



(L to R): Stephanie Slack-Allen, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC; Chris Blount, PA-C; Elly Riley, DO; Lori Holladay, NP; Jill Bennett, NP; Katharine Bullock, FNP; and Emily Ezell, DO.



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FRIDAY, JUNE 19



FATHER'S DAY
SUNDAY, JUNE 21



FIRST DAY OF SUMMER
SUNDAY, JUNE 21

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

McKENZIE, TENNESSEE

Vol. 156 / No. 24 / 75¢

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OBITUARIES

David Etheridge III, 52
James D. Padgett, 76
Billy Eugene Phifer, 52

\$80,000 Murder-for-Hire Alleged in Henry County



Kenneth Claxton



Travis Ryan, Jr.

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS

lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

HENRY COUNTY — Two men are held without bond following the murder of Henry County resident Angela Claxton. Investigators report that Kenneth Claxton, the victim's husband, allegedly promised Travis Ryan, Jr. \$80,000 in life insurance money to commit the crime. Within five days of the crime, the murder plot was uncovered

See MURDER on Page 3

Republic Services to Acquire RaeKar Waste Services

The West Tennessee solid waste management landscape is set for a significant transition this summer as Republic Services announced it will acquire RaeKar Waste Services. The acquisition, which officially takes effect on July 1, 2026, brings an end to a period of direct competition between the two waste collection providers in the region.

See REPUBLIC on Page 3

Trezevant to Issue Refunds For Inflated Water Bills

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS

lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

TREZEVANT (June 9) — The Trezevant Mayor and Board of Aldermen met Tuesday to address a range of municipal issues, with significant focus on water billing irregularities and a tense dispute over the finances of the town's Industrial Development Board (IDB).

The board took immediate action on water billing concerns after residents reported receiving significantly inflated bills.

Water department operator Erik Grimes, who was present at the meeting, attributed the missed readings to recurring water leaks that

See BILLS on Page 3

Heavy Rains Flood Streets, Down Trees



A car was stranded on South Main Street, McKenzie during flooding on Saturday, June 13. The driver safely exited the vehicle. The water did not get into Block City Pizza or South Main Storage. Photo by Joel Washburn./The Banner

Heavy rains on Saturday, June 13 produced flooded streets, downed trees, and some temporary power outages.

Rainfall amounts in Northwest Tennessee on June 13, 2026, were highly localized and tied to scattered severe thunderstorms that swept through the region during the afternoon and evening. Because these storms were convective, totals varied significantly over short distances.

The National Weather Service office in Memphis issued Severe Thunderstorm Warnings for counties including Weakley, Gibson, Carroll, and Henry, noting intense storm cells that produced up to 60 mph wind gusts and quarter-sized hail. While broad regional averages generally ranged from 0.25 to 1.5 inches, localized pockets that experienced heavy training thunderstorms received 2 to 3+ inches of precipitation within short periods.

See FLOOD on Page 3

Rules, Details Released for June 30 Sheriff Town Hall, Community Forum Event

CARROLL COUNTY (June 15) — The Carroll County Sheriff's Town Hall and Community Forum is Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at 6 p.m. at the Carroll County Civic Center in Huntingdon, Tenn. (located at 201 Mustang Drive). The three Carroll County Sheriff candidates — Eric Sawyers, Michael A. Smith and Ryan White — will attend, with retired Circuit Court Judge Donald Parish serving as the moderator.

The McKenzie Banner and The Carroll County Observer are organizing this event as an opportunity for voters to meet the candidates and hear their ideas for the position.

Each sheriff candidate will be given 3 minutes for an opening statement and 3 minutes for a closing statement and will be asked a series of questions submitted by Carroll County residents. Questions must be related to the position or their experience. No irrelevant questions or attacks are allowed.

See SHERIFF on Page 2

CARROLL COUNTY SHERIFF'S TOWN HALL AND COMMUNITY FORUM



TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2026 • 6 P.M.
at CARROLL COUNTY CIVIC CENTER
201 Mustang Drive, Huntingdon TN 38344

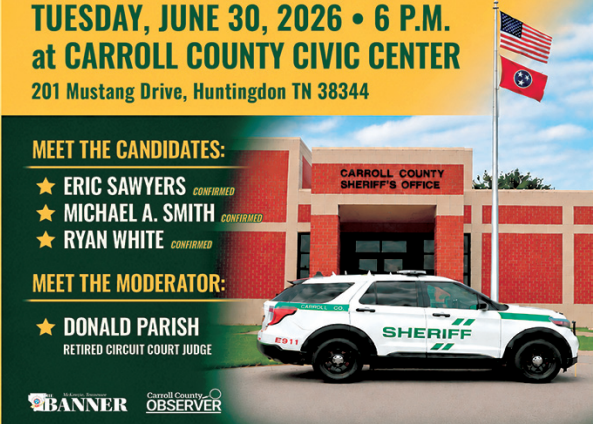
MEET THE CANDIDATES:

- ★ ERIC SAWYERS CONFIRMED
- ★ MICHAEL A. SMITH CONFIRMED
- ★ RYAN WHITE CONFIRMED

MEET THE MODERATOR:

- ★ DONALD PARISH RETIRED CIRCUIT COURT JUDGE

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MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR CARROLL COUNTY SHERIFF • EARLY VOTING: JULY 17-AUGUST 1 • ELECTION DAY: AUGUST 6, 2026



Meet Eric Sawyers

My name is Eric Sawyers, and I am honored to be the Republican candidate for Carroll County Sheriff. As a fifth-generation Carroll Countian, my roots run deep in this community. I am a proud graduate of Huntingdon High School and have spent my life serving and supporting the people of Carroll County.

My wife Rachel and I have been married for 16 years, and together we are raising our two teenage sons on our small farm here in Carroll County. Family, faith, hard work and community values are the principles that guide my life everyday.

I began my law enforcement career at 19 years old as a reserve deputy for the Carroll County Sheriff's Office. At 23 years old, I was hired as a full-time deputy and have proudly served the citizens of Carroll County ever since.

Over the past 25 years, I have gained experience in nearly every aspect of law enforcement, serving as a Patrol Deputy, Shift Sergeant, Firearms Instructor, General Department Instructor, Evidence Custodian and Criminal Investigator. These experiences have provided me with leadership, knowledge and hands-on experience necessary to lead the Carroll County Sheriff's Office. I understand the challenges facing our community, our deputies and our justice system, because I have spent my career serving on the front lines.

As Sheriff, I can assure you that my leadership style will be visible, involved and accessible. My top priorities will be public safety, fighting crime and aggressively targeting drug dealers who threaten our communities. I am committed to making Carroll County a safer place for every family.

The safety of our children is one of my highest priorities. We will provide additional patrols around

our schools and fully support our school resource officers who work everyday to protect our students, teachers and staff. By working together we can strengthen the safety and security of our community while continuing to make Carroll County a great place to live, work, worship and raise a family.

I will work closely with the County Mayor's office and County Commission to pursue every available grant opportunity to provide the training, equipment and resources our Sheriff's Office employees need to serve our community effectively. By securing outside funding whenever possible, we can reduce the financial burden on local taxpayers while ensuring our employees have the tools necessary to do their jobs safely and professionally.

I am committed to being a responsible steward of your tax dollars. I will eliminate wasteful spending, operate the Sheriff's Office with fiscal discipline and make every dollar count. My goal is to provide the highest level of public safety while maintaining a conservative, accountable approach to managing county resources.

As your sheriff, I will build a Sheriff's Office that is professional, well-trained, well-supported, and committed to serving the citizens of Carroll County with integrity and compassion. I will be visible, accessible and actively engaged with our community. I believe accountability starts at the top, and I expect the citizens of Carroll County to hold me accountable just as I will hold every member of the Sheriff's Office accountable. By working together, we can build a safer, stronger and better Carroll County for our families and future generations.

I humbly ask for your vote to be the next sheriff of Carroll County.



Meet Michael A. Smith

My name is Michael A. Smith. I was born in Milan, Tennessee, to Lucille Hart and Harry Smith, and I am the youngest of eleven children. I have lived in Carroll County my entire life and am proud to call this community home. I attended Huntingdon High School and graduated in 1990.

My wife, Janna, and I have been married for nine years. Together, we have a blended family of eight children and thirteen grandchildren. We currently reside in Hollow Rock, Tennessee.

I currently serve as a Shift Sergeant on the night shift with the Carroll County Sheriff's Office and also own and operate Smith Roofing, Construction and Home Repair, a small business I have successfully managed for the past twenty-five years.

My law enforcement career began in 2008 as a part-time dispatcher with the Benton County Sheriff's Department. I later became a full-time Corrections Officer. In January 2010, Benton County sent me to the Tennessee Law Enforcement Academy, where I graduated on March 11, 2010. After serving Benton County for another year, I joined the Carroll County Sheriff's Office, where I have proudly served for the past fourteen years. Ten of those years have been spent serving as a Shift Sergeant on the night shift.

Community Service and Leadership

Serving and protecting others has been a lifelong commitment for me. Throughout the years, I have served Carroll County in many capacities, including:

- Volunteer Firefighter for the Hollow Rock and

Carroll County Fire Departments for 15 years.

- Certified Firefighter I, II, and III.
- Member of the first graduating class of Carroll County First Responders.
- Member of the Carroll County Rescue Squad for 15 years.
- Member of the Carroll County Hazardous Materials (HazMat) Team for 2 years.
- Alderman for the Town of Hollow Rock for 14 years.
- Vice Mayor of Hollow Rock for 4 years.
- Completed 14 hours of class with the Tennessee Comptroller of the Treasury.
- Attended the Tennessee Dangerous Drug Task Force class where I was certified in clandestine labs.

My experience in law enforcement, emergency services, local government, and small business ownership has given me a unique understanding of the needs of Carroll County and its citizens.

Why do I want to be Carroll County Sheriff?

I want to be Sheriff so I can continue serving the residents of Carroll County while supporting the men and women who serve alongside me. My goal is to build a stronger, more professional department that puts people first, promotes accountability, and provides the highest level of service and protection to our community. By working together, we can ensure a safer future for Carroll County and continue building a Sheriff's Office that our citizens can trust and be proud of.

Together, Working for a Safer Tomorrow in Carroll County.

Michael A. Smith
Candidate for Carroll County Sheriff



Meet Chief Ryan White

Chief White is a dedicated law enforcement professional with 25 years of service and a career distinguished by leadership, integrity, and commitment to community safety. He began his law enforcement career as a Reserve Deputy with the Carroll County Sheriff's Office. He was later hired as a full-time officer with the McKenzie Police Department, where he built his career and advanced through the ranks from Patrol Officer to Chief of Police.

During his tenure with the department, he has served as Corporal, Sergeant, Administration Sergeant, Lieutenant, Assistant Chief, and Chief of Police. Throughout his career, Chief White has gained extensive experience in patrol, investigations, narcotics enforcement, training, and administration. His specialized assignments have included K-9 Officer, Evidence Custodian, Narcotics Investigator, General Investigator, Clan Lab Technician and Site Safety Officer, Driving School Instructor, Firearms Instructor, and General Departmental Instructor (GDI).

For the past three and a half years as Chief of Police, he has been responsible for developing, managing, and overseeing departmental budgets, ensuring the efficient allocation of resources while maintaining high standards of public safety and operational effectiveness. His administrative experience includes strategic planning, personnel management, fiscal oversight, and working closely with city leadership to meet the needs of both the department and the community.

Committed to professional growth and leadership development, Chief White completed First Line Leadership training in 2014, graduated from the Southeastern Leadership Academy (SELA) in 2017, and graduated from the Carroll County Leadership Academy in 2025. He is currently participating in

the WESTSTAR Leadership Program.

In addition to his law enforcement duties, Chief White is actively involved in his community and professional organizations. He is a member of the Tennessee Association of Chiefs of Police and the McKenzie Rotary Club.

Drawing on a quarter-century of law enforcement experience, Chief White continues to lead with a focus on public safety, professional excellence, fiscal responsibility, and strong community partnerships.

Chief White is seeking the position of Carroll County Sheriff to serve all of Carroll County by implementing community programs and technology upgrades that have proven successful during his tenure as police chief.

By implementing county-wide zoning to reduce response times, improving transparency through the use of body cameras, prioritizing education through continued deputy training and greater communication with the public, Chief White aims to raise the bar, holding the department to a higher standard of public service.

Chief White plans to implement each piece of his plan for a better department while saving taxpayers money through grants, cleaning up the county through aggressive drug enforcement, and implementing greater mental health services and "second chance" life skills programs for inmates to stop the "revolving door" of recidivism.

Finally, Chief White plans to expand the successful "Shop with a First Responder" program to meet the needs of all of Carroll County's financially disadvantaged youth because every child deserves to experience the magic of Christmastime.

I humbly ask for your vote on August 6, 2026.

Sheriff

...From Front Page

The questions will be a mix of those submitted prior to the event and those submitted the night of the event by audience members.

During the event, only the candidates and moderator are allowed to speak. Audience members are asked to remain silent during the event, so every candidate can be heard. Anyone being disruptive will be asked to leave.

The candidates have agreed that, on the night of the event, the Carroll County Civic Center will be a neutral

space, meaning no campaign materials (i.e. signage, t-shirts, hats, flags, stickers, magnets, etc.) are allowed inside or in close proximity to the building.

Refreshments will be hors d'oeuvres with tea, lemonade, water and coffee.

This is a free event, and the public is invited to attend.

For those who cannot attend in person, at least two media outlets in attendance will broadcast the event live on the web.

Due to time constraints, candidates for other Carroll County positions will not be speaking the night of the event, but will instead be asked

to provide a video or written statement about the position they are seeking and their vision. This will allow the media to deliver the other candidates' messages to the voters while keeping the run time of the event to a manageable 2.5 hours, with two rounds of questions and a 10-minute break.

County-level positions on the August ballot are Circuit Court Clerk, County Mayor, Assessor of Property, County Clerk, Trustee, Register of Deeds, Sheriff, Road Supervisor and County Commission Districts 1-9.

The early voting period for the August election is July 17 - August 1. Election day is August 6, 2026.

Gleason's Tater Week Takes Shape

GLEASON — The City of Gleason's annual Tater Week has begun to take shape, with the 2026 Tater Town Special scheduled for August 31-September 5. Some events, like the Miss Tater Town pageant, start even sooner.

The Miss Tater Town pageant is Saturday, August 22, at Gleason School (3 Championship Drive, Gleason). This is a qualifying pageant for the Strawberry Festival.

The pageant begins at 10 a.m. with the Baby Show, which has five components: 0-11 months, 1 year old, 2 years old, 3 years old and 4-5 years old.

The next show is Little Mr. and Miss, which is open to contestants 6-9 years old.

Pre-Teen Miss Tater Town follows. The pre-teen contest is open to ages 10-12.

Junior Miss Tater Town comes next and is open to contestants 13-15 years old.

Miss Tater Town is the last contest and is open to contestants aged 18-21.

Pageants will start no earlier than every 30 minutes, according to the Gleason Gazelles. There will be a lunch break from 12:30-1 p.m.

Contestants are asked to be dressed and ready 15 minutes prior to their assigned start

time. The judges' decisions are final; bad sportsmanship is not tolerated and may result in disqualification without refund.

Pageant registration begins at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 22. The general registration fee is \$25, and special categories are \$5 each.

Tater Week officially begins Monday, August 31, with a block party in downtown Gleason, beginning at 6 p.m. September 1 is the annual Tater Town Special Car Show, beginning at 6:30 in downtown Gleason. Youth Bingo is September 2 at the Gazelle Grounds, beginning at 6 p.m. Adult Bingo is September 3 at the Gazelle Grounds, beginning at 6 p.m.

The Tater Town Special Parade and Vendor Fair closes out Tater Week on Saturday, September 5. The finale event is at the Gazelle Grounds from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Gleason Gazelles shared a food truck application for individuals wishing to set up at this year's events: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1enuNXECE-o2aCxnx9W_L8rwd-dwV1M2wvFNjxnXj2LgY/edit?tab=t.0

Visit the Gleason Gazelles-Tater Town Special's Facebook page for more information.

Gasoline Prices Drop 15.4 Cents

TENNESSEE (June 15) — Average gasoline prices in Tennessee fell 15.4 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.57/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 3,821 stations in Tennessee. Prices in Tennessee are 52.3 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 91.5 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 11.7 cents compared to a week ago and stands at \$5.182 per gallon.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 9.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.99/g today. The national average is down 52.4 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 91.1 cents per gallon

higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Historical gasoline prices in Tennessee and the national average going back five years: June 15, 2025: \$2.65/g (U.S. Average: \$3.08/g); June 15, 2024: \$3.02/g (U.S. Average: \$3.43/g); June 15, 2023: \$3.16/g (U.S. Average: \$3.56/g); June 15, 2022: \$4.62/g (U.S. Average: \$5.02/g); June 15, 2021: \$2.85/g (U.S. Average: \$3.08/g).

"Average gasoline prices fell in 47 states over the last week, with the national average dropping below \$4 per gallon late Sunday for the first

time since mid-April," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "The decline came as oil prices moved sharply lower in reaction to news of a potential deal between the United States and Iran, though it remains to be seen whether the agreement will hold. A handful of price-cycling states saw averages jump before joining the broader downward trend. The real test now shifts to the Strait of Hormuz, where any reopening and resumption of normal oil flows would be the clearest signal that this relief is durable. For now, the national average could continue falling, provided there isn't a drastic reversal and the U.S. and Iran continue moving in a positive direction."

Murder

...From Front Page

through smart watch data and surveillance footage.

On June 5, Henry County deputies responded to a scene at 425 Cay Lawrence Road in Buchanan, Tenn. Upon arrival, deputies discovered the body of Angela Claxton, who appeared to have been stabbed over 20 times.

Angela Claxton’s smart watch indicated her time of death to be approximately 2:07 a.m. on June 4. Ten steps were logged on her watch.

A nearby security camera showed a “unique” white truck with a utility bed driving on Highway 140 in Puryear at 1:37 a.m. on June 4, driving toward Angela Claxton’s home. Nearly an hour later, at 2:27 a.m., the same vehicle was seen driving away from the area.

Investigators located the vehicle in Dresden, Tenn., on June 9. According to

the warrant, Travis Ryan, Jr. claimed the truck as his own and confessed to the murder of Angela Claxton.

Ryan admitted to stabbing Angela Claxton over 20 times on the promise of Kenneth Claxton paying him \$80,000 in his wife’s life insurance money. Kenneth Claxton, who was in Alaska at the time of the murder, allegedly supplied Ryan with a Tyvek suit, a knife and a smelter to melt the knife down.

Ryan said he wore the Tyvek suit and a ski mask. He reportedly entered through the side door and stabbed Angela Claxton in her bed until she ran outside and collapsed at the front door.

Travis Ryan, Jr. was taken into custody at 1699 Jewel Store Road, Dresden. He was charged with one count of Conspiracy to Commit First Degree Murder and one count of First Degree Murder.

Kenneth Claxton was arrested at 425 Cay Lawrence Road, Buchanan. He was

charged with one count of Conspiracy to Commit First Degree Murder.

Henry County General Sessions Judge Chad Cox arraigned both defendants on June 11.

Kenneth E. Claxton is scheduled to return to court June 18. He has no attorney on record.

Travis Ryan, Jr. returns to court July 30 to check the status of a forensic evaluation. He will be represented by the 24th Judicial District Public Defender’s office.

Both men are held without bond.

The joint investigation included assistance from the Henry County Sheriff’s Office, TBI, the Weakley County Sheriff’s Office, the Puryear Police Department, the FBI, the Kentucky State Police, the Murray State University Police Department, the 24th Judicial District Attorney General’s Office, the 27th Judicial District Attorney General’s Office and the United States Attorney’s Office for the Western District of Tennessee.

Republic

...From Front Page

In July 2024, McKenzie city officials chose RaeKar over its existing contractor Republic Services based on Republic’s lack of communication with the McKenzie customers’ complaints. Now, it appears Republic will return as McKenzie’s provider on July 1. McKenzie residents pay the city for the services. The city then pays RaeKar.

The merger follows active bidding in local municipalities, where the two companies frequently competed for government waste contracts. Notably, both firms submitted competitive proposals for solid waste collection services for the Town of Huntingdon as recently as this past April. Republic earned that contract that begins July 1, 2026. Huntingdon’s longtime contractor, Waste Management, will cease operations there on June 30.

For current RaeKar cus-



tomers, the companies are emphasizing a focus on service continuity. In a statement from their service base, RaeKar noted that while the company is changing ownership, the daily operations are expected to remain consistent. Residents and business owners will continue to see the same local personnel handling collection routes.

“RaeKar may be changing hands, but the important things are staying the same,” the company stated in a customer notice. “You will see the same friendly faces and experience the same highest-caliber customer service.”

For the immediate future, customers are advised to continue paying their bills through their established

methods. Republic Services plans to mail detailed instructions to former RaeKar customers in the coming weeks, outlining new account numbers, online payment portals, and mobile app features.

The acquisition combines two distinct footprints in West Tennessee. RaeKar, a family-owned business founded in 2018 and based in Martin, built a regional reputation for fast and reliable service. Republic Services, a large-scale provider with an existing transfer station located on Highway 22 in McKenzie, already services a wide swath of the region, including Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Gibson, Henry, Madison and Obion counties, the latter of which is the location of Republic’s landfill.

Bills

...From Front Page

required his immediate attention, pulling him away from his normal duties. Grimes noted he would review the specific billing complaints and acknowledged that some meters may have been misread.

Alderman Don Barger suggested that the town reimburse the residents who were overcharged.

“They were unjustly overcharged and should be reimbursed,” Barger said. “We know this was a total mistake...an overcharge.”

The board voted unanimously to have city hall staff audit records to identify overcharged accounts and either issue refunds or apply credits to future bills.

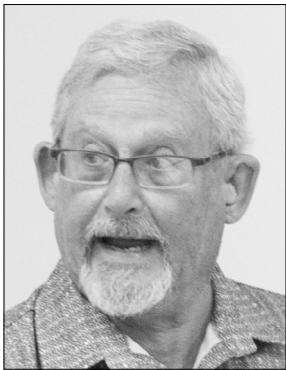
While the water issue saw consensus, the board experienced a heated confrontation regarding the IDB’s checkbook.

Barger, who served as the point of contact for the IDB prior to the board’s reconstitution in May, remains in possession of the checkbook. He insisted that he will only relinquish the account once new members are formally authorized by the bank.

“Until I have been informed that there are new authorized persons on that checking account, I will not relinquish that checkbook,” Barger said. “It has to go through the normal channels of the banking industry.”

Town Attorney Charlie Trotter challenged the delay, asserting that the funds are public property and must be under the control of the municipality.

“This is public money,” Trotter said. “It belongs to the town, and whoever’s



Alderman Don Barger made the motion to reimburse overcharged residents. *Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner*

got it ought to turn over the books and records to the current members of the board.”

The exchange intensified when Trotter indicated he would file a Freedom of Information Act request to force the turnover of the records. Barger stated he is already working with the bank to remove his name from the account.

In other legislative business, the board addressed the town’s fireworks ordinance, voting to lower the sales license fee from \$1,500 to \$150 after determining the previous fee was excessive. Alderman Dan Dieringer was the only board member to dissent. The license is required for each sales period, meaning businesses must obtain one for Independence Day and another for New Year’s celebrations.

The board also moved to boost municipal visibility by approving the creation of an official town website. The project was proposed by IDB member Janet Dickson, who suggested the site could provide information on schools and community events to support growth.

“If we’re trying to grow,” Dickson said, “we need to show the people what we’re

all about.”

Dickson agreed to build the website, which will cost the town between \$540–\$840 per year.

Additionally, the board approved the rezoning of a city-owned property at 5340 Broad Street from residential to commercial (B1). The motion passed unanimously — though some of the aldermen later voiced their dissent. They said they were not aware that they were voting in favor of the rezoning.

Alderman Dan Dieringer argued that the town should prioritize residential development over commercial expansion. He thought it was more important to invite people into Trezevant rather than businesses.

“I am not in favor of rezoning to business,” Dieringer said. “The town needs more quality housing.”

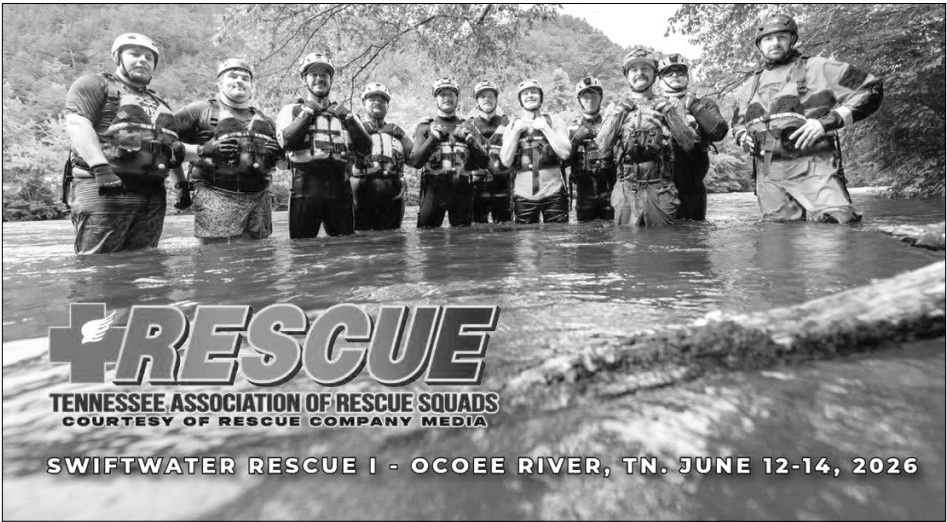
The Trezevant Fire Department presented requests for repairs to a malfunctioning garage door, estimated at \$15,000, and funding for additional protective gear. Alderman Leon Lyell stressed the gravity of the situation regarding the facility’s door.

“Our door needs to be fixed one way or another,” Lyell said. While a firetruck is eventually able to get out of the garage, it takes time. This serves as a detriment to the department’s response times.

Mayor Bobby Blaylock reported that new traffic signs, priced at \$8,000 total, on Highway 79 have effectively reduced speeding, with Alderman Don Barger recommending similar signs be installed on Broad Street. The board also reappointed David Bryant as chairman of the Board of Zoning Appeals and heard citizen grievances regarding the state of city sidewalks.



Above, Five first responders from Carroll County were among trainees for swift water rescue on the Ocoee River. Below, Ironically, members of the Carroll County Rescue Squad and EMA Director Trevor Foster were on the Ocoee River in East Tennessee training for swift water rescue. Foster, Logan Lessenberry, Justin Abbott, Noah Maxwell, and J.C. Norwood attended the training.



Flood

...From Front Page

The sudden deluge flooded McKenzie streets of South Main Street, North Main Street, North Stonewall in front of McKenzie Middle School and U.S. 79 under the railroad underpass. Portions of Huntingdon sustained heavy rains and some flooding.

Visitors at the gathering area of the McKenzie Farmers Market reported water entering the building.

Much of the county sustained heavy rains that flooded some homes.

Trevor Foster, Carroll County Emergency Management Agency Director, said the agency has received no calls about damage in the county. He encouraged residents to report damage by visiting <https://carrollcountyttn.gov/ema.html>.

Ironically, five first responders were in specialized swift water rescue training in East Tennessee during the weekend deluge.



Foster, Logan Lessenberry, Justin Abbott, Noah Maxwell, and J.C. Norwood attended a ‘physically intense training’ on the Ocoee River on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

According to the website, Swift Water Rescue I provides students with instruction in swift water dynamics, self-rescue/swimming techniques, ropes and knots, rescue equipment, rescue wading techniques, and technical rope rigging in swift water environments. This course is 20 contact hours of training that is physically demanding.

See other submitted photos on the Banner’s Facebook page.

Top, A 2-year-old boy plays in the flood water in the McKenzie Farmer’s Market during his birthday party and baby shower for his sister. *Photo by Katey Moon* Above, McKenzie Farmer’s Market is pictured where water slightly entered the building from a flooded Cedar Street. *Photo submitted by Kim Moss* Below, The footprint for a freshly-dug pool quickly filled up on Saturday in Clarksburg. *Photo submitted by Sandy Longmire*



Principal

...From Front Page

following a six-year tenure as superintendent for the Paris Special School District. Since then, she has served remotely as a leadership coach for Kids 1st Education, a coaching and professional learning organization for school districts and schools.

Passionate about leadership development and educational excellence, Dr. Gerrell helps educators and organizations build capacity, strengthen culture and improve outcomes for all learners. Her work is guided by a belief that education is the pathway out of poverty and that every person deserves honor, dignity and respect.

Dr. Gerrell is also the president of MORE Ministry, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and its women’s



Dr. Norma Gerrell

initiative — Still Becoming — where she encourages women to discover their purpose, grow in confidence and embrace the life they were created to live.

Dr. Gerrell will help lead and expand the school’s virtual learning programs, which serve students in grades 6–12 across the state of Tennessee. Clarksburg

Virtual Academy is a public virtual school that provides high-quality educational opportunities at no cost to enrolled students and families.

“Dr. Gerrell will bring academic expertise and strong leadership skills that will help move Clarksburg Virtual Academy forward and support a culture of continuous growth and achievement,” said Dr. Lisa Norris, Director of Schools for South Carroll County Special School District.

Dr. Gerrell resides in Paris, Tenn., with her husband of 38 years, Carlton. She treasures her role as a mother to Trey (Emily), an attorney in Memphis, Tenn., and Scott, a board-certified behavior analyst in Jackson, Tenn.

Clarksburg Virtual Academy enrollment for the 2026–2027 school year is now open. Interested families can learn more and enroll by visiting RocketsOnline.org.

Editor's
SIDELINES

Joel Washburn
washburn@mckenziebanner.com



A Memorial on Father’s Day
Dad Believed in Service, Country, God

From my office window in downtown McK- enzie, I can see the Stars and Stripes flying over a memorial dedicated to veterans who lost their lives in America’s conflicts. This memori- al is located in down- town McKenzie. At the flag’s base rests a granite marker engraved with the name James L. Wash- burn, while across the street, in front of the Park Theatre, stands a marker for Ramona Washburn.

James married Rama- na Kemp, and they raised two boys, Jeff and Joel (me). They eloped to Mississippi to get mar- ried. She was only 15, and Tennessee law did not permit marriages at that age.

James was a man of deep service—dedicated to his country, his commu- nity, and God. He worked tirelessly to provide for his family, achieving much through tenacity and hard work. Despite his formal education ending in the eighth grade, he and Rama- na, who completed the eleventh grade, were remarkably accomplished. They were adamant about the value of education, demanding that their sons attend school daily. Both Jeff and I maintained at least 10 years of perfect attendance at McKenzie Schools.

James Loyd Washburn was born on September 5, 1927, in Henderson County, the third son of Vester and Ardell Ross Washburn. He assisted with the family’s farm- ing operations until join- ing the military in 1945. While he attended school in McKenzie and com- pleted the eighth grade, he left school in the ninth grade to support the family farm—a common practice during that era.

On November 29, 1945, he was inducted into military service at Fort McPherson, Georgia. Fol- lowing basic training, he served with the 40th TC Squadron, 317th Trans- portation Group. After being stationed in Yama- to, Japan, with the Amer- ican Occupation Forces at the end of World War II, he transferred to the E Squadron of the 1377th Army Air Force Base Unit at Westover Field in Massachusetts.

He was honorably dis- charged from the Army at Camp Stoneman, Cal- ifornia, on June 29, 1947, having been awarded the World War II Victory Medal and the Army of Occupation Medal (Jap- an). Upon returning to McKenzie, he joined Company G, 117th Infan-

try Regiment of the Ten- nessee National Guard, where he served until January 19, 1951.

The McKenzie Banner’s 156-year history includes 78 years of involvement by the Washburn family. James began his career there in 1948 as a “print- er’s devil,” working his way up to become edi- tor, co-owner, publisher and then sole owner. In 1972, he founded and co- owned a printing compa- ny in Huntingdon, which produced nine weekly publications.

In 1985, James died from a brain tumor, a condition that may have been linked to radiation exposure during his mili- tary service in Japan. Following his death, the company was owned by Ramona, Jeff, and me. The brothers eventually purchased their mother’s shares, and in 2019, Joel and Teresa Washburn purchased the entire company, later selling it to their daughter and son-in-law, Brittany and Jason R. Martin.

Recently, I traveled through Japan with Beth- el University’s Global Studies. That fulfilled a lifelong dream of visit- ing the country where my father served as part of the occupation forc- es. He never mentioned anything about his mili- tary service. When my mother died, we found a photo album of pho- tos that showed some horrendous destruction and the loss of life. I’m sure he never wanted to recount that experience.

The visit to Japan com- pleted a trifecta of my ex- periences based on WWII - first the 80th anniversa- ry of Pearl Harbor, where my daughter Brittany and I attended along with the Secretary of the Navy and survivors of the event. Pearl Harbor is where the war began. Secondly, in 2025, my brother, Jeff and I and spouses, traveled to Normandy with Bethel University’s Global Stud- ies, where we visited the American Cemetery and the beaches of Norman- dy where so many sol- diers, sailors, Marines, and airmen died to free France and Europe from the German occupation. And finally, Teresa and I visited Japan, where the war ended. When I was in Japan, I took pause upon seeing the Japanese flag, knowing that meant an enemy to him, but, to me in the year 2026, an everlasting respect for the Japanese people for their support of America and their overwhelming kindness.

HUNKER DOWN WITH KES
What A Friend We
Have In Miss Floy

I believe with all my heart this story today is universal. I am going to tell you about a lady who turned aside for me...when she didn’t have to. As I unwind it for you, you think of the Miss Floy in your life....

Floy Coleman was young. And beautiful. I met her when I was eight years old. She was barely 20. Mom got her coming to church with us. And lots of Sunday evenings, after church, she would take Miss Floy out to the Dairy Bar. I would ride along because ice cream was involved.

Miss Floy would talk to me on these trips like I was a regular person. And believe me, not every grownup treated me that a way. Nobody was mean to me you understand. They just were so busy with their adult stuff.

Not Miss Floy!
I was important to her from the very beginning. Gosh, she laughed so eas- ily. She would lean down to be close to me when we talked. Like I was an important person too! And she would even give me a hug when we let her out at her house.

Mom, Granny, and a couple of aunts were the only people who loved me enough to actually hug me. And I can tell you with all honesty, I was not the most huggable guy around when I was eight years old.

Miss Floy made an im- pression on me from the very beginning. But I’m only getting started here....

She went to working at the church. I believe she was Brother Hatcher’s secretary. And please un- derstand, this is not nec- essarily about church. It is way beyond that. But a big part of the story did unfold in a small, window- less, concrete block class- room in the basement of the church. At night.

Probably the most overlooked aspect of our church was the Training Union. It was the hour before the Sunday eve- ning service. It was not as well attended as Sunday School. And, as a small church, they had problems finding willing “souls” to come back at night and teach me and David Mark, Ruth Ann Wiley, Pam Col- lins, Billy Thompson, LaR- enda Bradfield....

Enter Miss Floy. We didn’t know why she chose our class. Or how the church, or someone, persuaded her to teach us. But you talk about the break of a lifetime for the children in that room.

Everybody criticized the old Training Union materi- al. Too dry. Not interesting. Not “modern.” Boring. The lessons were broken up into sections about some Biblical character or event. There were usually five or six “points” covered.

We began each night by

singing “What a Friend We Have in Jesus.” It was the only song Miss Floy could play on the piano. I’m tell- ing you with my hand up, we sang it every Sunday night for five years!

She would assign each of us one of the sections to read, give us a few min- utes to collect our thoughts and then have us explain our understanding of the passage. I was scared to death. Until about the 27th time I did it.

It didn’t matter if it was Ezekiel prophesizing in Babylon or Daniel in the Lions’ Den, Miss Floy would be nodding in agreement and telling us what a good job we did. You talk about a most re- freshing and long-lasting positive influence on our lives.

Miss Floy was in your corner no matter what!

I learned that my thoughts, my interpre- tation of whatever I was reporting on at the mo- ment could be correct, and meaningful. She just nod- ded, smiled and encour- aged you to be you. Your thoughts mattered to Miss Floy! If she approved, then why not the whole world! I had a voice!

She should have been dating on Sunday nights. Not putting up with us! We used to marvel at that. And somehow along the way our marveling turned into appreciation. And it is a short hop, as you know, from appreciation to love.

We were young, imma- ture, silly, puffed up by our own pride, and way too concerned with earthly things, but we were not stupid. We understood full well that part of the love we shared for Miss Floy, was because she first loved us!

Miss Barbara Clark, in high school English, as- signed me to give a re- port on Charles Dickens’ “Great Expectations.” It was a snap after you had explained Ezekiel for Miss Floy. It was the same with a Mahatma Gandhi term paper in college.

Miss Floy’s belief in me, gave me belief in me.

She eventually married and moved over to Par- sons, or someplace like that. I did not ever see her again. But I never forgot her. What a lasting touch the good ones leave with you....
When I saw the very ear- ly morning email from her niece, my heart stopped. I knew before I opened it Miss Floy had gained her wings. As I read the message that confirmed her homegoing, I began to cry...and subconsciously started humming “What a Friend....”

It is to this very day, my all-time favorite song.

Respectfully,
Kes
kesley45@aol.com



A Million Here, Or There

“A billion here, a billion there, and pretty soon you’re talking about real money,” a quote often attributed to Senator Everett Dirksen, R-Ill. Ironically, Dirksen claimed to never have actually said it, but let it become part of folklore nonetheless.

With our nation’s debt climbing about a million dol- lars a minute, and with fraud eating its lion’s share, the term will soon be “trillions.” As a baby-boomer, I can re- call when no cashier could bust a “Benjamin,” and the new generation hears “tril- lions” as everyday fodder. But as a contributing taxpayer for the last six decades, I recoil at the breaking news of fraud, theft, and inefficiency. And I am searching for answers and causes.

The Proverbs of Solomon, of course, lists the grass roots of such conditions- greed, lust, lying, laziness, basically called Sin; a term never used in politics today and rarely in church sermons. Bernie Madoff, Somali Learning Centers, Dixon, IL, LA, DC, Ukraine, and, most recently, Ohio, are all temporary head- lines that serve us well for a news flash or two, and then we so quickly return to our collective slumber.

Our Founders proposed the Doctrine of Popular Sov- ereignty and a federalist sys- tem to be enacted by Federal, State, and local governments. It was to be the Rule of Law and Accountability. All elect- ed officials would represent the people’s will and protect property rights, and the gov- ernment’s public trust would be accountable to every citi- zen. Needless to say, it was a groundbreaking doctrine in its time, and, sadly, it is rare today, especially at the local level of representation.

First, the obvious- basic accounting oversight of cash flow is just that- basic math. An accountant doesn’t miss nine cents, much less \$9 mil- lion! Only a door left wide open and eyes wide shut could create such a deficit. Fundamental financial con- trols make sure this could never happen- payment/ invoice/inventory reconcil- iation/ account monitoring, right there in the old John Murray “Accounting Made Easy” manual.

And I must come clean here. My generation has known deep down for de- cades that something was wrong. First, we were electing officials in all three levels of government who never signed the front of a pay- check. Simply put, they knew (or know) nothing of efficien- cy or balancing a budget, much less of trimming the fat. Tasks were, and continue to be, over- budgeted with inflated developments and poorly completed projects. (My hometown recently em- ployed a roofer for the Civic Center, which has yet to be completed and the price has escalated by 300 percent) Somewhere between these extremes of the \$9 billion missing in Minnesota and the \$50,000 roofing fiasco in Henry, well, we have a problem.

In a recent Star Tribune in- terview, then-acting U.S. At- torney General Joe Thomp- son cast the net extensively in terms of responsibility, or rather, lack of it. In summary,

he noted that elected officials turn a blind eye, agencies fail to act, law enforcement doesn’t push hard enough, reporters ignore the story, community leaders stay si- lent, and an unconcerned public sleeps on.

In my heart, I don’t want to think that it’s fraud or theft, but folks, this is the bottom line- the devastating effect is the same! Why? Because serving in the government and running a business differ in this way- it’s NOT OPM, Other People’s Money! Our elected officials have been entrusted with the duty to honor their oath to every single constituent. Ah, yes, the proverbial oath, where one raises his/her hand and swears to align their actions with their job descriptions and responsibilities. Citizens are not stockholders; we are constituents, and our Found- ers fully intended that our elected representatives be held responsible for public property, public funds, and the public trust.

Some cases are a result of too much trust, perhaps. The official or municipal employ- ee seemed “too nice” to ever do such a thing. But in the other cases, the fraud was deliberate and calculated. A liar is one who loves to make and formulate a lie for the purpose of lying. When an individual has been entrust- ed with fiduciary responsi- bilities, as with both of my current professions, fraud and inefficiency are the vilest transgressions of that trust. They were elected on the promises that they would guard and protect against those very things.

Finally, cases of sheer in- efficiency result from a lack of research, a lack of knowl- edge, or simply a lack of ef- fort. Shame on those if that is the reason the public’s trust was lost. My dad would say there are only two reasons a problem continues: either you don’t know enough to solve it, or you don’t care enough to solve it. In my hometown, the intersection of Elm and Atlantic resem- bled a third-world country for the first thirty years I lived here. A few years ago, \$20,000 was spent on repairs at the intersection, albeit poorly. Now it’s being allowed to be destroyed again. In fact, the first vehicle to traverse the site was an eighty-thou- sand-pound tractor-trailer, in blatant violation of local ordinances! This abuse con- tinues with potholes forming like pubescence acne, and tanks of chemicals have re- started their trek in violation of HAZMAT and EPA regula- tions, uncontested.

So what do these two ex- tremes have in common: the state of Minnesota with over five million residents and a rural town in western Ten- nessee? The answer- one dollar unaccounted for at a time; one blind eye at a time; one unaware citizen at a time. Somewhere in Henry, there are unreturnable, un- needed, and unused boxes of trail cameras and the like, gathering dust, a result of the previous mayor’s reckless and unchecked spending spree. I witnessed blocks of money being reassigned for his use at his discretion, with little or no oversight. The minimal result is waste and inefficiency, and the sober realization that, from the lo- cal levels to the Federal level, officials are treating it as Oth- er People’s Money.

Did I mention elections are coming up soon?

Sincerely,
Tony N. Boyd
Henry, TN

LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

Letters to the editor bear the opinion of the letter writer, and not necessarily that of the newspaper man- agement 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 re- strict the number of letters dealing with the same sub- ject matter. The signature of the writer must be affixed to the letter with a verifi- able 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 let- ters of opinion.

The McKenzie Banner reserves the right to refuse any item deemed libelous, not of public interest, or commercial in nature. The

editorial staff reserves the right to edit the material while preserving the intent of the letter. Upon receipt in the offices of Tri-County Publishing, Inc., the letter becomes the property of the newspaper and will be retained in the files. Tri-County Publishing may solicit contrary opinion concerning the content of the letter.



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Fri. 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m.
Sat.-Sun. Closed

DEADLINE Monday 10 a.m.

FOLLOW  @McKenzieBanner  @mckbANNER

(USPS 336080)
Periodical Postage
Paid at McKenzie, TN

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

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



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A5091/TF

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Thurs. 4:30 • 7:30

**MASTERS OF THE
UNIVERSE (PG-13)**

Tues. 4:25 • 7:25
Wed. 4:25 • 7:25
Thurs. 4:25 • 7:25

BACKROOMS (R)

Tues. 4:35 • 7:35
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THE BREADWINNER (PG)

Tues. 4:35 • 7:35
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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 Monday, the 22nd day of June, 2026 at 5:45 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.

A1/23-2

PUBLIC NOTICE

West Tennessee Medical Group Gastroenterology will be closing effective July 1, 2026. As part of this transition, Florentina Whitford, NP, will maintain her McKenzie practice location under McKenzie General Surgery, a satellite of Martin General Surgery. She may continue to provide care for certain patients, as clinically appropriate, with routine gastrointestinal concerns and preventive screening needs. Patients interested in exploring whether continued care with Florentina Whitford, NP, may be appropriate should contact McKenzie General Surgery at 731-261-0440 for additional information and care coordination. Patients requiring ongoing specialty gastroenterology services or management of more complex gastrointestinal conditions are encouraged to establish care with another gastroenterology provider.

A319/24-1

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NOTICE OF RESALE

VIRGINIA DARLENE LEDDY, DECEASED:

THE ESTATE OF: CIVIL ACTION NO: 2024-PA-12

Whereas, the bid on the real property in this Estate has been raised. This property will be offered for resale at the First Floor Lobby of the Carroll County Courthouse, 99 Court Square, Huntingdon, Tennessee, on Monday, June 22, 2026, at 10 a.m.

This property is located at 3775 Field School Road, McKenzie, TN. This property is located in the 09th Civil District of Carroll County, Tennessee, and is identified as Map No: 029, Group: Parcel No: 005.00, in the Office of the Property Assessor of Carroll County, Tennessee; and further described in Deed Book: 375, Page: 306, and in Deed Book: 367, Page: 430, in the Register of Deeds Office of Carroll County, Tennessee.

The bidding will begin at \$28,600, the amount the bid has been raised to. This property is sold subject to the 2026 property taxes.

PLEASE NOTE THAT THIS WILL BE THE FINAL OPPORTUNITY TO BID ON THIS PROPERTY. THIS AUCTION WILL BE FINAL.

TERMS OF SALE: 10% down with the balance due within thirty (30) days upon delivery of deed. A letter from a lender will be required for the balance of the bid.

Steven L. West, BPR#012326,
West & West Attorneys, Attorneys for the Estate, P.O. Box 687, Huntingdon, TN 38344

Kenneth Todd – Clerk & Master and Special Commissioner

A403/24-1



NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY

BARBARA ANN NADIN: THE ESTATE OF:

CIVIL ACTION NO: 2019-PA-6

By the authority granted by an “ORDER” filed in the above styled Estate, and entered of record in Probate Minute Book: 044, Page: 381, I will on Saturday, June 27, 2026 at 10 a.m., offer for sale to the highest and best bidder the real property as set out in said “Order”.

Said real property will be sold on the premises located at 1020 Fesmire Road, Cedar Grove, Tennessee. The sale will take place on Saturday, June 27, 2026, at 10 a.m., at 1020 Fesmire Road, Cedar Grove, Tennessee 38321.

Said property consists of a residential lot upon which is located a two story frame home with 1,596 S.F. of Heated Area, a 198 S.F. open front porch, a 176 S.F. Enclosed Back Porch, and a 14’X28’ Shed. Downstairs the home has three bedrooms, a bath, a Large Living Room and a Kitchen. Upstairs there is a Large Bedroom and a Bath. This property is in a great location and could be a showplace with a little TLC. Country Living! This house has great character!! DON’T MISS THIS SALE!

THIS AUCTION SALE WILL BE POSTED ON-LINE at govease.com

This property is located in the 6th Civil District of Carroll County, Tennessee, and is identified as Map No: 146, Group:, Parcel No: 040.01, in the Office of the Property Assessor of Carroll County, Tennessee; and further described in Deed Book: 322, Page: 476, in the Register of Deeds Office of Carroll County, Tennessee.

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

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

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

Donnie W. Knott BPR#01 7769, Attorney for the Estate
5070 West Van Hook Street, Milan, TN 38358

Kenneth Todd, Clerk & Master and Special Commissioner

A403/23-2

Juneteenth is Friday

Juneteenth National Independence Day is this Friday, June 19. This marks the fifth year the United States will recognize Juneteenth as a federal holiday.

Juneteenth, short for “June Nineteenth,” recognizes the June 19, 1865, emancipation

of enslaved people from Galveston, Texas.

Considered the longest-running African American holiday, Juneteenth has gone by many names: Emancipation Day, Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, Juneteenth Independence Day,

Black Independence Day and, by statute, Juneteenth National Independence Day.

On that day, federal troops arrived in the city, taking control of the entire state of Texas and ensuring all enslaved people be freed — more than two years after the Emancipation Proclamation.

All 50 states and the Dis-

trict of Columbia now recognize Juneteenth as a federal holiday — meaning most federal offices will be closed on Friday. Locally, banks will close as well as some municipal offices. The City of McKenzie, for example, will close its offices June 18–19. McKenzie Memorial Library is also closed Friday, June 19.

Inglennook Book Club Celebrates History

**SUBMITTED BY
BEVERLY MUELLER**
Recording Secretary

McKENZIE — The Inglennook Book Club gathered for its monthly meeting on June 10, 2026, at the Lakeside Senior Living Community, blending community fellowship and American history.

The meeting began on a celebratory note as members enjoyed refreshments provided by hostesses Victoria Ard and Beverly Mueller, who treated the group to strawberry and pineapple cake. The club took a mo-

ment to celebrate member Carolyn Moore, honoring her birthday with a group song.

Following the opening ceremonies—including the Pledge of Allegiance and the recitation of the club’s aim and motto—President Gail Mack presided over the business portion of the afternoon. The club officially welcomed its newest member, Sherri Priestley, who shared a brief personal introduction with the group.

The highlight of the meeting was an educational program presented by Shirley Martin. In anticipation of the

upcoming 250th anniversary celebration of the United States, Martin delivered a presentation on the Declaration of Independence. Her talk offered members a deep dive into the history of the 13 colonies and highlighted fascinating, lesser-known facts about the 56 men who signed the historic document.

In other club business, the “Sunshine” and “Telephone” committees were recognized for their continued efforts in keeping members connected. The next gathering is July 8, where members will focus on community service by

bringing personal hygiene items for a school donation.

The afternoon concluded with a sense of anticipation for next month’s program, which will be presented by Beverly Mueller, and the arrival of hostesses Sherri Priestley and Debby Simon. The benediction was recited to close the meeting.

Members present were: Victoria Ard, Jean Hollomon, Suzanne Howell, Geneva Johnson, Jean McKinnie, Gail Mack, Shirley Martin, Carolyn Moore, Beverly Mueller, Mary Newman, Sherri Priestley, Myra Sasser, Genia Sherwood and Donna Ward.

FROM ANCIENT TEMPLES TO NEON SKYLINES



Top Left, At Mt. Fuji in Japan (L to R) Front Row: Amber Anderson of Nashville, Marianne Moore of Martin, Teresa Washburn of McKenzie, and Stacie Freeman of Dresden. Back Row: Joel Washburn of McKenzie, Chloe Isbell of Dickson, Steven Huguely of McKenzie, Triztan Vela of McKenzie, Caitlin McMackins of Chattanooga, Audrey Rae of Martin, Kimberly Rae of Martin, and Leslie Schutt of Memphis. Top Right, Caitlin McMackins, 2026 Bethel University Grad of Chattanooga, learning to make sushi. Above Left, Visiting Osaka Jogakuin University, a long time “sister institution” of Bethel University (L to R): Satoko Takeshika, administrator at the Osaka-based all-girls university; Bethel board member, Joel Washburn; BU alumna, Chloe Isbell; Austin Peay student - Marianne Moore; BU Global Studies Director, Stacie Freeman; Bethel University junior, Amber Anderson; and an international student studying in Osaka. Above Right, 2025 Bethel grad Chloe Isbell, Austin Peay student Marianne Moore, and Bethel junior nursing student Amber Anderson learn to properly wear and tie a kimono.

Local Travelers Experience the Magic of Japan

McKENZIE — Imagine standing beneath a golden temple, sharing stories with Japanese university students, sipping matcha during a centuries-old tea ceremony, or seeing the world’s largest city beneath you from hundreds of feet in the air. For a group of Bethel University students, faculty, staff, alumni, and friends, that wasn’t a dream. It was their classroom.

From May 27 to June 4, a diverse delegation led by Professor Stacie Freeman, Director of Global Studies at Bethel University, embarked on a nine-day journey across Japan. The immersive educational experience, offered in partnership with Global Citizen Adventure Corps, invited participants to step beyond tourism and engage deeply with Japanese culture, history, innovation, and daily life.

Their adventure began in Tokyo, a city where ancient traditions and cutting-edge technology exist side by side. Travelers gazed across the endless skyline from Tokyo Tower, explored the peaceful grounds of Meiji Shrine, and wandered through the colorful markets surrounding Asakusa Kannon Temple. Every day offered new discoveries, from bustling city streets to quiet moments of reflection.

Food quickly became one of the group’s favorite gateways into Japanese culture. Travelers sampled regional specialties, explored local markets, and learned how food reflects values such as

sustainability, seasonality, and community.

Leaving Tokyo behind, the group journeyed toward Japan’s most iconic landmark: Mount Fuji. Standing at Kawaguchiko’s Fifth Station, travelers were treated to breathtaking views of the 12,389-foot volcano while learning about conservation efforts in one of Japan’s most visited natural areas. A cruise across Lake Ashi and a ride aboard the Hakone Komagatake Ropeway provided unforgettable panoramic views of Mt Fuji, surrounding mountains, forests, and volcanic landscapes.

In Nagoya, travelers discovered how one inventor’s vision changed the world. At the Toyota Museum of Industry and Technology, they learned how Sakichi Toyoda’s revolutionary automatic loom ultimately helped launch one of the largest automobile companies on earth. The group also experienced one of Japan’s most cherished cultural traditions: a visit to a tea plantation followed by a traditional tea ceremony. What many expected to be a simple cup of tea became a lesson in mindfulness and intentional living.

In Kyoto, travelers stepped into what many consider the cultural soul of Japan. Unlike many of the country’s major cities, Kyoto was largely spared from bombing during World War II, allowing centuries of history to survive. As travelers explored the

mountainside Kiyomizu-dera Temple and gazed upon the gleaming Kinkakuji Golden Pavilion, they experienced a city where ancient Japan still feels remarkably alive. Narrow streets, traditional architecture, historic temples, and carefully preserved cultural treasures offer visitors a rare opportunity to walk through living history.

The journey continued to Nara, where hundreds of sacred deer roam freely through the city’s parks and temple grounds. There, the group visited Todaiji Temple, one of the largest wooden buildings in the world and home to a massive bronze Buddha that has welcomed visitors for centuries.

In Osaka, Japan’s vibrant commercial center, travelers explored the historic Osaka Castle, created their own instant noodle combinations at the interactive CupNoodles Museum, and sampled local delicacies in the famous Kuromon Ichiba Market. One of the most meaningful moments of the trip came during a visit to Osaka Jogakuin University, a longtime “sister institution” of Bethel University. Founded in 1884 by Cumberland Presbyterian missionaries Alexander and J.B. Hail, who traveled halfway around the world to expand educational opportunities for women in Japan. More than 140 years later, that connection remains alive.

Travelers met with university representatives, explored

future opportunities for collaboration, and witnessed firsthand the lasting impact of international partnerships. Throughout the campus, reminders of the relationship between the two institutions could be found, including Bethel University logos and a ceramic replica of McKenzie’s historic First Cumberland Presbyterian Church.

“Travel changes lives,” said Professor Stacie Freeman. “When you walk through another culture, share meals with people from different backgrounds, and see the world through a new lens, you return home with a broader perspective and a deeper understanding of both yourself and others. That’s what global education at Bethel is all about.”

The adventure concluded with a festive farewell dinner in Osaka’s famous Dotonbori district, where travelers gathered beneath the city’s iconic neon lights to celebrate their experiences with okonomiyaki cooking lessons, Japan’s beloved savory pancake.

For many participants, the memories will last a lifetime.

For others considering a future journey, this expedition serves as a reminder that the world remains one of the greatest classrooms of all. Learning doesn’t end at graduation, and meaningful global experiences can transform lives at any age.

Interested in future global learning opportunities? Contact Professor Stacie Freeman, Director of Global Studies at Bethel University, at freemans@bethelu.edu.

Property Transfers

Kelsey M. Mann to John Robert Funke in District 5.
Byford and wife Barbara Kehrer to Steven Brewer in District 11.
Perth Properties, LLC to Adam and wife Mary Bettie. No district listed.
Peggy B. Azbill and others to Guy and Chris Williams in District 14.
Rocky Top Uplands, LLC to Donald Perkins in District 10.
Terry Haynes and others to Kenny and wife Kimberly Kirkland. No district listed.
Keith and wife Tiffany McGee to Thomas and wife Alma Kowalchin in District

16.
Tony Dowlen Sprouse to Joshua Alec and wife Katie Ann Bates. No district listed.
Kimberly S. Sarkozi to Kimberly S. Sarkozi in District 22.
Deborah J. Argo to Tabitha L. Pierce in District 11.
Jennifer L. Kalwa to Dustin Ring. No district listed.
Wanda J. King to Corunda Pearson in District 15.
Frankie J. Wood Sr. to Lucinda Scott in District 2.
Terry M. and wife Sarah G. Page to Brian and others Osborne in District 22.
Ivan T. and wife Angela D. Webb to Ivan T. Webb Jr. in

District 11.
Dorothy Diane Hames to Sawyer T. Sutton in District 6.
Alvin Mayberry to Hunter Allen Mayberry in District 21.
Margit Forster f/k/a Margit Finley to Audric Adam and wife Macie Ann Domerese. No district listed.
Kenneth and wife Tonya Hollingsworth and others to Bobby Lynn and wife Melissa D. Dill and others in District 23.
Ashlee Michael Young to Carl W. and wife Kimberly Renfroe Johnson in District 11.
Davis Investment Properties, LLC to Town of Atwood in District 21.

Carroll County General Sessions Court Report

HUNTINGDON (June 10) — The following cases were heard in Carroll County General Sessions Court on Wednesday, June 10.
The following cases were bound over to a grand jury:
Kyle Kimberlyn Fields, Summit Chase Road, Cedar Grove, bound over, Resist Stop, Arrest, Search (No Weapon); dismissed, Public Intoxication.
Addison S. Kelly, Lothric Way, Murfreesboro, bound over, Aggravated Assault; bound over, Reckless Endangerment – Vehicle/Felony; bound over, Resist Stop, Arrest, Search (No Weapon); bound over, Evading Arrest; bound over, Evading Arrest; bound over, Reckless Driving; bound over, Driving While License Suspended; bound over, Window Tinted; bound over, Vehicles/Streetcars Stop at All Stop Signs; bound over, Drivers to Exercise Due Care.
The following cases resulted in a guilty plea or finding:
Samuel Bell, Higdon Lane, McKenzie, guilty, Probation Violation – Booked, no fine, nine months.
Alexander R. Christian, Highway 79, Trezevant, guilty, Violation of Sexual Offender Registration Requirements – Attempt, no fine, 180 days, supervised probation until conditions current, pre-trial diversion six months; dismissed, Vi-

olation of Sexual Offender Registration Requirements – Attempt.
Charles Matheny, Mimosa Trail, Milan, guilty, Probation Violation – Booked, no fine, six months, supervised probation until paid then unsupervised, all conditions must be met.
William Landen Matthews, Walnut Grove, Milan, guilty, Probation Violation – Booked, no fine, 90 days, time-served credit 139 days.
Rickyra M. Sherron, Highway 70, Cedar Grove, guilty, Drivers License to be Carried and Exhibited, no fine, litigation taxes only, unsupervised probation for balance; dismissed, Speeding, no fine, 30 days, unsupervised probation for balance, litigation taxes only.
Deyanna Renee Teague, Walnut Circle, McKenzie, guilty, Probation Violation – Booked, no fine, 11/29, concurrent with 26CR249 -2, can get credit for successful completion of treatment.
Deyanna Renee Teague, Walnut Circle, McKenzie, guilty, DUI: First Offense, \$600 fine, cognitive behavioral training course, alcohol drug evaluation and recommendation, cannot drive for two years, ignition interlock, DUI school, to run concurrent with Carroll 26CR464, after serving 90 days the defendant can get day-for-day credit upon successful

completion of treatment that would include inpatient residential IO and any aftercare.
The following case resulted in pre-trial diversion:
Terrie Funberg, Walnut Avenue East, McKenzie, pre-trial diversion, Possession/Casual Exchange, \$750 fine, 11/29 pre-trial diversion, supervised probation until conditions met, cognitive behavioral training course, alcohol drug evaluation and recommendation.
The following cases were dismissed:
Richard B. Hinson, Old Medina Road, Medina, dismissed, Probation Violation – Booked, in custody in Madison County the entire time.
Kisha Marie Moudy, Holmes Road, Huntingdon, dismissed, Driving While License Suspended, defendant has a valid driver's license as of May 15, 2026.
Darwin Vega Santiago, Dodd Street, Hollow Rock, dismissed, Probation Violation – Booked.
Darwin Vega Santiago, Dodd Street, Hollow Rock, dismissed – successful completion, Violation of Sexual Offender Registration, pre-trial diversion, six months, unsupervised probation for six months.
The following cases were rescheduled:
Joe H. Hunt, Trace C. Swearingen, Trace C. Swearingen.

Carroll County Sheriff's Reports

Theft of Firearm — On June 4, Deputy Adam Meggs investigated a report of a stolen firearm and made contact with a complainant who reported that sometime after May 29, a North American Arms .22 Magnum five-shot revolver had been removed from a residence on Baker Road in Huntingdon.
The firearm was described as a chrome revolver with brown handles that was stored in a black holster. The handgun was valued at approximately \$300.
The firearm was entered into NCIC as stolen.
This incident occurred in Carroll County.
Domestic Assault, Simple Assault, Possession of Schedule VI with Intent — On June 6, Deputy Scott responded to a domestic disturbance at a residence on Terry Road in Cedar Grove and made contact with Stephanie Smith, 53, of Cedar Grove, who reported she had been involved in an altercation at the residence with her son, Christopher Maitland, 39, of Cedar Grove. Deputies observed visible injuries to Smith's face.
Smith stated she had gone to the property to retrieve a saw when an argument began. During the incident, Smith alleged her son kicked her in the face. Deputies interviewed those involved and a witness at the scene, who reported observing Smith strike another individual during the confrontation.
After speaking with all parties and reviewing the circumstances, deputies determined Smith was the primary aggressor. Smith was arrested and charged with domestic assault and simple assault.
During the investigation, Smith advised deputies there were illegal narcotics inside the residence. Maitland acknowledged marijuana was present and showed deputies where it was located. Depu-

ties recovered approximately 44.27 grams of suspected marijuana from multiple containers and vape devices throughout the residence.
Maitland was charged with possession of Schedule VI marijuana with intent.
This incident occurred in Carroll County.
Aggravated Domestic Assault, Domestic Assault, Interference with Emergency Calls — On June 8, Deputy McClure responded to a domestic assault complaint on Lisa Lane in Huntingdon and made contact with the victim, who reported she had been assaulted by Kieyren Jordan, 24, of Huntingdon. Deputies later located Jordan driving a silver Chevrolet Camaro and detained him while the investigation continued.
Deputies observed the victim had a visibly swollen and bruised left eye, along with other injuries consistent with blunt-force trauma. The victim stated an argument began when Jordan demanded she gather her belongings and leave the residence. After telling Jordan she intended to contact law enforcement for assistance, he took her cellphone and threw it into the yard, preventing her from calling for help.
The victim reported Jordan then pushed her to the ground, placed his hands around her throat, and restricted her ability to breathe. She stated Jordan positioned himself on top of her, preventing her from leaving, and struck her in the face with a closed fist, causing the injury to her eye. The victim declined medical treatment after deputies offered to have EMS evaluate her injuries.
After being advised of his Miranda rights, Jordan admitted taking the victim's cellphone and throwing it into the yard. He claimed the eye injury occurred when the victim fell during the altercation. Based on the victim's

statement, the injuries observed by deputies, Jordan's admission regarding the cellphone, and the totality of the investigation, deputies determined Jordan was the primary aggressor.
Jordan was arrested and transported to the Carroll County Jail. He was charged with aggravated domestic assault, domestic assault and interference with emergency calls.
This incident occurred in Carroll County.
Domestic Assault, Simple Assault — On June 8, Deputy Paul Williams responded to a domestic disturbance on Hawkins Creek Road in Huntingdon and made contact with two complainants who reported being assaulted by Alyvia Foster, 21, of Huntingdon.
The complainants stated Foster arrived at the residence seeking a laptop she claimed belonged to her. After receiving the laptop, Foster reportedly demanded a car seat from the front porch. When one of the complainants refused to surrender the car seat, Foster allegedly attempted to take it by force and began striking him with her hands and feet.
According to the report, Foster then reached into a vehicle and sprayed one complainant with pepper spray. She also sprayed a second complainant who was nearby recording the incident. Afterward, Foster allegedly continued striking one of the complainants with her fists, feet, and car keys while attempting to take the car seat.
Deputies observed abrasions to one complainant's left eye and left elbow. The second complainant suffered skin and eye irritation from the pepper spray. The incident was reportedly captured on video.
On June 9, Foster was located and arrested. She was charged with domestic assault and simple assault.
This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Marriage Licenses

Jonathan Khaiden Isreal Gipson, 21, Bruceton, to Julieanna Jean Mae Dick, 18, Bruceton.
Britney Ann Gillespie, 38, Yorkville, Ill., to Todd Patrick Range, 49, Yorkville, Ill.
Jessica Leigh Galloway, 34, Huntingdon, to Lynette

Faye Stratton, 28, Cedar Grove.
Nelson A. Yoder, 25, Huntingdon, to Kathy D. Burkholder, 21, Huntingdon.
Tiana Denise Mikeska, 26, Paris, to Hunter David Walters, 33, Paris.

PUBLIC HEARING

FISCAL YEAR 2027 BUDGET

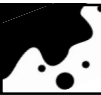
The City of McKenzie, Tennessee, hereby provides certain financial information for the Fiscal Year 2027 Budget in accordance with the requirements of Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 6, Chapter 56, Section 206.

There will be a public hearing concerning the budget at City Hall, on June 22, 2026 at 5:45 p.m.

All citizens are welcome to participate. The budget and all supporting data are a public record and are available for public inspection by anyone at the office of the City Recorder.

	General Fund		
	FY 2025 Actual	FY 2026 Estimated	FY 2027 Budget
Revenues:			
Local Taxes	2,510,908	2,959,348	2,913,603
State of Tennessee	179,852	318,350	255,930
Federal Government	-	-	-
Other Sources	2,742,926	1,724,460	2,632,270
Total Revenues	5,433,686	5,002,158	5,801,803
Expenditures:			
Salaries	-	2,280,410	2,125,493
Other Uses	4,970,754	3,190,390	3,754,837
Total Expenditures	4,970,754	5,470,800	5,880,330
Beginning Fund Balance	1,534,791	1,997,723	1,529,080
Ending Fund Balance	1,997,723	1,529,080	1,450,554
Number FTE Employees	54	56	57

A1/23-2



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Carroll County, Tennessee			
Proposed Budget For the Fiscal Year Ending 2027			
	Actual 2024-25	Estimated 2025-26	Budgeted 2026-27
101-General Fund			
Estimated Revenues and Other Sources			
Local Taxes	\$7,592,096	\$8,421,200	\$8,663,776
State of Tennessee	3,927,905	3,090,433	3,429,076
Federal Government	968,590	123,928	276,150
Other Sources	4,110,233	4,016,784	4,373,382
Total Estimated Revenues and Other Sources	\$16,598,824	\$15,652,345	\$16,742,384
Estimated Expenditures and Other Uses			
Salaries	7,931,377	8,414,078	8,527,676
Other Cost	8,205,552	13,170,145	8,058,200
Total Estimated Expenditures and Other Uses	16,136,929	21,584,223	16,585,876
Estimated Beginning Fund Balance- July 1	11,466,490	11,786,142	5,854,264
Estimated Ending Fund Balance- June 30	11,786,142	5,854,264	6,010,772
Employee Positions	193	197	188
116-Solid Waste Fund			
Estimated Revenues and Other Sources			
Local Taxes	\$399,179	\$470,000	\$495,867
State of Tennessee	67	741	-
Other Sources	1,803,904	1,934,500	2,094,300
Total Estimated Revenues and Other Sources	2,203,150	2,405,241	2,590,167
Estimated Expenditures and Other Uses			
Salaries	303,725	369,560	389,677
Other Cost	2,125,002	2,027,336	2,134,112
Total Estimated Expenditures and Other Uses	2,428,727	2,396,896	2,523,789
Estimated Beginning Fund Balance- July 1	837,692	641,726	650,071
Estimated Ending Fund Balance- June 30	641,726	650,071	716,449
Employee Positions	10	10	10
131-Highway/ Public Works Fund			
Estimated Revenues and Other Sources			
Local Taxes	\$1,120,254	\$1,194,242	\$1,244,748
State of Tennessee	2,842,642	3,725,914	3,495,000
Other Sources	2,735	3,000	14,000
Total Estimated Revenues and Other Sources	3,965,631	4,923,156	4,753,748
Estimated Expenditures and Other Uses			
Salaries	1,332,533	1,444,233	1,487,560
Other Cost	2,789,245	3,427,610	3,143,375
Total Estimated Expenditures and Other Uses	4,121,778	4,871,843	4,630,935
Estimated Beginning Fund Balance- July 1	1,061,167	1,160,358	1,211,671
Estimated Ending Fund Balance- June 30	1,160,358	1,211,671	1,334,484
Employee Positions	34	32	34
141-General Purpose School Fund			
Estimated Revenues and Other Sources			
Local Taxes	\$146,158	\$175,000	\$175,000
State of Tennessee	1,622,960	1,129,268	577,334
Federal Government	154,348	-	-
Other Sources	741,262	1,352,989	2,066,061
Total Estimated Revenues and Other Sources	2,664,728	2,657,257	2,818,395
Estimated Expenditures and Other Uses			
Salaries	1,801,561	2,006,010	2,091,336
Other Cost	1,833,189	1,422,388	2,074,759
Total Estimated Expenditures and Other Uses	3,634,750	3,428,398	4,166,095
Estimated Beginning Fund Balance- July 1	7,499,447	6,529,425	5,758,284
Estimated Ending Fund Balance- June 30	6,529,425	5,758,284	4,410,584
Employee Positions	62	74	74
144-School Transportation Fund			
Estimated Revenues and Other Sources			
Local Taxes	\$402,183	\$477,600	\$487,600
State of Tennessee	562,378	416,019	435,000
Other Cost	71,886	-	70,000
Total Estimated Revenues and Other Sources	1,036,447	893,619	992,600
Estimated Expenditures and Other Uses			
Salaries	229,377	264,200	263,830
Other Cost	484,758	704,273	709,210
Total Estimated Expenditures and Other Uses	714,135	968,473	973,040
Estimated Beginning Fund Balance- July 1	534,605	856,917	782,063
Estimated Ending Fund Balance- June 30	856,917	782,063	801,623
Employee Positions	6	6	5
151-Debt Service Fund			
Estimated Revenues and Other Sources			
Local Taxes	\$299,294	\$337,000	\$341,952
Total Estimated Revenues and Other Sources	299,294	337,000	341,952
Estimated Expenditures and Other Uses			
Salaries	-	-	-
Other Cost	435,780	436,618	439,314
Total Estimated Expenditures and Other Uses	435,780	436,618	439,314
Estimated Beginning Fund Balance- July 1	848,894	727,158	627,540
Estimated Ending Fund Balance- June 30	727,158	627,540	530,178

A13/PO#101-43036/23-2

Weekly Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Similar

4. Have an ambitious plan or a lofty goal

10. No (Scottish)

11. ___ Aires, city

12. Morning

14. Senior's son (abbr.)

15. A notable achievement

16. European nation

18. Endings

22. Puts into place

23. Former

24. Grenadier

26. Sea patrol

27. Algerian port

28. Norwegian river

30. Precipitation

31. Sunscreen rating

34. New York is one

36. Patti Hearst's captors

37. Soft mineral with greasy feel

39. Retired Brazilian footballer

40. An Indian nursemaid

41. Atomic #24

42. Immobile

48. Insignia of royalty

50. Seeds from which chocolate is made

51. Begin again

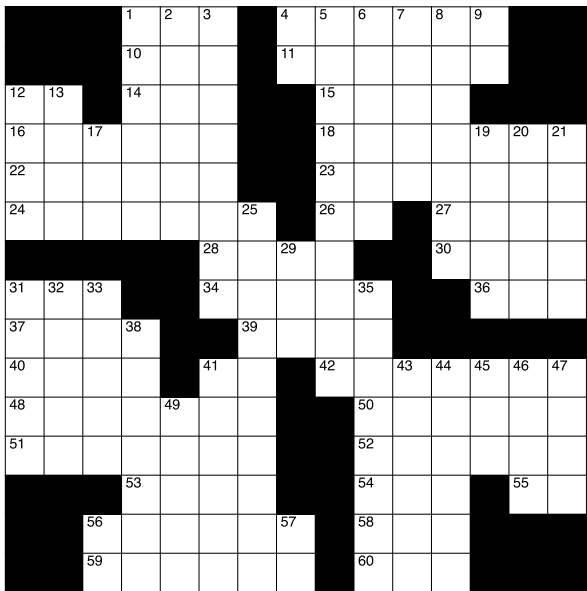
52. Round root

53. Beginning to end (alt. sp.)

54. What newlyweds just said

55. Empire State

56. Give back



58. College hoops tournament

59. Unstable situations

60. Young women's association

CLUES DOWN

1. Administer a drug

2. Holy places

3. Contrary opinions

4. Blood type

5. Gags

6. Micturating

7. Silly

8. A type of "cuff"

9. Spanish be

12. Austrian river

13. Messenger ribonucleic acid

17. Consume food

19. California supermarket

20. Electronic communication

21. Cassia tree

25. Written works

29. Cool!

31. Noteworthy 90s lawyer Kenneth

32. One who was compensated

33. National symbols

35. Raising

38. A type of talk

41. Cloud

43. Middle Eastern peoples

44. Pouches

45. 007's creator

46. A cut of meat

47. Sports entertainment award

49. Christine ___, actress

56. Relief organization (abbr.)

57. Canadian province (abbr.)

Week 24

See solution in next week's edition.

Color A Masterpiece



Flower Friends Word Search

A H A Y E G S G E A S V P B H A M B G B

N I M Y R F B L F M B F I M R G G C E N

E R F T F O T S B I H Y A N G N A F C

C T I T M E T A U U M Y P I M G V L G V

T E B M E A O A M B M I G A H A I N H Y

A E R B P I H M R M E A N I O G M D N B

R P S I Y L I V I G R D U C H P V O U C

T A N T E N N A E O I P C T P G L T H U

T D T C G T E C F B L M S O S O T R H I

O Y R B O T A L L A V T L H C E Y A A S

H B I O S F L E T E C L A Y R S L E B C

T R H U N T S E C T E F G F A D L T I F

D E U Y M E P I P N H M L L N R V H T I

N M E T S Y S O C E S Y I F G T F O A D

O T P D R N A V U H A S T A M E N V T V

V F V U B O A M O S S O L B C N L E G G

A V B U M B L E B E E S B I E R A R V N

R H V G M S I C S O B O R P P T R F L Y

Y V S F Y O I D O E T L Y U Y F V L A F

L C M I F O S M Y R A I P A R P A Y I I

Antennae

Apiary

Beetle

Blossom

Bumblebee

Butterfly

Chrysalis

Colony

Drone

Ecosystem

Flight

Foraging

Habitat

Hoverfly

Hummingbird

Larva

Mandibles

Migratory

Nectar

Ovary

Petal

Pollen

Proboscis

Stamen

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

JUN

22

1812: France declares war on Russia, starting Napoleon's invasion.

1911: George V and Mary of Teck are crowned King and Queen of the United Kingdom.

1986: Diego Maradona scores the famous "Hand of God" goal in the World Cup.

SUDOKU

WEEK 24

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

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.

☺☼☽☾☿♈♉♊♋♌♍♎♏♐♑♒♓♈♉♊♋♌♍♎♏♐♑♒♓

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

CRYPTO FUN

☼☽☾☿♈♉♊♋♌♍♎♏♐♑♒♓

Solve the code to discover words related to the pollinators. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 26 = o)

A. 6 26 4 4 13 17 9 7 26 19

Clue: Carries pollen

B. 11 4 26 25 16 19

Clue: Contains petals

C. 22 19 26 25 7 23

Clue: Getting bigger

D. 24 4 26 26 5 8

Clue: Flowering

Answers: A. pollinator B. flower C. growth D. blooms

LETTER MIX-UP

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

MANDIBLES

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

16. _____

17. _____

18. _____

19. _____

20. _____

Riddle Me This

What do bees use to style their hair?

Answer: Honeycombs

WORD SCRAMBLE

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

ESEB

Answer: Bees

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actor born in South Korea on June 16, 1972. I first rose to fame in a film franchise opposite Kal Penn. I also portrayed a character in the reboot of the "Star Trek" franchise. I made history as the first Asian American actor to star in a mainstream Hollywood thriller.

Answer: John Cho

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K	A	K	I	S		E	T	A	A	L	A	E		
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SUDOKU

SOLUTION WEEK 23

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4	1	9	5	6	2	7	3	8
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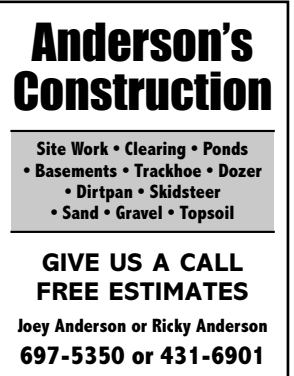
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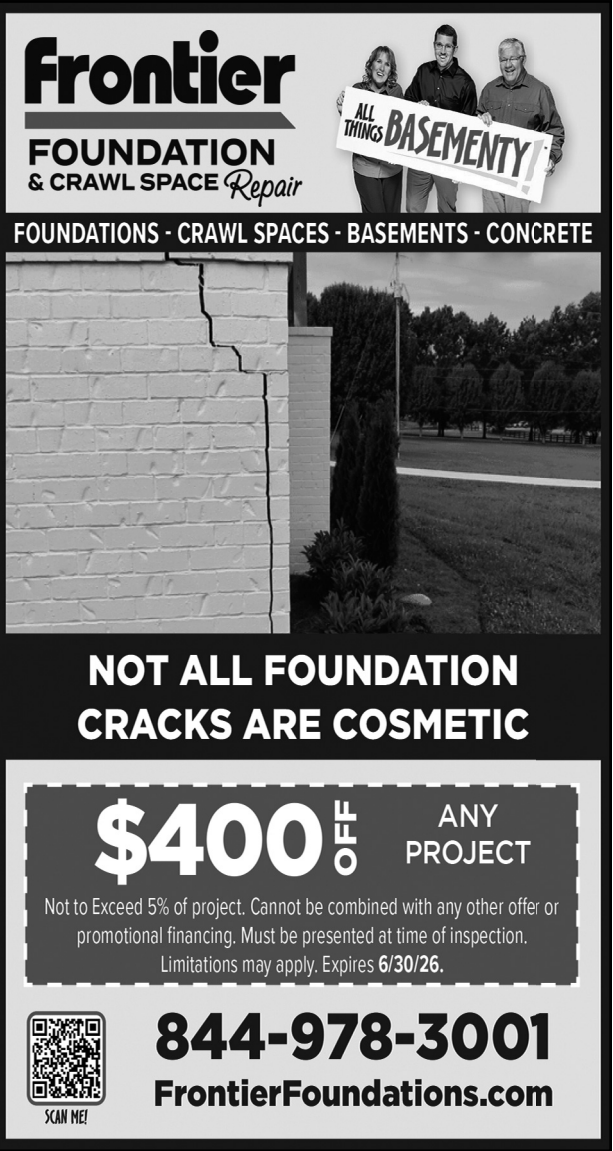
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Top, Participants in the Chris Nelson Summer Basketball Individual Camp in the sixth- through ninth-grade group. *Photo courtesy Jennifer Nelson* **Above Left, Basketball campers utilized Baker Fieldhouse, where the Bethel College Lady Wildcats played for decades.** *Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner* **Above Right, Participants in the Chris Nelson Summer Basketball Individual Camp in the Kindergarten through fifth-grade group.** **In the back row (L to R) are the Lady Wildcat players and staff facilitating the camp: Kylee Alexander, Asia Pirtle, MJ Simmons, Kyla Taylor, Kevin Beck, Ada Koelling, Grace Billington, Hallie Turner, Jay Camp, Madison Hart and Kalynn Howard. *Photo courtesy Jennifer Nelson* **Below Left, (L to R) Bethel Lady Wildcats Head Coach Chris Nelson, graduate assistant Madison Hart and Chris' wife, Jennifer Nelson, during the individual camp.** *Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner* **Below Center, Back in 2017, sisters and future Lady Wildcats Micah (left) and Madison Hart (right) attended one of their many camps with then-player Justyce White (center).** *Madison is now a graduate assistant for the team, and Micah is entering her junior year as a player.* *Photo courtesy Madison Hart* **Right, Huntingdon Middle School's Ella Atkins drives to the basket untouched during the Fillies' game against Calloway County at McKenzie Middle School on Friday.** *Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner***



Nelson Summer Basketball Camps: Over Two Decades of Cultivating Young Players

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (June 15) — For just over two decades, Bethel University Lady Wildcat Basketball Head Coach Chris Nelson has spent part of each summer cultivating young players with help from his players and staff in a series of three-day camps.

The Chris Nelson Summer Basketball Camps began last week with team camps, where entire teams spent three days playing a total of 281 games at six area gymnasiums: Bethel University's Crisp Arena and Baker

Fieldhouse, McKenzie High School, McKenzie Middle School and the two gyms at Gleason School.

High school teams, 43 in all, played Monday through Wednesday, and 39 middle school teams played from Thursday through Saturday.

The individual camp began Monday and continues through Wednesday, June 17 at Crisp and Baker. About a hundred kids participated, with Kindergarten through fifth grade attending in the morning and sixth through ninth grade taking the afternoon.

The campers begin their

daily sessions with drills, rotating through stations where they learn skills such as rebounding, passing and shooting from current Lady Wildcat players and staff members. After drills, they form teams and play short games to put their new skills into action.

Nelson, entering his 21st year as head coach, established the team camps as assistant coach under Head Coach Larry Eddings, who was already hosting individual camps each summer.

Nelson told The Banner his goals with the camps that he has solidified as a Bethel

tradition over two decades. "Building relationships with high school coaches helps recruiting. It gets our current players involved and promotes the program. I think it's big for Bethel in general. We want to see people wearing those Bethel shirts. And we hope it's big for the town as well, bringing in some revenue with the hundreds of people visiting McKenzie."

Madison Hart is a 2026 Bethel graduate, now a graduate assistant under Nelson after a decorated career as a Lady Wildcat. She and her younger sister, Micah (a junior Lady Wildcat stand-

out), both attended Nelson's camps from a young age.

Madison told The Banner about her experiences with the camp over the years. "I came every year growing up. I got to know Coach Nelson and [his wife] Jen, and it's like a core memory as a kid coming to these camps."

"I remember doing the relays and the dribble tag. I always liked that. I had my sister [Micah], who also plays here. We grew up going to all the Bethel camps together. So it was fun, and working it now is a full-circle moment. It's fun to come in here and work with kids. I kind of see

myself in them. A lot of them know me from playing, and I see them in the stands and talk to them after games. It's fun to spend time with them and get to know a little bit more about them and help them develop as players."

"Coach Nelson is a great role model as a coach, but also as a personal relationship that we've built together. It's been really special. And the players that we have now, just great girls on and off the court, coming in here and running it. Our attitudes toward the kids make it positive. We want them to learn, but to have fun too."

ROTARY PEACE PROJECT Local Coalition Combats Hunger

MCKENZIE (June 13) — Four hundred local residents received hot, nutritious meals on Saturday, June 13, as the McKenzie Rotary Club, the Webb Alumni Association, and a coalition of local partner churches hosted a successful Free Community Feeding event.

The collaborative effort brought together assistance from Overflow, McKenzie Church of Christ, Greater Enon Baptist Church, and Smyrna Baptist Church to serve the community. The meals, consisting of spaghetti, salad, bread, bottled water, and dessert, were prepared at the Webb School. In addition to serving walk-in recipients, volunteers delivered packaged lunches directly to area residents and local first responders, including the Huntingdon Police Department and the Carroll County Sheriff's Department.

The feeding is a hallmark of the McKenzie Rotary Club's local



Left, Rotary President Ricky Price, Donna Taylor, Angel Newbill, and Rotarian Matt Aird helped serve food during the community feeding event. Center, Rotary President-Elect Armand Hebert and Ella Milam volunteered at the community feeding event. Right, Tammy Nolen Parsley and Rotarian Ryan White. *Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner*



"Peace Project," spearheaded by club member Kim Bell-Webb.

It is recognized for its massive humanitarian efforts—such as the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, which has protected over two billion children from the disease, it supports the local service clubs, such as McKenzie, that brings that commitment to service to a hyper-local level.

By addressing food insecurity, the local Peace Project aligns with the broader Rotary philosophy that

hunger, poverty, and poor health are primary drivers of instability and conflict within any society. The project has already garnered support from the broader community, including a recent donation from the chaplaincy at Baptist Hospital-Carroll County to assist in providing food and support for those in times of need.

"This is a year-round initiative," Bell-Webb said, noting that the project goes beyond mass feedings to provide boxed food for those

facing food insecurity throughout the year.

This grassroots approach echoes the Rotary Foundation's founding principle of "doing good in the world," which encourages clubs to identify specific needs in their neighborhoods and take action to provide lasting solutions.

The club is already looking ahead to its next major event. Bell-Webb announced that the next community feeding is October 1, which will feature a mass feeding event in

downtown McKenzie.

Those interested in supporting the McKenzie Rotary Club's ongoing community efforts or learning more about how local Rotarians and members of the Peace Project are working to improve the quality of life in McKenzie are encouraged to contact club members.

McKenzie Rotary Club meets each Tuesday at noon at the Vera Low Center on the campus of Bethel University.



University Scholar Honorees — Front Row (L to R): Nathan Link, of Oakland; Elizabeth Lattus, of Union City; Zachary Wager, of Columbus, Ind.; Mackenzie Stockton, of Sparta; Joan West, of Joelton; Karlie Seltzer, of Clifton; Ella Willis, of Middleton. Back Row (L to R): Carter Cary, of Huntingdon; Riley McClain, of Reagan; Anna Bruce, of Martin; Anthony Lain, of Pegram; Jackson Morrison, of Bartlett; and Tyler Looney, of Munford. *Submitted photo*

Cary Honored as University Scholar

MARTIN (June 11) — UT Martin students were honored May 1 for completing the University Scholars Program, a four-year honors program that offers an enhanced curriculum as well as community-engagement, leadership and travel-study opportunities.

A medaling ceremony was held with faculty members, family and friends gathered in the Holland McCombs Center.

Carter Cary, of Huntingdon, was among those recognized at the ceremony. Cary was also awarded his Bachelor of Science during UT Martin's spring commencement ceremony May 2 at the Kathleen and Tom Elam Center.

Other honorees include Nathan Link, of Oakland; Elizabeth Lattus, of Union City; Zachary Wager, of Columbus, Ind.; Mackenzie Stockton, of Sparta; Joan

West, of Joelton; Karlie Seltzer, of Clifton; Ella Willis, of Middleton; Riley McClain, of Reagan; Anna Bruce, of Martin; Anthony Lain, of Pegram; Jackson Morrison, of Bartlett; and Tyler Looney, of Munford.

To learn more about the UT Martin's University Scholars Program, visit <https://www.utm.edu/academics/honors-programs/university-scholars/> or call (731) 881-7436.



(L to R) Happy Book Stack McKenzie employee Lexie Bolin, Store Manager Stephanie McClerklin and owner David Jacobs during the customer appreciation event marking the shop’s first anniversary. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Happy Book Stack McKenzie Celebrates First Anniversary

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (June 9) — The Happy Book Stack McKenzie marked its one-year anniversary Tuesday evening with a customer appreciation event, offering patrons free pizza and cake.

Owner David Jacobs told The Banner, “I’ve really enjoyed getting to know many people, look forward to getting to know even more over these next few years to come. I feel like I’ve been well-received by the community, and I really appreciate that. It’s tough having a small business in many ways. So, the community is really what makes it possible.

“The year has definitely flown by. We’ve gotten to have some awesome

events in this space. Some worship nights, some music nights, lots of different types of crafting, I want to keep on expanding on that and being an asset to the community.

“It’s been fun having a bookstore, seeing people local and from out of town come in. We’ve seen some people stock their classrooms for school. I see people come in who read over a hundred books a year. They’re in monthly restocking their ‘to be read’ lists. So shoutout to our loyal customers. You guys make this stuff possible.”

Jacobs teased some new things on the horizon but wouldn’t say much. “We’ve got some fun things down the pipeline. Some fun expansions on what we’re al-

ready doing.”

He added, “More than anything, thank you to everyone, and we look forward to many more years to come.”

Store Manager Stephanie McClerklin said, “The first year has been great. We’ve already got lots of loyals. We see them everyday. Sometimes, we’ve got one we’ll see twice a day — Mr. Larry. He’ll always come twice a day when we have brisket chili, and we’ve got his frapp order memorized. So we’ve got a good base of consistent customers, and we’ve still got new people coming in.

“It’s fun to watch it grow, see people bring new people in, get to learn new faces and hopefully give them a good experience.”



Above, Blooming Poems attendees write on their origami fortune tellers. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner Below Left, Dakota Cowan won Saturday’s Minecraft Archaeology tournament. Submitted photo Below Right, Michelle Wallace dons her freshly-painted masquerade mask during Dapper Dinosaurs. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner



McKenzie Library’s Summertime Fun Continues

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE — McKenzie Memorial Library’s dinosaur-themed summer reading program continued throughout the week, with events such as “Blooming Poems,” “Dapper Dinosaurs,” “Minecraft Archaeology” and “Tales at 10.”

On Tuesday, attendees were able to take shelter from the rain outside and create origami fortune tellers with library staff during Blooming Poems. Kids created poems by writing on the paper flaps of the fortune tellers.

Attendees could visit the library at any time during the day Thursday during Dapper Dinosaurs to paint masquerade

masks fitting for the dapperest of dinosaurs.

Saturday’s Minecraft Archaeology tournament put participants’ observational skills to the test, challenging them to find items on a check list in randomly-generated Minecraft worlds. Items were themed around “Uncover Past Civilizations” and “Unearthing the Hidden Truths of the Blocky Worlds.”

Dakota Cowan won the Minecraft Archaeology tournament. Cowan’s 45 points put her “squarely in the lead,” according to Assistant Library Director Adora Carty.

Monday morning, library staff read dinosaur tales with attendees during

“Tales at Ten.”

McKenzie Memorial Library continues to unearth summertime fun this week with “Triassic Tie-Dye” at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 18; “What in Tarnation?” at 1 p.m. Saturday, June 20; “Tales at Ten” at 10 a.m. Monday, June 22; and “Unearthing the Magic!” at McKenzie’s Farmer’s Market at 1 p.m. Tuesday, June 23.

McKenzie Memorial Library is located at 15 Broadway Street, McKenzie, Tenn. It is open Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. and on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. It is closed Friday, June 19, in observation of Juneteenth.

Turf Replacement Begins at Bethel’s Walter Butler Stadium



MCKENZIE (June 15) — Bethel University’s Walter Butler Stadium is getting new turf this summer. Crews began removal of the old turf Monday, which is expected to take several days. Officials told The Banner that the replacement project would continue as weather allows, and that the field must be ready by July 15 for the return of football players for preseason activities. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

CARROLL COUNTY LIBRARY



Top, Alice Hardin (back center, with thumbs up) presented her musical storytime program Wednesday at the Carroll County Library. Above, West Tennessee Public Utility District Marketing Manager Madison Endres shows kids a meter during her program about natural gas safety Thursday. Below, West Tennessee Public Utility District employee Antonio Abundis helps summer reader Asher Edwards, 7, operate the gas company’s excavator outside the Carroll County Library Thursday. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Summer Reading Interactive Programs Delight in First Week

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (June 8-12) — The Carroll County Library’s Summer Reading Program had a big first week of events, including two interactive programs by musician Alice Hardin and the West Tennessee Public Utility District.

Summer Reading began Monday with a kick-off event where kids could sign up for the summer reading challenge. The year’s theme, “Unearth a Story” was also introduced (see previous story).

Wednesday, the library hosted “Music with Alice!,” a musical storytime program presented by Alice Hardin. Hardin, who teaches music in her hometown Jackson, led kids through several songs, including a musical reading of the book, “Little White Duck.”

Hardin’s content can be found at musicwithalice.com and on most music streaming services.

Thursday, staff from the West Tennessee Public Utility District visited. Marketing Manager Madison Endres led the program, assisted by Antonio Abundis, Kris Hunley, Jacob Howington, Jacob Allen and Stefan Gilbert.

Endres spoke to the kids about natural gas safety and about calling 811 before digging.

They learned about the colored flag system, which indicates buried pipes and lines. A yellow flag indicates natural gas. A blue flag indicates water. Green identifies sewage lines. Cable and internet lines are marked with orange flags. Electrical lines are indicated by a red flag.

Endres explained different causes of leaks and displayed sections of pipe that had been damaged in various ways.

Scratch-and-sniff cards were passed around to show the kids the scent that is added to natural gas by gas companies to easily identify leaks, both indoors and out.

The summer readers were provided with several activities, including a miniature excavator the kids could use to transfer balls from one container to another.

The program then moved outside, where kids got to see the full-sized excavator. One at a time, they were invited to man the controls (and the horn) with help from Abundis. There were also two WTPUD trucks on hand, as well as a pipe-cutting device used by the workers.

Endres provided some goodies to the summer readers at the conclusion of the program.

On Friday, readers could stop by the library and pick up arts and crafts kits to use at home.

The Carroll County Library’s Summer Reading Program continues Tuesday, June 16 with a visit from Smokey Bear at 10:30 a.m. and Thursday, June 18 with “Bee Curious!,” presented by Costello Farms at 10:30 a.m.