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THE BANNER

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Tuesday, May 26, 2026

A PRODUCT OF TRI-COUNTY PUBLISHING, INC.

McKENZIE, TENNESSEE

Home of Bethel University

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Carroll County 911 Headquarters Nears Completion



Construction on the new Carroll County 911 Headquarters in Huntingdon is still underway. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

BY JOEL WASHBURN
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HUNTINGDON (May 21) — The Carroll County Emergency Communications District (911 Board) Board of Directors moved forward with work on its new headquarters campus, approving a \$7,500 bid to demolish the former 800-square-foot office building on Dillahunt Lane in Huntingdon.

The demolition contract was awarded to Barger Construction Company of Yuma, which is also

See 911 on Page 3

AREA MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES



Above, Wilma Pearson, commander of the Huntingdon American Legion, was the speaker at the Huntingdon Memorial Day ceremony. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner Right, Participants in the McKenzie Memorial Day Ceremony were (L to R) Mayor Ryan Griffin, Dana Deem, Tim Smothers, Chelsea Brown, Tammy Host, Riley Crafton, David Kellett Hochreiter, Chief Ryan White and Jennifer Waldrup. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner



Huntingdon Honors Fallen Heroes During Memorial Day Event

HUNTINGDON (May 25) — The community of Huntingdon/Carroll County gathered today at Huntingdon Middle School gymnasium for a poignant Memorial Day ceremony, paying tribute to the men and women of the armed

forces who made the ultimate sacrifice. The event, marked by patriotic observances and a keynote address, emphasized remembrance, reflection, and gratitude

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City of McKenzie Hosts Memorial Day Ceremony

BY BRAD SAM
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McKENZIE (May 25) — The City of McKenzie honored fallen servicemembers with a Memorial Day Ceremony Monday in Downtown Veterans Memorial Park.

During the ceremony, a McKenzie fire engine ladder held high

a giant, 40x20-foot American Flag as a backdrop. The flag was donated to the city by Woodmen Life.

Mayor Ryan Griffin served as emcee, beginning the event by leading the Pledge of Allegiance. Chelsea Brown performed "Goodness of God" and "How Great Thou Art."

See McKENZIE on Page 3

Huntingdon School Board Bids Farewell to First Student Reps



Huntingdon Board of Education student representatives Madison Dill (left) and Paige Costello attended their final meeting Wednesday. Also pictured are (L to R) Director of Schools Dr. Jonathan Kee and school board members Shawna Smith, Dr. Lee Carter, Brittany Foster, Morgan Butler and Clay Nolen. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (May 20) — The Huntingdon Special School District Board of Education met Wednesday with a light agenda, but took some time to reflect on the school year about to end and to bid farewell to the district's first-ever student school board representatives.

The lone item of business was to consider continuing membership in Tennessee School Systems for Equity, an organization of mainly rural districts that advocates for equitable

See SCHOOL on Page 3

Huntingdon Town Council To Discuss 2027 Budget

The Huntingdon Town Council meets Tuesday, May 26 at 5:15 p.m. at Huntingdon City Hall, 19810 Main Street East. The following new business items are on the agenda:

1. Ordinance No. 657, an ordinance to amend Ordinance No, 639 same being the General Fund, Drug Fund, Solid Waste Collection Fund, DCPA Special

See BUDGET on Page 2

McKenzie Ceremonial Cannon Fired After Seven-Year Hiatus



McKENZIE (May 25) — During the City of McKenzie’s Memorial Day Ceremony Monday, the city’s miniature ceremonial cannon was fired for the first time since Veterans Day 2019. (The last person to fire the cannon was James Choate.) Initiating the blast was McKenzie Police Chief Ryan White (left), assisted by Patrolman Matthew Cunningham. *Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner*



A newly placed flag adorns the gravesite of Terry Blakemore, who served as a general in the Tennessee Army National Guard.

McKenzie Honors Fallen Heroes with Annual Flag Placement Tradition

McKENZIE — As the morning sun rose over Carroll County this weekend, a dedicated group of volunteers fanned out across local cemeteries, transforming green hillsides into seas of red, white, and blue. The annual Memorial Day flag placement tradition remains a cornerstone of the McKenzie community, ensuring that every veteran interred in the area is recognized for their service and sacrifice.

Spearheaded by the American Legion, the massive coordination effort brought together a multi-generational force of prior service and retired military personnel, and civilians working side-by-side. These volunteers spent Saturday and Sunday meticulously walking the grounds of Mt. Olivet Cemetery and Carroll Memorial Gardens, placing individual American flags at the headstones of generations

of veterans.

It takes several hours of meticulous searching to ensure no one is overlooked. The effort extended to nearby Liberty All Cemetery, where a moving annual program features the reading of every interred veteran’s name aloud as their flag is set into the earth.

The weekend’s labor of love serves as a prelude to McKenzie’s and Huntingdon’s official remembrance services.

The volunteers who place the flags often recall shared memories with those interred as each flag is placed.

Following the community-driven efforts at the cemeteries, the focus transitions to Veterans Park in downtown McKenzie for the formal Memorial Day ceremony. The event historically features military guest speakers, the laying of a memorial wreath, and the somber notes of Taps echoing through the city center.

Budget

...From Front Page

Projects Fund, and Utility Fund budgets of the Town of Huntingdon, Tennessee, for Fiscal Year 2026 (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026) to provide for the routine fiscal year-end review and amendments, first reading.

2. Ordinance No. 658, an ordinance to adopt and approve the General Fund, Drug Fund, Solid Waste Collection Fund, DCPA Special Projects Fund, and Utility Fund budgets of the Town of Huntingdon, Tenn., for Fiscal Year 2027 (July 1,

2026 – June 30, 2027) and adopt property tax rate for 2026 Tax Year, first reading.

3. Resolution No. 026-06, a resolution to hire administrative services for the 2026 Local Parks & Recreation Fund Grant Project.

4. Consider the purchase of a 2026 Petersen Freightliner Knuckle Boom Truck under Sourcewell contract for the Street Department.

5. Consider the purchase of a 2026 F-150 4x4 Supercrew pickup truck for the Fire Department.

6. Consider water bill adjustment for Renee Dupree.

7. Consider water bill adjustment for Michael Coleman.



McKenzie Station Splash Pad Enters Ninth Season

McKENZIE — The McKenzie Station Splash Pad, located at 91 East Bruce Street, officially kicked off its ninth season this week, marking nearly a decade of downtown revitalization. What began as an ambitious plan to repurpose a historic railroad site has evolved into a centerpiece of summer life.

The site holds deep historical significance, originally serving as the intersection for the Nashville & Northwestern and the Louisville & Mem-

phis Railroad lines in the 1860s. For decades, the land sat as a neglected green space until former Mayor Jill Holland championed its transformation. In 2017, the city secured a Local Parks and Recreation Grant from the state of Tennessee to bring the project to life.

“We wanted to honor our past while building a future for our children,” city officials noted during the original grand opening on July 20, 2017. The design intentionally in-

corporates architectural emphasis to the old depot that once stood on the grounds.

The park’s success has led to continuous expansion. In 2022, the Tennessee Municipal League honored McKenzie with the Small City Progress Award, citing the creation of Harmony Park—an interactive outdoor percussion space—and the addition of a major shade pavilion. These improvements, alongside the restored Park Theatre,

helped redefine the downtown experience.

Most recently, Parks Director Billy Hollowell oversaw the completion of a new playground in Spring 2026. Featuring a climbing wall and elevated fort, the facility now offers year-round recreation even after the water park is turned off for the winter.

The Splash Pad remains free of charge for all visitors. It operates daily from late May through the summer months.



The Bella Barn of West Tennessee.

The Bella Barn Sells, Will Not Continue as Wedding Venue

BY LYNDESEY SUMMERS
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McKENZIE — The Bella Barn of West Tennessee is closing its doors after 12 years. On Monday, May 18, owner and manager Patty Beck shared her decision to sell the beloved property. She said the new owners will not continue with the venue.

Originally used as a shop and storage for Beck’s hay and farm supplies, The Bella Barn of West Tennessee, nicknamed “The Bella Barn,”

became the place where many West Tennessee couples shared their vows, said “I do” and shared their first moments as newlyweds.

Beck purchased the 33-acre property — an Amish farm and ranch — in 2005. The property included a 1940s barn, kept in its original state.

Beck decided to add onto the existing barn in 2014, creating a rustic-style venue for weddings, parties and other celebrations. She found

inspiration for multiple ceremony sites on the property and groomed the grounds to make her visions into reality. She built bold fencing, arches and gates to create a beautiful atmosphere. All the while, her horses still roamed the field.

Beck also implemented a Bridal Suite, which was once an apartment designed for use when her family visited town.

Selling The Bella Barn was a hard decision for Beck, she said, but “do-

ing so gives [her] the opportunity to move onto new opportunities ... with [her] family.”

Beck thanked everyone who loved The Bella Barn through the years.

“It has been a wonderful blessing for me to own a little slice of heaven and to be there for all of you that chose The Bella Barn for your special day,” Beck said.

The Bella Barn of West Tennessee property, located at 360 Blooming Grove S, McKenzie, Tenn. 38201, sold on May 8, 2026.

Tennessee Soybean Festival Canceled for 2026

BY LYNDESEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

MARTIN (May 21) — Enjoyers of the Tennessee Soybean Festival were dealt bad news Thursday, May 21, when the City of Martin’s Tennessee Soybean Festival Committee announced a one-year hiatus, citing financial challenges facing the city.

The announcement shocked many, as the festival has been a tradition in the City of Martin for more than 30 years.

“We understand how much the Tennessee Soybean Festival means to our community, and this was not an easy decision,” the committee shared in a public statement.

The committee unanimously agreed that putting the Tennessee Soybean Festival on pause was the most responsible path forward, given “the budget, manpower and time required to responsibly plan an event of this scale.”

The Tennessee Soybean Festival Committee typi-

cally organizes the annual festival through a collaboration with the University of Tennessee at Martin, local industries and businesses, agricultural leaders, churches, community organizations and volunteers.

“Our goal is not to take away from the community,” the committee said, “but to ensure that the resources we do have are used in the most sustainable and impactful ways possible during a difficult time for our city.”

The 2026 festival had

already been announced, and the committee was taking vendor applications before its cancellation, according to a Facebook post from Squatch BBQ & Catering.

The Tennessee Soybean Festival has historically occurred during the first week of September and features carnival rides, live music, food vendors and art shows. In 2025, festival-goers enjoyed performances by TLC, The Band Perry and Bizz & Everyday People.



Huntingdon High School Band performed patriotic music for the event. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

Huntingdon

...From Front Page

for those who secured the nation's freedoms. Mayor Chad Edwards served as the master of ceremonies for the event.

The ceremony commenced with opening remarks underscoring Memorial Day as a day "more than just a long weekend or the beginning of summer," but a time to honor heroes "willing to give everything for our country and for our future generation." Attendees stood for the presentation of colors, followed by a stirring rendition of the national anthem by Sophie Cole and the Pledge of Allegiance. Veterans, widows of veterans, former Prisoners of War (POWs), and spouses of currently deployed personnel received special recognition, with many standing to acknowledge their service and sacrifice. The Huntingdon High School band, under the direction of Ben Martin, performed a "Salute to the Armed Forces," inviting veterans to stand for their branch's anthem.

The morning address was by American Legion Commander Wilma Pearson of Post 47. Introduced as a "faithful servant to her country and her community," Commander Pearson's distinguished career includes military service as a medical corpsman during the Vietnam conflict, where she was stationed at West Point. She later became the first female ordained elder in the Christian Methodist Episcopal Church in 1979 and served as a chaplain for the Knoxville Police Department for a decade.

Commander Pearson's keynote address centered

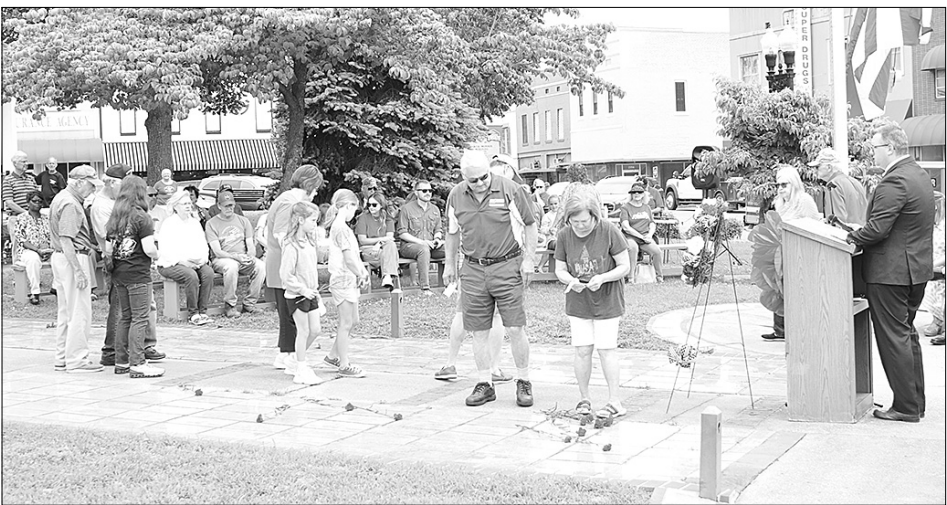


Mayor Chad Edwards was the master of ceremonies. Looking on is Sophie Cole, who sang the National Anthem. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

on the heroic story of the "Four Chaplains" from February 3, 1943. She recounted how, aboard the torpedoed SS Dorchester, four chaplains—Lt. George L. Fox (Methodist), Lt. Alexander D. Goode (Jewish), Lt. Clark V. Poling (Dutch Reformed), and Lt. John P. Washington (Catholic)—calmly offered comfort amidst chaos. When life jackets ran out, "each chaplain gave up his own life jacket and gave it to the sailors in need." Witnesses described seeing the four men, arm-in-arm, praying in unison as the ship sank, an act she called a "testimony of faith and service" that transcended religious barriers. Commander Pearson concluded with a powerful challenge to the Carroll County community: "Show love, to show unity. To that do the right thing. And when we do the right thing, guess what? God will bless us."

Following the address, American Legion Chaplain Wayne Tortersen and Sergeant at Arms Lade Sode led a solemn POW/MIA Reflections ceremony. The "Fallen Comrade Table" was presented, with each element symbolizing the sacrifice and enduring hope for missing service members. A minute of silence was observed, and the Huntingdon Troop 73 Boy Scouts of America placed a memorial wreath.

The ceremony concluded with remarks from the master of ceremonies, urging reflection on "service, courage, sacrifice, and patriotism," and a closing prayer delivered by Brother Chris King of the Huntingdon Church of Christ, who thanked God for the service members who "emulated that sacrifice... by giving up their time, their effort, and Father, in some cases, their lives."



Top, Featured speaker Tammy Host delivers remarks as the massive American Flag waves above the park. Above, Memorial Day Ceremony attendees place roses on the stones honoring their loved ones. Below, Police Chief Ryan White fires the ceremonial miniature cannon next to the full-size, out-of-commission cannon on the square. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



McKenzie

...From Front Page

David Kellett Hochreiter, Sgt. Medic, U.S. Army, recited the poem "Forever Remembered" and offered a Memorial Day prayer.

Tammy Host, DT3, U.S. Navy, Retired, was the speaker. She relayed the history of Memorial Day, tracing back to the Civil War-era Decoration Day, and recited the poem "In Flanders Fields." She also implored everyone to remember and honor the true meaning of the holiday.

Dana Deem, Master Sgt., USAF, Retired, representing American Legion Post 37, and Tim Smothers, E7 Sergeant First Class, U.S. Army, Retired, VFW Post 4939 Commander, placed the Memorial Wreath on the Veterans Memorial Walk.

Attendees were invited to place a rose on the stone



Dana Deem, Master Sgt., USAF, Retired, representing American Legion Post 37, and Tim Smothers, E7 Sergeant First Class, U.S. Army, Retired, VFW Post 4939 Commander, place the Memorial Wreath on the Veterans Memorial Walk. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

of loved ones honored on the Walk.

Police Chief Ryan White fired the ceremonial miniature cannon, and Riley Crafton played Taps.

Refreshments were served

by the VFW Post 4939 Auxiliary.

City Recorder Jennifer Waldrup organized the event, Parks employees prepared the park, and Steve Bomar provided sound.



The former 911 administrative office (foreground) is to be razed to make way for the new headquarters on Dillahunt Lane, Huntingdon.

911

...From Front Page

the contractor for the new headquarters. The company's \$7,500 bid was substantially lower than those from other bidders, Shamrock of Paris and Reynolds Construction of Huntingdon. The contract requires Barger to raze the old building, remove all debris, eliminate the septic tank, dispose of remaining contents, and ensure all earthwork is consistent with the adjacent new construction.

The 5,422-square-foot new headquarters, which

includes administrative space, a training area, and a backup dispatch center, is now on track for completion. Approved in May 2024, the building's estimated cost is \$2.875 million, which the CCECD had saved in reserve. CCECD Director Kristy Meggs noted that the district had been financially planning for the new building for over a decade. The facility was sketched by A2H designers and architects.

Meggs also shared that the new training area will be available to any government agency or nonprofit organization for hosting training sessions or meetings. This area, along with the backup dispatch center,

is isolated from the main administrative space.

The backup dispatch center will provide multi-console dispatch capabilities for use if the county's Emergency Operating Center (adjacent to the Sheriff's Department) becomes inoperable. The training/community room has separate restrooms and entrances, allowing it to be used by groups other than 911.

Attending the Thursday meeting were: Director Kristy Meggs, administrative assistant Amanda Pate, board members Steve Price, Max Anderson, Willie Huffman, Joe Walker, Larry Elliott, and board chairlady Joyce Noles.

School

...From Front Page

state funding. Director of Schools Dr. Jonathan Kee recommended maintaining membership, and the board concurred unanimously.

Just four days after their graduation from Huntingdon High School, Madison Dill and Paige Costello returned to the central office for their final meeting as student school board representatives. The pair were the first to serve in the position in the district.

Board Chairman Dr. Lee Carter said, "Thank y'all for what you have accomplished this year. I don't know if y'all will ever truly realize what y'all have done for us at this board... I could not have asked for any better students to step up and take this role, and y'all have absolutely set a high, high standard for anybody that comes after you." Other board members

echoed Carter's sentiments.

Kee said, "Y'all are phenomenal. I think your positive attitude and how you came in excited about it, it's a great example for the next group, so thank y'all for that."

Costello and Dill gave their final monthly report, recapping a busy final stretch for students. They expressed their appreciation to the board for the opportunity to serve. The two new alumni were presented with blue "H" pins.

Student representatives for next year are rising senior Katherine Meggs and rising junior Lila Reed. Reed will continue to serve her senior year with another rising junior.

Kee commented and board members chimed in to praise the accomplishments of Huntingdon students this year in academics, athletics and other extracurricular activities. Kee said, "I don't ever want to take that for granted. In a small community, I'm just thankful that we have good support for

those things, we have kids that want to get involved. I think it's very unique for Huntingdon."

The director announced a new sign had been installed at the high school to commemorate past and future state athletic appearances.

Dr. Kee was pleased to report 87 open enrollment applications had already been processed and approved for the next school year, an increase from the 80 total approved last year. He said, "I think that's a compliment to [our] teachers, our school board, our community as a whole. I'm thankful that people respect our district and would like to come here."

Kee relayed plans to replace the windows at the primary school and paint hallways at the high school, among other projects for the summer.

The meeting adjourned after 15 minutes.

Board member Kennedy White was absent.

The board meets next on Wednesday, June 17 at 5 p.m.

Things In My Head with Charles Manfredi



THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

The Long View of The Bible

For over fifty years I have been a serious student of the Bible and have read all of it numerous times. But up until a few years ago, I had never read it through in a chronological manner. My studies had always focused on the micro rather than the macro in that I would delve deeply into studying a particular book of the Bible, or perhaps a specific chapter, even one verse, or even focusing on one word.

But when I read it “cover to cover” in a year’s time I came away with some conclusions (hopefully accurate ones) that I’d never had before.

FIRST: God’s workings in my life have little to do with me, rather, they are about a bigger purpose that only He can see at the time. All the plagues that God brought upon Egypt in order to convince Pharaoh to “let my people go” were to let all the nations around Egypt learn of the one true God’s power. And indeed, when the children of Israel crossed the Red Sea on their journey toward the Promised Land many nations laid down their weapons of war because they knew they were powerless in the face of this people’s God.

God didn’t save Jonah from the belly of that giant fish for Jonah’s sake but so Jonah could travel to Nineveh and convict the people to repent and turn to God.

Esther did not become Queen Esther to benefit her but in order that she would be in a position to save God’s people.

All the calamities that befell Job were not about him. They were about giving the world an example of how a person should cope when trials come.

And the horrible death Jesus endured was not about him—it was about you and me.

It’s an important lesson for me to remember when-

ever good or bad things happen to me and I want to feel either puffed up or pitiful: there’s always a bigger reason than I can see, and I need to be thankful in both circumstances that God thought enough of me to use me in his Grand Plan.

SECOND: It’s no wonder people were startled at the teachings of Jesus. The Old Testament teachers, kings, and prophets of God always spoke with a “thus saith the Lord,” or “God has spoken to me” or “hear now what God has to say.”

Over and over again they made sure to credit God as being the source of their words to the people. Jesus’s style, though, was completely different. His words were ‘I say to you.’

He spoke with his own authority, something the religious leaders of his day did not do. Jesus even openly contradicted some of their teachings: “You have heard it said ... But I say to you,” and they despised him for it. They felt threatened and feared losing their power base, which led to the decision to kill Jesus.

THIRD: The children of Israel missed the point. They believed God chose them because they were special, because they were better than the people around them. The truth, however, is the only thing that made them special was that God chose them, a choice made as a manifestation of his grace.

God needed a vehicle to show the world how he deals with mankind and all its frailties. The children of Israel were the perfect vehicle. It’s by studying their history in the Bible that we gain such a full understanding of all the facets of God’s nature.

There’ve been times in my life that I thought God chose Americans over other nationalities because of who we are, because we are more special in his eyes

than anyone else. I now see this is a very arrogant attitude. Has God blessed America? Absolutely! But God has blessed every nation that’s ever existed.

The only thing that makes a person special is when they acknowledge God as the creator of the universe and make a decision to live their life in devotion and obedience to him.

FOURTH: The outward display of devotion to God has never been the most important thing to Him. I’ve often heard it explained that under the Old Law the emphasis was on the outward acts of worship—burning incense, making animal sacrifices, washing hands, etc., and that the New Law (Testament) focuses on the heart. I no longer believe that to be the case.

What God has consistently asked for, since the beginning, is a changed heart in the lives of those who are devoted to him. Jesus made this abundantly clear when he talked about people who looked and acted in a pious manner but in their hearts were full of corruption and were very far from God.

There’ve been too many times in my life when I practiced a “check-the-box” religion, making sure I did the things that people expected a faithful Christian to do: dress a certain way, talk a certain way, go to church a certain number of times, etc., but my heart wasn’t what it should have been.

Don’t get me wrong. Those devoted to God should act and look differently from those who are not devoted. God does, and has always, demanded obedience. But it’s really easy to look and act right and be dead to God on the inside.

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

LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

Letters to the editor bear the opinion of the letter writer, and not necessarily that of the newspaper management or staff. Letters of opinion are not verified for accuracy of fact and truly stand only as the writer’s opinion.

Letters to the editor of public interest are solicited. Most letters, not libelous or harmful, will be published.

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

The McKenzie Banner re-

serves the right to refuse any item deemed libelous, not of public interest, or commercial in nature. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit the material while preserving the intent of the letter. Upon receipt in the offices of Tri-County Publishing, Inc., the letter becomes the property of the newspaper and will be retained in the files. Tri-County Publishing may solicit contrary opinion concerning the content of the letter.

HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

They Traded Their Life, For Ours

It was never confusing for us. Memorial Day commemorated those brave American soldiers who gave their last full measure for our country. It has nothing to do with the beginning of summer.

I can remember the only Memorial Day lesson I ever needed. It was in my early school years. Somebody did a book report on Audie Murphy, and the teacher reminded us that all of our fathers who fought in World War II were also war heroes.

Listen, this was in 1956. Easily, 90 percent of the students in that room had fathers who’d been battle tested either in Europe or the South Pacific. Including mine. I raced home with my little heart beating faster than a hummingbird’s wings at meal time.

Daddy was just Daddy. He played with us. Fussled at us when we didn’t do it just like he wanted it done. Told us great stories at night out on the porch. Taught us how to twist that ear of corn off the stalk. And he would never let us get away with the “sick stomach” trick on Sunday mornings.

He didn’t ever, one time, in his whole life, act like a hero. That’s why I was waiting out by the road when he got home from work that day. “Daddy,” my heart was still about to leap out of my little chest, “teacher says that you are a war hero!”

He stopped in mid stride, squatted down so he was about eyeball to eyeball with me, paused for a second—and I saw a look come over him like he was a million miles away—and then he delivered the only words I ever heard him say about that part of his life.

“Son, the real heroes didn’t come back.”

No one has ever ex-

plained Memorial Day better than that.

So don’t tell me it is the beginning of summer. Or it is associated with barbecue grills and going to the beach. We used to celebrate it on May 30. It seems like it kinda got watered down when someone changed it to the last Monday in the month so we could make it a “three day weekend.”

Any elementary school child can tell you exactly when summer starts. And it has nothing to do with the Gregorian calendar, leap year, Civil War cemeteries, the summer solstice, or celebrating holidays. Summer begins the second the last bell rings marking the end of another boring school year.

Now, me and Yogi, Buddy and Ricky near ’bout cheered like it was on par with Christmas, Thanksgiving, or your tenth birthday. We headed for the big ditch. We ran through the little stream in the middle of it. We climbed its steepest walls. We threw pine cones, dirt clods, and broken off tree limbs at each other.

It was just the freedom of the moment. And the anticipation of the almost three ensuing months where we could do “nothin’ but what we wanted to do.” You see the fallacy of our thinking immediately. We were not exactly as free as we imagined.

We all had chores at home...about where and when we could go. And where and when we could not go. But we didn’t have to attend the Blue Bird reading class. Or take those awful math tests. Or good gracious alive, line up against the wall across from the girls and participate in those appalling spelling bees!

I reckon freedom is what you make of it.

And in our minds, we were basking in it in those wonderful summer months. We would race our bikes to town just for the heck of it. We’d go down to the ice house and beg the nice man who worked there for a slice of watermelon. We’d hitch a ride out to the Tri-County Stockyards just to listen to the auctioneer sell those cows.

As we got older, jobs got in the way of our summer fun. But we needed, wanted, put to good use, the money we made. It opened more doors for us. And we gravitated to the swimming pool, Frank’s Dairy Bar, and the clay pits.

And you might not believe this, but Jane, Pam, Emily, and Diane became as important in our lives as Ricky, Buddy, and Yogi. It was like a whole new world was opening up for all of us. Cars suddenly were important. Madras shirts became the rage. We wouldn’t be caught dead wearing a “farmer’s tan.” We began to listen to the “Kingston Trio” and “Peter, Paul, and Mary.”

I learned a new term, “going steady.”

Good golly, we wrote the book on easy living. And those early lazy, hazy days of summer were only the beginning. I have felt safe, free, blessed, and happy every single day of my life.

As I’m sure many of you have also. We can congratulate ourselves for living in the land of the free, and the home of the brave.

Or we can put two and two together...and understand the importance of “the ones who didn’t come back.”

Respectfully,
Kes
kesley45@aol.com

Warren Tells the History of Long Rock UMC

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (May 20) — Nestled atop a small hill on a road branching off of Gordon Browning Highway is a small church and cemetery with stories spanning over a century old. Named for a long rock sitting on the six-acre property, Long Rock United Methodist Church is one of only six Carroll County locations listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Longtime member Kemmie Warren, 92, spoke of the church’s lore with the Huntingdon Historical Society on Wednesday, May 20.

Warren began her presentation with a poem called “Long Rock: Beneath Tall Cedars,” written by Linda Vestal in 2010.

Long Rock United Methodist Church as Warren knows it was built in 1886. Warren’s grandparents were charter members of the church, and Warren herself became a member of the church in 1951 in a baptism that involved Crooked Creek and red food dye.

Before Long Rock United Methodist Church was constructed, there sat a log building that served as both a church and Long Rock’s only school.

“Students gathered at the sturdy long rock to eat and socialize,” the poem read. “Eight[h] graders claimed the highest point and the rest lined up by size.” “On a beautiful day, during lunchtime, the rock would



Kemmie Warren addresses the Huntingdon Historical Society. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

be covered with the children and their lunch buckets,” Warren said.

In 1886, Silas Cory drew a building plan for the church’s new structure. Hezekiah Wilcox was hired as the carpenter but died before construction was completed.

“When Hezekiah died the community vied to see the job complete,” the poem read. “Bricks were made and baked in a kiln and arranged three layers deep.”

Warren said the bricks were hand-picked to be uniform in color. The pieces used on the front layer had to have good faces. Community members also laid brick for the new schoolhouse, which was built the following year.

“The carpenters must have been pretty good,” Warren said, “because the buildings are all still standing.”

Long Rock United Methodist Church still has a pencil-written document detailing every nail, measurement, paint color and other items used in the building’s

construction.

Over time, Warren said, people have made changes to the building. Notably, the original, handmade pulpit has seen changes.

When a shorter preacher began serving at Long Rock, he couldn’t see over the original pulpit. Warren said the preacher eventually sawed off the top of the pulpit, which became an issue when the next preacher was six-feet tall. The taller preacher then added a base to the new pulpit, making it taller for his use. Warren said the pulpit has since been untouched.

Warren also spoke of the Presson family, who began the Carroll County Singing Convention at Long Rock. At the time, Warren said, Carroll County didn’t have a civic center, and the courthouse reportedly “didn’t have good acoustics.”

Revivals, she said, were also very popular at Long Rock, with people planning their vacations around the event. “That week,” Warren said, “you didn’t do anything but go to church.”

“As we think about all the deceased and the sacrifices made,” the poem concluded, “Our hearts are filled with gratitude and memories that will not fade.”

“This is the history of Long Rock Church,” Warren said. “We are still going strong. Our attendance is not what it needs to be, but we’re hanging on.”

Read the full poem online: www.mckenziebanner.com

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Obituaries



GERALD 'JERRY' SPAIN
1947 – 2026

MCKENZIE — A memorial service for Gerald “Jerry” L. Spain, 79, will be held at a later date.

Mr. Spain was born on April 12, 1947, in Milan, Tenn. He married Martha Presson Spain on May 29, 1970. He retired from Dura Automotive after working in Quality Control for over 30 years. Growing up in Milan, he was an avid baseball player and, as an adult, a slow-pitch softball player and coach. He helped coach Little League and Babe Ruth in McKenzie. He was a member of First Baptist Church of McKenzie.

Survivors include his wife, Martha Presson Spain of McKenzie; a son, Jeremy (Erin) Spain of Lavinia; six grandchildren, Melanie (Matthew) Wilson of Humboldt, Allison Herren of Humboldt, Amanda Smith of McLemoresville, Mary Smith of McLemoresville, Tyler King of Humboldt, and Elissa King of Lavinia; two great-grandchildren, Harper Wilson of Humboldt, and Chloe Rimmer of Dyersburg; and one niece, Tanya Spain of Bradford.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Bennie and Hilma Spain; brother, David Spain; and a nephew, Dusty Spain.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home. +

THERESA M. UPCHURCH
1979 – 2026

MCKENZIE — Funeral services for Theresa M. Taylor Upchurch are Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 1 p.m. at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home. The family will receive friends

on Thursday, from 11 a.m. until service time. Interment will follow at Mt Olivet Cemetery.

Mrs. Upchurch, 46, died on May 11, 2026, at Jackson Madison Co. General Hospital. She was born on August 6, 1979. She was the daughter of Billy and Linda Woods Taylor.

She is survived by her husband, her three children, two sisters, 4 step-children, her father, and two grandchildren, Creed Diggs and Braxton Harrison, and 7 step-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her mother, a sister, and a granddaughter.

For the complete obituary, visit mckenziebanner.com.

ZACHARY ADAM JONES
1992 – 2026

SMYRNA, Tenn., formerly of Gleason — The family of Zachary Adam Jones will have private services at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home, and interment is at Tumbling Creek Cemetery.

Mr. Jones, 34, died at Tri-Star StoneCrest Medical Center on May 20, 2026. He is a member of Tumbling Creek Baptist Church, a graduate of McKenzie High School Class of 2010, and a CT Technician at St. Thomas Rutherford. Born on February 27, 1992, in McKenzie, to Jerry L. Jones and Teresa Scott Jones.

He is survived by his partner, Kirk Harris of Smyrna; a son, Maxwell Jones of Camden; his parents, Jerry and Teresa Jones of Gleason; a brother, Craig (Ashley) Jones of Gleason; maternal grandparents, Odean and Ruby Scott of Henry; and two nephews, Braxton Jones and Hunter Jones.

He is preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Paul and Barbara Jones.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked you to consider donating to Autism Awareness: <https://share.google/XCGbeqM3URWc17YF1>.

He is survived by his partner, Kirk Harris of Smyrna; a son, Maxwell Jones of Camden; his parents, Jerry and Teresa Jones of Gleason; a brother, Craig (Ashley) Jones of Gleason; maternal grandparents, Odean and Ruby Scott of Henry; and two nephews, Braxton Jones and Hunter Jones.

He is preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Paul and Barbara Jones.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked you to consider donating to Autism Awareness: <https://share.google/XCGbeqM3URWc17YF1>.

KRISTI PRINCE
1974 – 2026

PARIS — The family of Kristi J. Prince received friends on Friday, May 22, 2026, at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home as part

of the memorial service. Cremation followed.

Mrs. Prince, 51, died at Tri-Star Centennial Medical Center on May 19, 2026. She was born on September 14, 1974, in Chicago, Ill., to James Nutting and Dorothy Ringler Nutting.

She is survived by her husband, Donnie Prince; three daughters, two brothers, her father, and seven grandchildren.

For the complete obituary, visit mckenziebanner.com.

VIRGINIA LEE DILLON
1941 – 2026

HOLLOW ROCK — Mrs. Virginia Lee Dillon, 84, of Hollow Rock died Tuesday, May 19, at her home.

Funeral services were Saturday, May 23, in the Chapel of Bruceton Funeral Home. Burial was in New Prospect Cemetery.

Virginia was born on September 10, 1941, in Jackson, to the late David L. Murchison and Hester F. (Roberts) Ratliff. Other than her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Charles Lynn Dillon, and a sister.

She is survived by a daughter, two granddaughters, and three great-grandchildren.

For the complete obituary, visit mckenziebanner.com.

JOY LOU HODGE
1949 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Joy Lou Hodge, 76, of Huntingdon, died Monday, May 18, 2026 at Life Care Center.

Funeral services were on Thursday, May 21, 2026, in the Chapel of Dil-day-Carter Funeral Home. Interment was in Farmville Cemetery.

Joy was born September 1, 1949, to the late Max Todd Hodge and Kenny Marie Maness. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by two brothers and one sister.

She is survived by one daughter, three sons, two sisters, two brothers, nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

For the complete obituary, visit mckenziebanner.com.

green peas

2 cups chopped celery

In 4 to 5 quart slow cooker, combine rice, seasoning packet, ham, mushrooms, peas, celery plus 2 2/3 cup water. Stir to mix well. Cover and cook in slow cooker on low for 2 to 4 hours. Serves 4-6.

OVEN FRIES

5 medium baking potatoes

1/3 cup olive oil

Paprika

Preheat oven to 375 degrees. Scrub potatoes, cut each in 6 lengthwise wedges and place in shallow baking dish. Combine oil, 3/4 teaspoon salt and 1/4 teaspoon pepper in bowl and brush potatoes with mixture. Sprinkle potatoes lightly with paprika. Bake for about 50 minutes or until potatoes are tender and light brown and baste twice with remaining oil mixture while baking. Serves 6-8.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

‘PICKING BY THE POND’ ON MAY 30

Carl Byars and Steve Bomar are hosting “Picking by the Pond” musical entertainment Saturday, May 30 from 5-8 p.m. at McKenzie City Park. Several local entertainers will be performing and some surprise guests. There will be a line dance break around 6:30 p.m. Food available. No cover, tips welcome. Kid friendly.

REVIVAL AT EPHEBUS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

Revival at Ephesus Missionary Baptist Church, 2895 Ephesus Church Rd., Hollow Rock, is May 31 at 6 p.m. and June 1-5 at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

SECOND ANNUAL MCKENZIE ROTARY BOSTON BUTT SALE

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

SHERIFF TOWN HALL COMING JUNE 30

The McKenzie Banner and The Carroll County Observer are partnering to organize a Carroll County Sheriff's Town Hall and Community Forum on Tuesday, June 30, 2026, at 6 p.m. at the Carroll County Civic Center in Huntingdon, Tenn. (201 Mustang Drive, Huntingdon, TN 38344) to meet the three candidates vying for the Sheriff's position: Eric Sawyers, Michael A. Smith and Ryan White.

The moderator will be retired Circuit Court Judge Donald Parish. News media will be broadcasting the event. Early voting is July 17-August 1. Election day is August 6, 2026.

YOUNG KINGS TALENT AND LEADERSHIP CAMP

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

ALA UNIT 47 FAMILY DANCE NIGHT

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 47 hosts a Family Dance Night every Thursday night from 7-9 p.m. at the Carroll County Civic Center, 201 Fairgrounds Rd, Huntingdon. A different band is fea-

tured each week. All are welcome – singles and/or partners. Admission is \$8. Limited snacks and refreshments available for purchase. For the band schedule, check out our Facebook page: American Legion Auxiliary, Huntingdon, TN Unit 47.

MHS CLASS OF 1976 REUNION

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

SINGING AT ABUNDANT LIFE FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER

Ivan Parker will sing Sunday, May 31 at 6 p.m. at Abundant Life Family Worship Center, 4375 Highway 70, Cedar Grove. Love offering will be taken.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB AT HOMETOWN HEALTH CLINIC

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

MCKENZIE TOPS MEETS WEEKLY

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

CARROLL COMMISSION MEETS MONTHLY

Carroll County Commission meets the second Monday of each month, 7 p.m., in the Conference Room of the Carroll County Of-

fice Complex, High Street, Huntingdon. No meetings in February and July.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

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

HUGE 3 Family Yard Sale

1070 N Main St. MCKENZIE

Saturday, May 30 7 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Boys'/Girls' clothes (all sizes), men's clothes (Lg/XLg), women's clothes (Lg-4X), lots of crafting items, wreaths, knick knacks, lady's bike, 2 shower doors, shoes, a few antiques, jewelry, 2 outside chairs, pictures. Everything priced to sell.

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THE SHEEP DETECTIVES (PG)

Tues. 7:30 Wed. 7:30 Thurs. 7:30

MICHAEL (PG-13)

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

THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA 2 (PG-13)

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HAM SUPPER QUICK

1 (4.6 oz.) box boil in bag broccoli and cheese rice

2 cups cooked cubed ham

1 (10 oz.) can cream of chicken soup

1 (10 oz.) package frozen peas, thawed

1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Prepare rice according to package directions, but omit butter. In large bowl, combine cooked rice, ham, soup and peas. Stir well. Spoon into sprayed 3 quart baking dish, cover and bake for 20 minutes. Remove from oven, sprinkle cheese over top of casserole and return to oven for 5 minutes. Serves 6-8.

BROCCOLI SALAD

5 cups broccoli florets, stemmed

1 sweet red bell pepper, julienned

1 cup chopped celery

8-12 oz. Monterey Jack cheese, cubed

Combine all ingredients and mix well. Toss with Italian or favorite dressing. Refrigerate. Serves 6-8.

HAM AND RICE WITH PEAS

1 (7 oz.) box brown rice and wild rice mushroom recipe

3-4 cups chopped or cubed, cooked ham

1 (4 oz.) can sliced mushrooms, drained

1 (10 oz.) package frozen

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ATL ATLANTA

Comptroller Finds Declining Reconnect Enrollment, Positive Participant Outcomes

The Tennessee Comptroller's Office of Research and Education Accountability (OREA) has released a new evaluation of the Tennessee Reconnect Grant, providing an updated look at how the state's tuition-free program for adult learners is being used and how participants are performing.

Created by the General Assembly in 2017, Tennessee Reconnect helps eligible adults, primarily at public community colleges, earn an associate degree or certificate by covering tuition and mandatory fees after other scholarships and grants are applied. State law requires OREA to evaluate the program every four years. This is the office's second evaluation.

The report finds that participation in Tennessee Reconnect has decreased since the program's launch in 2018, falling from more than 26,000 students in the first year to about 13,000 students by the 2022-23 academic year.

OREA also found that

many adult students had not taken advantage of the program but could have based on their age or financial aid status. More than 90 percent of these potentially eligible students did not complete a Reconnect application, and about half did not file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), which is required to receive the grant.

Despite declining participation, Tennessee Reconnect supported thousands of students. Between 2018 and 2023, the program provided nearly \$132 million in funding to more than 34,000 students.

Roughly 40 percent of students who received the Reconnect grant, between 2018 and 2023, earned a credential by the summer of 2024. Students who received the Reconnect grant showed stronger outcomes than similar students who did not receive the grant. The report finds that Reconnect-funded students were more likely to remain enrolled and earn a credential.

The evaluation highlights several challenges faced by adult learners. Many Reconnect students balance school with work and family responsibilities, and some report confusion about what costs the grant covers. More than half of Reconnect students report working full time and having dependents.

The report also examines the role of Reconnect Navigators, who help adult students apply for college and stay on track. While Navigators can improve student outcomes, OREA finds that awareness and use of these services vary across the state.

OREA outlines several policy considerations, including improving coordination among state agencies and colleges, increasing outreach to eligible students and expanding the use of Navigator services.

The full report is available on the Comptroller's website at tncot.cc/orea.



Pictured (L to R): MHSAA President Betsy Campbell (MHS Class of 1973), Brody Berryhill, Gracie Aird, Dylan Bomar, Tobey Brooks and MHSAA Treasurer Lauren Hickman (MHS Class of 2007). The MHSAA scholarships were presented during Awards Day at MHS on May 8, 2026. Photo by Carol Ridley Nanney, Class of 1989

McKenzie High Alumni Scholarships Presented

COURTESY OF MHSAA

McKENZIE (May 8) — The McKenzie High School Alumni Association (MHSAA) announces its 2026 MHSAA scholarship recipients. All scholarships are in the amount of \$1,000 each. This is the third year for MHSAA scholarships to be awarded, presented by MHSAA President Betsy Hall Campbell (MHS Class of 1973) and Treasurer Lauren Hickman (2007) during the McKenzie High School Awards Day Program on May 8.

The winners were selected by the MHSAA Scholarship Committee, based on scholastic achievement and community involvement. Applicants were required to have a minimum GPA of 3.0 and ACT of 21, and to plan to continue their education at either a college or vocational school. The 2026 graduates receiving alumni scholar-

ships this year are Brody Berryhill, Dylan Bomar and Tobey Brooks.

Also awarded by the MHSAA was the Marilyn Holand Putman ('59) Memorial Scholarship. This scholarship was established by the family of Mrs. Putman, who was Salutatorian of the MHS Class of 1959 and died this past November. The MHSAA Committee thanks the Putman family for their generosity. The scholarship recipient this year is the Class of 2026 Salutatorian, Gracie Aird.

The MHSAA Committee thanks members of the McKenzie High Class of 1979 for their support in fully funding one of the \$1000 scholarships in memory of their class sponsor and teacher Karen Webb Camp ('60), who died in October of last year.

The MHSAA Committee congratulates those receiving the scholarships as

well as the entire McKenzie High School Class of 2026 on all of their remarkable achievements!

Anyone who wishes to make financial contributions to the MHSAA may mail checks payable to the MHSAA to 114 W. Bell Avenue, McKenzie, Tenn. 38201.

Plans are underway for the third-annual MHSAA Decades Reunion weekend on September 25-26, 2026. All MHS alumni are invited to return to McKenzie to reconnect with friends, classmates and their former teachers through many reunions and other planned events. Updates on the weekend activities and class reunions will be provided via the MHSAA Facebook page as well as The McKenzie Banner. You may also email the MHSAA at mckenziehsalumni.tn@gmail.com with any questions or class reunion updates.

How Losing a Scholarship Led a Russian Swimmer to Teach English in Colombia

This is a story about Artum Dzun, a Bethel University graduate.

McKENZIE (May 4) — I arrived at Bethel University as a dedicated Russian student, set to be part of the Bethel Swimming team. Then, in May 2024, my world flipped: the university eliminated the swimming program. My athletic scholarship vanished, and after having passed all the acceptance hurdles, I was left scrambling to figure out how to afford tuition. What was next? I'd spent 13 years swimming, and now, it was over. This sudden chaos was profoundly sobering, forcing me to map out the next few years of my life overnight. Should I transfer? Should I return to Russia? Did I even want to swim anymore? After wrestling with these questions, I decided to stay at Bethel—a decision that turned out to be one of the best of my life.

I discovered Bethel University's Global Studies in August 2024. Since the university kindly honored my existing scholarship for at least a year, I wanted to use it for a semester abroad. I love traveling, and Global Studies, directed by Mrs. Stacie Freeman, seemed like the perfect opportunity to explore the world. My journey began when I reached out to her. When I quickly realized the travel abroad was financially impossible because my scholarship was non-transferable, Mrs. Stacie casually mentioned various volunteer travel programs to places I had only dreamed of: South America, Northern Europe, and East Asia. For an average Russian, countries like Brazil and Colombia felt worlds away, starkly different from the perceived "coldness" and seriousness of Russian culture. After weighing all the pros and cons, I committed to an educational volunteer trip to Cali, Colombia, in May 2025, where I would teach English for a week at a local school, Colegio Americano. With Mrs. Stacie's help in securing scholarships, I was ready to go.

After the Spring 2025 semester ended, I packed my bags and headed to the Nashville airport, uncertain of what awaited me. I was the only international student in a group of 15, knowing only our trip leader and advisor, Mr. Garrett Burns, who serves as chaplain at Bethel. The thought of "working" with children made me nervous—you always hear about the potential cruelty of kids—but I was so wrong. My first impression of Colombia was the stunning view of the mountains on the drive from Cali airport to the hotel. I was glued to the window,



Artum Dzun in Cali, Colombia, on a study abroad trip with Bethel University's Global Studies.

absorbing the indescribable panorama. Passing through small Colombian towns, the vivid architecture, local people, lush green grass, and palm trees made it feel like stepping into an adventure movie set in a tropical forest.

The program was voluntary, and the irony wasn't lost on me: a Russian student, who had only learned English himself two years ago, was now an English teacher! However, this actually proved to be an advantage. We arrived at the school, Colegio Americano, on Monday morning. Following a warm welcome event, I was assigned to the 10th grade. I didn't know what to expect from students who were just a couple of years younger than me, but my teacher advisor, Roberto, quickly put me at ease. He was supportive, gave me a prep talk, and shared insights on the cultural differences between Colombia, Russia, and the U.S.

When classes began, the students were extremely interested in me, the Russian guy teaching English, studying in the US. As I started my presentation, my nervousness dissolved. The children were incredibly attentive, asking a million questions about Russian culture, cities, and even naming Russian athletes and celebrities they knew. I spoke Russian to them, and I was genuinely shocked by how much they knew about my far-away home. The rest of the week flowed smoothly: teaching in the morning, sightseeing in Cali in the afternoon. Though I was exhausted from waking up at 6 a.m. every day, I enjoyed every moment endlessly.

Throughout the week, we held conversations in English on topics such as mental health, biology, and geography. I conducted small tests on vocabulary and speaking level. During one of my lessons, a boy asked me, "Can you please speak slower?" That small, simple question was a moment of profound realization: I was in their exact place when I was learning the language. Living in the USA, I had

completely forgotten the struggle of not understanding. I was comfortable now, but those students were in the middle of their journey. Remembering what it was like deeply affected how I taught and allowed me to help them from a more empathetic perspective.

Outside of the classroom, our group did extensive sightseeing. We visited Cristo Rey, a massive statue of Jesus (where I learned it's not unique to Rio), explored historical museums, went hiking, and learned to dance Salsa Celeña with Swing Latino, earning Cali its title as La Capital Mundial de la Salsa. I have to pinpoint the food: both in the school cafeteria and in general, it was surprisingly similar to what I ate in school back in Russia—various soups unpopular in the States, and even candy and drinks I used to buy in 6th grade. Who would have thought Colombia and Russia shared so many similarities?

Over time, our whole group became true friends, sharing our cultural shocks, laughter, and personal growth. We all became more patient and attentive. This experience truly broadened my horizons, changed my outlook, and made me value what I have. Only through travel do you realize how vast the world is, and how much there is to see, eat, and experience.

Ultimately, the decision to stay at Bethel after my swimming career was cut led me straight to Cali. While it didn't replace swimming, had I transferred, I wouldn't have been able to graduate in three years or go on the trip to Ireland and Scotland in March 2026. Instead, by staying, I formed enduring friendships and gained a new perspective on life. Every downfall truly is an opportunity for a new takeoff. You never know what awaits you—and that, I believe, is the true beauty of life.

Artum has contributed stories to The Banner in recent weeks. Those stories were about international students — his contemporaries at the University.

West Carroll Elementary Students 'Board' The Titanic in Immersive Research Project

TREZEVANT — Sixth-grade students at West Carroll Elementary School traded their textbooks for boarding passes, stepping into the lives of real Titanic passengers as part of an ambitious culminating research project in Ms. Bridget Neisler's English Language Arts class.

The project challenges students to select and research an actual passenger from the ill-fated 1912 voyage, from first-class elites to third-class immigrants chasing the American dream, and present their findings to the class.

"By becoming passengers on the Titanic, students are not just learning about history. They are stepping into it," said Ms. Bridget.

The assignment draws on a full year's worth of literacy skills, requiring students to take notes, evaluate sources, summarize information, and organize their research into a coherent narrative. Teachers provided a structured rubric and a vetted collection of research resources to guide



Maddie Martin

the work.

The project culminates in a series of student-led presentations that are expected to fill the classroom with firsthand accounts of courage, survival, and tragedy, as told through the eyes of those who were there.

Educators say the cross-disciplinary nature of the project is a key part of its value, weaving together reading, writing, research,

and public speaking standards into a single, unified assignment.

Beyond academic skills, teachers note the project has stirred something deeper in students, a sense of curiosity and empathy for the real human lives behind one of history's most iconic disasters.

West Carroll Elementary School serves students in Trezevant, Tenn.

TDOT Launches HELP Trucks in West Tennessee

JACKSON — The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) announced the launch of its Rural Service Patrol (RSP) in Region 4 in West Tennessee, marking the next phase of a statewide expansion to bring HELP incident response to rural interstate corridors. This launch provides dedicated roadside assistance, quick clearance support, and enhanced safety coverage in heavily traveled rural areas of Tennessee.

TDOT's HELP trucks patrol the state's four largest urban areas: Nashville, Knoxville, Chattanooga, and Memphis. With this expansion, the Rural Service Patrol has already begun in Regions 4 and 2 and will be fully deployed statewide by Summer 2026, ultimately covering more than 870 miles of rural interstate.

Region 4 Overview:

- 17 dedicated RSP staff supporting rural HELP operations
- 11 fully equipped RSP trucks positioned strategically across the region
- 595 weekly patrol hours, ensuring consistent coverage
- 5 defined RSP routes along Region 4 Interstates
- Real-time support via TDOT's Transportation Management Center for rapid dispatching and coordination

The Rural Service Patrol provides no-cost roadside assistance and incident response services, including:

- Active patrols from 6:00 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. daily
- On-call overnight support for major incidents, lane closures, and traffic control (10:30 p.m. – 6:00 a.m. local time)
- Fuel, water, and minor mechanical assistance for stranded motorists
- First aid, debris removal, and queue protection to reduce secondary crashes
- Maintenance reporting, including guardrail damage or roadway hazards
- Coordination with THP,

local agencies, and TDOT personnel

RSP is funded through the General Assembly's historic investment in TDOT's transportation budget, which included new recurring General Fund dollars dedicated to roadway safety. Approximately \$16.7 million supports the Rural Service Patrol statewide.

Following a competitive procurement process, TDOT selected AutoBase, Inc., a national leader with over 25 years of incident response experience, 600+ operators, and a fleet of 400 patrol vehicles across 10 states, to operate the service.

Since 1999, TDOT's HELP Program has reduced congestion, improved safety, and assisted thousands of motorists in Tennessee's urban areas. The Rural Service Patrol expands this mission to the state's rural corridors, where response time is critical to preventing secondary crashes and saving lives.



The McKenzie Middle School girls soccer team sold temporary tattoos and car wash vouchers at the Summer Carnival. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

McKenzie Middle Hosts Summer Carnival

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (May 16) — McKenzie Middle School hosted its Summer Carnival market Saturday, May 16, in the MMS gymnasium. Visitors could shop from the following vendors: The

Secret Chapter, Goose & Grace, MMS Girls Soccer, Ms. Tee Designs, Kaylee-Bug Kreations, That's What She Shed, McKenzie High School Bookstore, Buff City Soap, MMS/MHS Volleyball, Dempsey 3D Designs, Poe Bros Home, Little Blessings

Sweet Treats, Lisa's Creations, Cheryl Battles and Deborah Fuzzell Tupperware, The Soap Factory, Fat Daddy's Water Ice, Siamese Mahjong Racks and After the Bell Boutique. The Sweet Jordan's food truck was also set up outside the building.

Former Bethel Standout Named Assistant Coach

COURTESY BETHEL SID

MCKENZIE (May 25) — Kalynn Howard enters her first season as Assistant Coach for the Bethel University Women's basketball program in 2026-27. Howard spent the previous five years as both a player and graduate assistant for the Lady Wildcats. Head Coach Chris Nelson broke the exciting news Monday afternoon.

Howard brings experience in player development, scouting, film breakdowns and practice planning. During her time as a graduate assistant, she assisted with opponent analysis, recruiting support, skill development and daily team operations while helping continue Bethel's winning culture.

As a player, Howard appeared in 112 career games and helped lead the Lady Wildcats to a historic NAIA Fab Four appearance during the 2024-25 season. A multi-year team captain



Bethel Women's Basketball Assistant Coach Kaylynn Howard. Photo courtesy Sloane Media

and leadership award recipient, she was named Bethel Female Athlete of the Year for the 2024-25 academic year and was recognized for her leadership, basketball IQ and ability to connect with teammates.

Howard graduated as Salutatorian from Covington High School, where her basketball jersey was later retired in recognition of her accomplishments and impact on the

program. She continued her academic and athletic career at Bethel, earning her Bachelor of Science in Sports Management with a minor in Coaching in 2024 and completing her MBA in 2026, graduating magna cum laude.

"We are incredibly proud and thankful to still have Kalynn with our program," said Coach Nelson. "Over the last five years, she has been instrumental to the success and culture of our program through her leadership, basketball IQ and the respect she has earned from everyone around her. Sometimes the transition from player to coach can be difficult, but Kal made it look easy. She has a tremendous feel for the game, connects naturally with our players and understands exactly what it takes to compete and succeed at Bethel. We're excited to see the impact she will continue to make in this new role as assistant coach."



Brenton Hickerson, Riley Crafton, Braedon Jones, Savannah Arvizu, Zach Fuller and Gabe Green won the 2026 McKenzie Middle School Talent Show with a performance of Nirvana's "Come as You Are." Their performance consisted of vocals, drums, bass, acoustic guitar and electric guitars. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Nirvana Cover Wins Middle School Talent Show

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (May 15) — McKenzie Middle School hosted its annual talent show Friday, May 15, with fifteen acts participating.

Four acts took prizes home that afternoon, with the first-place prize going to six students' performance of Nirvana's "Come As You Are." — complete with vocals, drums, bass, acoustic

guitar and electric guitars.

The winning performers were Brenton Hickerson, Riley Crafton, Braedon Jones, Savannah Arvizu, Zach Fuller and Gabe Green.

The second place act was Calista and Ava Diller. They performed "You Say" by Lauren Daigle using American Sign Language.

Te'Veya Milton earned third place with a singing performance of "Dancing in the Sky."

The crowd-favorite performance was Aubrey Wilkes singing "Unwritten" by Natasha Bedingfield.

Additional acts included Brooklyn Ruprich's performance of "Medley of Songs and Fur Elise" on keys; Summer Borum Floyd's singing performance of "Lovely" by Billie Eilish; Bryson Davis' karate presentation to "Kung Fu Fighting;" Addie Brown and Calli Davidson's duet to "Light of the World;" Zach Reeder's performance of "When the Saints Go Marching In" on the trumpet; Christiana Smith, Harper Irwin and Kinsley Parham's singing performance to "You Belong to Me" by The Lennon Sisters; Jaxon Hochreiter and Kane Phillip's performance of The Wiggle Dance; Conner Oakes' singing performance of "God Bless the USA;" Bailey Lovell, Ryan McCann, Fisher Allen, Jackson Barden and Leighem Broyles' performance of "Broken Window Serenade;" and Charles Scott's yo-yo trick act.

Herrin Graduates UT Martin

MARTIN (May 2) — Andra Herrin of McKenzie graduated magna cum laude from the University of Tennessee at Martin Saturday with a bachelor's degree in interdisciplinary studies. Overall, 735 students received degrees at spring commencement. The graduates came from 67 different counties in Tennessee, as well as from 33 other states and six other nations. Pictured (L to R) are Herrin holding her daughter, Scout, and her husband, Hunter, holding their son, Archer.



Hospital Wing Transformed Rural Emergency Transportation, Expands to Carroll County

MCKENZIE (May 19) — When an emergency strikes in rural West Tennessee, the difference between life and death is often measured in minutes. For four decades, those minutes have been reduced by the rotor blades of Hospital Wing.

In a presentation to the McKenzie Rotary Club, Andy Rice, an administrator with Hospital Wing, a veteran flight nurse and paramedic with the air and ground medical transport organization, detailed how a service forged in the crucible of 20th-century warfare has become an indispensable economic and lifesaving pillar of Carroll County.

The concept of air medical transport was born out of necessity during the Korean and Vietnam wars. Military "Dust Off" missions proved that rapidly evacuating wounded soldiers from the front lines to field hospitals drastically increased survival rates.

"By the mid-to-late 1970s, those battlefield lessons began shifting to civilian use," Rice explained, noting early local experiments involving Memphis Police Department helicopters and Methodist Hospital nurses.

By 1986, a consortium of Memphis healthcare giants—Baptist Hospital, Methodist Hospital, and the Regional Medical Center (The Med)—joined forces to officially found Hospital Wing. Celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, the organization has grown from just two aircraft in Memphis to a massive regional network spanning West Tennessee, North Mississippi, and Eastern Arkansas.

A crucial milestone in that expansion occurred in 2024, when Hospital Wing opened a daybase at the Baptist Hospital-Carroll County and later opened an expanded base at McKenzie Airport in Carroll County, following a successful collaboration with local city and county mayors, the Chamber of Commerce, and the airport board. To further streamline local operations, a dedicated hangar is slated for construction in the third quarter of 2026.

An Emergency Room at 1,500 Feet

Hospital Wing operates a fleet of advanced Airbus H130 helicopters, each valued at approximately \$4 million. Unlike older, cramped airframes where medical staff could barely move, these modern aircraft feature wide cabins that allow the medical crew—consisting of a flight nurse and a



McKenzie Rotary President Ricky Price, Rotary Member Kim Webb, and Andy Rice, with Hospital Wing. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

flight medic—to leave their seats and fully access the patient in flight.

The capabilities of these flying intensive care units are staggering:

Field Transfusions: Reserve blood is carried on every flight, along with IV fluids and other life-saving medical supplies. Rice recalled a recent harrowing case where the crew successfully resuscitated a patient with substantial blood loss right in the base parking lot.

Advanced Diagnostics: Crews utilize portable ultrasound machines to assess internal injuries mid-air.

Night Vision Operations: The entire crew uses night-vision goggles to navigate dark rural terrain, while pilots rely heavily on advanced autopilot systems to ensure maximum safety.

The aircraft divide their time between "scene flights"—responding directly to car crashes, falls, and trauma emergencies—and hospital-to-hospital transfers, whisking patients from rural facilities to specialized tertiary centers.

Time is the ultimate commodity. From the Carroll County base, flight times are remarkably brief:

Jackson - 15 minutes; Nashville - 35 minutes; and Memphis - 40 minutes. For specialized pediatric emergencies, Hospital Wing partners with Le Bonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis, putting Le Bonheur's dedicated pediatric nurse and respiratory therapist teams into the sky.

"Weather is our daily hurdle," Rice noted, emphasizing that the FAA enforces strict weather minimums. If thunderstorms pose an excessive risk, crews will pivot and accompany patients by ground ambulance. And if the worst happens? "Our pilots train every six months in auto-rotation, meaning they can land the helicopter safely in about 30 seconds even if the engine fails."

Behind the local crew is massive corporate backing. In 2021, Hospital Wing was acquired by Med-Trans Corporation, a subsidiary of Global Medical Response (GMR). In a major financial move, GMR went public on the New York Stock Exchange earlier this month under the ticker GMRS.

Despite its international corporate structure, Hospital Wing remains deeply intertwined with the local economy and community fabric.

In 2025 alone, the organization spent \$36,500 on fuel at the county's airport in McKenzie, alongside a \$3,500 monthly lease that goes directly back into county infrastructure.

The cost of air medical transport, which averages around \$40,000 per flight

— Rice highlighted the protections offered by the 2022 No Surprises Act, which shields patients from exorbitant out-of-network bills. Additionally, GMR offers an AirMedCare Network membership for \$99 a year per family (\$79 for seniors) that covers out-of-pocket costs across all GMR brands nationwide.

Ultimately, Rice stresses that Hospital Wing wants to be viewed as a neighbor, not just an emergency service. Residents can frequently spot the crew teaching FAA-sponsored emergency classes at the airport, participating in career days at the Carroll County Technology Center, flying into local Christmas parades, or buying toys for the Sheriff Department's "Toys for Tots" drive and the McKenzie First Responders' "Shop with a First Responder."

As the organization looks toward the construction of its new McKenzie hangar later this year, its forty-year mission remains unchanged: keeping the lifeline open between rural Tennessee and the life-saving care they deserve.

TN State Parks Reveal New Paddling Launches

Tennessee State Parks officials today announced new accessible paddling launches, one at Pickwick Landing State Park and two at Fall Creek Falls State Park, as part of National Safe Boating Week, which runs through May 16.

The new accessible paddling launches bring the number of Tennessee State Parks with the launches to 10.

Other Tennessee State Parks with Accessible Launches: Booker T. Washington State Park; David Crockett State Park; Indian Mountain State Park; Meehan-Shelby Forest State Park; Montgomery Bell

State Park; Reelfoot Lake State Park; even Islands State Birding Park; and Warriors' Path State Park

Accessible paddling launches help make paddling more accessible for people with disabilities, including those in wheelchairs or with limited mobility. Each launch is fitted with features that make entering and exiting a kayak, canoe, or stand-up paddleboard easier.

"We want every Tennessean or visitor to our state to know our state parks will help them enjoy everything they deserve in outdoor recreation," said Ryan Jolley, coordinator for ac-

cessibility for Tennessee State Parks. "Whether it is following a trail, reaching an overlook, or simply entering a canoe, our parks are for everyone."

Tennessee State Parks strives to identify and eliminate barriers that limit access to enjoying recreation. Accessible features at the parks include all-terrain wheelchairs, wheelchair-friendly trails and overlooks, adult-sized changing tables, and colorblind viewfinders. Learn more about accessible features in Tennessee State Parks at tnstateparks.com/accessibility.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated Section 13-7-203, notice is hereby given of a public hearing to be held by the McKenzie Mayor and Board of Aldermen on Thursday, the 11th day of June, 2026 at 6 p.m. at McKenzie City Hall.

The hearing is to receive public input on an amendment to the Official Zoning Map of McKenzie, Tennessee which would rezone properties located at 15671, 15687, and 15697 Highland Drive (owned by the Perkins Corporation) from partially B-2 (Highway Business) and R-3 (High Density Residential) to entirely B-2 (Highway Business). Full copies of the proposed amendment may be viewed in McKenzie City Hall during normal business hours. All interested persons are invited to attend and comment.

A1/21-2

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

Driving on Revoked License — Kirk C. Simmons, Mathis Road, Martin, was charged with Driving on a Revoked License due to a prior DUI conviction.

Lt. Justin Brister stopped the vehicle due to inoperable brake lights on May 19. The stop revealed the driver's license was revoked. The car was owned by another person, who was notified the vehicle had been impounded by MPD.

Driving on Suspended License — Keith L. Hart, Anderson Street, Milan, was charged with Driving on a Suspended/Revoked License after a traffic stop on May 18 for speeding.

Sergeant Darren Davis stopped Hart's vehicle for speeding. His passenger's license was also revoked for a prior DUI.

Hart was arrested for Driving on Revoked License Second Offense and charged with speeding. MPD seized the vehicle.

Public Intoxication/Criminal Trespass — Lute McCaslin, Highway 79, McKenzie, was charged with Public Intoxication and Criminal Trespass on May 19.

Officer Jeff Winberry was called to Pick and Stick Tattoo in McKenzie where McCaslin entered to get a tattoo touched up. After McCaslin was uncooperative, the tattoo artists asked him to leave. McCaslin was unruly and arrested on the above charges.

Violation of No Contact Order — Athena Stafford, Elm Street, McKenzie, was charged with Violation of a No Contact Order after she phoned a male subject who had a no-contact ban with her. A warrant was issued for her arrest by Officer Matthew Cunningham.

Stolen Vehicle Scam — Peppers Ford in McKenzie reported that an online buyer of a Toyota pickup had apparently scammed the dealership on May 22.

Officer Kyle Beauchamp and Officer Timothy Dillon took the report stating that a buyer in Florida made arrangements to purchase the vehicle, worked through a finance company, and then sent a driver

to retrieve the vehicle in McKenzie. The dealership alerted police that the transaction seemed questionable, and a national search bulletin was posted to recover the vehicle.

Aggravated Assault — Crystal R. Mealer, Main Street S., McKenzie was charged with Domestic Assault and Aggravated Assault on May 24.

Patrolman Dillon responded to Randle Street to a report of domestic assault, where Mealer reportedly struck her domestic partner with her vehicle, causing him to hit the windshield and flip over the vehicle. He was covered in gravel dirt when officers arrived. The victim, Michael Haynes, Jr., was complaining of pain in his head and shoulder and walking with a limp. A check of his police record revealed that he had an outstanding Violation of Probation warrant.

Mealer stated she did not intentionally strike him with her vehicle. She was arrested and transported to Carroll County Jail.

Carroll County Sheriff's Department Report

Simple Possession of Schedule VI — On May 13, Deputy Scott conducted a traffic stop on Walnut Lane in McKenzie for improper display of license plates and made contact with the driver, Paul Buckland, 21, of Huntingdon. Deputies confirmed Buckland's Tennessee driver's license had been suspended indefinitely in August 2025 for failure to provide proof of financial responsibility.

While speaking with Buckland, Deputy Scott detected the odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. Buckland admitted he had smoked earlier and stated the only marijuana inside the vehicle was "gas station weed." He then handed deputies a plastic bag containing approximately three grams of a green leafy substance believed to be marijuana.

Buckland also advised deputies he was currently on probation for selling marijuana. No additional charges had been filed at the time of the report.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Found Property — On May 13, Deputy Sherwood responded to a residence on Vernon Thomas Road in McKenzie regarding prescription medications that had been discovered inside a damaged package. The complainant reported receiving an Amazon package that appeared to have been damaged and retaped during transit. After opening the package, she discovered several prescription medications that she stated did not belong

to her and were not connected to her order.

The medications included testosterone lozenges, ketamine lozenges, and additional compounded prescription medications from a pharmacy in Salt Lake City, Utah.

The complainant advised she had no knowledge of who the medications belonged to or how they ended up inside the shipment. Deputies collected the medications and placed them into evidence as found property.

Aggravated Assault / Domestic Assault / Resisting Arrest — On May 17, Deputy McClure was approached by a female at a call scene on Lisa Lane in Huntingdon regarding a recent assault involving a relative, James Siggers, 58, of Huntingdon. Deputies observed the victim had a torn shirt and visible marks on her neck consistent with strangulation. She also complained of neck pain.

The victim stated an argument began over a phone charger and escalated into a physical altercation. She reported Siggers pushed her to the ground, got on top of her, and strangled her with his hands to the point she could not breathe.

After speaking with the victim, Deputy McClure and Corporal Thomas went to the residence where the assault occurred and made contact with Siggers inside the home. Deputies observed a rifle lying on a couch near him. While attempting to secure the scene and detain Siggers, he repeatedly refused commands to raise his hands or step outside the residence.

Deputies advised Siggers to place his hands behind his back, but he resisted and attempted to pull away while pushing at deputies' arms. During the struggle, deputies and Siggers fell onto the sofa as he continued attempting to conceal his hands inside the cushions. Deputy McClure eventually deployed a Taser in drive-stun mode, after which Siggers complied with commands and was taken into custody.

Siggers was transported to the Carroll County Jail and charged with aggravated assault, domestic assault, and resisting arrest. Several firearms were removed from the residence and secured for safekeeping.

Vandalism — On May 14, Deputy Boaz responded to a residence on Broad Street South in Trezevant regarding property damage to a fence and mailbox. The complainant reported discovering the damage that morning.

Deputies observed the front corner of the fence had been struck, causing damage to several fence rails and knocking the mailbox from the ground. The damage appeared consistent with a vehicle backing from a driveway and turning too sharply before striking the fence and mailbox.

A contractor responding to repair the damage estimated the loss at approximately \$700.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Property Transfers

Mark P. and wife Linda J. Roney to Jeffrey Neil 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 Jocelyn Della Pickard in District 2.

Edward Gary Brinkley by POA to Deanna Jean a/k/a Deanna Brinkley Drinkard and husband Henry Drinkard in District 11.

Arthur Ullrich to Sherrie A. Hamilton in District 11.

Janice Smith Kizer to Huntingdon Industrial Development Board in District 11.

Janice Smith Kizer and others to Huntingdon Industrial Development Board in District 11.

Keith B. and wife Lynne M. Leroy to Richard Alan Monty and others in District 6.

Adam and wife Jennifer L. Hendrickson to Adam and wife Jennifer L. Hendrick-

son in District 18.

Chris Gurley and others to Chris Gurley and others in District 13.

Chris Gurley and others to Chris Gurley and others in District 13.

Daniel L. Spoon to TAP Land Capital Group, LLC in District 6.

Daniel L. Spoon to TAP Land Capital Group, LLC in District 46180.

Melissa Jacobs to Patrick Jacobs in District 9.

James Dennis and wife Shannon Marie Lance to Robert and wife Cindy Gaylord in District 9.

Louis E. Jr. and wife Teresa D. Dhondt to White Farms in District 9.

Reba H. Brewer and others to Andrew Smith Taylor in District 11.

Billy and wife Megan Kilbrew to Jacob A. Stringer in District 12.

Douglas Goodrum and others to Cindy L. Greene in District 21.

Sunset Community Investments, LLC to Sunset

Real Estate, LLC. No District listed.

Fred Eugene Grooms to Fred Eugene Grooms, trustee in District 16.

Shirley J. Martin and others to Shirley J. Martin and others in District 4.

Sara Beth Eason and others to Sara Beth Eason and others in District 16.

Beaver Creek Management Group, LLC and others to Distinct Contracting, LLC in District 12.

Beaver Creek Management Group, LLC and others to Distinct Contracting, LLC in District 12.

Joshua Phillips to Nathan Rich in District 11.

Marty Jo Arnold and others to Jacob A. and wife Katie Scarlett Blake. No District listed.

Tracy Campbell Wortham and Pamela Campbell to James E. and wife Teresa J. Speer in District 16.

James R. and wife Melissa D. Terrell to Josh S. and wife Stacy M. Mann in District 4.

Lois Harold Carden to Shannon Carden and Abbie Carden Hooten. No District listed.

Marriage Licenses

Gavin Lee Johnson, 23, Buena Vista, to Maggie Reney Prater, 22, Huntingdon.

Georgianna Wallace, Daily, 47, Huntingdon, to Michael Phillip Garner, 46, Huntingdon.

Charles Dakota Lee

topher Michael Carter, 19, Huntingdon.

James Randall Dailey, 50, McKenzie, to Karen Lindsay Cozart, 46, McKenzie.

Christian Luis Martinez, 29, McKenzie, to Sierra Paige Santiago, 31, Paris.

Jada Grace Bridges, 22, Milledgeville, to Jordan Gage Barber, 22, Lexington.

Carroll County General Sessions Court Report

HUNTINGDON (May 20) — The following cases were heard in Carroll County General Sessions Court on May 20.

The following case resulted in pre-trial diversion:

Evelynn Raines, Hebron Church Road, Bruceton, pre-trial diversion, Aggravated 911 Calls in Non-Emergency Situations Prohibited, review date November 18 at 9 a.m., no fine, six months, supervised probation for balance, mental health evaluation and health counseling.

The following cases resulted in a guilty plea or finding:

Jamie Lyn Baker, Hillview Apartment Drive, McKenzie, guilty, Probation Violation – Booked, no fine, 11/29, accepted for recovery court day-for-day credit upon completion of treatment.

Jack B. Bruce, Goldbrier Lane, Memphis, guilty, Driving While License Revoked Due to Conviction of DUI, no fine, 90 days, supervised probation for until conditions met, must take steps to get a valid license.

Dora Lee Ewald, Paris Street, Huntingdon, guilty – lesser charge, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange, \$750 fine, 11/29, supervised probation for balance, cognitive behavioral course, alcohol drug evaluation and recommendations; dismissed, Possession of Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia Uses and Activities; dismissed, Schedule VI Drugs: MFG, Del, Sell, Possess; dis-

missed, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange.

Marcus Moore, Magers Drive, Hollow Rock, guilty, Probation Violation – Booked, no fine, 90 days, supervised probation for 90 days, probation extended for 90 days, will provide valid drivers license and pay all costs.

Marcus A. Moore, Highway 114, Hollow Rock, guilty, Drivers License to be Carried and Exhibited, \$25 fine, 30 days, unsupervised probation for 30; dismissed, Financial Responsibility Law.

Shaneeka R. Pleasant, Chancery Street, McMinnville, guilty, Driving While License Suspended, no fine, six months, supervised probation until conditions complete, must obtain a valid Tennessee drivers license.

Terry Ethan Swafford, Atwood Highway, Milan, guilty, Financial Responsibility Law, no fine, 30 days, payment arrangements through clerk's office; guilty, Financial Responsibility Law, no fine, 30 days, payment arrangements through clerk's office; dismissed, Unlawful Use of Telecommunication Device While Driving; dismissed, Child Restraint Children Ages 4-8; dismissed, Child Restraint Children Ages 4-8; dismissed, Driving While License Suspended.

Tarus D. Taylor, Cherrywood Apartments, McKenzie, guilty, Probation Violation – Booked, no fine, supervised probation for six months or until all conditions met, cost taxed to defendant.

Rodney Wright Jr., Redden Street, Huntingdon, guilty, Public Indecency – 1st – 2nd Offense, \$500 fine, no contact with Dollar Tree - Huntingdon, must attend and comply with medication management counseling and other recommendations of Carey Counseling, this is a fine-only offense per statute, payment arrangements through clerk's office.

The following cases were dismissed:

Christopher Lee Mancell, Northwood Drive, Huntingdon, dismissed, Driving While License Suspended.

Christopher Lee Mancell, Northwood Drive, Huntingdon, dismissed, Driving While License Revoked; dismissed, Registration Law.

Diana Searatt, West Street, Gleason, dismissed, Theft of Merchandise – Up to \$1,000, litigation taxes only, restitution already paid.

Donald Sullivan, Highway 77, Hollow Rock, dismissed, Sexual Offender Registration Form Violation – Attempt, based on full revocation in circuit court.

Donald Terry Sullivan, State Route 77, Hollow Rock, dismissed, Violation of Order of Protection/Restraining Order, based on full revocation in circuit court.

The following case was rescheduled: Lesenda M. Gregory, Stacy Hart, Dwayne Patrick Jones, Maurice Lawrence, Tatiana Dashay McClerkin



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

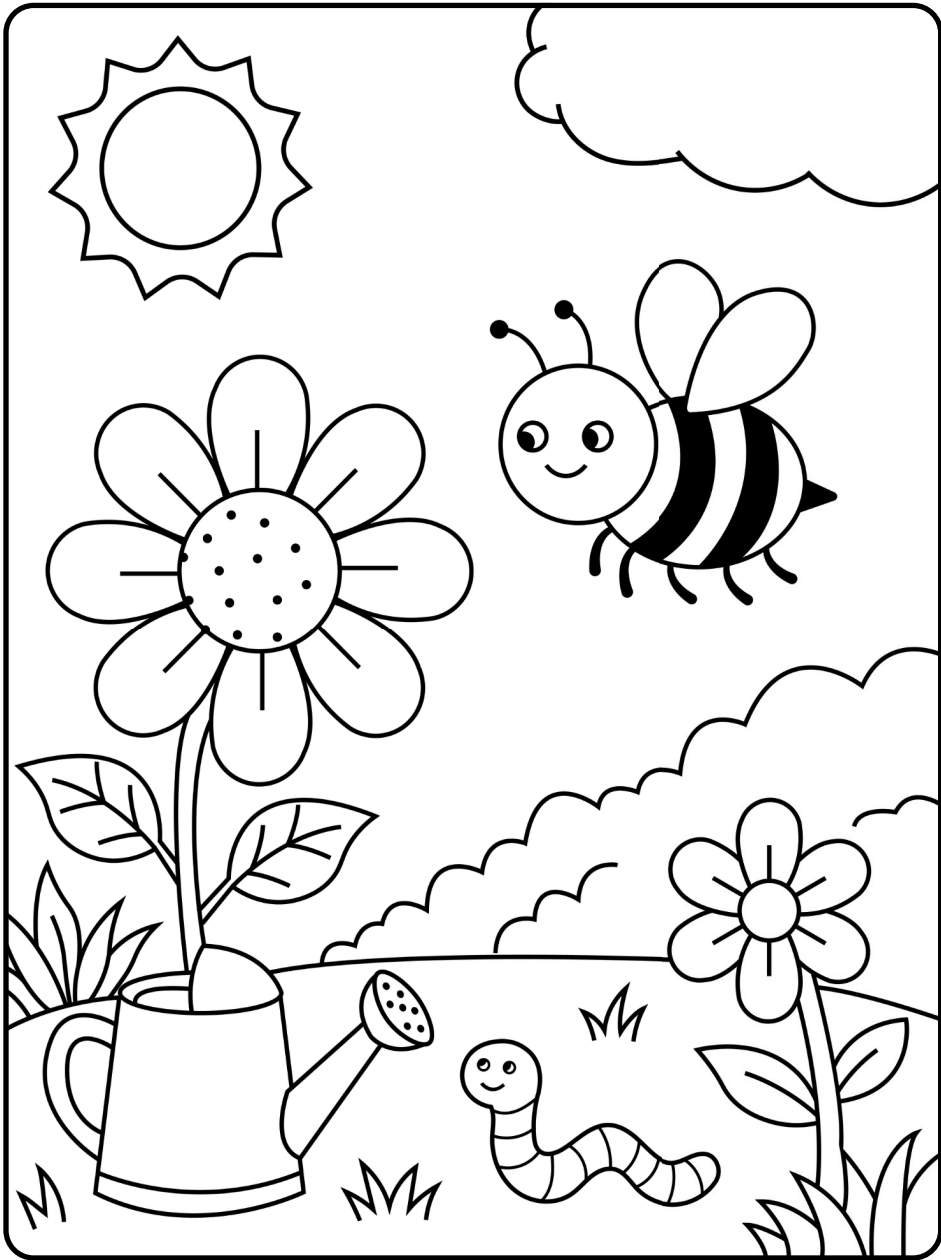
FOLKS, THIS SALE HAS A LITTLE SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!! LOTS OF OTHER ITEMS NOT LISTED!!! DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS SALE!!

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

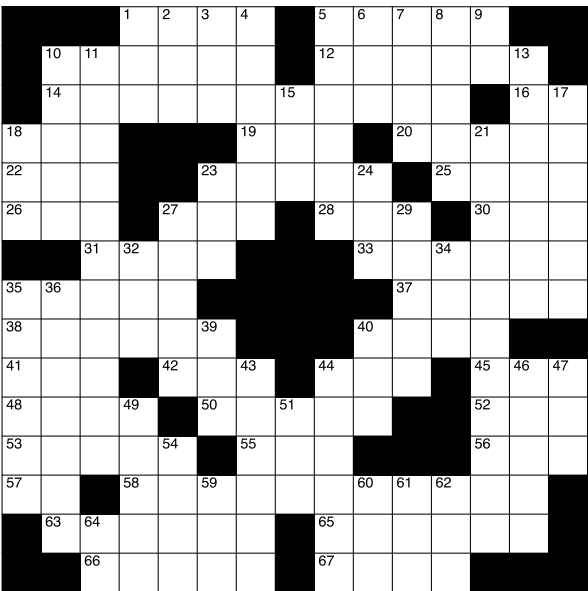
Kenneth Todd, Clerk & Master and Special Commissioner

Color A Masterpiece



Weekly Crossword

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Streetcar
 - 5. Take ___ of it!
 - 10. SW Asia peninsula
 - 12. Beating wings to escape from a perch
 - 14. One who revitalizes
 - 16. Indicates position
 - 18. Dishonorable man
 - 19. Singer King Cole
 - 20. Short-tailed marten
 - 22. One point east (clockwise) of due north
 - 23. The god of the underworld in ancient mythology
 - 25. Dirt
 - 26. Superconducting super collider
 - 27. Not good
 - 28. A way to sink
 - 30. Unwell
 - 31. Follow orders
 - 33. Deep ravine
 - 35. Perfumery practice
 - 37. Indian film director Sultan
 - 38. Member of U.S. Navy
 - 40. Wing-like
 - 41. Very fast airplane
 - 42. Slang for cigarette
 - 44. Most cars still need it
 - 45. Political war chest
 - 48. Cools down
 - 50. Diminish toward one end
 - 52. Indigenous person of Thailand
 - 53. Combined
 - 55. Container
 - 56. Expression of satisfaction
 - 57. Thou
 - 58. Return a favor
 - 63. Go over once more
 - 65. Removed
 - 66. "Silence of the ___"
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Children's game
 - 2. Relative biological effectiveness (abbr.)
 - 3. Own (Scottish)
 - 4. Female follower of Bacchus
 - 5. Subsides
 - 6. Protects from weather
 - 7. Spanish municipality
 - 8. Supermarket chain
 - 9. Domain name
 - 10. Semitic peoples
 - 11. Designs anew
 - 13. City associated with Jesus
 - 15. Cool!
 - 17. Bank employee
 - 18. Central nervous system
 - 21. Standardized piece of text
 - 23. A type of fever
 - 24. Baglike structure in a plant or animal
 - 27. Threaten persistently
 - 29. Aspirations
 - 32. Baby's eating accessory
 - 34. Actress Thurman
 - 35. Turn into bone
 - 36. One who saves you
 - 39. Consume
 - 40. Swiss river
 - 43. A part of a river where the current is very fast
 - 44. Categories
 - 46. Expressed amazement
 - 47. It's important in respiration (abbr.)
 - 49. Greek war dance
 - 51. Bland, semi-liquid food
 - 54. Regard in a specified way
 - 59. Taxi
 - 60. Naturally occurring solid material
 - 61. Feline
 - 62. Post-burning residue
 - 64. Elevated railroad



67. Comedian Rogen
27. Threaten persistently
29. Aspirations
32. Baby's eating accessory
34. Actress Thurman
35. Turn into bone
36. One who saves you
39. Consume
40. Swiss river
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59. Taxi
60. Naturally occurring solid material
61. Feline
62. Post-burning residue
64. Elevated railroad

Week 21

See solution in next week's edition.

Law Enforcement Word Search

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

Affidavit
Bailiff
Booking
Chain
Compliance
Custody

Detective
Detention
Dispatcher
Evidence
Felony
Forensics

Interrogation
Jurisdiction
Miranda
Misdemeanor
Patrol
Precinct

Probable
Procedure
Sergeant
Subpoena
Surveillance
Warrant

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1864: Montana is organized as a United States territory.

1896: Charles Dow publishes the first edition of the Dow Jones Industrial Average.

1969: Apollo 10 returns to Earth after a successful test of all moon-landing components.

SUDOKU

WEEK 21

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

Level: Beginner

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 law enforcement. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 17 = O)

A. 23 25 3 9
Clue: System of rules

B. 1 17 23 10 22 13
Clue: Enforces laws

C. 18 12 17 17 1 13 12
Clue: State police officer

D. 17 12 2 13 12
Clue: State of something

Answers: A. laws B. police C. trooper D. order

LETTER MIX-UP

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

DISPATCHER

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

Riddle Me This

Who was the most famous Skeleton detective?

Answer: Sherlock Bones

WORD SCRAMBLE

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

TTEICK

Answer: Ticket

GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born in England on May 26, 1966. I paid for a spot in the actors' directory *Spotlight* using money won from a national writing contest. I am a versatile actress, easily playing dramatic, quirky or musical roles. I've been tied to many Tim Burton films and have worked alongside Johnny Depp and Colin Firth.

Answer: Helena Bonham Carter

Peace of Mind.

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PUZZLE SOLUTION

Week 20 Crossword Puzzle Solution

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION WEEK 20

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

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FOR LEASE

MISCELLANEOUS

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JOE'S TREE SERVICE AND STUMP REMOVAL: 60 ft. bucket truck, prune or take down grind stumps, clean up and haul off, insured, free estimates. 731-697-0023 or 731-513-1518. A7084/21-TF

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CHOOSE EARTHLINK FIBER INTERNET for speeds up to 5 Gigs, no data caps, no throttling. Prices starting at \$54.95. Plus, a \$100 gift card when you make the switch. Call 1-855-481-3340. (TnScan)

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tcp

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Call today to advertise your business here in the Area's Largest Circulated Newspaper. Advertising in this high traffic location aligns your business with customers who want to buy your products or services. The largest audience, a prime location, all at the low price of \$20 (minimum of 4 weeks). Call 731-352-3323.

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R10014/A821

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1. Ten-year students (L to R) Katelyn Martin, Zoey Neville, John Patterson and Sophie Price. 2. Five-year students (L to R) Penny Crockett, Emilee Harris, Hadli Laman, Charli Mann, Scarlett McReynolds, Mary Poff, Meghan Strop and Maggie Nell Merrick. 3. Advanced II class. 4. Advanced I class. 5. Intermediate II class. 6. Intermediate I class. 7. Fourth Grade class. 8. Third Grade class. 9. Second Grade class. 10. First Grade class. 11. Kindergarten class. 12. Pre-K class. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Genia Sherwood’s School of Dance Presents ‘Growing Stars’

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (May 16) — Genia Sherwood’s School of Dance presented its annual recital “Growing Stars” Saturday afternoon in the Bouldin Auditorium of Bethel University’s Dickey Fine Arts Building.

Ten classes performed 32 routines, including several solo dances by advanced students.

The Advanced II Class included Yaretzi Gonzalez,

Marley Crews, John Patterson, Hadley Smith, Addi Davis and Claire Kee.

The Advanced I Class included Harper McCall, Courtney Sanders, Natalie Tidwell, Sophie Price, Katelyn Martin, Zoey Neville and Elizabeth Miller.

The Intermediate II Class included Maggie Nell Merrick, Emilee Harris, McKenna Sherwood, Macie Cate Roberts, Vera Tippitt, Mia Walker, Emma Allen, Avacyn Latham, Ava Walker and Lina Haywood.

The Intermediate I Class included Hazel Tippitt, Lydia Walker, Olivia Neville, Kaylynn Barrett, Aimee Harris, Bryleigh Barrett and Raegan Tedford.

The Fourth Grade Class included Penny Crockett, Hadli Laman, Kenslee Geare, Allison Padilla, Meghan Strop, Elizabeth Thomas, Bella Smith, LilyAnn Wolski and Jazzlyn Carroll.

The Third Grade Class included Lennon Haywood, Itzel Gonzalez, Abbi Hudgins, Saylor McCall, Charli Mann,

Kylie Satterfield, Harmony Jones, Sarah Jane Ezell and Molly Huckaba.

The Kindergarten Class included Collyns Simpson, Fernanda Hernandez, Lorilei Dillahunt, Rainie Beth Brewer, Harper Moore, Eloisa Middlebrooks, Allison Easley, Naomi Osborne, Remy Wolfe, Mary Mae Holt, Kali Keech, Vanniah Boyd and Penelope Peachey.

The Pre-K Class included Brynlee Duncan, Lainee Brown, Allie Manns, Tenley Russell, Collins Petering, Elsie Kee, Hazel Scallan, Sophie Sellers, Janie Wallace

and Layla Kirk.

Following the performances, instructor LaTisha Karnes presented five-year awards to Penny Crockett, Emilee Harris, Hadli Laman, Charli Mann, Scarlett McReynolds, Mary Poff, Meghan Strop and Maggie Nell Merrick and ten-year awards to Katelyn Martin, Zoey Neville, John Patterson and Sophie Price.

Karnes also recognized student teachers Aimee Harris, Claire Kee, Avacyn Latham, Katelyn Martin, Zoey Neville, Sophie Price, Courtney Sanders, Vera Tippitt and Lina Haywood.



Signing with Jackson State for baseball and cross country from Huntingdon are (L to R) Shawn Simpson, Silas Sharp and Caleb Ezell. Photo by Russell Bush/The Banner

Three Mustangs Ink with Jackson State

BY RUSSELL BUSH
banner@mckenziebanner.com

Three Huntingdon Mustang seniors signed with Jackson State Community

College last week to continue their athletic careers.

Shawn Simpson signed to run cross country with the Green Jays, and Silas Sharp and Caleb Ezell signed

with the Green Jay baseball program.

Simpson was a member of the cross country team at Huntingdon, which this past season advanced to state. Simpson placed in the top ten for the state meet.

Simpson also was a standout tennis player at Huntingdon and competed at the state tournament.

Sharp and Ezell played a huge role in the success of the Mustang baseball program the last two seasons. In their four years at HHS, they were part of 94 wins and 38 losses, and the Mustangs finished runner-up in the state in 2024 and 2025.

Sharp, who was the catcher on the Mustangs, played in 128 games over his four-year career and had 456 plate appearances and earned several postseason honors over his four years. Ezell was one of the better pitchers in Mustang history as he had a 22-11 record over four seasons, pitching 201 innings, recording 149 strikeouts and walking 55.



Left, McKenzie’s Abigail Wallace was the runner-up in the Girls 3200-Meter Run. Dresden’s Hudson McDaniel was the champion, and Westview’s Alaina Uselton finished fourth. Photo courtesy Jeremy Bilger Center, McKenzie’s relay team of Abigail Wallace, Autumn Haywood, Bella Sass and Sophie Dameron (and alternate Natalia Taylor) finished as runner-up in the Girls 4x800-Meter Relay. Dresden’s team was third. Photo courtesy Jeremy Bilger Right, Huntingdon’s Blaine Todd was fourth in the Boys 3200-Meter Run. Westview’s Jack Mantooth was the champion, and Greenfield’s Deegan Arant was fifth. Photo courtesy Clint Ezell

Area Athletes Excel at State Track Meet

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

KNOXVILLE (May 19) — Several area athletes excelled at the TSSAA 2026 Division I Class A State Track and Field Championships Tuesday at Tom Black Track on the campus of the University of Tennessee, including three second place finishes for McKenzie athletes and two fourth place finishes for Huntingdon.

In the Girls 3200-Meter Run, Dresden freshman Hudson McDaniel was the champion with a time of 11:48.12. McKenzie sophomore Abigail Wallace was the runner-up (11:50.90). Westview junior Alaina Uselton finished in fourth (11:59.35), just .01 seconds behind third.

In the Boys 1600-Meter Run, McKenzie’s Wallace was the runner-up with a time of 5:34.66. Dresden



Huntingdon’s Kaylen Cary finished fourth in the Girls Long Jump. Photo courtesy Clint Ezell

sophomore Bailey Warbington finished fourth (5:42.31).

In the Girls 800-Meter Run, Dresden’s Warbington finished third (2:31.59). Her teammate, junior Fjella Aden, was fifth (2:38.40). McKenzie’s Wallace qualified but did not compete.

In the Girls 4x800-Meter Relay, McKenzie’s team of Wallace, Autumn Haywood, Bella Sass and Sophie Dameron (and alternate Natalia Taylor) finished as

runner-up with a time of 10:19.61 (a school record). Dresden’s relay team was third (10:20.45).

In the Girls Long Jump, Huntingdon sophomore Kaylen Cary finished fourth.

In the Boys 3200-Meter Run, Westview senior Jack Mantooth claimed the championship with a time of 9:38.15. Huntingdon senior Blaine Todd was fourth (9:52.73), and Greenfield junior Deegan Arant was fifth (10:12.88).

In the Boys 1600-Meter Run, Westview’s Mantooth was the runner-up with a time of 4:28.91.

In the Boys 800-Meter Run, Dresden sophomore Vaughn Bounds was the champion with a time of 1:59.21.

In the Boys 4x800-Meter Relay, Dresden’s team finished third with a time of 8:22.69.



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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
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