

Separate budgets included Solid Waste with \$2,590,167 in anticipated revenue and estimated expenditures of \$2,523,789 creating a \$66,378 surplus to be applied to the department's Fund Balance. The Highway Department has \$4,753,748 in anticipated revenue and estimated expenditures of \$4,630,935, creating a \$122,813 surplus to be applied to the department's Fund Balance.

The key issue with the Carroll County School budget comes with the system attempting to pass a forced balanced budget. The anticipated revenue is \$2,789,395 with budgeted expenses of \$4,228,095. If approved, this would draw \$1,409,700 from

the Fund Balance. Then on the transportation side the anticipated revenue is \$908,470 with expenditures estimated at \$973,040 forcing an additional \$64,750 from the Fund Balance.

Members of the Finance Ways and Means Committee, especially Chairman Darrell Ridgely and Commissioner John Austin, expressed their concerns about the stewardship of the school's finances. After three consecutive years of force balancing and with an estimated \$4.3 million in reserves at the end of the 2026-27 Fiscal Year, the Carroll County Commission may have to look at either absorbing or dissolving the Carroll County School System.

The Carroll County Commission should have the budget on its agenda for the June 8, 2026, meeting.

Land

...From Front Page

The main point of discussion centered on what Alderman Dan Dieringer called a “land use application” intended to be the “initial phase” of when someone wants to start a business or begin construction on his or her property. He clarified that the application is not a permit. The document is designed to create a paper trail and give codes enforcement officer Jim Seaton written authorization and documentation to check city ordinances.

The application document requires a \$50 fee, which goes toward Seaton's pay. Seaton is paid \$15 an hour for general work, including ordinance enforcement.

“The city is not making money off this application,” Dieringer said.

The application covers residential and accessory buildings, fences, deck exemptions, zoning ordinance exemptions and general business, but it excludes flea market businesses.

This exemption drew immediate criticism from concerned citizen Philip Colwell, who pointed out that flea markets are still businesses, even if they pay a separate \$20 annual fee set by the county.

Colwell said that allowing out-of-town flea market vendors to pay less than a brick-and-mortar city business owner is a “slap in the taxpayer's face.”

Dieringer dismissed the comparison, calling flea market businesses and those in the business district “apples and oranges,” but Colwell disagreed.

Citizen John Quinn, who had previously been sued by the town for operating a business out of his home without proper permits, challenged the application by presenting a copy of the Town of Trezevant's 2007 zoning or-



Left, Philip Colwell called the land-use application fee “unfair” to brick-and-mortar businesses. Right, Trezevant resident John Quinn challenges Alderman Dan Dieringer's proposed permit protocol. Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

dinance, noting that the rules do not currently require permits for accessory buildings or fences.

“Right now, there is nothing in those rules whatsoever that says you need a permit at all,” Quinn said. “So why do I have to come down to City Hall and fill out an application for something that doesn't need a permit, spend 50 bucks and tell you what I'm gonna do on my personal property? It's not yours, it's mine.”

Seaton intervened to clarify the intent, explaining that the application is merely the first procedural step in updating the town's codes.

“The next step will be to actually create the permits, because there are none in the ordinances as you pointed out,” Seaton said. “Once those permits are created and this is tied to them, an ordinance will be created updating the fact that you need permits for all this stuff involved.”

Quinn responded by accusing the board of making bureaucracy and trying to “steal money out of our pockets.” He concluded by requesting, for the second time, that the board pursue enforcement actions against all other non-compliant home occupations in town, just as they did against him.

Quinn then walked out of the meeting, calling upon Mayor Bobby Blaylock to retire.

Shortly afterward, the board voted unanimously to approve Dieringer's permit protocol.

Later in the meeting, property maintenance became another focus when Mary Jo Hall requested the board's support in enforcing regulations against a Trezevant property with exceptionally tall grass. She noted that previous enforcement attempts with different properties had failed in City Court.

Vice Mayor Pam Joyner affirmed the board's commitment. “These are our constituents,” she said, “and we are responsible for helping our town and our constituents to the best of our abilities.”

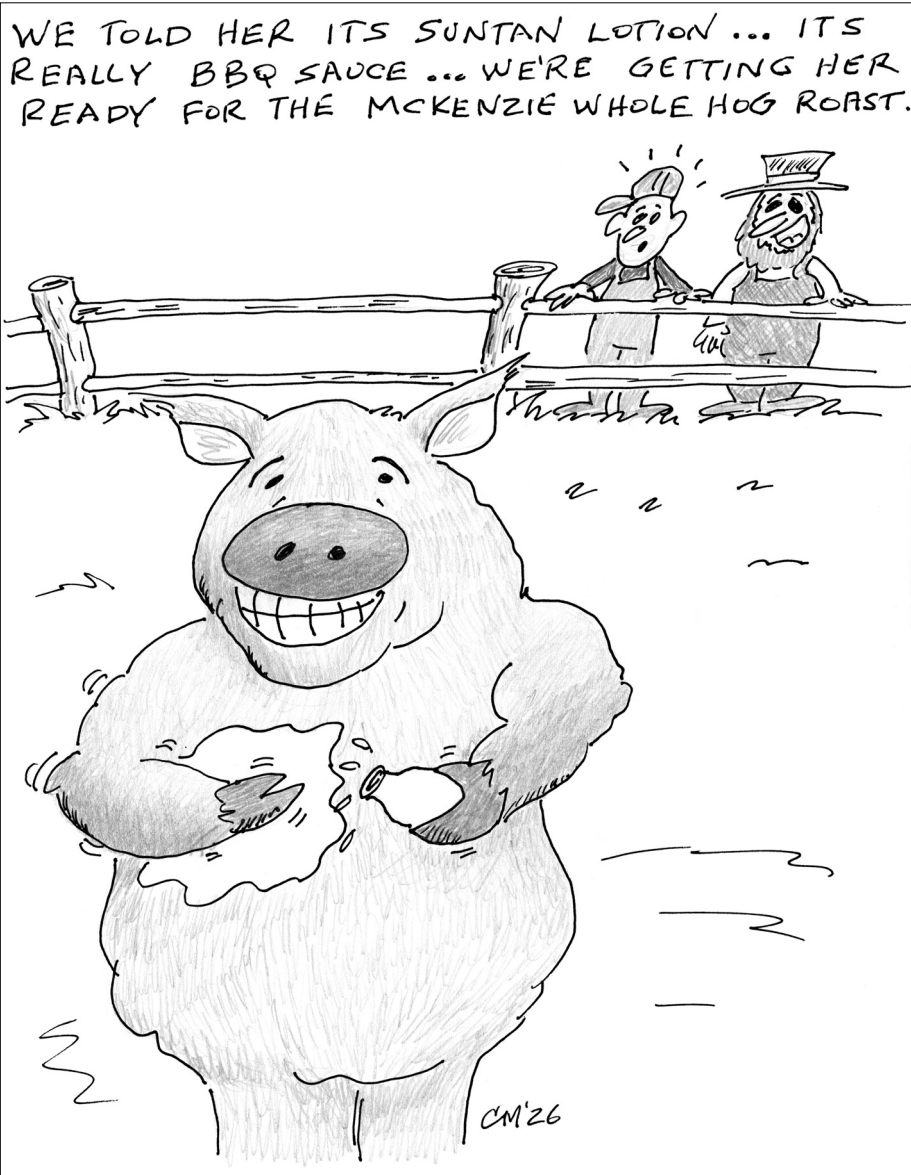
Town lawyer Charlie Trotter advised the town to bypass City Court and file for Chancery Court action instead.

Seaton noted a provision that allows the town to mow the lawn and bill the owner. If the cleanup cost reaches \$500, a lien can be placed against the property.

Seaton said that the board's support was key to moving forward with the new plan. The board then unanimously voted to support the renewed enforcement effort.

The board concluded the meeting by passing a resolution to call for the November 3, 2026, Municipal Election, which will include positions for three aldermen—Joyner, Dieringer and Barger—all for four-year terms.

Things In My Head with Charles Manfredi



Musings from the Gordon Browning Museum

DR. VICKIE SUMMERS
Executive Director

I am very proud of how our new war memorial in the museum has turned out and what it means. The collection of uniforms, medals, relics, gear, trophies and souvenirs had accumulated over a long period of time. To me, in the beginning, it seemed like an overwhelming chaotic spread, filled to the gills with an abundance of items intermingled with unrelated things. It seemed claustrophobic and musty, with a dark vibe. I was seeing the surface at face value. It was a big pile of stuff. I did not truly understand or appreciate how many lives these things represented in so many ways. The first task at hand was to pull everything out and clean it. We had to find a way to get from piled and cluttered to finding some kind of order. It seemed like an impossible task. As we were clearing and cleaning, we used the big double desk as a workstation to work through the several dozens of uniforms. We used soft brushes and hand vacuums to remove the dust to put them back in good order. As we handled each one, we realized how well-made they were, with the quality of rich pure wool and heavy cotton fabrics used to make them. These garments were made to hold up under the worst conditions of war. Many had been worn by people that I had grown up know-

ing. Soon, it was more than just a cleaning task. It became an act of respect as the focus came to the service and sacrifice of those that had worn each piece. After tending the uniforms, there was the task of going through items saved by veterans and families of those who didn't make it back home. Handling these things of war gave me a deeper understanding and awareness of what war really is — and its true cost. Soldiers by nature are required to be committed and obedient, at great personal cost. Some of them, too many of them, have paid the ultimate cost. The more that I handled their things, the more I felt affected. I would go home thinking about what conditions they had to endure. I thought about how homesick they must have been, how they had to keep going no matter what, and the peril they faced constantly. I thought of their existence in terrible weather and even worse conditions. I thought of what they had to see and do and how it must have been a burden they carried lifelong if they were fortunate enough to get back home to something near a normal life. People had brought the things from their loved ones who had served. They brought them to help the community remember who they were and what they did for all of us. We tried to keep the collection of each person together rather than it all being scattered. Some

of them had a large box of various items, while others might just have a thing or two. It was important to do the best we could to present these things that had been used for our protection at great cost. There is one young soldier that I just haven't been able to stop thinking about. He was so young—just barely older than my 17-year-old grandson. There is a picture of him with his dog in front of the house on what seemed to be a happy day. There is his high school graduation picture and program. There are his letters saying he is waiting for a letter from home and sure would like for them to send him a candy bar. There is the dreaded telegram with the follow up letter from the war department. There is the document of appreciation signed by FDR himself. There is the information about his interment in Belgium, and later his coming home to Mount Olivet here in McKenzie. There is his purple heart. There is his last letter that says he is still looking forward to that candy bar. He was so young. He will always be the true cost of war. We must carefully preserve their things with true reverence, tell their stories of perseverance and sacrifice and recognize the grief of loss. My gratitude has come to a new level. Let's take this Memorial Day to remember their service. 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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's Not Illegal If I Do It

I don't understand why more people aren't upset with the redistricting. Last time I checked the electorate chooses their representative not the other way around. I understand the reasoning for redistricting to better support a changing population, but how does splitting McKenzie into two districts help anyone? While politicians may argue that Tennessee is a conservative state, and they are simply protecting that status, they are more likely trying to entrench that status, latching on to power like a tick. For one, Tennessee didn't use to be Republican majority state, it was Democratic up through the 90's, even having a Democratic governor until 2010; so, times change, they may change back. I say let it change naturally, if it pushes more conservative, so be it, but let this happen naturally. But even that conservative sta-

tus is in question, if we look at the voter turnout for the most recent primary, more independents showed up. Shouldn't Tennessee then be a more independently minded state? Shouldn't a state be representative of all of its populace and not just the simple majority? But let's get back to the process as a whole. We had a law on the books from 1972 that prohibited this mid-decade redistricting. Instead of following this, they repeal it and force through a new map, in the middle of a primary no-less, giving affected candidates about a week to re-campaign. I thought we were going to drain the swamp, but apparently our governor has turned into Shrek. Andrew Evans McKenzie, TN

HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

Why I Am Not A Writer

Mostly, it's because you have to think too much. You have to focus and keep your mind on track. It sure helps if you are really smart. A little training in word-smithing would be an asset. And a smidgen more than a working knowledge of your subject matter would seem to be a prerequisite. Unfortunately, I am notoriously weak in all of those departments. I learned most everything I know from Leon. Who, if you might remember, when Mother was getting all over him for failing English in high school, he famously answered, "Shoot, Mom, I already know more English now than I am ever going to use." I don't have the imagination of Edgar Allan Poe. Or the command of the English language like Samuel Johnson. James Fenimore Cooper could write a whole chapter describing a maple leaf turning from green to golden yellow. And Will Rogers could, and did, capture the heartbeat of America in most everything he ever penned. I admire those kinds of guys. They make it look effortless. But I'd bet we would all be surprised at the work, worry, toil, and stress they put into the wonderful works they produced. We just see the end product. Not the crumpled-up pages thrown at the nearest waste basket. Gosh, we have folks at this newspaper that are just like them. They excel in the art of writing. They enlighten, teach, entertain, update, and "keep us in the loop" on a weekly basis. Please don't mistake me for one of them. I don't have a plan. Or much of an idea as to what I am doing.

When someone asks how I got into this business, the honest answer is "accidentally." I certainly don't have a writing style. I just think of something Leon, Hollis Mayo, or Beverly Sparks did back in 1961, and I scribble it down right quick before I forget it! I have spent years churning out a "weakly" story that I hoped would be more like me "telling it to you face to face" than something that was written down. If I have a goal, it is simply to brighten someone's day. I have no political axe to grind. I'm not mad at anybody. I am not trying to suggest how you live. I don't give advice. And I work hard at trying to make my "stuff" upbeat and happy. I don't necessarily try to be funny. I am not a comedian. I don't try to pull at your heartstrings. You can watch the Hallmark Channel for that. And goodness gracious alive, I never wax eloquently. I am not smart enough to do that. I try with all my heart to do my very best each week to get some kind of coherent article turned in before another looming deadline. It is not as easy as you might think. And it does not get easier with time. I've already told you most of the good stories. If it would have helped had Leon left a diary. But that might have exposed several guilty parties.... I have retired twice from this job. And yet, I am still here. Mostly because of the people. I casually mention Bobby Brewer teaching me how to catch those goldfish out of the concrete "pond" in the town square. That's all you get. But I remember Bobby in a hundred other

ways: the sideways smirk on his face when he came up with a good idea, the pillow fights in our back bedroom, the rides through town on his Cushman Eagle, blowing those green army men off the porch with homemade gunpowder, the Cherry Bombs in mailboxes.... Every article comes alive for me. Because I don't make anything up. I do embellish a bit from time to time, as any story teller is allowed to do. Gus Radford and Paul Newmon taught me how to do that years ago by spinning a few "wild ones" at the service station across from the courthouse in Huntingdon, Tennessee. Come to think of it, you would be much better off if Gus, Paul, and Leon had been telling you their stories all these years. Now, those guys could entertain the socks right off your feet! I do appreciate you putting up with me. It means more to me than you realize. You get a story. I get a walk down memory lane. A do over if you will. You get a tale from 1958. I smell the smoke. I feel the wind in my face. I hear the laughter. My knee hurts all over again when the bike doesn't quite clear the far side of the big ditch. My ears ring when I talk about Eddie Carden slapping my football helmet. Anytime I mention being a high school freshman, my anxiety level goes up two notches. ALL of you have afforded me the opportunity to renew old acquaintances and make so many new friends. I am blessed at both ends of my life. I fear I won't live long enough to pay you all back.... Respectfully, Kes kesley45@aol.com

THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

No One Wants to Be 'The Only One'

Quite a number of years ago, I recommended a book to a client of mine, thinking it would be helpful to her. When she came back for her next appointment, I asked her what she thought about the book. Pulling it out of her purse, she said, "You know what the most helpful thing about this book was?" I hadn't a clue and said so. "It's what's on the front cover." Pointing, she explained, "Right here it says, 'over three million copies sold.' It's a relief to

know I'm not the only one who struggles with this problem." Isn't that what we all want, to feel included with others, even if that connection is the result of shared pain and problems? I think the reason we're reluctant to share our troubles with others is because we're afraid of being judged, that others won't understand, that they might say unkind things about us or those we love. Unfortunately, by holding our hurt in we increase the feelings of shame and despair and aloneness.

Many times I've said, "If we knew the number of people around us each day who are so weighed down with troubles that just making it through the day is a struggle, we would be much kinder, gentler, and more forgiving people." I'm asking you to do that just for today. Be kinder. Be gentler. Be more forgiving. Somebody needs that from you. *Taken from The Wit and Wisdom of David Johnson, Volume III: A Harrowing Halloween Tale

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Frank Gibson, Gleason Native, Honored Journalist, Dies

Frank Gibson, a Gleason native, Gleason Class of 1965, and a respected Tennessee journalist, died Sunday morning, May 17.

He is survived by his wife, Kathy; his daughter, Amy Sullivan, her husband David, and two grandchildren – Alexander Gibson and Keely Caroline. Memorial services are expected to be held in Middle Tennessee at a later date.

Frank Gibson was a highly celebrated Tennessee journalist, open-government advocate, and a 2018 inductee into the Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame. Over a career spanning more than 50 years, Gibson made a profound impact on the state's media landscape, transitionally splitting his professional life into three distinct, successful chapters: journalism, open-government advocacy, and legislative public policy.

Here is a breakdown of his life, career, and legacy:

Gleason Roots: Gibson was born and raised in Gleason, graduating from Gleason High School in 1965. His interest in journalism sparked early; as a high schooler, he wrote about local events for newspapers in nearby McKenzie and Dresden, and telephoned sports scores into the Memphis Commercial Appeal.

College and Military Service: After getting his start in the newsroom, his career was temporarily interrupted when he was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1966. He spent his service continuing his media path with the Armed Forces Radio and Television Service. After his military discharge, he attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where he served as the editor-in-chief of the student campus newspaper, *The Daily Beacon*.

Career at The Tennessean

Gibson's 40-year tenure at Nashville's flagship newspaper, *The Tennessean*, began just four months after his high school graduation when he boldly asked a visiting sportswriter how to land a journalism scholarship and was offered a job as a copyboy instead.

He quickly rose through the ranks from a weekend police reporter to a shrewd and dogged political reporter.

Political Editor: Gibson served as the political editor of *The Tennessean* for more than 12 years, covering local, state, and national politics.

Accolades: His reporting earned him numerous prestigious awards from the Associated Press, United Press International, and the Society of Professional Journalists (SPJ) Green Eynshade Award.

Champion of Open Government & TCOG

Encouraged by *The Tennessean's* legendary editor and publisher, John Seigenthaler, Gibson became deeply involved in Freedom of Information (FOI) initiatives.

Founding TCOG: In 2003, spotting a desperate need for a permanent entity to fight government secrecy in Tennessee, Gibson led the effort to establish the Tennessee Coalition for Open Government (TCOG). He served as its first executive director from 2003 to 2011.

Legislative Impact: Under his leadership, TCOG coordinated a statewide public records audit that revealed citizens and journalists were being denied public records a third of the time. This data forced the Tennessee General Assembly to pass sweeping reforms in 2008, requiring government entities to provide a legal basis for denying records, creating the Office of Open Records Counsel, and forcing prompt responses to requests.

The "Help Line": Gibson personally set up and answered TCOG's public helpline, assisting citizens and reporters navigating barriers to public meetings and records. He also co-authored *Keys to Open Government*, a comprehensive guide to the state's sunshine laws.

SPJ President: Gibson was an active member of the Society of Professional Journalists his entire career and served as its national president in 1990. During the bicentennial of the Constitution, he chaired SPJ's "Project Watchdog," a \$1 million national public education campaign about the importance of a free press.

Tennessee Press Association (TPA): In his "third career," Gibson transitioned to the Tennessee Press Association, where he served as the public policy director for six years. In this role, he represented more than 120 newspapers before the Tennessee General Assembly, defending the press against legislative efforts to close public records.

Retirement: Frank Gibson retired from the TPA in 2017. In late 2023, he was honored at TCOG's 20th-anniversary dinner for his foundational role in shaping government transparency in the state.

But Frank never forgot his hometown of Gleason - and the people there who helped him along the way.

In the year 2025, Frank and his wife, Kathy attended the reunion of the Class of 1965. It was also a celebration to honor the 1964 football team.

In collaboration with his former high school teacher, Suzanne Russell of McKenzie, here is what he wrote for The Banner last year upon visiting with friends at Gleason, during the Tater Town Special in 2025.

Here are my thoughts as best I can express them on paper," Suzanne Russell wrote. "I finally captured the phrase that rings in my brain when I go back to the place where I grew up. It is from the novelist Thomas Wolfe who said, 'You can't go home again.' Because the place and I have both changed, a true return to what I once knew is impossible. Those beloved familiar faces I once knew—those who loved, nourished, and sheltered me—are no longer there. Circumstances have changed; landmarks are altered or gone; so much of the environment is different.

"Yes, I can physically return to 'my hometown,' the place where I grew up, but it is no longer HOME!"

Gibson wrote, "I moved away in 1965 to go to college. I returned occasionally – whenever I could – and friends in Gleason – even at the 10th, 40th, 50th, and now the 60th reunion – made me feel that I had come home. Then I read Ms. Suzanne's comments on the subject and rode up North Cedar Street in Gleason, where I grew up.

"The four-room house with the closed-in back porch has been torn down and replaced by the one-big-room Rotary Community Center. The large yard I played in and the two gardens my grandmother toiled in hour after hour are now part of a sports complex."

Frank Gibson was a retired reporter and editor at The Tennessean in Nashville and a member of the Tennessee Journalism Hall of Fame. He was named 2018 Journalism and Electronic Media Alumnus of The Year by the University of Tennessee's College of Communication & Information.



Frank Gibson

Obituaries

CAROLYN HIGHFILL 1932 – 2026

MCKENZIE — Graveside funeral services for Carolyn Rebecca Highfill were Sunday, May 17, 2026, at Mt. Olivet Cemetery in McKenzie.

Carolyn Rebecca Highfill, 94, of McKenzie, died at The Waters of McKenzie on Thursday, May 14, 2026. Born in McKenzie on January 21, 1932, to the late Willie Rodgers and Doris Mann.

She is survived by her son, Roger Highfill; two grandchildren, Rina (Steve) Prosser and Mona (Steve) Cude; five great-grandchildren, Colby (Hannah Burnett) Prosser, Wendy (Zach) Wallace, Shelby (Andrew) Shankle, Luke (Nora) Prosser, and Abbey (Cole Williams) Prosser; and eight great-great-grandchildren, Boone Shankle, Nora Wallace, Sawyer Hampton, Haylen Shankle, Janie Wallace, Reid Burnett, Miles Wallace, and Slade Williams.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father; her beloved husband, William "Bill" Highfill; her brother, Joel Olds; her sister-in-law, Marion Olds; and her daughter-in-law, Martha Highfill.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home.

OTTIS RAY DUNNING 1953 – 2026

MCKENZIE — Ottis Ray Dunning, 90, died on Friday, May 15, 2026, at Patriot Healthcare in Paris.

Ottis was born on March 2, 1936, to Hillrie and Ramele Dunning, who preceded him in death. He was also preceded in death by his brothers, Delmer Dunning and Jerrell Dunning; and his sister-in-law, Sarah Dunning.

Seventy-three years ago, on July 11, 1953, he married Marie Kelly, who survives. Others left to cherish his memory are two daughters, Dixie (Jimmy) Jobe of Dover, Tenn.; and Deveda (Clay) Clayton of Hughes, Ark.; one sister, Audean Halley of Mississippi; three grandsons, 12 great-grandchildren, and seven

great-great-grandchildren. Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home conducted memorial services on Sunday, May 17, 2026, Burial was in Enon Baptist Church Cemetery.

Eduardo Martinez; five grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. Dilday-Carter Funeral Home.

JOE WILKES 1944 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mr. Joe Wilkes, 81, of Huntingdon, died Saturday, May 9, 2026, at Baptist Memorial Hospital.

Services will be held privately.

Joe was born on November 12, 1944, to the late Bennie Wilkes and Lillie Wilkes. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother, Bobby Joe Wilkes.

He is survived by his wife, Peggy Wilkes; one son, Kevin (Heather) Wilkes of Clarksburg; one daughter, Kim (Michael) Bales of Huntingdon; and four grandchildren.

WILLIAM GERAUD KELLY 1981 – 2026

GREENFIELD — Geraud Kelly, 45, of Greenfield, died on Thursday, April 23, 2026, at his home.

Funeral services were Saturday, May 2, 2026, at Williams Funeral Home in Greenfield, with Rev. Leroy Brent officiating.

Geraud is survived by his parents, Billy and Mabel Adkisson Kelly of Greenfield; three aunts, Mary Brown of Hopkinsville, Ky., Angelene Moore of Lexington, Ky., and Lula Williamson of Detroit, Mich.; one great aunt, Brellyn Johnson of Trezevant; and two widowed aunts, Ophelia Adkisson of Racine, Wis., and Lurlene Adkisson of Atwood; three cousins, Zandie Tansil of South Fulton, Tenn., Cathy Anello and Dewitt Douglas of St. Louis, Mo.

He is preceded in death by an aunt, Mattie Taylor; and uncles, Oscar Priest Adkisson, Earl Adkisson, Geno Brown, Robert Moore and Larry Joe Williamson.

He was loved by all who knew him.

Geraud will be missed and remembered by a host of relatives and friends.



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Tennessee Ranked 43rd in Nation For Senior Health, Wellbeing

America's Health Rankings has released its 2026 Senior Report, which ranks Tennessee as 43rd in the nation for senior health and wellbeing.

The 2026 Senior Report ranks all 50 states across dozens of measures for adults 65 and older. Vermont made the first place spot, while Louisiana landed at 50th in the nation for senior health.

Key findings indicate that Tennessee's nursing homes have improved 33% in quality between September 2024 and November 2025. Tennessee has a low prevalence of low-care nursing home residents and a high number of geriatric clinicians per 100,000 older adults.

However, Tennessee has a high early death rate and low SNAP participation among older adults in poverty.

See where Tennessee stands in Social and Economic Factors, Physical Environment, Clinical Care, Behaviors and Health Outcomes for seniors:

Tennessee is ranked 45th in Health Outcomes, which includes Behavioral Health, Mortality and Physical Health.

Under Behavioral Health,

Tennessee seniors are ranked 31st in Drug Deaths and 34th in Suicide.

Under Mortality, Tennessee seniors are ranked 44th in Early Death.

Under Physical Health, Tennessee seniors are ranked 45th in Falls and 36th in Multiple Chronic Conditions.

Tennessee is ranked 42nd overall in Behaviors, which includes Nutrition and Physical Activity and Sleep Health.

Under Nutrition and Physical Activity, Tennessee seniors are ranked 36th in Exercise and 34th in Fruit and Vegetable Consumption.

Under Sleep Health, Tennessee seniors are ranked 20th in Insufficient Sleep.

Tennessee is ranked 40th overall in Clinical Care, which includes Access to Care and Quality of Care.

Under Access to Care, Tennessee is ranked 20th in Geriatric Clinicians and 42nd in Home Health Care Workers.

Under Quality of Care, Tennessee is ranked 30th in Hospice Care, 30th in Nursing Home Quality and 32nd in Preventable Hospitalizations.

Tennessee is ranked 39th overall in Social and Economic Factors, including Community and Family Safety, Economic Resources and Social Support and Engagement.

Under Community and Family Safety, Tennessee is ranked 22nd in Internet Crime and 45th in Motor Vehicle Deaths involving seniors.

Under Economic Resources, Tennessee is ranked 44th in Community Support Expenditures, 19th in Food Insecurity, 29th in Poverty and 38th in SNAP Reach.

Under Social Support and Engagement, Tennessee is ranked 31st in High-Speed Internet, eighth in Low-Care Nursing Home Residents, 41st in Risk of Social Isolation and 17th in Volunteerism.

Tennessee is ranked ninth overall in Physical Environment, which includes Air and Water Quality and Housing.

Under Air and Water Quality, Tennessee is ranked 23rd in Air Pollution and 15th in Drinking Water Violations.

Under Housing, Tennessee is ranked eighth in Housing Cost Burden for seniors.

County Students Receive UT Martin Mass Media, Strategic Communication Scholarships

MARTIN (May 12) — Caleb Buchanan (right) of McKenzie, and Owen Kreuziger of Huntingdon (not pictured) each received the University of Tennessee at Martin Department of Mass Media and Strategic Communication (MMSC) Freshman Scholarship at the MMSC Awards Ceremony held April 9. Buchanan is a senior at Enlightium Academy, and Kreuziger is a senior at Huntingdon High School. Case Gatlin, a senior at Dyer County High School, also received the MMSC scholarship. Buchanan is pictured with Dr. Angie Glunz, assistant professor of mass media and strategic communication at the MMSC Awards Ceremony in the Duncan Ballroom in UT Martin's Boling University Center.



Phipps Pharmacy Details the Future Of Healthcare at Rotary Club Meeting

MCKENZIE (May 12) — In a presentation that blended clinical innovation with a staunch defense of community-based care, Jay Phipps, PharmD, and Chris Hall of Phipps Pharmacy addressed the Rotary Club of McKenzie on May 12. The two outlined a vision in which pharmacists do more than dispense pills—they serve as primary healthcare providers, insurance navigators, and wellness coaches.

Phipps recently relocated to a new, expanded location in McKenzie on Highland Drive.

“We have grown from one full-time and one part-time employee to a little over fifty people, and we’re going to open our fifth location in the next sixty days. We’re in Waverly, Huntingdon, Jackson, McKenzie, and will be in Martin really soon,” said Dr. Phipps.

Phipps said he grew up in East Tennessee, had a speech impediment, grew up on a tobacco farm, and utilized government-subsidized lunch. He was the first in his family to earn a college degree.

Dr. Phipps highlighted a significant shift in the pharmacy's operations: the MedSync model. Designed to eliminate the “multiple trips” frustration, the program aligns all of a patient's medications due dates in an effort to reduce the number of trips to the pharmacy.

“The average patient sees their physician three times a year, but they see their pharmacist 37 times,” Phipps noted. By turning these frequent visits into scheduled “appointments,” the pharmacy can screen for drug interactions and integrate vitals management, such as blood pressure checks, directly into the pickup routine.



Jay Phipps, PharmD; Rotary President Ricky Price; and Chris Hall, Phipps Pharmacy associate.

Looking toward the future, Phipps predicted that the next generation of pharmacists—including his son, Sawyer—will primarily see patients in a clinical capacity rather than standing behind a counting tray.

The presentation delved into the pharmacy's expanding wellness and longevity programs. Dr. Phipps shared personal success with NAD+ therapy, a treatment focused on mitochondrial energy metabolism.

“It makes me feel like I’m 30 again,” Phipps told the club, noting improved sleep and the stamina to handle 17-hour workdays.

Beyond longevity, the pharmacy is focusing on supporting muscle mass in aging populations and offering B12 clinics to boost energy and focus.

A portion of the talk addressed the complexities of modern insurance. Phipps Pharmacy has launched Health Insurance Solutions, utilizing licensed agents along with pharmacists, nurses, and technicians to help seniors navigate Medicare.

Dr. Phipps said some pharmacies use Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs), who use the practice to steer patients toward unnecessary services. He criticized the vertical integration of companies that often drives

patients toward their own mail-order or retail chains through punitive pricing at independent pharmacies.

“We will accept any reasonable contract,” Phipps stated, “but we resist anti-competitive steering that limits a patient's choice.” He cited recent findings from a Tennessee audit showing that PBM-owned pharmacies sometimes pay themselves significantly higher rates than they pay independent competitors.

As the largest compounder in West Tennessee, Phipps Pharmacy continues to offer tailored medications that the “big box” stores cannot, such as gluten-free formulations, for patients who need to avoid products with gluten.

Chris Hall spoke to the “why” behind their mission, emphasizing the personal bonds formed during daily deliveries within their 70-mile service radius. “Take care of the patient first, and the money will work itself out,” Hall said, recounting stories of home-cooked meals offered by grateful patients during his home-delivery rounds.

This community-first philosophy was underscored by the pharmacy's past relief efforts, including coordinating 18 collection sites to support victims of the Waverly, Tenn., floods.

McKenzie Seniors Walk Through Schools



MCKENZIE (May 15) — The McKenzie High School Class of 2026 publicly donned their caps and gowns for the first time Friday morning as they walked the halls of the three district schools that brought them to this momentous occasion. Pictured are Brody Berryhill and Gracie Aird leading the way through McKenzie Elementary School. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

An African Student in Search Of the ‘American Dream’

BY ARTEM DZUN

MCKENZIE — The quiet charm of McKenzie, Tennessee, might seem a world away from the bustling energy of Kinshasa, the capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Yet, for Prunelle Musumba Beya, an international student at Bethel University, this transatlantic journey has been a profound exploration of discovery, cultural adaptation, and personal growth. Arriving in the United States in 2023 with aspirations of realizing the “American Dream” - a vision often shaped by movies and fueled by a Renaissance scholarship - Prunelle has navigated the complexities of a new continent, encountered unexpected cultural shocks, and discovered a sense of belonging in a place she once considered far away.

Kinshasa, Prunelle's vibrant hometown situated along the Congo River, offered a dynamic introduction to life. “It’s very crowded, but it’s a small city at the same time,” she explains. When she imagines introducing an American friend to her home, her thoughts naturally turn to a local resort that showcases Congolese nature and adventure, complete with safaris, waterparks and ziplining.

The transition to the United States, however, presented its own unique blend of challenges and excitement. “My dream was to come to the United States,” Prunelle shares. “I’ve seen it in movies, in videos. So it’s like a dream coming true for me.” The “American dream,” a concept deeply ingrained through the media, began to feel sensible upon her arrival.

Fortunately, Prunelle wasn’t entirely alone in this new chapter. Her sister, who had been in the U.S. for seven years and was a Bethel University alumna, provided crucial family support. This connection eased her adaptation, allowing her to focus on her studies and a passion that has followed her from Kinshasa: singing. Prunelle was a dedicated member of her church choir for six years back home, a tradition deeply woven into her family. The opportunity to join the Bethel University choir, facilitated by her Renaissance scholarship, felt like a happy coincidence, allowing her to merge her love for singing with her academic pursuits. “Singing has always been part of me,” she states.

Her initial impressions of McKenzie and Bethel University brought a mix of delightful surprises. While she had mentally prepared for a smaller environment than her home metropolis, the town's scale still represented a significant shift. “I think everything I was seeing in the movies, I started seeing it here,” she recalls, particularly charmed by glimpses of “cowboy” culture and a traditional bonfire event during homecoming. These seemingly small details, reminiscent of American cinema, fostered a surprising sense of familiarity and welcome.

However, the cultural shifts



Prunelle Musumba Beya is a Bethel student from the Democratic Republic of Congo.

were quite pronounced. The relaxed dress code at university, where students attended classes in pajamas, was a huge change in contrast to the formal school uniforms of her home country. “When I saw pajamas in class, I was like, oh, okay. I did not know it was that level,” she remarks with a laugh. This casualness extended to other aspects, like the surprisingly pleasant gesture of doors being constantly held open for others, and the ubiquitous presence of hamburgers and fries. While initially exciting, later it eventually presented a consistent dietary challenge.

Stereotypes have also been a recurring encounter for Prunelle. She often fields questions about the common, and often inaccurate, perception that “animals are walking around in the street” in Africa. Rather than taking offense, she chooses to educate, preferring a proactive approach over just feeling insulted.

The demanding schedule of American university life, especially when balancing academics, work, and extra-curriculars, proved to be a significant adjustment. The Renaissance scholarship, which supported her first two years, included daily choir practices and travel for performances. This, combined with her work in the campus cafeteria and her studies, became overwhelming. “It was really busy for me, and I couldn’t... I had to drop something to adjust,” she explains. She ultimately chose to step away from the choir to find a better balance, a decision she misses but understands.

Despite these challenges, Prunelle's journey has undeniably shaped her. “The mentality, like how people think over here is really different from how people think back home,” she ob-

serves. The open-mindedness she has cultivated in the U.S. contrasts with what she describes as a more “close-minded” environment back home. She believes this personal growth has been transformative, particularly in her ability to listen more and judge less - a conscious effort to overcome ingrained habits. She also notes physical changes, including a newfound dedication to working out, a practice not common for her back home.

Looking ahead, Prunelle aspires to return to the Democratic Republic of Congo to invest in agriculture, recognizing the country's rich soil and vast potential. Her goal is to elevate her family's farm and contribute to the nation's development. “At the end of the day, you want to go home,” she states, emphasizing a deep sense of connection to her roots.

“Discovery, growth, fun, open mindset, and experience” is Prunelle's summary of her experience in five words. She believes the American dream, characterized by “money, growth, freedom, and being able to do whatever you want,” is still reachable, and she is actively pursuing it. Her advice to her 17-year-old self, standing on the precipice of this adventure, is simple yet profound: “It’s okay to say no.” This lesson, learned through experience, highlights the importance of prioritizing one's well-being and academic goals among the charm of new experiences. Prunelle Musumba Beya's story is a testament to the transformative power of embracing the unknown and the resilience of the human spirit!

About the author: Artem Dzun is an international student from Russia at Bethel University. He graduated in May 2026 and plans to return to his home country.

MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT

The County Public Records Commission meets Thursday, May 21 at 9 a.m. in the Carroll County Complex Conference Room, 625 High Street, Huntingdon, TN 38344.

A8502/20-1

Marriage Licenses

Alex Matthew O'Neill, 32, of Jackson to Hannah Elizabeth Acuff, 27, of Atwood.
Lexus Nicole Bunn, 22, of Huntingdon to Ryan Christopher Lynn Eubanks, 22, of Huntingdon.
Rachel Lynn Edlin, 29, of McKenzie to Jacob Harrison

Horn, 29, of McKenzie.
Terry Earl Everett, 60, of Huntingdon to Pamela Sue Haggard Carter, 66, of Huntingdon.
Stephen Troy Baker, 20, of Huntingdon to Elizabeth Morgan Harbison, 21, of Huntingdon.

Carroll County Sheriff's Reports

Theft of Property — On May 8, Sgt. Walker responded to a report of theft at a convenience store on Main Street in Atwood and spoke with the business owner regarding stolen merchandise. The owner advised that surveillance footage showed a customer taking a pair of sunglasses from the store without paying.
The footage showed the individual remove the sunglasses from the counter area and leave the business without purchasing them. The cashier on duty identified the individual as someone known to the business, and deputies later compared surveillance footage with a photograph of Steven Cunningham, 45, of Dresden, confirming him as the individual involved.
The sunglasses were valued at approximately \$20. Cunningham was issued a citation for theft of property under \$1,000.
This incident occurred in Carroll County.
Driving on Revoked License for DUI — On May 9, Deputy Ezell responded to a third-party report of a domestic disturbance at a residence on Ellis Road in Buena Vista. Before deputies arrived, the subject had already left the area in a white Ford pickup with his six-year-old daughter, who was reportedly not secured in a child restraint seat.
Corporal Boaz later observed the vehicle traveling on Highway 114 and saw it returning toward the residence. Deputies conducted a stop and made contact with Phillip Connell, 36, of Buena Vista. Connell advised he only possessed an identification card.
Dispatch confirmed Connell's Tennessee driving privileges had been revoked due to a prior DUI conviction from 2017. Deputies also learned Connell was currently on probation with the United States Probation Office.
Connell was arrested and transported to the Carroll County Jail and charged with driving on revoked for DUI, first offense.
This incident occurred in Carroll County.
Theft from Residence — On May 10, Deputy Flaurr responded to a report of missing property from a residence and made contact with a complainant who reported several household items had been removed from the home.
The complainant stated she had left for work around 4 a.m. and returned home later that night to discover multiple items missing, including a 65-inch television, standing pantry, ice machine, microwave, refrigerator, entertainment center and other property.
The complainant believed the items may have been taken in retaliation related to a pending order of protection hearing. Deputies were advised the residence had previously sustained damage to the front door from an earlier incident, leaving no way to secure the home.
The complainant also reported the individuals believed responsible had previously stayed at the residence and had recently removed their belongings. A dog was also reported missing from the property.
This incident occurred in Carroll County.
Motor Vehicle Theft — On May 12, Deputy Williams responded to a residence on Fields School Road in McKenzie regarding a stolen vehicle report. The complainant reported his 1997 Ford F-150 pickup had been taken from the property.
The complainant advised he last saw the truck on May 11 around 7:30 a.m. He described the vehicle as a two-tone single cab truck with a blue top and beige lower section, with peeling paint and clear coat damage on the hood.
The complainant also reported a Savage Mark II .22 caliber rifle had been inside the truck behind the seat. The rifle was described as spray-painted green and equipped with an external magazine.
The vehicle and firearm were entered into NCIC as stolen.
This incident occurred in Carroll County.
Counterfeit Currency Investigation — On May 10, Deputy Boaz responded to a residence on Highway 105 in Trezevant regarding a counterfeit bill complaint. A complainant reported discovering a counterfeit \$100 bill after attempting to use it at a business.
The complainant stated she and a friend had gone out to eat on May 8 and later attempted to use the bill. While handling it, the bill tore and employees checked it, determining it appeared suspicious.
Deputies observed the bill and immediately noted differences in size and coloring from a legitimate bill. The back of the bill was also marked as a copy. The complainant later researched the serial number online, which identified it as counterfeit.
The complainant could not determine where or when the bill had originally been received.
This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Carroll County General Sessions Report

HUNTINGDON (May 13) — Ken R. Drinkard, Old Lavinia Road, Cedar Grove, bound over to the Grand Jury of the Circuit Court on charges of Child Abuse/Neglect/Endangerment, Schedule II and IV Drugs-Manufacture, Deliver, Sell or Possess, Possession of a Firearm with Intent to Go Armed-Dangerous Felony, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.
Roberta Drinkard, Old Lavinia Road, Cedar Grove, bound over to the Grand Jury on charges of Child Abuse/Neglect/Endangerment, Simple Possession-Casual Exchange, and Possession of Drug Paraphernalia.
Matthew Christopher Lee Miller, Bradford Highway, Milan, bound over to the Grand Jury on charges of Evading Arrest-Vehicle, Reckless Driving, Driving While License Suspended.
Johnny Lee Brogdon, Jr., Ripley, Tenn., guilty Driving While License Suspended - Second or Subsequent Offense, \$250 fine, probation.
Allen Camp Bell, Highway 70, Jackson, guilty, Probation Violation, probation extended.
Matthew Celustra, Bethel Court, McKenzie, dismissed, Public Intoxication, dismissed, Resist Stop.
Ronald Cooper, Mulderkink Lane, Paris, guilty, DUI-First Offense, \$350 fine, ignition interlock, probation, not to drive for one year, 48 hours jail, DUI School, cognitive behavioral training.
Stacy Garner, Barksdale Avenue, McKenzie, guilty, Driver's License to be Carried and Exhibited; guilty, Failure to Appear, must report to jail on May 15; dismissed, Violation of Display of Registration Plate.
Jason McCalister, Lee Street, Dyer, guilty, Probation Violation, extended probation.
Steven Vineyard, Old 22 Lane, Huntingdon, guilty, Failure to Appear; guilty, Probation Violation, 10 days jail, extended probation.

Property Transfers

Janice L. Vinson to Austin and wife Alexis Houston Prater in District 5.
James Cowan as executor to James Cowan in District 21.
Savannah Rhea Smothers a/k/a Savannah Rhea Smothers Emerson to Terry Matthew and wife Sarah Gale Page in District 16.
Juan C. and wife Maria E. Alonso Aldayturriaga to Maraldi Properties, LLC in District 16.
Juan C. Aldayturriaga and others to Maraldi Properties, LLC in District 11.
Kenneth Todd to Teri Rutledge in District 11.
Mark P. and wife Linda Joy Roney a/k/a Linda J. Roney to Gary Allan Roney in District 7.
AGM LLC dba Steadfast Home Buyers to Carolyn J. Rye in District 11.
Tim D. Smothers to Kevin Michael Smothers in District 11.
Tom Reaves to Susan Lofaro and others in District 4.
Alex Campbell and others to Alex Campbell and Bethany A. Wardlow, trustees. No district listed.
Jane Ann Law to United States of America in District 22.
Marland D. Gilbert and others to Kenneth Lee Jr. and wife Jobina Gordon and others in District 11.
Melvin Scott to William McElroy, trustee of the Camp Tyson Road Trust in District 4.
Lee Matthew Cook and Lauren A. McArthur Cook to Humble Builders, LLC in District 16.
Johnnie D. Petering to Diebold Enterprises LLC in District 11.
Jason and wife Carson Erin Hicks to Justin D. and

wife Audrea L. Abbott in District 11.
Tamika Foster as trustee to Brian K. Wallace in District 4.
Sharon Denise Gordon and Zachary L. Jamison to Zachary L. Jamison in District 15.
Larry Deere and others to Larry Deere and others in District 21.
William Lee to Elizabeth R. Mann in District 10.
Mark P. and wife Linda J. Roney to Jeffrey Neil Roney and Gary Allan Roney in District 7.
Sherrie A. Hamilton to Alexander David and wife Jennifer R. Hamilton in District 11.
Michael J. Jewell to Joscelyn Della Pickard in District 2.
Edward Gary Brinkley by POA to Deanna Jean Drinkard a/k/a Deanna Brinkley Drinkard and husband Henry Drinkard in District 11.

Huntingdon Police Reports

Driving Under the Influence Arrest — According to a report made on April 19, Sgt. Kristen Lee responded to Main Street West regarding a driving under the influence investigation involving Michael D. Marquez.
Marquez was charged with driving under the influence, driving on a revoked, suspended, or canceled license, speeding, violation of implied consent and tampering with or fabricating evidence. He was held for a judge due to being on active probation.
Driving Under the Influence Arrest — According to a report made on April 25, Patrolman Jacob Dearman observed a vehicle parked along Paris Street near the electric department with its headlights on and engine running. Patrolman Daniel Inman also responded to assist.
Officers observed a female in the driver's seat slumped over and unresponsive. After knocking on the windows, rocking the vehicle and repeatedly announcing their presence without success, officers discovered the driver's door was unlocked and opened it to check on the driver's welfare.
The driver, identified as McKenzie A. Sollis, appeared disoriented and incoherent. Officers observed glassy eyes, slurred speech and detected a strong odor of alcohol. Sollis repeatedly fell asleep while speaking with officers and appeared unable to maintain awareness. Officers also observed she had urinated on herself.
Sollis admitted to consuming alcoholic beverages and agreed to perform field sobriety tests. Patrolman Dearman reported she displayed multiple indicators of impairment during testing. Based on the totality of the circumstances, Sollis was placed under arrest for driving under the influence, transported for a blood draw and then taken to the Carroll County Jail.
Speeding and Driving Without a License — According to a report made on April 27, Officer Daniel Inman responded to a report of a black Toyota Corolla traveling southbound on Highway 22 at approximately 100 mph.
Officer Inman located the vehicle and observed it traveling 75 mph in a posted 55 mph zone. A traffic stop was conducted, and the driver was identified as Amanda A. Bernardo Reynoso. A records check revealed Reynoso had never been issued a driver's license.
Reynoso was charged with driving without a license and speeding. She

was cited into General Sessions Court and given 10 days to be booked into the Carroll County Jail.
Simple Possession and Drug Paraphernalia Arrest — According to a report made on April 29, Officer Daniel Inman initiated a traffic stop on Highway 22 North after observing a Chevrolet Malibu traveling 70 mph in a posted 55 mph zone. Radar confirmed the vehicle's speed.
Upon making contact with the driver, Amber J. Copeland, Officer Inman detected a strong odor of marijuana coming from inside the vehicle. He also observed the air conditioner running on full blast, a strong fruity odor and an open bottle of perfume on the passenger seat, which he believed was being used to mask the smell.
When Officer Inman requested consent to search the vehicle, Copeland became visibly nervous and stated that if any marijuana was in the vehicle it belonged to her son and would only be a small amount for personal use. She later handed Officer Inman a sealed bag containing a green leafy substance believed to be marijuana. Patrolman Dearman responded to assist, and a search of the vehicle located a grinder containing additional marijuana in the center console.
The recovered substance weighed approximately 12.40 grams. Copeland was placed under arrest and charged with simple possession and possession of drug paraphernalia.

**PUBLIC AUCTION/
HIGHEST BIDDER**

2012 Cadillac CTS
VIN # 1G6DA5E58C0112696
on **Friday, June 5, 2026**
at **10 a.m.**

at **Holmes Auto Repair**
18040 Highland Drive,
McKenzie, TN 38201
*All rights reserved
Cash only*

A827536/20-1

**PUBLIC AUCTION/
HIGHEST BIDDER**

2012 Dodge Avenger
VIN # 1C3CDZAB8CN275164
on **Friday, June 5, 2026**
at **10 a.m.**

at **Holmes Auto Repair**
18040 Highland Drive,
McKenzie, TN 38201
*All rights reserved
Cash only*

A827535/20-1

NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 67-5-508 Tennessee Code Annotated, the property assessment records of Carroll County will be available for public inspection in the Assessor of Property Office, Suite 105, Carroll County Complex during normal business hours. Any person desiring to inspect these records may do so at the appointed time and place.

The Carroll County Board of Equalization will begin its annual session to examine and equalize the county assessments on June 1, 2026. **THE BOARD WILL ACCEPT APPEALS FOR TAX YEAR 2026 ONLY UNTIL THE LAST DAY OF ITS 2026 REGULAR SESSION, WHICH WILL BE JUNE 22, 2026.** The Board will meet in the Conference Room in the Carroll County Complex. Any owner of property who wishes to make a complaint or appeal to the County Board of Equalization must make an appointment by calling the Assessor of Property Office at 731-986-1975 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m. daily. A property owner must appear at this time personally or by personal appearance of an agent for the owner bearing the owner's written authorization. Failure to appear and appeal an assessment will result in the assessment becoming final without further right of appeal.

A8502/20-1

BID NOTICE

McKenzie Special School District

**RESTROOM FLOORING/
REFINISHING/RESURFACING**

McKenzie Special School District is seeking bids for restroom flooring/refinishing/resurfacing at McKenzie Middle School, 80 Woodrow Ave., McKenzie, TN, 38201. All flooring options will be considered. All bids should include: recommended flooring option (tile replacement, refinishing and/or resurfacing options), all material costs, all labor costs for tear-out (if applicable) and installation, all other associated cost/expenses for the total project, and any included warranty information. Please include in the final bid package the total price, by line item, for all costs and services to be provided.

All prospective bidders should schedule a visit to McKenzie Middle School to review the project and ensure the full scope of work, including the appropriate square footage for each restroom, is considered. Visits can be scheduled with Bobby Osborn, Maintenance Supervisor, 731-358-9789 or osbornb@mckenziebannerschools.org.

Bids packages, marked "MMS Flooring 2026", should be submitted to Dr. Justin Barden, Director of Schools, by no later than 2:00 pm on Friday, June 5. Bid packages can be mailed or in-person delivered to 114 Bell Ave, McKenzie, TN, 38201.

The successful bidder will be responsible for all material removal, disposal, and cleanup at the site. The timeline for the start and completion of the project will be finalized with the successful bidder and the school district. The successful bidder must provide proof of insurance and relevant TN licenses.

McKenzie Special School District is a governmental entity and in such exempt from sales tax. Appropriate documentation can be provided to the successful bidder.

A460/20-1

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Bidders may submit bids for project as described in this Document.

Submit bids according to the Instructions to Bidders.

Project Identification: **McKenzie Elementary School abatement of gym floor**

Project Location: 165 Brooks Ave, McKenzie, TN 38201

Owner: **McKenzie Special School District, 114 Bell Avenue, McKenzie, TN 38201**

Construction Manager: **Lashlee-Rich, Inc.; 1100 E. Main St.; Humboldt, TN 38343; 731-784-2461**

Copies of the documents must be obtained from **Lashlee-Rich, Inc.**

Bid Date: **June 4, 2026**

Bid Time: **2 p.m.**, local time.

Location: **ZOOM MEETING OPENING**

The McKenzie Special School District reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive any informality in the bidding whenever such rejection or waiver is in the interest of the Owner.

A Pre-bid meeting for all bidders will be held at **The Project Location on May 21, 2026 at 3:30 p.m.**, local time. Prospective bidders are **requested to attend**. Meet at the elementary school front entrance.

See Bid Documents for bid information and requirements.

Bid Packages:

1. Flooring and mastic abatement.

A3945/20-1

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TREZEVANT BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN

Notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the Trezevant Board of Mayor and Aldermen on Tuesday, the 9th day of June, 2026 at 6 p.m. at the Trezevant Community Center.

The hearing is to receive public input for a zoning map amendment which would rezone properties (Tax Map 77C, Group B, Parcels 7.00, 8.00, & 8.01) owned respectively by Christy Honaker, Stacey Hames, and Kelly Weaver and the Town of Trezevant from R-1 (Low-Density Residential) to B-1 (Highway-Business). The properties to be rezoned are located on Broad Street. Full copies of the proposed amendments may be viewed at Trezevant Town Hall during normal business hours. All interested persons are invited to attend and comment.

A394/20-2

McKenzie Police Reports

Threat of Bodily Harm — Michael A. Watne, Old State Route 22, McKenzie was charged with Retaliation for Past Action (Threat of Bodily Harm, and Assault on May 13.

Officers Patrolman Dillon and Lt. Brister responded to Alabama Street, where a female resident stated Watne shouted from his car at the victim, stating “I should kill you for calling the cops...”

He then sped away. Officers located Watne at a nearby address and issued a citation and placed him in custody.

Vandalism — On May 11, McKenzie Police Department received a complaint from Joyce Scates that someone entered an unoccupied rental house on Booker Street and damaged some of the contents.

Public Intoxication — Timothy Johnson, Everett Street, McKenzie, was charged with Public Intoxication on May 15.

Officer Bryan Batchelder filed the report stating that Johnson entered a convenience store and was asked to leave. He refused, grabbed the door, and shook it violently. He then invited the store clerk to exit the store and fight. Johnson was arrested and transported to Carroll County Jail.



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, arid 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

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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

McKenzie Water Dept. Water Quality Report for 2025

Is my drinking water safe?

Yes, our water meets all of EPA's health standards. We have conducted numerous tests for over 80 contaminants that may be in drinking water. As you'll see in the chart, we only detected seven of these contaminants. We found all of these contaminants at safe levels.

What is the source of my water?

Your water, which is ground water, comes from the Memphis Sand Aquifer. Our goal is to protect our water from contaminants and we are working with the State to determine the vulnerability of our water source to potential contamination. The Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) has prepared a Source Water Assessment Program (SWAP) Report for the untreated water sources serving water to this water system. The SWAP Report assesses the susceptibility of untreated water sources to potential contamination. To ensure safe drinking water, all public water systems treat and routinely test their water. Water sources have been rated as reasonably susceptible, moderately susceptible or slightly susceptible based on geologic factors and human activities in the vicinity of the water source. The McKenzie Water Dept. sources rated as reasonably susceptible to potential contamination.

An explanation of Tennessee's Source Water Assessment Program, the Source Water Assessment summaries, susceptibility scorings and the overall TDEC report to EPA can be viewed online at <https://www.tn.gov/environment/program-areas/wr-water-resources/water-quality/source-water-assessment.html> or you may contact the Water Dept. to obtain copies of specific assessments.

A wellhead protection plan is available for your review by contacting Earnest Umstead at the McKenzie Water Dept. between 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays.

Why are there contaminants in my water?

Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Este informe contiene información muy importante. Tradúscalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien. For more information about your drinking water, please call Earnest Umstead at 731-352-3114.

How can I get involved?

Our City Council meets on the second Thursday of each month at 7 p.m. at the City Hall. Please feel free to participate in these meetings.

Is our water system meeting other rules that govern our operations?

The State and EPA require us to test and report on our water on a regular basis to ensure its safety. We have met all of these requirements. Results of unregulated contaminant analysis are available upon request. We want you to know that we pay attention to all the rules.

Other information

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water:

- Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- Inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban storm water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- Pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- Organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products

of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban storm water runoff, and septic systems.

- Radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation prescribe regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. FDA regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health.

Do I Need To Take Special Precautions?

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about not only their drinking water, but food preparation, personal hygiene, and precautions in handling infants and pets from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Water System Security

Following the events of September 2001, we realize that our customers are concerned about the security of their drinking water. We urge the public to report any suspicious activities at any utility facilities, including treatment plants, tanks, fire hydrants, etc. to the police dispatcher at 731-325-2264.

Think before you flush!

Flushing unused or expired medicines can be harmful to your drinking water. Properly disposing of unused or expired medication helps protect you and the environment. Keep medications out of Tennessee's waterways by disposing in one of our permanent pharmaceutical take back bins. There are nearly 100 take back bins located across the state, to find a convenient location please visit: <http://tdeconline.tn.gov/rxtakeback/>.

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead can cause serious health effects in people of all ages, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and parts used in service lines and in home plumbing. McKenzie Water Department is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, and removing lead pipes but cannot control the variety of materials used in the plumbing in your home. Because lead levels may vary over time, lead exposure is possible even when your tap sampling results do not detect lead at one point in time. You can help protect yourself and your family by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Using a filter, certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead, is effective in reducing lead exposures. Follow the instructions provided with the filter to ensure the filter is used properly. Use only cold water for drinking, cooking, and making baby formula. Boiling water does not remove lead from water. Before using tap water for drinking, cooking, or making baby formula, flush your pipes for several minutes. You can do this by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. If you have a lead service line or galvanized requiring replacement service line, you may need to flush your pipes for a longer period. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, call McKenzie Water Department at 731-352-3114. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <https://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

Lead Service Line Inventory

A Lead Service Line Inventory has been completed for our system and is accessible by contacting our office during regular business hours.

Water Quality Data

What does this chart mean?

- **MCLG** - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal, or the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.
- **MCL** - Maximum Contaminant Level, or the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. To understand the possible health effects described for many regulated constituents, a person would have to drink 2 liters of water every day at the MCL level for a lifetime to have a one-in-a-million chance of having the described health effect.
- **MRDL** - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level or MRDL: The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for the control of microbial contaminants.
- **MRDLG** - Maximum residual disinfectant level goal. The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.
- **AL** - Action Level, or the concentration of a contaminant which, when exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.
- **Below Detection Level (BDL)** - Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present at a level that can be detected.
- **Non-Defects (ND)** - Laboratory analysis indicates that the contaminant is not present.
- **Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/l)** - Explained as a relation to time and money as one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.
- **Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter** - Explained as a relation to time and money as one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.
- **RTCR** - Revised Total Coliform Rule. This rule went into effect on April 1, 2016 and replaces the MCL for total coliform with a Treatment Technique Trigger for a system assessment.

Contaminant	Violation Yes/No	Level Found	Range of Detections	Date of Sample	Unit Measurement	MCLG	MCL	Likely Source of Contamination
Total Coliform Bacteria (RTCR) ²	N	0		2025		0	TT Trigger	Naturally present in the environment
Copper ¹	N	90th%= 0.0533	0.0028 - 0.0787	2025	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives
Combined radium	N	1.693		2022	PCI/1	0	5	Erosion of natural deposits
Fluoride	N	0.730 AVG	0.620 - 0.840	2025	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Lead ¹	N	90th%= 0.2	<0.1 - 0.9	2025	ppb	0	AL=15	Corrosion of household plumbing systems, erosion of natural deposits
Nitrate	N	0.771	0.771*	2025	ppm	N/A	N/A	Erosion of natural deposits; used in water treatment
TTHM [Total trihalomethanes]	N	7.5	2.5*	2025	ppb	0	80	By-product of drinking water chlorination
Haloacetic Acids ² (HAAs)	N	<1.0	<1.0*	2025	ppb	0	60	By-product of drinking water disinfection
Chlorine	N	1.31 Avg.	0.90 - 1.60	2025	ppm	MRDLG=4	MRDL=4	Water additive used to control microbes

¹During the most recent round of Lead and Copper testing, only 0 out of 20 households sampled contained concentrations exceeding the action level.

²Important information about your drinking water monitoring requirements not met for the McKenzie Water Department. See below.

*We are only required to collect one sample from a single location.

Important Information About Your Drinking Water Monitoring Requirements Not Met For McKenzie Water System

Our water system violated a drinking water standard over the past year. Even though this is not an emergency, as our customers, you have a right to know what happened and what we did to correct these situations.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a regular basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not your drinking water meets health standards. During the third quarter of 2025, we failed to monitor for Total Trihalomethanes and Total Haloacetic Acids per our Stage 2 LRAA Monitoring Plan, and therefore cannot be sure of the quality of your drinking water during that time.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do at this time.

The table lists the contaminants we did not properly test for during the last year, how often we are supposed to sample for the contaminants and how many samples we are supposed to take, how many samples we took, when samples should have been taken, and the date on which follow-up samples were (or will be) taken.

Contaminant	Required sampling frequency	Number of samples taken	When all samples should have been taken	When samples were or will be taken
Total Trihalomethanes	Annually	1	8/6/2025	8/22/2025
Total Haloacetic	Annually	1	8/6/2026	8/22/2026

What happened? What is being done?

Due to an oversight, no samples were analyzed for these contaminants during the. We sampled these contaminants at a later date, on 8/22/2025.

For more information, please contact Earnest Umstead at 731-352-3114 or 9 Bruce Street, McKenzie, TN 38201 Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

This notice is being provided to you by McKenzie Water System. State Water System ID# TN0000421

Thank you for your continued support of this newspaper.

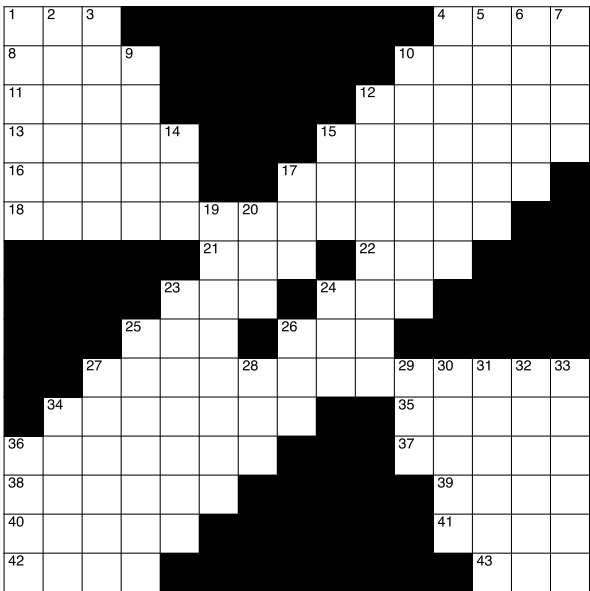
Color A Masterpiece



Weekly Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Government lawyers
- 4. The back of a person's neck
- 8. Mild yellow Dutch cheese
- 10. In a less flashy way
- 11. Living room piece
- 12. Shepherd dog
- 13. A citizen of Iran
- 15. Moved slowly
- 16. Small finch
- 17. Previously
- 18. What a kid does on Halloween
- 21. Monetary unit
- 22. Using dry humor
- 23. Ocean
- 24. Greek goddess of the dawn
- 25. Not close
- 26. NHL legend Bobby
- 27. A ballplayer would love to do this
- 34. Charity
- 35. City in Finland
- 36. Loomed over
- 37. Vaccine developer
- 38. Avoids capture
- 39. We all need it
- 40. Openwork fabrics
- 41. Get away
- 42. Something you might hit



- 43. Soviet Socialist Republic
- getting somewhere
- 19. Functions
- 20. Breed of sheep
- 23. Mocking pieces
- 24. A major division of geological time
- 25. Andiron
- 26. Many not ands
- 27. Cuban city
- 28. He voiced "Olaf"
- 29. Criticize
- 30. "Thundercats" character
- 31. Markings
- 32. Gets up
- 33. MLB lefty reliever A.J.
- 34. An assembly of witches
- 36. High energy lasers (abbr.)

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Abstain from
- 2. Admirer
- 3. Expedition to observe animals
- 4. Act that is legally void
- 5. WW2 combatants
- 6. A tool
- 7. Looked at
- 9. Showing wild excitement
- 10. Banknotes
- 12. Tired
- 14. Printers need it
- 15. Women's patriotic group
- 17. When you anticipate

Week 20

See solution in next week's edition.

Photo Finish Word Search

L R E T T U H S N S V R O T C E L F E R
E T T E N G I V T O D I C P F T H K O M
R K V H R B K X E O F L I S O B
N R K I M A R G O T S I H W N X A L N T
S E V X X K G T E R I H L C F T X S K G
N F O C A L R P K S C G I U M I R D H A
X B G P G G A H H H A O W R N F N A X S
L G W L V C S A K S P H E F C U G D S S
D S D O S E A P E R T U R E O N E T E T
C G C D N O I T U L O S E R M F R R X R
C F N S N I P T P C E B C E P K U I M R
O A O W H U E I B T H X C P H O M S P A N
L R N H K D G S G V N K S R S N O O V S
F G K C F C O A S D R I N T I K P D H K
M H S A T U R A T I O N T R T B X D T W
X L L E N S B T E I T O U F I M E W P W
S B T V B U O M B N V V R A O V O C E M
H S E G P B O X V B R E E C N T A R D L
H E K O B D K X M O O R K R A D C X O T
G R R L U O P O R T R A I T V M L P G O

Aperture
Bokeh
Composition
Contrast
Darkroom
Depth

Exposure
Flash
Focal
Histogram
ISO
Landscape

Lens
Macro
Negative
Portrait
Reflector
Resolution

Saturation
Sensor
Shutter
Tripod
Viewfinder
Vignette

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1535: French explorer Jacques Cartier sets sail on his second North American voyage.

1911: Parks Canada, the world's first national park service, is established.

1962: Marilyn Monroe sings "Happy Birthday" to President John F. Kennedy.

SUDOKU

WEEK 20

	4						6	
	2				1			5
				5	8			
2						7		
	3	1			2			4
					9			
6		3		9	1		8	
8		9	3				7	
			6					

Level: Advanced

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 the photography. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 23 = E)

A. 3 14 20 2 2 23 25

Clue: Camera barrier

B. 26 10 16 7 23

Clue: Picture

C. 9 26 8 23 3

Clue: Organized data

D. 8 16 11 1 3 5 16 6 23

Clue: Horizontal position

Answers: A. shutter B. image C. files D. landscape

LETTER MIX-UP

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

LANDSCAPE

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

Riddle Me This

Why does a firefly glow?

Answer: It eats light meals.

WORD SCRAMBLE

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

LNSE

Answer: Lens

GUESS WHO ?

I am a country singer born in Texas on May 21, 1987. I started playing music at age 12 and worked for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. I was named a New Male Vocalist of the Year in 2011, and by 2014, my breakthrough album cracked the Top 10 on Billboard's chart.

Answer: Cody Johnson

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PUZZLE SOLUTION

Week 19 Crossword Puzzle Solution

M	A	C	A	O		A	M	P	S		O	R	D	O
A	N	O	L	E		D	E	S	T	I	N	I	E	S
W	O	R	L	D	S	E	R	I	E	S	W	I	N	S
S	A	D			A	P	E		E	R	A	S	E	
			S	P	T			S	P	A	R			
		S	O	D	S			P	L	E	D	G	E	
O	M	A	N				B	A	E	L		A	D	H
H	O	N	E		M	O	A	N	S		A	D	A	R
M	A	T		V	A	I	N				M	U	M	S
	B	A	S	I	N	S			E	M	U	S		
		P	A	G	E		C	I	A					
	B	L	I	N	I		A	A	R		M	A	R	
G	O	U	N	D	E	R	T	H	E	K	N	I	F	E
S	E	C	E	S	S	I	O	N		W	I	T	A	N
A	R	E	S		T	O	N			E	B	E	R	T

SUDOKU SOLUTION WEEK 19

6	5	3	1	9	2	4	8	7
7	1	8	4	5	3	2	6	9
2	9	4	6	7	8	5	1	3
8	3	9	5	4	1	6	7	2
1	4	6	8	2	7	9	3	5
5	2	7	9	3	6	8	4	1
4	7	5	3	8	9	1	2	6
3	8	1	2	6	5	7	9	4
9	6	2	7	1	4	3	5	8

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the West Carroll 3-2-1 Update

May's board meeting highlighted the work happening across West Carroll, from student success in academics and activities to family engagement, facility improvements, and investments in safety and community.

3-Highlights from Across the District

- Game On for West Carroll's Newest Team: West Carroll Junior/Senior High is launching eSports for grades 7-12. With a dedicated lab, six gaming PCs, campus-based competitions, and no travel, students have another way to build teamwork and represent West Carroll.
- A Big Night for Little Writers & Readers: West Carroll Primary hosted Literacy Night with the theme Spring into a Good Book. Second graders published a book and dedicated it to Atticus Ecker, their kindergarten classmate who is lovingly remembered.
- Over 100 Reasons to Celebrate: West Carroll Elementary celebrated the success of the 100 Book Challenge. Students qualified by reading 100 library books or earning 100 AR points. A total of 106 students reached the goal, 50 percent of the school.

2 Quotes from Our Leaders

"Improvements to our elementary school are an investment in the longevity of our school and also in the community of Trezevant."

— William Robinson, WCSSD Board Chairman

"Earning these ACT benchmarks is an accomplishment worth celebrating, and so is what it represents. Our students are leaving West Carroll ready for college and careers."

— Dr. Adam Douglas, Principal, West Carroll High School

1 Challenge for Our Community

Celebrate the Class of 2026 well. Show up for graduation. Congratulate a senior. Graduates are stepping into life beyond the classroom. Send them forward knowing the have the full support of our West Carroll community.

Small school, big opportunities. Thank you for being part of what makes West Carroll special.

The next board meeting will be June 4th. Hope to see you there.

Preston Caldwell

wcssd.com/321

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A3150/20-1

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TSSAA CLASS 1A BASEBALL SECTIONAL SERIES



Left, Rebel shortstop Cole Brown catches a shallow pop-up with second baseman Xander Johnsey backing up the play in Game One. Right, Rebel left fielder Parker Ross outruns his hat to reach a sharply-hit fly ball in Game One. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Rebels, Eagles Split First Two Games

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (May 13) — The McKenzie High School Rebels hosted Eagleville Wednesday for the first two games of the best-of-three TSSAA Class 1A Baseball Sectional Series. The Rebels took Game One, 4-1, but the visiting Eagles bounced back for a big win in Game Two, 15-5, to force a winner-take-all Game Three on Thursday.

Game One:
Rebels 4, Eagles 1

Eagleville struck first in Game One with a run in the top of the first frame. McKenzie took the lead with three in the bottom of the third, then added an insurance run in the sixth.

Rebel Fletcher Holt was 1-for-3 with a home run. Xander Johnsey was 2-for-4 with a double, two RBIs, a run scored and a stolen base. Ace Brown was 1-for-1 with a walk and a run scored. Cole Brown was 1-for-3 with an RBI-sacrifice fly. Lelan Gordon was 1-for-3. Parker Ross was 0-for-3 with a run scored.

Eagle Adrian Sevieri was 1-for-3 with a double. Drake Rzemieniewski was 1-for-1 with an RBI-sacrifice fly and a walk. Brody Gleason was 1-for-3 with a walk. Sam Dodd was 1-for-4 with a run scored. JR Duke was 1-for-3.

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

Brody Gleason took the complete-game loss for Eagleville, allowing four earned runs on six hits while walking one and striking out five.

Game Two:
Eagles 15, Rebels 5

McKenzie struck first in Game Two with a pair of runs in the top of the second inning, but Eagleville tied it



Rebel Fletcher Holt is greeted at home plate by Cooper Davidson after a solo home run in Game One. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

in the home half. The Rebels pulled ahead with two more in the third, but the Eagles pulled away with nine in the bottom half. Eagleville added three more in the fourth to lead 14-4. McKenzie scored a run in the top of the fifth to extend the game, but the Eagles answered in the home half to end it.

Rebel Aiden Legens was 2-for-2 with a home run, a double, a walk, two RBIs and three runs scored. Cooper Davidson was 1-for-3 with a run scored. Parker Ross was 0-for-0 with two walks and an RBI-sacrifice fly. Ace Brown was 0-for-1 with an RBI. Fletcher Holt was 0-for-2 with a walk and a run scored. Hudson Garrett was 0-for-2 with a walk and an RBI. Xander Johnsey was 0-for-3 with two stolen bases.

Eagle Drake Rzemieniewski was 2-for-3 with two doubles, a walk, three RBIs and four runs scored. Wyatt McDougal was 3-for-4 with an RBI. Carter Blair was 2-for-4 with a double, two RBIs and a run scored. Kelten Freeze was 1-for-3 with a walk, two RBIs and two runs scored. JR Duke was 1-for-2 with an RBI and

a run scored. Sam Dodd was 1-for-3 with a walk, an RBI, a run scored and a stolen base. Brody Gleason was 1-for-3 with an RBI-sacrifice fly and a run scored. Adrian Sevieri was 0-for-0 with three walks and two runs scored. Jackson Nichols was 0-for-2 with a walk, an RBI and a run scored.

Wyatt McDougal earned the complete-game win for Eagleville, allowing five runs (three earned) on three hits while walking five and striking out five.

Xander Johnsey took the loss for McKenzie, allowing eight earned runs on five hits while walking three in two and a third innings. Maddox Shiell faced four batters, allowing three runs (two earned) on no hits and two walks. Avery Brown pitched two-thirds of an inning, allowing two earned runs on three hits while walking one and striking out one. Aiden Legens threw one frame, allowing one earned run on two hits while walking none and striking out two. Lelan Gordon pitched the final third of an innings, allowing one unearned run on one hit and one walk.

Tigers End Season with Game Two Loss

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

LYNNVILLE (May 14) — The Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School Tigers ended their season Thursday with a 12-0 loss to the Richland Raiders in Game Two of the best-of-three TSSAA Class 1A Baseball Sectional Series.

Richland scored two runs in the top of the second, three in the third, five in the fourth and two in the fifth.

Tiger Easton Bullington

was 1-for-1. Brayden Maness was 1-for-2.

Raider Brigham Worsham was 4-for-4 with a double, five RBIs, three runs scored and two stolen bases. Emerson Nelson was 3-for-3 with two doubles, two RBIs, a run scored and stolen base. Jameson Andrews was 2-for-3 with a walk, a run scored and a stolen base. Gavin Shrader was 1-for-2 with two walks and two RBIs. Will Shirey was 1-for-4 with two RBIs and a run scored. Gage Whitt was 1-for-3 with

two runs scored.

Copper Jackson earned the complete-game shutout for Richland, allowing two hits with no walks and five strikeouts.

Gage Weatherly got the start for Central, allowing eight runs (two earned) on eight hits while walking one and striking out three in three innings. Braxton Howard pitched the final two frames, allowing four earned runs on four hits while walking three and striking out one.

REGION 6AA SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

Fillies End Season at Stewart County, 1-0

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

DOVER (May 11) — The Huntingdon High School Fillies ended their season Monday with a 1-0 loss to Stewart County in the opening round of the Region 6AA Softball Tournament.

The Lady Rebels scored the lone run in the bottom of the fifth.

Huntingdon's Kylie Tippitt was 2-for-3. Knox Bennett was 1-for-3 with a triple. Ellie Wilson was 1-for-2 with a double, and Aubry Castleman was 1-for-3 with a double.

Lady Rebel Ema Borden was 3-for-3 with a double and an RBI. Mallory Walker was 2-for-3. Addison Arnold was 1-for-4 with a run scored. Cara Bucciarelli and Faith

Dacus were each 1-for-3. Neely Cook was 1-for-4.

Ema Borden earned the complete-game shutout for Stewart County, allowing five hits while walking none and striking out six.

Marcie Mitchell took the complete-game loss for the Fillies, allowing one earned run on nine hits while walking none and striking out one.

Former McKenzie Coach Joins South Gibson

COURTESY SOUTH GIBSON HIGH SCHOOL

MEDINA (May 6) — South Gibson County High School recently introduced John Wilkins as its next head coach for girls' basketball.

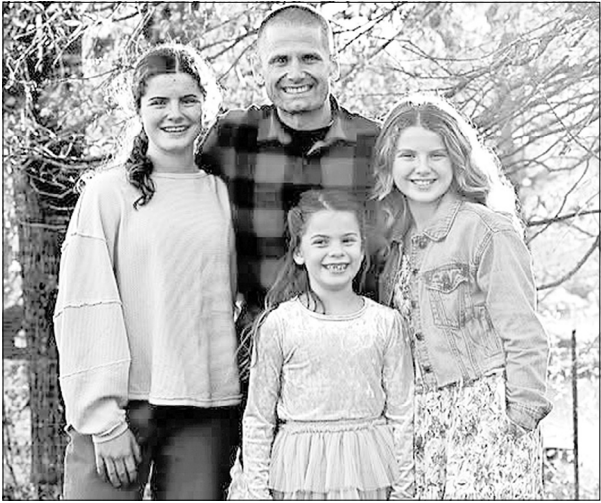
Coach Wilkins brings a tremendous track record of success with two girls' state championships at McKenzie High School and three other state tournament appearances on the boys' side, also at McKenzie.

During his career, Coach Wilkins has amassed 13 district championships, six region championships, seven district Coach of the Year awards, A.F. Bridges Male Coach of the Year, 2023 BCAT Coach of the Year and the 2022 TSSAA Girls Basketball Coach of the Year.

Over his 19-year career, Coach Wilkins has a winning percentage of nearly 80 percent and has totaled over 400 victories.

Coach Wilkins spent the past two seasons at Brentwood High School, where he also won a district championship.

"We feel very fortunate to have Coach Wilkins join our Hornet family. His track record speaks for itself in terms of his ability as a basketball coach. However, even more importantly, he is a great



Former McKenzie coach and new South Gibson girls' basketball coach John Wilkins with daughters (L to R) Claire, Millie and Hadley.

human being," said SGCHS Athletic Director, Mark Dunn. "John comes from an unbelievable family of basketball coaches, including his father, Mitch Wilkins, and his brothers, David and Mark. He will be a great fit here, and we are excited to welcome John and his family to South Gibson!"

Coach Wilkins is a graduate of Harding University in Searcy, Ark. He also earned his master's degree in Education from Bethel University and his Ed.S. from Arkansas State University. John is the father of daughters Claire (13, seventh grade), Hadley (11, fifth grade) and Millie (7, first grade)

and is excited to join the Hornet family as well.

Coach Wilkins said about his new position, "My girls are my biggest fans and love supporting my teams. Claire and Millie both enjoy playing basketball, and Hadley loves supporting my teams as a manager/water girl. My family and I are excited to join the SGC family and become part of a program that has established itself as a real contender in AAA basketball. There is a rich basketball tradition and strong culture here, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to invest in these student-athletes, this program, and this community in the years ahead."

TSSAA CLASS 2A BASEBALL SECTIONAL SERIES

Mustangs End Season in Extra Innings

BY BRAD SAM
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BELL BUCKLE (May 14) — The Huntingdon High School Mustangs ended their season Thursday with a 2-0 loss in an 11-inning pitching duel to the Cascade Champions in Game Two of the best-of-three TSSAA Class 2A Baseball Sectional Series.

The game was scoreless through ten innings, then Cascade finally broke through for a pair in the top of the 11th.

Mustang Owen Kreuziger was 2-for-4. Cy

Hankins was 1-for-4. Hayes Eubanks was 1-for-5. Silas Sharp and Kenton Smith were each 0-for-3 with a walk.

Champion Caleb Crouch was 2-for-5. Wickey Parker was 1-for-3 with two walks and a run scored. Elijah Wesenberg was 1-for-4 with a double. Jayden Maldonado was 1-for-4. Xykaiah Dixon was 1-for-5 with an RBI and a stolen base. Jayden Hathcock was 0-for-3 with a walk and a run scored.

Jayden Hathcock got the start for Cascade, allowing no runs on one hit while

walking two and striking out 15 in eight innings. Wickey Parker pitched the final three frames and earned the win, allowing no runs on three hits while walking none and striking out five.

Owen Kreuziger started the game for Huntingdon, allowing no runs on five hits while walking one and striking out seven in nine innings. Kenton Smith pitched the final two frames and took the loss, allowing two earned runs on one hit with two walks and four strikeouts.

REGION 6A SOCCER TOURNAMENT

Mustangs End Season with 2-1 Loss in Opener

BY BRAD SAM
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ASHLAND CITY (May 12) — The Huntingdon High School Mustangs ended their season Tuesday with

a 2-1 loss to the Cheatham County Cubs in the opening round of the Region 6A Soccer Tournament.

Mustang Greyson Anderson scored the team's

lone goal.

Huntingdon utilized two goalkeepers in the match. Nick Smith recorded eight saves, and Braetan Sevarns had five.

Huntingdon Falls to Cascade in Game One

BY BRAD SAM
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BELL BUCKLE (May 13) — The Huntingdon High School Mustangs traveled to face the Cascade High School Champions Wednesday in Game One of the best-of-three TSSAA Class 2A Baseball Sectional Series. A home run by Cascade's Jayden Hathcock would provide the only runs of the pitching duel as the Champions won, 2-0.

The two-run home run came in the bottom of the fourth inning.

Mustang Colt Wood was 2-for-2 with a double, a walk and two stolen bases. Hayes Eubanks was 1-for-4.

Champion Jayden Hathcock was 1-for-2 with a home run, a walk, two RBIs and one run scored. Thomas Demarteleare was 2-for-3 with a double. Elijah Wesenberg was 1-for-3. Wickey Parker was 1-for-3

with a run scored. Caleb Crouch was 1-for-2. Jordan Childress, Xykaiah Dixon and River Maddox were each 1-for-3.

Caleb Crouch earned the complete-game shutout for Cascade, allowing three hits while walking five and striking out nine.

Caleb Ezell took the complete-game loss for Huntingdon, allowing two earned runs on nine hits while walking two and striking out five.

TSSAA CLASS 1A BASEBALL SECTIONAL SERIES

Tigers Fall to Richland in Game One

BY BRAD SAM
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LYNNVILLE (May 13) — The Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School Tigers traveled to face the Richland Raiders Wednesday in Game One of the best-of-three TSSAA Class 1A Baseball Sectional Series. Richland opened up a big lead early en route to a 15-0 win in five innings.

The Raiders scored five runs in the bottom of the second inning, seven in the third and three in the fourth.

Tiger Drake Hollingsworth was 1-for-2 with a double. Brayden Maness,

Parker Boyd and Parker Finley were each 1-for-2. Tanner Walters was 1-for-3.

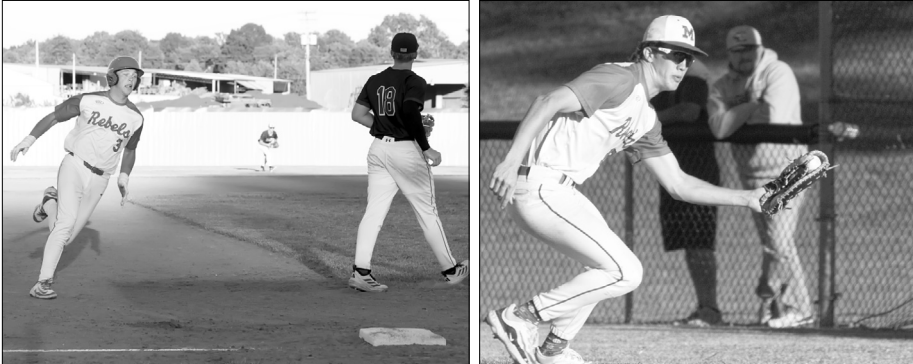
Raider Jameson Andrews was 3-for-4 with a home run, a double, four RBIs and two runs scored. Brigham Worsham was 3-for-3 with two runs scored. Jack Jackson was 2-for-3 with a double, two RBIs, two runs scored and a stolen base. Gavin Shrader was 2-for-3 with a double, a walk, an RBI and two runs scored. Will Shirey was 2-for-3 with an RBI and two runs scored. Emerson Nelson was 1-for-2 with a double, a sacrifice fly, three RBIs and a run

scored. Tucker Mayo was 1-for-3 with a double, an RBI and a run scored. Riley Strickland was 1-for-1 with a double and an RBI.

Gage Whitt earned the complete-game shutout for Richland, allowing five hits while walking none and striking out five.

Drake Hollingsworth got the start for Central, allowing 12 runs (11 earned) on 11 hits while walking four and striking out two in two and two-thirds innings. Parker Finley pitched the final inning and a third, allowing three earned runs on five hits while walking two and striking out one.

TSSAA CLASS 1A BASEBALL SECTIONAL SERIES



Left, Rebel Cole Brown rounds third to score after reaching on a double. Right, Rebel first baseman Avery Brown snags a bouncer to get the out at first. Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Rebels End Season with Game Three Loss

BY BRAD SAM

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McKENZIE (May 15) — The McKenzie High School Rebels ended their season Thursday with a 16-4 loss to Eagleville in the decisive Game Three of the TSSAA Class 1A Baseball Sectional Series.

McKenzie struck first with a run in the bottom of the second inning, but Eagleville pulled ahead with three in the top of the third, then added one each in the fourth and fifth. The Eagles doubled their tally with five in the sixth, and the Rebels responded with two in the home half. Eagleville continued the pressure with six in the seventh, and McKenzie scored a final run in the bottom half.

Rebel Xander Johnsey was 2-for-4 with a double,

an RBI and a stolen base. Fletcher Holt was 2-for-4 with an RBI. Ace Brown was 2-for-2 with a walk and an RBI. Cole Brown was 1-for-3 with a double, a walk and a run scored. Hudson Garrett was 1-for-3 with a double and a run scored. Parker Ross was 0-for-1 with two walks and a run scored. Aiden Legens was 0-for-3 with a walk.

Eagle Carter Blair was 4-for-6 with a double, an RBI and three runs scored. Jackson Nichols was 4-for-5 with an RBI and three runs scored. Sam Dodd was 3-for-5 with a double, two RBIs and three runs scored. JR Duke was 2-for-4 with a double, a walk, an RBI and two runs scored. Drake Rzemieniewski was 2-for-5 with two RBIs. Wyatt McDougal was 1-for-4 with two RBIs and two runs scored.

Brody Gleason was 1-for-5 with two RBIs and two runs scored. Adrian Sevieri was 1-for-5 with an RBI. Kelten Freeze was 1-for-5.

Drake Rzemieniewski earned the win for Eagleville, allowing three runs (two earned) on six hits while walking five and striking out six in six innings. Jacob Sweeney pitched the final frame, allowing one earned run on two hits with no walks and one strikeout.

Cooper Davidson took the loss for McKenzie, allowing 13 runs (five earned) on 14 hits while walking none and striking out two in six innings. Maddox Shiell faced four batters, allowing three earned runs on four hits and no walks. Avery Brown threw the final frame, allowing no runs on one hit and one walk with one strikeout.



Carroll County National Day of Prayer participants are pictured. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Carroll County Observes National Day of Prayer

BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS

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McKENZIE (May 7) — The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce sponsored a National Day of Prayer gathering Thursday morning at the Sgt. Lee Russell Carroll County Airport.

Local leaders in business, government, education and religion presented prayers for the nation, state and, specifically, for the people, churches and institutions in Carroll County.

Chamber President Brad Hurley welcomed everyone to the annual event inside the main hangar at the airport. Community members spent approximately one hour asking God for His blessings.

Bethel Renaissance Director Dr. Scott Shepherd and led attendees in worship and provided soft musical accompaniment on the key-

board during the individual prayers.

Brent Bullock offered the “2026 National Day of Prayer” prayer. Carroll County Mayor Joseph Butler prayed for Carroll County citizens; Natalie Porter prayed for state leaders; Melissa Powell prayed for healthcare providers; David Duncan prayed for Gold Star Families, families of fallen United States Armed Forces service members; Mike Cary prayed for senior adults; and Kim Bell Webb prayed for God’s word.

John Wright offered Billy Graham’s “Prayer for the Nation.” Brian Tucker prayed for Carroll County churches, Andy Rice prayed for the United States military, Wilma Pearson prayed for local leaders, Lynn Watkins prayed for Carroll County’s K-12 schools, Scott Carter prayed for families who have lost loved ones, Brian Winston

prayed for the business community and Rick Crossno prayed for first responders.

Kenny Herndon prayed for farmers, Anne Hames prayed for Bethel University, Darrell Ridgely prayed for federal and world leaders, Michael Butler prayed for utility workers, Col. James Harding prayed for United States veterans, Ike Gilbert prayed for the needy and Huntingdon Mayor Chad Edwards prayed for family.

Joe Smothers offered President George Washington’s “Prayer for Our Nation,” and Brent Dillahunty offered the Lord’s Prayer.

This year’s gathering, themed “Glorify God Among the Nations - Seeking Him in All Generations” after 1 Chronicles 16:24, marked the United States’ 75th National Day of Prayer observance and Carroll County’s 11th observance.



Left, Rep. Brock Martin (R-Huntingdon) and Dr. Krista Martin emceed WestStar Elevate: A Summit for Growth and Leadership on February 6, 2026. Right, West Carroll Special School District’s Michelle Robinson and Erin Lewis attended the WestStar summit. Submitted photo

UTM Hosts WestStar Growth, Leadership Summit

MARTIN — Tennessee State Rep. Dr. Brock Martin (R-Huntingdon) and Dr. Krista Martin, both of Southern Chiropractic and Acupuncture in Huntingdon, were the emcees at this year’s WestStar Elevate: A Summit for Growth and Leadership on February 6. The summit took

place at the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Bowling University Center.

Hosted by the UT Martin WestStar Leadership Program, the WestStar Elevate Summit’s theme was “For the Love of Leadership and Community,” dedicated to empowering, inspiring and equipping professionals

across West Tennessee to thrive in their careers and communities.

Also attending the summit were West Carroll Special School District’s Michelle Robinson and Erin Lewis. Robinson and Lewis are both 2025 graduates from the WestTeach Leadership Program.

McKenzie Rotary Visited by Jackson Airport

McKENZIE (May 5) — The Jackson Regional Airport is no longer a “best-kept secret” — it is a booming regional hub.

Addressing the Rotary Club of McKenzie on Tuesday, Executive Director Kyle Barron detailed a period of unprecedented growth for the facility formerly known as McKellar-Sipes. Under his leadership, the airport has officially ascended to “primary airport” status, a milestone reached after surpassing 10,000 annual passengers in its first year of jet service—shattering the original two-year projection.

“We have become Tennessee’s sixth primary airport,” Barron said, noting that the status jump increases annual FAA maintenance funding from \$150,000 to a robust \$1.3 million.

The numbers tell a story of a region eager to fly. As of late April 2026, passenger traffic has surged 62% year-over-year. Barron projected that the airport will see up to 16,000 passengers by the end of the year.

The success is anchored by Denver Air, which operates a 50-seat Embraer 145 jet. Barron highlighted the carrier’s reliability, boasting a 95% completion rate on flights to Atlanta and Chicago—significantly higher than the 80% industry average.

“It’s about convenience and reliability,” Barron remarked. “Whether it’s an \$85 flight to Atlanta or a \$115 trip to Chicago, we are offering a premium experience without the headaches of the major metros.”

Success, however, has



Ricky Price, president of McKenzie Rotary Club, with Kyle Barron, executive director of the Jackson Regional Airport.

brought its own set of “good” problems. The airport is currently at 100% hangar capacity, with dozens of aircraft owners on waitlists.

To meet this demand, Barron announced several major capital projects:

Hangar Expansion: A \$10 million state grant will fund new T-hangars and community hangars, with groundbreaking expected within 12 weeks.

Runway & Tower: \$24 million has been allocated for a new runway, alongside \$1 million in tower upgrades.

Terminal Growth: Plans are underway to double the terminal’s capacity. The current secure area seats only 50 people, often hitting fire code limits during peak hours.

Barron leaned heavily into the practical benefits for West Tennessee travelers, citing a Ford Motor Company time study showing that flying from Jackson saves 52 minutes

compared to driving to Memphis, which is an equal driving distance to Jackson or Memphis International Airport from Ford’s Stanton Tenn.-based Blue Oval.

While the flights are short, Denver Air provides full-size snacks and seamless baggage transfers through partnerships with major carriers like Delta, American, and United.

With a new fire truck budgeted for next year and a permanent parking lot expansion slated for this summer, the Jackson Regional Airport is firmly positioned as the primary gateway for the 1.5 million residents in its 21-county service area.

Mr. Barron also noted that the Tennessee National Guard operates from the MKL field and has expanded its operations there. That allows for the airport to provide more services, including a second Jet A fueling truck for use at the field to fuel both fixed-wing and rotorblade jet-powered aircraft.

MES Hosts Successful Spelling Bee

McKenzie Elementary School successfully hosted its annual spelling bee on May 7, with the top 24 third- and fourth-grade students competing in the school gymnasium.

The event showcased the contestants’ dedication and preparation, and all were

praised for their outstanding accomplishments. According to a school representative, “It takes courage to stand in front of an audience and compete, and each contestant represented McKenzie Elementary with excellence, perseverance, and good character.”

All third- and fourth-grade students were welcome to participate in the preliminary rounds, culminating in the final competition for the top 24. School staff extended gratitude to the students, teachers, and families for their support, which contributed to the event’s success.

Tennessee Tops National Rankings in Post-Pandemic Math, Reading Recovery

NASHVILLE (May 13) — Tennessee is a national leader for academic recovery post-pandemic, today’s release of the Education Scorecard shows.

According to the report, Tennessee ranked second out of 38 states in academic growth in math and fourth out of 35 states in reading recovery between 2022 and 2025. The report also found Tennessee students are nearing pre-pandemic achievement levels in math, making Tennessee one of the nation’s strongest examples of academic recovery.

Statewide, there is progress on improving chronic absenteeism (i.e. students missing more than 10% of a school year), which has fallen from about 20% in 2022 to 18% in 2025. However, chronic absence rates still remain about 5 percentage points above pre-pandemic levels, indicating that this remains a priority going forward.

“The results highlighted in the Education Recovery Scorecard reflect the hard work of Tennessee students, teachers, schools, and districts across the state,” said Commissioner Lizzette Reynolds. “Tennessee’s continued academic progress demonstrates the impact of our state’s strategic investments in literacy and math, strong instructional supports and a steadfast commitment to student achievement.”

The report noted Tennessee’s gains in reading recovery and its link to the state’s comprehensive early literacy initiatives and the implementation of “science of reading” reforms aimed at strengthening foundational literacy instruction statewide.

These sustained gains have also resulted from continued investment and the implementation of high-quality instructional materials, ongoing professional learning networks, requirements for Educator Prep Programs and

student supports such as summer camps and tutoring. “The pandemic was a mudslide that followed seven years of erosion in student achievement,” said Professor Tom Kane, faculty director of the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University. “The recovery of U.S. education has begun. But it’s up to the rest of us to spread it.”

The Education Scorecard is a collaboration between two of the nation’s leading education research centers: the Center for Education Policy Research at Harvard University and the Educational Opportunity Project at Stanford University. It analyzes district-level student growth in math and reading nationwide. The report combines state assessment data for approximately 35 million students in grades 3-8 with national assessment data to measure academic recovery trends through the 2024-25 school year.

New Site to Help Veterans Find Support

NASHVILLE (May 14) — Tennessee Governor Bill Lee and Tennessee Department of Veterans Services (TDVS) Commissioner Tommy Baker announced the launch of the Veterans Connect Portal, a new statewide resource designed to make it easier for service members, veterans and their families to access the support they’ve earned.

Tennessee is home to more than 430,000 veterans, supported by a strong network of state agencies, local partners and community organizations. The Veterans Connect Portal builds on that foundation by bringing these resources together, giving veterans and their families a simpler, more direct way to find help and get connected.

“As we recognize Armed Forces Day, we’re reminded that the freedoms we enjoy are made possible by the brave men and women who have faithful-

ly served, and continue to serve, our country,” said Governor Lee. “Tennessee is committed to honoring that service, not just in words, but in action, and Veterans Connect builds on that commitment by making it easier for service members, veterans and their families to access support across our state.”

The Veterans Connect Portal provides a single, trusted place where users can search for services, connect with verified providers and access support across employment, healthcare, housing, education and community programs, no matter where they live in Tennessee.

The platform also strengthens coordination across the state by equipping Veteran Service Organizations, local governments and agency partners with tools to better connect individuals to services and follow through on those connections.

“We’re reminded that

the freedoms we enjoy are made possible by the dedication and sacrifice of the men and women who have served and continue to serve our nation,” said Commissioner

Baker, “Our state remains committed to supporting that service, not only through recognition, but through meaningful action. The Veterans Connection Platform strengthens that commitment by creating a streamlined, centralized way for service members, veterans and their families to connect with the resources and support they deserve.

“By bringing services together in one place, Veterans Connect represents the next step in the Volunteer State’s ongoing commitment to serving veterans and their families across all 95 counties.”

Veterans Connect is now available at <https://tnveteransconnect.tn.gov/>.

Gleason High School Graduates 33



GLEASON (May 15) — Gleason’s Class of 2026 graduated Friday, May 15 in the Gleason School gymnasium. The graduating class had 33 members, including Valedictorian Luke Lawrence, Salutatorian Curtis Trey Mayo and Class President Drake Lehmkuhl. More graduation coverage is in The Banner’s Graduation Keepsake Edition, coming soon. *Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner*

Clarksburg School Graduates 30



CLARKSBURG (May 15) — Clarksburg’s Class of 2026 graduated Friday, May 15 in the A.D. Jarrett Gymnasium. The graduating class had 30 members, including Valedictorian Jayanna Martin, Salutatorian Ava Akins and Class Historian Alyssa Belew. More graduation coverage is in The Banner’s Graduation Keepsake Edition, coming soon. *Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner*



Left, Rose Crowley performs an acoustic cover of Radiohead’s “Fake Plastic Trees.” Center, Matthias Pierce performs “Loyal, Brave, True” from “Mulan” on the piano. Right, Carlton Townes delivers Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I Have A Dream” speech. *Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner*

Carroll Arts Celebrates High School Talents

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
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HUNTINGDON (April 30) — Thursday night’s High School Celebration of the Arts, hosted by Carroll Arts, Inc., gave local students the chance to showcase their visual and performing arts skills at The Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center.

“Tonight is a celebration of not just talent, but of creativity, dedication and, ultimately, the future of our community,” said Carroll County Mayor Joseph Butler. “The arts play a vital role in that — a vital role in shaping who we are. It tells our stories. It preserves our heritage. The arts give voice to ideas and emotions that, sometimes, words alone can’t express.”

The event began with an art show from 6:30-7 p.m., displaying art pieces students had created in their high school art classes.

At 7 p.m., attendees moved downstairs to the Hal Holbrook Theatre as seven high school students — representing Hollow Rock-Bruceton, Huntingdon, McKenzie and Henry County high schools — prepared to take center stage. Jesse Turner emceed the event.

But first, Mayor Butler addressed the performers, “To our students, our artists, our creators: Tonight’s about you. You’ve chosen to invest your time and energy into something very meaningful, whether you’re performing or creating... The arts bring people together. They create shared experiences. They foster pride in your schools and in our community. They truly help make Carroll County not just a place where people live but a place where people want to be and be a part of.”



Maddie Brinkman sings “Pure as the Driven Snow” from “The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes.” *Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner*

Isaac Stephen Walker kicked off the night’s performances with a cover of Radiohead’s “Creep.” Walker, an 18-year-old senior at Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School, is the drum major and a trumpet player in the school band. He is in numerous school clubs and also writes, directs, produces, edits and hosts his school news program. He plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Martin and pursue a three-and-three program. He will use his double-degree through this program to pursue a juris doctorate and work in Knoxville as a defense attorney.

Sophie Cole and Isaac Pierce then performed a duet to Josh Baldwin’s “Made for More” and Hillsong Worship’s “Here I Am to Worship.” Cole is a 15-year-old sophomore at McKenzie High School, where she is football manager and a member of the Beta Club, DECA, FBLA and Student Council. Her future plan is to become a physical therapist. Pierce is a senior at Henry County High School, where he participates in football, the madrigals choir and various Christian-based clubs. He plans to become a worship

leader in the near future. Cole and Pierce are both members of Long Heights Baptist Church in McKenzie, where they sing with the Praise Team on Sundays and lead youth worship on Wednesday nights. They also lead worship music for YoungLife McKenzie.

Matthias Pierce was next on the lineup, performing “Loyal, Brave, True” from “Mulan” on the piano. Pierce is a tenth-grade student at McKenzie High School, where he pursues several arts activities. He is a member of MHS Theatre Rebels and Harmonix at the Krider Performing Arts Center in Paris. He studies piano with Ms. Sheila Hart.

Next up was Rose Crowley, a 14-year-old sophomore from Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School. Crowley performed an acoustic cover of Radiohead’s “Fake Plastic Trees.” She is a member of the school band, in which she serves in the color guard. Her future goals include obtaining a degree in music education and becoming a band director.

McKenzie High School senior Carlton Townes then took the stage, delivering Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “I Have A Dream” speech. Townes is president of his senior class and the MHS Minority Council. He is a manager for boys and girls basketball, cross country and volleyball. Townes serves on the mission board of First Baptist Church - McKenzie. After graduation, he plans to study nursing and hospitality with the goal of becoming a Certified Nurse Midwife.

Maddie Brinkman closed out the night’s show with a performance of “Pure as the Driven Snow” by Rachel Zegler and The Covey Band from “The Hunger Games: The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes.” Brinkman is a junior at Huntingdon High School. She enjoys art, singing and caring for her many animals. Her future plans include attending college, where she will major in cell and molecular biology. She hopes to become a marine and exotic veterinarian.

Central High School Graduates 48



BRUCETON (May 17) — Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central’s Class of 2026 graduated Sunday, May 17 in a packed Central High School gymnasium. The graduating class had 48 members, including Valedictorian Madison Holder, Salutatorian Olivia Scott and Class President Bryleigh Sauls. More graduation coverage is in The Banner’s Graduation Keepsake Edition, coming soon. *Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner*

MSSD Celebrates Teachers

MCKENZIE (May 4) — The McKenzie Special School District (MSSD) celebrated its second annual Appreciation Banquet at the Tennessee National Guard Armory, honoring administrators, faculty, and staff for their outstanding service in education. The event served as an end-of-year celebration for the district, with attendees including administrators, members of the school board, faculty, staff, and other guests.

Dr. Justin Barden, Director of Schools, offered thanks for another successful year. The banquet, catered by Mallard’s Restaurant in Huntingdon, recognized key individuals across the district.

Teachers and Staff of the Year Recognized

Teachers of the Year honored were Chris Wall (McKenzie Elementary School), Megan Broyles (McKenzie Middle School), and Gina Pate (McKenzie High School). Support staff members recognized included Jessica Rhodes-Rogers (McKenzie Elementary School), Kevin Beck (McKenzie Middle School), and Jennifer Travis (McKenzie High School).

Retirees and Service Milestones

Retiring faculty and staff were also honored: Veda Haney (34 years of service), Kathy Barcroft (25 years), and Greg Jones (eight years).

Years-of-service pins were presented for milestone anniversaries, led by Paula Doster with 35 years and Malissa Anderson with 30 years. Other honorees included Tonya Brown (25 years); Amanda Oakley, Rebecca Jones, and Bess Toombs (20 years); Karlene Ellis-Brown, Amanda Morris, Kelly Simmons, Josephine Wright, and Frankie Brockman (15 years); and Josie Brown, Lauren Flannery, Alex Hayes, and Lori Robertson (10 years). Tracie Baker, Gale Edwards, Hunter Herrin, Daphne Jackson, Jordan Jowers, Kim Lowe, Megan Wortham, and Brittany Morgan were recognized for five years of



Top, Chris Wall (center) was honored as the Teacher of the Year at McKenzie Elementary School. Assistant Principal Zach Renfro and Principal Tonya Brown accompany him. On the same day, Wall was honored as the district’s coach of the year. Center, Megan Broyles was honored as Teacher of the Year at McKenzie Middle School. Principal Josh Kee and Assistant Principal Beth Mathis accompany her. Below, Gina Pate was honored as Teacher of the Year at McKenzie High School. Assistant Principal Zach Tippitt and Principal Kelly Spivey accompany her. *Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner*



service.

Academic Honors and Gifts

Teachers who earned Tennessee Value Added Assessment System (TVAAS) honors were recognized. Level 5 honorees included Paula Doster, Janet Esch, Mary Spivey, and

Josephine Wright. Level 4 honors went to Courtney Kee and David Hochreiter.

The event concluded with door prizes from area businesses, ensuring that every teacher and staff member received a gift selected through a random drawing.



Grace

BAPTIST CHURCH

Looking for a place to grow in faith and find a welcoming community?

Grace Baptist Church warmly invites you and your family to join us for our weekly services. Whether you are a long-time resident or new to the area, our doors are open to everyone in our community.

OUR WEEKLY SCHEDULE

SUNDAYS

10 a.m. — Sunday School (Classes for all ages)
11 a.m. — Morning Worship Service
1:30 p.m. — Afternoon Service

WEDNESDAYS

7 p.m. — Mid-Week Prayer & Bible Study

Join Us This Sunday at Grace Baptist Church!

Jon King Pastor Fred Morris Associate Pastor
747 WEST MAGNOLIA AVE, MCKENZIE, TENNESSEE

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