

Fire Damages Hinkledale Road Home



CARROLL COUNTY (June 16) — A Tuesday evening fire damaged a rural home on Hinkledale Road near McKenzie. McKenzie Fire Department was first on the scene, arriving to heavy black smoke coming from vents and eaves. The fire was contained within six minutes of the firefighters' arrival. The fire originated from a bedroom, but no cause was determined. No one was home at the time of the incident. *Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner*

Norandal Retirees Gather For Annual Luncheon



HUNTINGDON (June 20) — Over 30 individuals attended the annual Norandal Retiree Luncheon on June 20 at the Carroll County Civic Center. This year's luncheon was supported by the planning committee, headed by John Williams, entertainment by Carl Byars and catering by Hometown Hangout. Norandal retirees are pictured (L to R) Front Row: Ricky Lewis, Gene Burden, John Williams, Willard Sullivan, Mark King, Ed Harris, Robert Simmons, Larry Stephens, Louanne Blacketter, Sandy Hartz, David Rhodes, David Bales, Tricia Smothers, Betty Barnett and Coy Moore. Back Row: Keith McCaslin, Danny Hastings, Rickey Wilson, Buck Hudson, Randall Roark, Ronnie Williams, Harold McLain, Teresa Carnie, Pat Fisher, Charlotte Horn, Larry Renfroe, Donnie Hall, John Hickman and Tom Stines. *Submitted photo*

McKenzie High School Preseason Football Schedule Released

BY BRAD SAM
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MCKENZIE — McKenzie High School football recently released a schedule of activities for the 2026 preseason. July begins with three 7-on-7s, the first on Tuesday, July 7 at Lexington High School. On Thursday, July 9, McKenzie hosts a 7-on-7, then the Rebels travel to Henry County

for another on Tuesday, July 14. The Rebel players and coaches host a Youth Football Camp Monday, July 20 at the MHS Indoor Facility from 6-8 p.m. McKenzie's first scrimmage is Friday, July 31 at Bethel University against Obion County. The second scrimmage is also at Bethel on Friday, August 7 against

Lexington. A meet-and-greet event on Saturday, August 8 at 6:30 p.m. at Rebel Stadium will introduce fans to the players, coaches, cheerleaders and band members. Finally, the Rebels participate in the Henry County High School Jamboree on Friday, August 14, where they will face McCracken County.

EPA Awards \$1.5M Grant to Northwest Tennessee Development District

Grant to Assist in Cleanup from 2021 Dresden Tornado

WASHINGTON (June 24) — The Northwest Tennessee Development District is one of only three Tennessee communities to be selected for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s 2026 Brownfield Assessment, Revolving Loan Fund and Cleanup Grant, receiving \$1,500,000 from the national agency to accelerate the cleanup of polluted sites — including one site that was destroyed by the tornado that hit Dresden in 2021. The EPA announced the award on Wednesday. With the \$1,500,000 Coalition Assessment Grant, the Northwest Tennessee Development District will primarily focus on the City of Dresden and the City of Martin — inventorying and prioritizing sites, developing 13 cleanup plans, facilitating a design charette and supporting community engagement activities. Northwest Tennessee Development District chose the following priority sites: **Dresden** — a 2.6-acre former gas station and auto garage in Dresden's downtown commercial center that was destroyed by a 2021 tornado. **Dyer County** — 1.81-

acre commercial area with a former gas station and other commercial sites and a 10-acre former cotton processing warehouse. **Martin** — a 25-acre container, timber and rail transload site and the former Unity Christian School. "EPA is focused on delivering practical results that transform contaminated properties into clean, valuable spaces that spark economic growth and that directly benefit American families," said Acting Assistant Administrator for Land and Emergency Management Thomas Croci. "Addressing environmental contamination and reusing brownfield properties revitalizes neighborhoods, drives local job creation and unleashes new economic opportunities." "These brownfield grants represent opportunities to reimagine contaminated properties as assets that meet the needs of communities," said Regional Administrator Kevin McOmber. "When you take a blighted property, clean it up and bring the community together to figure out how the property should be redeveloped, you can generate a lot of excitement." Other selected applications for the 2026 Brownfield Multipurpose, Assessment, and Cleanup Grants and RLF

supplemental funding in Tennessee include: **City of Jackson** — \$500,000 Community-wide Assessment Grant to conduct 12 Phase I and five Phase II environmental site assessments. The target areas for this grant are the Old Hickory/Jackson Plaza Redevelopment Area and the Downtown/Airways Corridor. Priority sites include the 21-acre Jackson Plaza, which contains an abandoned strip mall, the 72-acre Bruce Hardwood/Armstrong Flooring property, which historically manufactured wood flooring, and the 0.28-acre vacant Dudley's Service Station. **Memphis, Shelby County Community Redevelopment Agency** — \$765,000 Cleanup Grant to clean up the Former Ibrahim Site City of Memphis. The 3.3-acre cleanup site includes a residential property, a grocery store, a dry cleaners and a gasoline station. The site has been vacant since the 1990s and is contaminated with petroleum, volatile organic compounds and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Grant recipients with viable cleanup projects ready for work will help communities continue their work to carry out cleanup and redevelopment projects on contaminated brownfield properties.

TREZEVANT

IDB to Propose Sale of Hillsman Property

BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS
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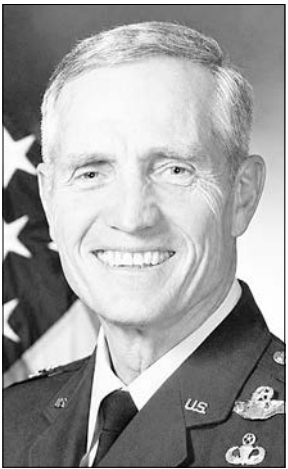
TREZEVANT (June 25) — The reconstituted Trezevant Industrial Development Board met for the second time Thursday, June 25, to discuss its mission and bylaws. The board, which was primarily formed to determine the future of the town's former Hillsman property, faced criticism from businessman Phil Colwell, who voiced his impatience with the town's progress during the Thursday meeting. The 10-member board includes Johnna Crouse, Wes Gulley, Kyle Foster, Eddie Granger, Jimmy Kelly, Tim Pratt, Janet Dickson, Rita Foster, Terry Schall and Bobby McAlexander. Meetings are scheduled for the fourth Thursday of each month. Board members previously elected Foster as chairman, Crouse as secretary and Schall as treasurer. On Thursday, the board elected Dickson as vice chair. Officers will be selected annually in May. The board discussed the previous IDB checkbook, currently held by Alderman Don Barger. To open a new account, the board authorized Foster, Schall and Trezevant Chief Municipal Financial Officer

Gabrielle Davis as signees. The account will require only two signatures. Town Attorney Charlie Trotter reminded members that while the IDB is a separate entity, it remains under the supervision of the Board of Mayor and Aldermen. Foster agreed, stating she hopes to work in sync with town officials. Dickson updated the board on the town website, noting she has contacted local businesses about free features. Foster outlined goals for the IDB, including community promotion and revenue growth. She reported the town received \$9,061.40 in sales tax revenue in May. "We need to have a goal to get that number to raise," Foster said. "We need to have a goal to get businesses in here that are going to help us increase sales tax and revenue to the town." Phil Colwell submitted a site plan for a discount grocery store on the vacant Hillsman property. He stipulated that he wants to purchase the property outright rather than lease from the city. He requested an immediate vote to begin a 60-day negotiation period. "I've wasted seven months," Colwell said. "I've

done five business deals in seven months...I'm done wasting any more time. I need a commitment from somebody." The board reminded Colwell that the property is currently owned by the Town of Trezevant — not the IDB. They discussed whether to recommend selling the property specifically to Colwell or to open it to any buyer. "What we have been looking for, for six years, is for someone to come in and open a grocery store," Foster said, supporting Colwell's business plan. Dickson and Granger expressed concern about recommending a sale to Colwell without considering other proposals or establishing board rules. However, Pratt noted the lack of previous offers. "I've been here for 25 years, and no one has offered to buy this property," Pratt said. After some discussion, the board voted unanimously to recommend the town sell the property to any buyer. Following the meeting, Colwell informed several board members that he was no longer interested in working with the Town of Trezevant, saying his patience had worn out.

Col. James C. Harding to Join Discovery Park's Tennessee America 250 Celebration

UNION CITY (June 23) — Col. James C. Harding, of Huntingdon, will join the Discovery Park of America's Tennessee America 250 celebration on July 3, just days after his 92nd birthday, the museum announced Tuesday. Col. Harding, America's most-decorated living veteran, will visit the museum's Military Gallery beginning at 2:30 p.m. Col. Harding's long list of decorations and national recognitions includes the Air Force Cross, three Silver Stars, four Purple Hearts, two Bronze Stars, the Legion of Merit, nine Distinguished Flying Crosses and 40 Air Medals. "With two days of living historians, reenactors, craftspeople, concerts and hands-on learning activities, our Independence Day celebration this year is going to be one of the largest events we've ever held at Discovery Park," said Scott Williams, the museum's CEO. "The addition of Col. Harding's appearance offers guests a rare opportunity to hear from a living witness to American courage, sacrifice, leadership and the enduring commitment to bring Americans home from war." Williams will host Col. Harding's presentation, which will be recorded for an episode of the Discovery Park's podcast, "Reel-foot Forward: A West Tennessee Podcast." Born June 27, 1934, Col. Harding entered the Air



Col. James C. Harding

Force in 1956 as a distinguished graduate of Penn State University's Air Force ROTC program. During a 23-year military career, he served in a variety of flying, teaching and command assignments, including as commander of the 1st Special Operations Squadron at Nakhon Phanom Royal Thai Air Force Base in Thailand during the Vietnam War. Col. Harding flew 596 combat missions in Southeast Asia, all in propeller aircraft, including 101 missions over North Vietnam in the O-1 Bird Dog and 154 missions in the A-1 Skyraider. As a "Sandy" pilot and on-scene commander, Col. Harding helped direct combat search-and-rescue missions to recover downed American aviators behind enemy lines. One of those missions, the rescue of Marine pilot Clyde

Smith, became one of the most extraordinary air-rescue efforts of the Vietnam War. Col. Harding later survived being shot down himself, evaded enemy troops and helped direct rescuers to his wingman. Since retiring from the Air Force, Col. Harding has continued a life of service as an educator, mentor, pastor, veterans advocate and civic leader. He helped lead Air Force Junior ROTC programs in the United States and overseas, and he later settled in Huntingdon and returned to his agricultural roots through Harding Tree Farm. In recent years, he has remained active as a speaker and community leader, sharing the values that guided him in combat: integrity, accountability, humility, tenacity and love. For July 3 and 4, Discovery Park is offering \$10 general admission and extended hours until 7 p.m. Thanks to the Blue Star Museums initiative, currently-serving U.S. military personnel and their families receive free admission. Military veterans and their families will also receive free admission July 3 and 4. Discovery Park's Tennessee America 250 programming is made possible in part by a grant from the Tennessee Commission for the United States Semiquincentennial, with sponsorship from Tech Plus, Walmart and Leaders Credit Union.

The SteelDrivers to Headline Huntingdon Heritage Festival

HUNTINGDON (June 26) — Bluegrass group The SteelDrivers are this year's Huntingdon Heritage Festival headliners, the Town of Huntingdon and The Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center announced Friday. The annual festival takes place in downtown Huntingdon on Saturday, September 19. Widely recognized as one of the most influential bands in modern bluegrass, The SteelDrivers bring a distinctive sound that fuses traditional bluegrass roots with elements of country, soul and blues. Since their formation in 2005, the band has earned widespread critical acclaim, including multi-

ple Grammy nominations and an Americana Music Association New Artist of the Year award. Their 2015 release "The Muscle Shoals Recordings" earned a Grammy Award for Best Bluegrass Recording, and their 2025 album "Outrun" continued their momentum with another Grammy nomination. Formed in Nashville, The SteelDrivers are known for their emotionally charged songwriting, powerhouse instrumentation and a live performance style that blends grit with musical precision. Their lineup features Richard Bailey (banjo), Tammy Rogers (fiddle), Mike Fleming (bass), Brent Truitt (mandolin)

and Matt Dame (guitar). The festival also features a lineup of local and regional artists leading up to The SteelDrivers' headline performance: **Festival Schedule** • 4:45-5:15 p.m. — Mayce Mitchell • 5:30-6 p.m. — Grace Gunn • 6:30-7:30 p.m. — 24 Seven • 8-9:30 p.m. — The SteelDrivers "We're proud to showcase performances of this caliber in the heart of our community," said Huntingdon Mayor Chad Edwards. This free community event invites residents and visitors alike to enjoy an evening of live music and celebration in downtown Huntingdon.

McKenzie

...From Front Page

Carol Armpriest and Bobby Young, working with Public Works Director Johnny Mercer on roofing quotes for the Street Department Building. The second committee comprised Tom Alexander and Tim McBride, work-

ing with McKenzie Rotary President Armand Hebert on finding a suitable location for the Rotary Club's food storage building. Hebert addressed the council during citizens' input, requesting the possible use of city property to locate a movable storage unit adjacent to City Hall. The next meeting is July 7 at 6 p.m.

Huntingdon

...From Front Page

Finally, the ATA accounting firm was appointed to conduct the city's audit at a base cost of \$32,600. The agreement includes \$3,500 for a chart of accounts and an additional fee of \$4,500 for further services if required.

Electric

...From Front Page

percent of these write-offs stem from residential accounts, often involving customers who have moved out of the county. Fields emphasized that the write-off is an accounting step to comply with GASB standards; however, CCED will continue its collection efforts. Any customer seeking to restore service in the future must pay their outstanding balance before new service is granted. In other business, the Board addressed a vehicle procurement bid for a 2026 F-150, involving the trade-in of a 2015 Ford Explorer. Peppers Ford of McKenzie submitted a bid of \$40,599, while Steve Marsh Ford of Milan offered \$37,398. Despite the higher price, the Board voted unanimously to accept the bid from Peppers Ford, the lone in-county dealer, citing

the fact that the vehicle was already in stock compared to a multi-week delivery estimate from the Milan dealership. General Manager Ryan Drewry provided an operational report highlighting significant electrical transmission line upgrades and pole replacements scheduled for the weekend along Highway 70W. The four-hour project, beginning at 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, will involve the full linemen crew with support from the Carroll County Rescue Squad, local law enforcement, and the Tennessee Department of Transportation for traffic control. These upgrades are essential for the installation of a new substation in the Leach community, which is expected to be operational in the first quarter of 2027. Drewry also confirmed that 161-KV breakers, which were ordered two years ago, have finally arrived at the downtown headquarters. To mitigate the im-

pact of extreme summer heat, Drewry informed the Board that line crews will operate on a summer schedule from 6 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. through August. Chairman Lori Nolen announced that CCED contractors will now display signage featuring the department's logo on their vehicles to ensure clear identification while operating in the field. The meeting concluded with a tribute to Samantha Carlton, the widow of Chance Carlton, for her advocacy in establishing the "Chance Carlton Law" in Tennessee. The legislation, which designates linemen as first responders, provides \$50,000 annually for five years to the surviving family of a lineman who dies in a work-related accident. Chance Carlton lost his life in a work-related accident while serving CCED during a severe storm. The next meeting is July 30, 2:30 p.m. at the downtown Huntingdon office.

Laws

...From Front Page

in the classroom — HB2393/SB2310 aims to minimize screen time in the classroom by prohibiting kindergarten through fifth-grade students from accessing digital devices at school. Those students' teachers are also prevented from using digital devices to provide instruction. Also prohibited under this new law is electronic testing for students K-5. Digital devices are allowed for some cases, including but not limited to targeted instructional support, intervention or remediation; accommodations or services for students with disabilities; and public virtual schools, home schools, remote instruction or hybrid learning days. **Charlie Kirk American Heritage Act** — Public schools and public charter schools are now required to teach about the positive impacts of religion on American history under HB1822/SB1828. The bill lists 19 historical subjects schools can use for instruction, including but not limited to the history of the pilgrims, the influence of religion on the United States Constitution, the concept of separating church and state, the role of the Ten Commandments in shaping American law, how religious influences shaped American civil rights and the Civil Rights Movement and the history of the national motto "In God We Trust." **Child trafficking awareness in schools** — Public schools and public charter schools are required under SB1710/HB1527 to provide child trafficking awareness and prevention instruction to students in kindergarten through twelfth grade during health classes. A "qualified healthcare professional or social worker" can assist in teaching the subject. **Epinephrine in schools** — SB1716/HB1550 allows all schools to keep epinephrine on hand to administer to a student believed to be experiencing a life-threatening allergic or anaphylactic reaction. The med-

ication should be available in at least two unlocked, secure locations — including the school's administrative office and cafeteria. **Threats against schools and child care facilities** — SB0591/HB1273 makes it a Class E felony to recklessly threaten mass violence at a child care agency, preschool or religious institution. This offense does not apply to a person with an intellectual disability. The bill also makes it a Class B felony to knowingly fail to report a threat of mass violence at a child care agency, preschool or religious institution. A Class E felony is punishable by one to six years in prison and up to \$3,000 in fines. A Class B felony is punishable by 8 to 30 years in prison and up to \$25,000 in fines. **Underage vaping or tobacco purchases** — SB1740/HB1679 establishes penalties for people under 21 who illegally buy tobacco, hemp, vapor products or smokeless tobacco. Penalties include 50 hours of community service, completion of a court-ordered program and a fine between \$10 and \$50 for those aged 18–21. **Retail theft registry** — SB2265/HB2140 targets repeat and organized retail theft by establishing a shoplifter registry. Records will stay on file for 10 years after the most recent conviction. Only law enforcement agencies will be able to access the registry. The law also increases penalties for people who commit retail theft while carrying a firearm, ammunition, firearm accessory or anti-theft jammer. The penalty calls for a minimum sentence of 30 days in jail. If the shoplifter is wearing a mask or using fake license plates during the crime, a judge could impose harsher sentences. **Emergency care for pregnant women** — HB1943/SB1681 prohibits hospital emergency departments from denying an appropriate medical screening examination to a pregnant woman who reports to be in active labor or experiencing an emergency medical condition. The bill also prohibits

transferring a pregnant woman unless her condition is stabilized. Fines for violating this law can cost up to \$50,000 for large hospitals and up to \$25,000 for small hospitals. Doctors who violate this law could face license sanctions and up to \$50,000 in fines. **Local police agreements with ICE** — HB2018/SB1486 requires law enforcement agencies to enter into an agreement with a federal 287(g) immigration enforcement program. The law requires local law enforcement to "accept and honor" any immigration detainee from federal authorities by complying with the requested conditions in the immigration detainee. **Citizenship checks for public benefits** — SB1915/HB1710 requires local governments to verify that anyone applying for public benefits (i.e., financial aid or government programs) is either a U.S. citizen or a legal resident. Local offices must keep records and report on how they are verifying individuals' legal statuses, and Tennessee's attorney general has the power to investigate any city or county that fails to perform these checks. **Verifying citizenship before receiving a professional license** — Applicants for any official state "paperwork" are required to prove they are U.S. citizens or legal residents under HB1709/SB1901. Paperwork includes professional licenses, permits or official certifications. **Preventing undocumented immigrants from driving commercial vehicles** — HB1706/SB1587 makes it a Class A misdemeanor for undocumented immigrants to operate a commercial motor vehicle (CMV) in the state of Tennessee — even for those using out-of-state commercial vehicles. Direct emitters who knowingly allow an undocumented immigrant to operate a CMV may also be charged with a Class A misdemeanor. Local law enforcement agencies are required to notify federal immigration officials if they arrest a person who is accused of violating the new law.

Progress Made in Bethel University Turf Replacement



In the second week of Bethel University's turf replacement project at Walter Butler Stadium, the football field was completely stripped of its decade-old turf. The football field's turf removal process began Monday, June 15, and crews have now begun placing new turf on the field. In March 2026, Bethel University's Vice President of Athletics, Derek Horne spoke to the McKenzie Rotary Club about the project, noting that the school's primary concern is ensuring the safety of student athletes. Officials told The Banner that the new turf must be placed by July 15 for the return of football players for preseason activities. Drone photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner



A photo of the construction work on State Route 76/US 79 as pictured from the intersection of State Route 105 in Trezevant. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

Work Continues on State Route 76/US 79 in Trezevant

Construction continues in Trezevant on the realigned State Route 76/U.S.79, a road that will eventually be a minimum of four lanes of highway between McKenzie and Milan. The road, proposed over two decades ago, is being built in three sections. **Phase 1: Cades-Atwood Road to SR 77 (Atwood Area)** **Status: Completed and Open.** * **Details:** This initial \$29.7+ million contract was awarded to Delta Contracting Company to build a new 4.8-mile alignment bypassing southeast of Atwood. Though

originally slated for completion in mid-2025, this phase opened seven months ahead of schedule in November 2024. **Phase 2: SR 77 to Cutlip Lane (Trezevant Bypass)** **Status: Active Construction.** * **Details:** This phase picks up at SR 77 and continues past Trezevant to Cutlip Lane, creating a bypass to the southeast of Trezevant. Work includes grading, drainage, construction of noise walls, signals, and paving. Active operations in the Trezevant area mean several traffic shifts and local road

closures are in place: **Cutlip Lane / US 79 Alignment Shift:** Traffic has been shifted to a new alignment from near Cutlip Lane to the Connector Road leading into Trezevant. The speed limit is reduced to 35 MPH. Motorists proceed down this new alignment to an all-way stop before transitioning onto Old US 79 (SR 76). Once Phase 2 is finished, the final piece of the puzzle—Phase 3 (Cutlip Lane to Sydnor Road in McKenzie)—will complete the wider corridor. However, Phase 3 is currently waiting for funding allocation in TDOT's long-term plan.

Drowning

...From Front Page

"Maggie Monster" Vowell are Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home. The family will receive friends on Tuesday, June 30, 2026, 5-8 p.m. and on Wednesday, 10 a.m. until service time. Interment will follow at Olive Branch Cemetery, Como, Tenn.

Miss Vowell, 3, died at Baptist Hospital Carroll County on June 25, 2026. She was born in Union City on October 16, 2022, to Jeter Vowell and Diana Turnbo Searatt. She is survived by her parents, Jeter and Diana; her siblings, Jerry Vowell, Mason Searatt, Noah Searatt, Macie Searatt, Pearl Vowell and Eddy Vowell; her paternal grandmother, Mary Vowell; maternal grandparents, Lisa Hugueley and bonus

grandparents, Steven and Tammy Maxwell; and two uncles, Josh (Madison) Vowell and Kyle (Sarah) Maxwell. She is preceded in death by her grandfathers, Eddie Hugueley and Randy Vowell; and her aunt, Margaret Vowell. Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home. *Editor's Note: The Banner extends our deepest sympathies to the family of Mary Margaret "Maggie Monster" Vowell.*

Events

...From Front Page

Saturday, July 4 at dark — Eastview Fireworks Show at the Carroll County Fairgrounds The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce holds an America 250 event Saturday, July 18 from

9-11:30 a.m., recognizing the day the Declaration of Independence was read to the public in Boston for the first time. In celebration, Carroll County officials will read the Declaration of Independence at the Carroll County Court House. Events compiled by the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce. Times and dates are subject to change.

Gleason Happy Birthday America Celebration A Happy Birthday America 250th Anniversary celebration is in downtown Gleason on Friday, July 3. A parade begins at 6 p.m. Local talent begins at 6:30 p.m. featuring Hadley Garrison and Jade Kowalewski. A classic car cruise-in is on Magnolia Avenue at 7 p.m. Fireworks are at 9 p.m.

Safety

...From Front Page

- Follow all local laws and ordinances. **City Ordinance Reminder** The purchase and discharge of fireworks within the City of McKenzie is governed by specific ordinances. Fireworks can be sold during two specific time

periods: June 20–July 5 and December 20–January 1. Fireworks may be discharged from June 27–July 5 between the hours of 8 a.m. and 10 p.m. and December 31 at 8 a.m. through January 1 at 1 a.m. Fireworks are prohibited within 600 feet of businesses, churches, hospitals, schools and asylums. No one under the age of 18 can purchase fireworks. Intoxicated persons also cannot purchase fireworks.

The city may require permits for certain types of fireworks displays. Violations can result in fines. If you have any questions about local laws, contact MPD at 731-352-2264. The City of McKenzie will have food trucks set up at or around 6 p.m. at McKenzie City Park on July 4. The city's annual fireworks display begins at approximately dusk. The park will close to traffic at 4 p.m.

Things In My Head with Charles Manfredi



HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

What Were Those Guys Thinking!

I'm talking about Samuel Adams, Dr. Joseph Warren, JOHN HANCOCK, Penelope Barker, Thomas Jefferson...all the men and women who had gathered in quiet places to discuss hard questions about life, British rule, independence, and the future.

As these rebels grew more numerous, more determined, and louder, they began to meet in better surroundings; most notably Faneuil Hall and the Old South Meeting House in Boston, and the Pennsylvania State House (we now refer to it as Independence Hall) in Philadelphia.

I wonder what was running through the minds of those patriots standing on the famed Lexington Green in the early dawn on April 19, 1775, as the British Redcoats appeared out of the mist. One could only imagine their pounding heartbeats might have drowned out any thoughts at all! No one is sure who fired first, but there is not much doubt that turning back was going to be less of an option.

And oh, how I wish I could have been at Bunker Hill in June of that year. Uh...uh...as long as I was way over on the backside away from the firing, maybe behind a brick wall. Seemingly every English soldier in the universe was charging up that hill once, twice...a third time! We held them off and held them off, until our meager supply of ammunition ran out.

History records we were throwing rocks at them when they overran us.

We may not know what they were thinking...but we do know they were absolutely dead serious about it!

The fledgling Continental Congress certainly had their hands full. A third of the country wanted the protection and trade that accompanied being a colony of Britain. Others wanted a British government that would respect our rights. While still others felt the only recourse was war and

total independence.

Talk about a mixed bag of thoughts and sleepless nights.

The summer of 1776 found them at the "fish or cut bait" stage. Acquiesce or fight. Give in or all in. Please understand, there were no crystal balls. It is a thin line between a leap of faith...and a lamebrain idea! And the British Army was the mightiest force on earth at the time.

Ben Franklin's immortal words, "We must all hang together or most assuredly, we shall all hang separately" were more than a catchy phrase. It was a fact of life for those people!

Doubt and uncertainty were the order of the day; anxiety abounded on every side over what the future might hold. You can bet they were more worried about their own skin than what America might look like on July 4, 2026.

The Declaration of Independence is just about the last word on how to get a new country up and running. It plainly stated we were officially in this war as an independent and free nation. It led many to join the fight. It inspired. It uplifted. Its words have resonated down through the ages.

But it didn't leave the British shaking in their boots. It made them mad. More resolute. And they knew how to fight!

After several American defeats across New York in the fall of 1776, with General Washington's army retreating and retreating, I would imagine many of the patriots' minds pondered on Franklin's dire warning. Our six-month-old nation could not retreat forever, and survive!

You know what followed, Washington, and his ill-equipped, outnumbered, and beleaguered army, turned around on Christmas Day, 1776. In freezing temperatures and a fierce winter storm they crossed the ice-filled Delaware Riv-

er at night and marched nine miles to Trenton, New Jersey, and won a stunning victory.

Most of the American troops had no shoes, or ones that were falling apart. Many had rags tied around their feet. When it was asked how they managed to stay intact in the horrendous weather, the reply was, "We followed the bloody footprints in the snow."

It wasn't over, of course. Valley Forge was tough. As was Brandywine. It took five more years until the English forces under Lord Cornwallis surrendered at Yorktown.

But it is still the best "Birth of a Nation" story that I've ever heard!

It hasn't been a perfect ride. I wish those Founding Fathers had put something in the Constitution about telemarketers and traffic jams. It would have been nice to have a clause that said we could not start another war until we had paid for the last one. Why didn't they include a law that mandated that if The United States of America got more than ten thousand dollars in debt all Congressional paychecks were frozen until they balanced the books.

And gosh, it looks like they could have outlawed political parties from the very beginning, and done the same thing with the designated hitter rule.

250 years is a long time. And it is a happy birthday for us. We should celebrate. We should be proud. We should be appreciative. We should wake up every day in complete awe!

To do anything less would seem like we have failed those outstanding early Americans...who were throwing rocks at bullets, and left their bloody footprints in the snow....

Respectfully,
Kes
kesley45@aol.com

THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

Casseroles and Deer Heads

Sarah was the kind of woman who kept casseroles in the freezer ready to pop one in the oven for every occasion, like a funeral or a birth, or when a woman had surgery and couldn't cook for the family, or, of course, when there was a potluck meal at church. The words "Hamburger Helper" never came out of her mouth. Casserole was her love language, and she was fluent at it.

She loved laughing and teasing in a good-natured sort of way.

Her Achilles' heel was she was a little high strung, and, unfortunately for her, I knew it. Even though she was old enough to be my mother, I had fun getting her worked up.

For instance, the time our church hired a new preacher, Jim, who was an avid deer hunter, and rather than trusting any movers to move his two prize, mounted deer heads, he brought them himself and put them in his office until his family got settled in their new house.

I didn't know Jim, but that didn't matter. My thought was, what better way to break in a new preacher than to steal his deer heads out of his office? Yes, that's what I thought, and, of course, that's what I did.

(No doubt God's going to have a lengthy list to discuss with me when I reach the pearly gates. I'm just hoping he'll let me in on a trial basis.)

Several days went by without Jim mentioning his missing deer heads, which told me he was an experienced practical joker. "Never show your hand" is the rule, whether you're the victim or the perpetrator.

Of course, eventually, he asked me if I knew anything about them, and, of course, I lied.

(Add that one to the list, too, Lord.)

Rumors revealed he was asking lots of folks at church, including Sarah, if they knew anything about them.

Just to see how she'd react, I cornered Sarah about it at church, accusing her of being the one playing the joke on Jim. You'd have thought

I accused her of having an affair with the Pope.

Her eyes bugged out as she pointed her finger at me. "Don't you dare accuse me of doing it! I don't know anything about it. If it's anybody, it's you!"

I confess, my reputation warranted the accusation, but I gave an Oscar-worthy performance of being wounded by her.

After several weeks, like a kettle on the eye of a stove, the joke reached a boiling point, so I decided to wrap up the little caper and confess to Jim what I'd done.

You know what's better than being a practical joker? It's finding out your new preacher is one, too.

What happens when two practical jokers join forces? They hatch a plan to turn the joke onto Sarah.

Step one was Jim feigning to be really upset about his missing deer heads, which sent Sarah straight to me.

"Jim's really upset about this. You need to give him back his deer heads."

Step two: (another lie) "Sarah, I don't know what you're talking about, but you're right about him being upset. You need to give him back his deer heads."

She gave me a hard look and stormed off.

Step three: enlist the aid of Sarah's son in the plan.

After church one night, he took his parents out to eat, which opened the door to step four.

While they were eating, Jim and I broke into their house and hid the deer heads in the closet of a spare bedroom, hiding them in such a way that as soon as the door opened, they would be the first things seen.

Step five: Jim and I went home.

Step six: an hour after bedtime, Jim and I went back to Sarah's house where all the lights were off.

I knocked on the door and waited.

After several minutes, her husband, Malcolm, turned on the porch light.

Dressed in pajamas and a robe, he squinted at us. "What's up fellas?" he asked.

With faces as serious as funeral directors, I said,

"We need to come in. We've got something serious to discuss."

Malcolm backed out of the way so we could come in just as Sarah was coming down the stairs tying her robe.

"What's going on?" she asked. "Is everything okay?"

I played the role of a prosecuting attorney.

"No, no it's not, Sarah. It's about those deer heads. It's time for this joke to be over with and give them back to Jim."

Sarah cackled. "If you think those deer heads are in this house, go right ahead and help yourself; look anywhere you want. They're not here."

That was the steel trap of step seven snapping shut.

We strolled through the house, purposely saving the closet where the deer heads were till last.

After each opened door, each looking under beds, Sarah said triumphantly, "I told you so. They're not here."

When we got to the final closet, the four of us stood in a semicircle.

Taking hold of the doorknob, I turned it and swung open the door.

Antlers and glass eyes greeted us.

Sarah's screams were heard a mile away. Grabbing her chest, she stumbled backwards. Malcolm was the only reason she didn't fall on the floor.

Protests and denials tumbled out of her mouth like mice fleeing from a cat.

It took some time to explain all the details of the joke, but everyone was laughing about it by the time we left, even Sarah.

But just as I stepped off the porch, she fired this warning, "You just wait, David Johnson. I'll get you back!"

You know what's hard to do? Having your mind where it needs to be when you're at church, while at the same time watching your back and guessing how revenge will be exacted on you.

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

Mama T's

WHAT'S COOKIN'

E: recipes@mckenziebanner.com

By Teresa Washburn

Call 731.352.3323

Graham Cracker Candy Cookie

2 cup sugar
1 cup milk

Cook until it forms a soft ball. Add 1 stick oleo, 20 large marshmallows -cut up so they melt faster. Then add 2 cup crushed graham crackers, 1 cup coconut, 1 cup nuts. Mix well and drop onto waxed paper.

Chess Bars

1 box yellow cake mix
1 box confectioners sugar
3 eggs
1 stick melted butter
1 -8 oz. cream cheese
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease cake pan;

set aside. Mix cake mix, 1 egg, and melted butter. Press mixture in bottom of pan. Set pan aside. Mix box of confectioner sugar, 2 eggs and cream cheese, pour mixture over crust prepared in cake pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes or until golden brown. Cool and cut into bars.

Velveeta Cheese Fudge

1/2 pound margarine
1/2 pound Velveeta cheese
1/2 teaspoon vanilla
2 lbs powdered sugar
1/2 cup cocoa
1/2 cup nuts or coconut
Over low heat melt together, cut up margarine,

cheese and vanilla. In a large bowl put sugar and cocoa. Add melted mixture to sugar and cocoa. Mix well until very smooth. (Knead if necessary). Put in a large flat greased pan and refrigerate. Makes about 3 pounds.

Pork Chop Casserole

4 thin pork chops
1 tablespoon oil
1 large onion -sliced
4 cup can cut green beans
1/2 cup water or green bean liquid
1 teaspoon salt
In medium skillet brown chops in oil, remove chops, set aside. Cook onion in skillet until lightly brown. Place onions and beans in greased 11x7 baking dish. Pour on water and sprinkle with salt. Top with browned chops. Cover with foil. Bake in preheated 350 degree oven 45 minutes or until tender.

Frozen Salad

1 cup crushed pineapple
8 oz. cool whip
2 pkg peach jello
1 cup chopped nuts
2 cup buttermilk
Mix and freeze.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SHERIFF TOWN HALL COMING JUNE 30

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

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

THE BANNER CLOSED JULY 3

The Banner office will be closed on Friday, July 3 in observance of Independence Day. The office will reopen on Monday, July 6 at 8:30 a.m.

McKENZIE FARMER'S MARKET

The McKenzie Farmer's Market, across from City Hall on Cedar Street, is open each Saturday until the end of October from 8 a.m. until noon.

CARROLL COUNTY JULY 4 EVENTS

Friday, July 3 at dark – Terry Volunteer Fire Department Fireworks Show

Friday and Saturday, July 3-4, gates open at 5:30 p.m. – Clayhill Motorsports Park Freedom and Fireworks Celebration Nights

Saturday, July 4 at 5 p.m. – Freedom Festival at McKenzie Recreational Park

Saturday, July 4 at 5:30 p.m. – McLemoresville Parade; Fireworks Show at dark

Saturday, July 4 at 6 p.m. – Hollow Rock Fire Department Fireworks Show and Music at Central High School

Saturday, July 4 at dark – Eastview Fireworks Show at the Carroll County Fairgrounds

Events compiled by the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce. Times and dates are subject to change.

GLEASON HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA CELEBRATION

A Happy Birthday America 250th Anniversary celebration is in downtown Gleason on Friday, July 3. A parade begins at 6 p.m. Local talent begins at 6:30 p.m. featuring Hadley Gar-

risson and Jade Kowalewski. A classic car cruise-in is on Magnolia Avenue at 7 p.m. Fireworks are at 9 p.m.

CARROLL COUNTY E911 BUDGET MEETING

The Carroll County Emergency Communication District Budget Committee meets in a regular scheduled meeting Tuesday, June 23 at 5:30 p.m. at 20405 East Main Street, Huntingdon. Citizens desiring to publicly comment at the meeting on an agenda item must register with the district at 731-986-8911. A copy of the Public Comment Policy may be obtained at the district office, temporarily located at 20405 East Main Street, Huntingdon.

McKENZIE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DECADES REUNION

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

MHS CLASS OF 1976 REUNION

McKenzie High School Class of 1976 is holding a 50-year class reunion on September 26, 1 p.m. at Chandler Farms in McKenzie. The event is in conjunction with the MHS Alumni Association annual reunion. For more information, e-mail Amy Rich Carter at amycarter58@gmail.com or Marsha Spain Smith at smith-marsha99@yahoo.com.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB AT HOMETOWN HEALTH CLINIC

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

CARROLL HUMANE SOCIETY EVENTS, NEWS

Cat Vouchers
Cat spay/neuter vouchers are always available for

\$60. To purchase by phone for use at Paris Vet Clinic, call 731-514-0878 and leave a message. These are available to anyone regardless of residency. We now offer cat vouchers to Carroll County residents for \$60 at the Huntingdon Animal Clinic. These must be purchased in person at the shelter with cash or card, and proof of residency is required. However, Carroll Co. residents can still use Paris Vet Clinic if preferred.

ALA UNIT 47 FAMILY DANCE NIGHT

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

McKENZIE TOPS MEETS WEEKLY

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

CARROLL COMMISSION MEETS MONTHLY

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

CARROLL COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEETS MONTHLY

The Carroll County Democratic Party meets the second Saturday of every month at 10 a.m. at the Carroll County Complex at 625 High Street, Huntingdon.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

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

Obituaries



BRIAN K. SAVAGE 1977 – 2026

McKENZIE — Brian K. Savage, 48, of Powers Lake, N.D., formerly of McKenzie, died on June 13, 2026, at Trinity Medical Center in Minot, after a courageous three-and-a-half-year battle with cancer. He was born on August 23, 1977, to Harry and Mary (Rimmer) Savage in McKenzie.

In his younger years, Brian attended school in McKenzie. Growing up, he enjoyed riding horses, hunting, racing cars, and spending as much time outdoors as possible.

On February 26, 1999, Brian married the love of his life, Tonya, in McKenzie. Together, they built a life centered around family and raised four children.

Brian spent many years working at a scrap yard owned by Tonya's uncles before eventually purchasing a scrap yard of his own. It was a fitting career for a man who never met a piece of "junk" he didn't think might be useful someday. In 2014, Brian and his family moved to Powers Lake, N.D., to pursue opportunities in the oil field.

In his free time, Brian enjoyed hunting with his brother, camping, tackling all kinds of redneck projects, listening to Hank Williams, Jr., and driving around in his Ranger—his "scooter," as he liked to call it. Above all else, he cherished the time he spent with his wife, children, and grandchildren.

Brian was truly one of a kind. He was a simple man with a sharp wit, a sarcastic sense of humor, and a knack for making people laugh. If you asked Brian, there wasn't much in life that couldn't be fixed with a cigarette, a glass of sweet tea, and a roll of duct tape. He smoked some of the best barbecue around, could fix just about anything, and always seemed

to have a funny or sarcastic remark ready at a moment's notice. He loved teasing those he cared about most, especially his wife, often worrying her just for a laugh. Beneath that playful nature was a man who loved his family fiercely and would do anything for them.

Brian leaves behind his beloved wife, Tonya Savage; his children, Chris (Paige) Savage, Beth Savage (Robbie Johnson), Dakota (Kayla) Savage and Hunter (Emilee) Savage; and his cherished grandchildren, Charlie and Avery Savage; Hadley Johnson; Caiden Johnson and Barrett Savage; Hallie Jo Savage; Riley, Oakley, and Kinsley Sandifer, and their mother, Noelle. He is also survived by his brother, Billy (Angie) Savage, as well as many nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends who will miss him dearly.

Brian was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Mary Savage.

Brian's legacy lives on through the family he loved, the memories he created, and the laughter he brought to those around him. He will be deeply missed and forever remembered.

Fulkerson Stevenson Funeral Home of Tioga, N.D., is assisting the family.

Graveside Service

Burial will be in the St. James Catholic Cemetery in Powers Lake, N.D. +

BRIAN FLETCHER 1966 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mr. Brian Fletcher, 60, of Huntingdon, died on Monday, June 22, 2026, at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville.

Funeral services will be private for the family.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Carroll County Humane Society or St. Jude Children's Hospital.

Mr. Fletcher was born February 20, 1966, in Huntingdon, to the late William Woodall Fletcher and Kathleen Johnson Fletcher. He was a laborer for Waste Management. He

was also preceded in death by brothers Randy Foster and William H. Fletcher.

He is survived by two sisters, Tracy Bray (Jim) of Milan, and Vivian Carroll (Ray) of Huntingdon; and a brother, Donnie Fletcher (Libby) of Huntingdon. He also leaves three nieces, a nephew, three great nephews, a great niece, and his cat, Fuzzy.

Chase Funeral Home.



MARY MARGARET VOWELL 2022 – 2026

McKENZIE — Funeral services for Mary Margaret "Maggie Monster" Vowell are Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at 11 a.m. at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home.

The family will receive friends on Tuesday, June 30, 2026, 5-8 p.m. and on Wednesday, 10 a.m. until service time. Interment will follow at Olive Branch Cemetery, Como, Tenn.

Miss Vowell, 3, died at Baptist Hospital Carroll County on June 25, 2026. She was born in Union City on October 16, 2022, to Jeter Vowell and Diana Turnbo Searatt.

She is survived by her parents, Jeter and Diana; her siblings, Jerry Vowell, Mason Searatt, Noah Searatt, Macie Searatt, Pearl Vowell and Eddy Vowell; paternal grandmother, Mary Vowell; maternal grandparents, Lisa Huguely and bonus grandparents, Steven and Tammy Maxwell; and two uncles, Josh (Madison) Vowell and Kyle (Sarah) Maxwell.

She is preceded in death by her grandfathers, Eddie Huguely and Randy Vowell; and her aunt, Margaret Vowell.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home.

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Carroll Arts Creativity Camp is Next Week

McKENZIE — Carroll Arts, Inc. hosts its annual Creativity Camp Monday, July 6 through Friday, July 10 at First Cumberland Presbyterian Church on Highland Drive from 1-4 p.m. daily.

Elementary and middle school students from Carroll County are invited to attend.

Each day of the camp includes activities in music, art, creative writing and drama.

Instructors for the camp are McKenzie Elementary music teacher Joanna Turner, Clarksburg art

teacher Leann Edwards, retired teacher Marlene Kreuter (creative writing) and retired teachers Denise Sam and Glynda Rich (drama).

Snacks will be provided daily.

The camp concludes with a Celebration of the Arts on Friday at 3 p.m. Families are invited to see what the kids have learned and created.

Enrollment in the camp is \$40 per child. For families enrolling more than one child, the fee for each additional enrollee after the first is reduced to \$35.

Final registration is from 12:30-1 p.m. on the first day of camp. To pre-register or for more information, message Carroll Arts, Inc. on Facebook.

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Thurs. 4:35 • 7:35

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Thurs. 4:30 (3D) • 7:30

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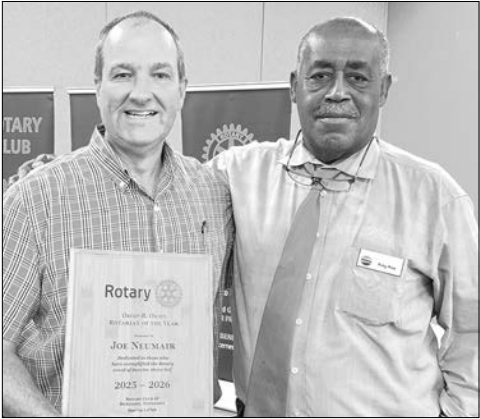
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Top, New officers for 2026-27 are (L to R) Jason Martin, vice president; Kim Bell-Webb, second vice president and peace ambassador; Gary Hilliard, sergeant at arms; and Armand Hebert, president. Not pictured are Joe Neumair, treasurer; Ed Perkins, chairman of the Fannie Baxter Moore Fund and Joel Washburn, public image. Above, E.W. James Supermarket representatives Emily Lowe and Nick Flippin accepted the Clark Brown Rotary Champion of the Year Award. Pictured is President Ricky Price, Rotary member Clark Brown, Emily Lowe and Nick Flippin. Below Left, Joe Neumair was honored as the Rotarian of the Year by President Ricky Price. Below Right, Dr. John Adams (right) was presented the Ed Perkins Humanitarian of the Year Award. Dr. Ed Perkins (left) is a 66-year Rotarian for whom the honor is named.



Hebert is New Rotary President

MCKENZIE (June 18) — The Rotary Club of McKenzie installed new officers for the 2026-27 club year at the Vera Low Center on the campus of Bethel University.

Ricky Price, the 2025-26 club president, helped launch a mission to better serve the community through a food distribution program. Just last week, the club, with financial assistance from area churches and Baptist Hospital-Carroll County, provided more than 400 meals to area people in need.

Price said the vision of the club keeps getting better each year. In addition to hosting the honors banquets at McKenzie High School and McKenzie Middle School, the club and its managed endowment — Fannie Baxter Moore Fund — provided scholarships to six MHS students, covered the unpaid meals of students at the end of the school year, provided funds for cap and gowns for students who did not have the resources to pay themselves, and provided food to the hungry. It also contributes to worldwide humanitarian initiatives as established by Rotary International.

President Price said he was a blessed man to serve through Rotary and to serve Christ.

About Armand Hebert: Armand J. Hebert III is a McKenzie, Tennessee-based consultant, coach and community leader focused on helping people and organizations communicate better, lead with purpose and build stronger teams.

Armand uses leadership coaching, DISC behavioral styles and practical training to help teams understand one another, reduce friction and work together more effectively.

His work is grounded in more than two decades of experience in training, facilitation, assessment debriefs and leadership development.

Armand is deeply committed to serving and strengthening his community. He is a graduate and past facilitator of Henry County Leadership, a founding member of the McKenzie Chamber of Commerce, active with McKenzie Rotary and a past board member of the Tennessee Association of Community Leadership.

He also volunteers with Bethel University's women's soccer program, supporting



Ricky Price (left) was honored for his service as president for the year 2025-26. Newly-installed president Armand Hebert presented the plaque to Price.

coaches and student-athletes with leadership development, communication, and team-building tools.

The McKenzie Rotary Club, founded in 1937, is a prominent local service organization dedicated to community support and educational advancement in McKenzie.

Service and Outreach

- **Food Security:** The club operates a food distribution mission, often partnering with local churches and Baptist Hospital-Carroll County. In June 2026, the club helped provide hot meals to over 400 local residents in June 2026.

- **Support for First Responders:** The club and the Fannie Baxter Moore Fund have donated funds to support local initiatives like the First Responders' "Christmas for Kids" program, which provides gifts for children in need.

Education and Student Support

- **Scholarships:** The club is heavily involved in educational support. In 2026, the club and the Fannie Baxter Moore Fund awarded \$8,000 in scholarships to five McKenzie High School seniors and one Bethel University student.

- **School Support:** The club hosts honors banquets for McKenzie High and Middle schools. They also provide financial aid to students, including covering unpaid school meal balances and funding caps and gowns for students who lack the resources to pay for them.

The McKenzie Rotary Club holds its meetings every Tuesday at noon on the campus of Bethel University.

The club generates revenue through long-standing traditions, including an annual Charity Auction in November and a Boston butt

sale held each June.

The 2026-27 officers are: President - Armand Hebert; Vice-President - Jason R. Martin, who also serves as club secretary; Sergeant at Arms - Gary Hilliard; Treasurer - Joe Neumair; Peach Ambassador - Kim Bell-Webb; Immediate Past President - Ricky Price; Public Image - Joel Washburn; and Fannie Baxter Moore Fund - Ed Perkins.

- **Rotarian of the Year:** Joe Neumair — recognized for financial oversight, late-night communications and consistent behind-the-scenes support as club treasurer.

- **Ed Perkins Award:** Presented to John Adams — recognized for consistent availability, responsiveness and dedication to the club. Perkins is a 66-year member of the club. Adams is a retired Baptist minister, who first moved to McKenzie in 1977 and then moved to Jackson before returning to McKenzie.

- **Clark Brown Championship Award:** Presented to Nick Flippin and Emily Lowe of E. W. James Supermarket. E.W. helped McKenzie Rotary launch its food drive initiative and serve as a community partner in the ongoing project.

- **Paul Harris Fellow:** Susan E. Hebert — nominated by incoming president Armand Hebert; recognized for significant contribution to Rotary's mission of worldwide understanding and goodwill. The Paul Harris Fellowship is the highest award the local club bestows on a recipient. It represents a \$1,000 contribution to Rotary International to support worldwide initiatives to eradicate polio, feed the hungry, and to provide electrification and water projects in underdeveloped areas. Rotary International has 1.2 million members.



The Eaton Family — Jon, Marshal, Harrison and Anna — wowed the audience with a bluegrass-infused performance. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Local Talent Shines During 'An Evening with Carroll Arts'

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (June 20) — Carroll Arts, Inc., hosted its annual talent showcase, "An Evening with Carroll Arts," on Saturday inside the First Cumberland Presbyterian Church in McKenzie. The event featured visual art and musical performances by Carroll County residents and natives.

Musical performers included Steve Morris, Chelsea Fuller Brown, Mitchell Brown, Diann Olson, Isaac Stephen Walker, Brittany Martin, The Eaton Family, Dana Wyatt, Larry Bullion and McKenzie Mayor Ryan Griffin. Danny Stover also took the stage, reciting lines from Shakespeare.

Between acts, recent Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School graduate Isaac Stephen Walker was presented with the Friend of the Arts award.

Over the years, Walker has performed in the High School Celebration of the Arts, An Evening with Carroll Arts, Southern Fried Nuptials, Southern Fried Funnies and Mistletoe Christmas.



Isaac Stephen Walker received the Friend of the Arts award, presented by Sandi Walden, Glynda Rich and Denise Sam. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

"He's performed in everything that we've produced the last few years," said Glynda Rich. "His talents, his dedication to Carroll Art's projects, his faithfulness and cooperative spirit and his ready smile have made him a delight — even though at times he has made his directors a little bit crazy."

In high school, Walker was one of a few students who helped build his school's theater program from the ground up. He performed in several school plays, including as Plankton in SpongeBob the Musical. He also served as his school band's drum major for four years. He also played trum-

pet and saxophone for his school band. Outside of band, he also created and hosted his school's "Tiger Talk" news show.

Sandi Walden, theater teacher and color guard instructor at Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School, presented Walker with the Friend of the Arts award.

Carroll Arts hosts several annual events throughout the year. In July, elementary and middle school students are invited to attend Carroll Arts' Creativity Camp. In August, Carroll Arts will present "Southern Fried Funeral" during the City of McKenzie's Sweet Tea Festival.



Above, The Bethel University Renaissance Bluegrass Band. Below Left, DEK of Hearts. Below Right, Vonda Peet.



'The Voice' Finalists DEK of Hearts To Headline Sweet Tea Festival

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE — The City of McKenzie recently announced headlining entertainers for the 2026 Sweet Tea Festival to be held downtown AUG 20-23, including DEK of Hearts, Vonda Peet & Company and the Bethel University Renaissance Bluegrass Band.

After welcoming an estimated 4,000 attendees last year, the Sweet Tea Festival continues to grow as one of McKenzie's signature community events. This year's festival features a full weekend of community activities, arts and crafts vendors, live music and family-friendly entertainment, with additional events to be announced at a later date.

The festival begins Thursday, August 20, with Carroll Arts presenting A Southern

Fried Funeral at 7 p.m. in the Park Theatre, offering an entertaining kickoff to the weekend celebration. An encore performance is Sunday, August 23 at 2 p.m.

Arts and crafts vendors will be open Friday, August 21, from 6-9 p.m. and Saturday, August 22, from 10 a.m.-8 p.m., giving festivalgoers the opportunity to shop from local and regional makers, artisans and small businesses. Live music is also on Saturday.

Headliner DEK of Hearts is a Nashville-based country-pop trio who finished in third place on last year's Season 28 of NBC's The Voice. Members of the group are Dylan John, Emily Clapp and Kollin Bailey.

Vonda Peet & Company are a Jackson-based group who perform R&B, soul and pop music.

The Bethel University Re-

naissance Bluegrass Band is an award-winning group consisting of Mary Parker, Gordon Parker, Koltyn West and Paul Grace.

"The Sweet Tea Festival continues to be a special opportunity to bring people together in McKenzie," said McKenzie Mayor Ryan Griffin. "From live music and local vendors to the arts and community fellowship, this event celebrates the spirit of our city and the people who make it special."

Additional festival details, including more events and activities, will be announced soon. Vendor applications and more information are available at mckenziennetn.org/residents/events/sweet-tea-festival/.

For more information, follow the City of McKenzie and Sweet Tea Festival updates online.



Left, Emma Luther is pictured with her award-winning custom-built wooden pickup truck. Right, Emma Luther is pictured with her first-place trophy. Photos courtesy Clarksburg School

Clarksburg Student Wins National Woodworking Contest

NASHVILLE (June 24) — Emma Luther, a student at Clarksburg School, placed first in the National Beta Convention’s Division I Woodworking contest with a custom-built wooden pickup truck, her school announced Wednesday. This year’s National Beta Convention, themed “Wired for Success,” was June 17-18 at Nashville’s Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center.

Luther earned first place in the Tennessee Beta Convention, also in Nashville, in November 2025 and went on to capture another first-place win at the national competition this June.

“Your attention to detail, creativity, and exceptional craftsmanship have made Clarksburg School proud,” her school shared online.

Also representing Clarksburg School at the National Beta Convention were Anna Akins and Jamie Allen. Akins competed with an illustration and Allen competed with a crochet project.

“All three students did a great job and earned their way to represent Clarksburg at the National Convention,” said Clarksburg Beta Sponsor April Laws.



Pictured is the team at Life Care Center of Bruceton-Hollow Rock. Submitted photo

Life Care Center of Bruceton-Hollow Rock Earns Bronze National Quality Award

BRUCETON (June 25) — Life Care Center of Bruceton-Hollow Rock was recently recognized as a 2026 Bronze – Commitment to Quality Award recipient by the American Health Care Association and National Center for Assisted Living (AHCA/NCAL).

“Winning the Bronze Award was an incredibly proud moment for our entire team,” said Executive Director Dareth Davis. “This recognition reflects the dedication, compassion, and hard work that our staff bring to the residents every day.”

Implemented by AHCA/NCAL in 1996, the National Quality Award Program is a rigorous three-level process in which organizations are reviewed and evaluated by trained experts against a set of nationally recognized standards for organizational excellence: the Baldrige Performance Excellence Framework.

The framework helps organizations achieve superior performance over time, enhancing quality of care and quality of life for long-term care residents.

Providers begin this quality improvement journey at the Bronze level, where they develop an organizational profile outlining key elements such as their vision, mission, customer base, core strengths and challenges.

“Achieving the Bronze Award is especially meaningful because it validates our commitment to providing high-quality care and continually striving for excellence,” Davis added. “The Bronze Award is a wonderful milestone, but more im-

portantly, it represents the dedication of a team that genuinely cares about the people we serve. We look forward to continuing this Quality Award journey!”

The Award will be formally presented during “Delivering Solutions 26,” the AHCA/NCAL Annual Convention and Exposition, Oct. 11-14, in Boston, Mass.

Life Care Center of Bruceton-Hollow Rock, located at 105 Rowland Avenue in Bruceton, is one of 26 skilled nursing and rehab facilities in Tennessee managed by Life Care Centers of America.

Life Care Centers of America manages more than 200 skilled nursing, post-acute, Alzheimer’s, and senior living campuses in 27 states.

State TCAP Results Show Substantial Growth

Individual Student Data Releases in July

NASHVILLE (June 24) — The Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) released the 2025-26 Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) state-level results on Wednesday, showing growth in academic proficiency among students statewide.

Third grade student achievement reached its highest level since at least 2017 in English Language Arts (ELA), and fourth graders also made substantial proficiency gains in mathematics.

These statewide results include exams in English Language Arts (ELA), mathematics and social studies, but do not include science, which is in a standard-setting year.

“Tennessee’s strategic investments in education have led to promising progress for students in multiple subjects and grade levels,” said Governor Bill Lee. “As we advance our efforts to ready students for success both in school and in life,

Tennessee remains dedicated to supporting teachers and empowering families through diverse pathways to achievement, ensuring every student has an opportunity to succeed.”

See the 2025-26 state-level TCAP highlights:

English Language Arts (ELA)

- 3.2 percentage point increase from last year’s proficiency rate for third grade.
- 2.7 percentage point increase from last year’s proficiency rate for eighth grade.
- 3.8 percentage point increase from last year’s proficiency rate in English II.

Math

- 3.6 percentage point increase from last year’s proficiency for fourth grade.
- 5.6 percentage point increase from last year’s Geometry proficiency for high school.

Social Studies

- 11.4 percentage point increase statewide since 2019.
- 3.4 percentage point increase from last year’s proficiency for sixth grade.
- 3.0 percentage point increase from last year’s proficiency for seventh grade.
- 3.8 percentage point in-

crease from last year’s proficiency for U.S. History.

In July, individual student data will be available in the TCAP Family Portal. Families can use the portal to obtain additional information to better understand their students’ individual score reports and the next steps for supporting their students’ academic progress.

During a special legislative session in 2021, Governor Bill Lee and the General Assembly enacted the Tennessee Literacy Success Act and the Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act, which ensured that students would recover from post-pandemic learning loss. Tennessee students have surpassed prior TCAP proficiency rates across content areas as schools continue to focus on learning acceleration.

Tennessee has invested in strong student supports, such as early literacy training, summer learning camps and high-dosage tutoring, along with ongoing professional learning opportunities for educators, all of which have supported year-over-year gains in student proficiency.



Construction Begins on Paris to Murray Road Widening Project

HENRY COUNTY (June 23) — Construction on the SR 54 widening in Henry County is underway. TDOT held a ceremonial groundbreaking in Henry County on Tuesday, June 23 to kick off work on the section from Howard Road to the Kentucky state line.

The entire project will widen SR 54 to five lanes from north of Paris (the end of the current 5-lane section) to the Kentucky state line. Upgrades to this roadway will also improve traffic flow and make it easier for drivers to access the inter-

state. This is all part of a larger plan to create a safer, more efficient link between Henry County and Murray, Kentucky.

The Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT), in partnership with the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), plans to construct improvements on State Route 54 (US 641) in Henry County. Current plans call for SR 54 (US 641) to be widened to five lanes from north of Paris (the end of the current 5-lane section) to the Kentucky state line. Due

to the size of the proposed improvements, this project has been split into two segments. The southern segment begins near Smith Road (north of Paris) and ends near Howard Road (north of Puryear).

Improvements along the SR 54 (US 641) corridor will coordinate with updates to US 641 in Kentucky, provide safe and efficient linkage between Henry County and Murray, and improve passenger vehicle and freight connectivity with the interstate system.



Above, A subset of the talented musicians of the Jackson Symphony performed on the steps of the Carroll County Courthouse on June 23. Below, The Court Square streets were closed as the Jackson Symphony performed on Tuesday, June 23.



Jackson Symphony Concert Held On Huntingdon’s Court Square

HUNTINGDON (June 23) — The community gathered for an unforgettable evening of live music as The Jackson Symphony presented “Symphony on the Move” on Tuesday, June 23 at 6:30 p.m. This free, family-friendly outdoor concert was open to the public and brought world-class music directly into the heart of the community.

The instrumentalists included Dr. Keith Herris of McKenzie as keyboardist, James Shields on bass guitar, Aaron Brock on guitar, Doug Owens on saxophone, and Joshua Carswell as the vocalist. This group of musicians have nine performances as a small ensemble and also perform with the larger Jackson Symphony.

Patrons gathered on the street in front of the Carroll County Courthouse to enjoy the music.

Set in a relaxed, open-air setting, guests brought lawn chairs to settle in for an evening of music under the summer sky. A food truck was available on-site throughout the performance.

The evening featured a special performance by acclaimed vocalist Josh-

ua Carswell, known for his dynamic stage presence, expressive tenor voice, and genre-defying original work.

With a decade of touring experience and multiple vocal honors, Carswell continued to be recognized for his ability to connect deeply with audiences through both power and intimacy.

This event was free and open to the public, offering a vibrant celebration of music, community, and summer evenings shared together.

For more information, visit DixiePAC.net.



We Will Be Closed on Friday, July 3!

McKenzie, Tennessee

THE BANNER

Paris Landing State Park Opens Tactile Trail

BUCHANAN (June 25) — Paris Landing State Park has opened a tactile trail for visitors who are blind or have low vision — the latest step in a commitment to accessibility at Tennessee State Parks.

The trail features a guide rope and a wooden, white cane-detectable rail along the loop. Visitors can enjoy the senses of touch, hearing and smell, with birds chirping and the smell of a native plant garden, plus oak and hickory trees. In wetter months, the flow of a small creek can be heard, moistening the earth and enhancing the natural scent of rocks and mosses.

“This trail is for all visitors,” said Christa Davidson, interpretive ranger at the park. “Some visitors may assume parts of the park won’t be accessible for everybody,

so we want to assure them that the park is ready to serve them.”

The trail, a 0.1-mile loop with a natural surface, is slightly sloped, so it feels like a hiking experience but is not strenuous. It features interpretive panels along the way, and in the bottom right corner of each panel are tactile elements described by audio. The trail has a shaded, wooden deck with seating next to the creek, built by funds from the support group Friends of Paris Landing and obtained through a grant from Henry County Helping Hands.

The park won an Award of Excellence for the trail at this year’s Tennessee Association of Museums Conference in the Permanent Exhibit category. Davidson, park maintenance staff, volunteers, and members of

Interpretive Programming and Education at Tennessee State Parks worked together to make the trail as accessible as possible. The trail will evolve as needs arise.

“All visitors should have the same experience at our state parks, and this is an exciting new feature at Paris Landing,” said Ryan Jolley, accessibility coordinator for Tennessee State Parks. “The park has numerous accessibility features, so we want everyone to enjoy it in every way.”

Other accessibility features at Paris Landing State Park include all-terrain wheelchairs, adult-sized changing tables and a colorblind viewfinder that is wheelchair-friendly. The visitor center, picnic areas and a fishing pier are all wheelchair-accessible amenities.

UT Martin Names Local Students To Spring Chancellor’s Honor Roll

MARTIN (June 24) — The outstanding academic achievements of undergraduate students at the University of Tennessee at Martin have been honored with publication of the Spring 2026 Chancellor’s Honor Rolls for the College of Agriculture and Applied Sciences, College of Business and Global Affairs, College of Education, Health, and Behavioral Sciences, College of Engineering and Natural Sciences and the College of Humanities and Fine Arts.

To be eligible for the Chancellor’s Honor Roll recognition at UT Martin, a student must take at least 12 hours of credit (pass-fail courses are not included) and achieve a 3.2 (B) grade point average based on a 4.0 scale. Students can make the Chancellor’s Honor Roll with honors (3.2 through 3.49), high honors (3.5 through 3.79) or highest honors (3.8 through 4.0).

Atwood — Hannah B. Fowler, Highest Honors; Lindsay M. Gardner, Highest Honors; Allison R. Giles, High Honors; Mackenzie S. Lusk, Highest Honors; Angus O. McCoy, High Honors; Chloe J. McPherson, Highest Honors; William C. Murray, Honors; Erin L. Norman, Highest Honors; Alexis M. O’Neal, Highest Honors.

Bruceton — Taylor L. Anthony, High Honors; Brilynn C. Hampton, High Honors; Anna G. Kee, Highest Honors; Casey J. Walker, Honors.

Buena Vista — Lucy J. Heuring, Honors; Wyatt L. Sanders, Honors.

Cedar Grove — Amie L. Autrey, Highest Honors; Claire B. Bradley, Honors; Noah B. Hickman, Highest Honors; Madelyn F. Hughes, Honors; Spencer J. Kee, Highest Honors, Lakyn D. Mitchell, Honors.

Clarksburg — Jasmine E. Bailey, High Honors

Hollow Rock — Nevaeh S. Davis, High Honors; Spencer M. Ervin, Highest Honors Addison K. Hampton, Highest Honors; Brandon A. Rogers, High Honors.

Huntingdon — Aubrey J. Abbott, Highest Honors; Libby C. Autry, Highest Honors; Brayden I. Bales, High Honors; Lainey C. Bales, Highest Honors; Graham H. Bartholomew, Highest Honors; Jaxon B. Bennett, Highest Honors; Juan F. Bernal, Highest Honors; Maggie E. Berry, Honors; Delaney A. Byars, High Honors; Easton L. Byars, High Honors; Austin K. Byrd, Highest Honors; Ava R. Canovan, High Honors; Carter P. Coleman, Highest Honors; Lauren G. Colvett, Highest Honors; Jace J. Crossett, High Honors; Kelby M. Crossno, High Honors; Alyssa J. Dearman-Shankel, Honors; Nicholas W. Douglas, Highest Honors; Austin C. Ezell, High Honors; Tess I. Foley, Honors; Karlie R. Foster, Honors; Christian W. Freeman, Highest Honors; Seth G. Hatchett, Highest Honors; Charles T. Johnson, High Honors; Colton A. King, Honors; Hannah K. King, Highest Honors; Natalie E. Kreuz-

iger, High Honors; Arwen E. Kurz, Honors; Ellia G. Lewis, Highest Honors; Ellis J. Lewis, Honors; Benjamin B. Livingston, Honors; Mary M. Mann, High Honors; Lydia M. O’Bryant, High Honors; Kaleb J. Pearson, Honors; Kaley Pearson, Honors; Ethan M. Ramsey, Honors; Laney R. Rhodes, High Honors; Emma G. Ross, Highest Honors; Josie C. Sanders, Highest Honors; Margaret A. Singleton, Highest Honors; Sophie Singleton, High Honors; Grace E. Smothers, High Honors; Noah R. Smothers, High Honors; Alexis C. Stevens, Highest Honors; Jesse E. Stokes, High Honors; Jacob W. Sullivan, Highest Honors; James P. Tippitt, High Honors; Sydney M. Vinson, High Honors; Brady T. Warbritton, Highest Honors; Arianna E. Wheeler, High Honors; William A. Woods, Highest Honors.

McKenzie — Kyla F. Beveridge, Highest Honors; Braden N. Birmingham, High Honors; Bobby A. Bush, Highest Honors; Jackson B. Cassidy, High Honors; Maddox A. Clark, High Honors; Rachel L. Culver, Highest Honors; Andra G. Herrin, High Honors; Destiny N. Huitzache, Highest Honors; Aubrey G. Jackson, Highest Honors; Clara I. Kallaos, Highest Honors; Carter M. Kee, Honors; Nathan H. Lease, Honors; Annabelle N. Medford, Honors; Cherish A. Moore, Honors; Jayson M. Ritz, Honors; Laila G. Scott, Honors; Olivia P. Steen, Honors; Lillyann G. Sumrok, Highest Honors; Tate P. Surber, Highest Honors; Joshua D. Sutton, Honors; Sierra P. Tyler, Highest Honors; Connor M. Viana, High Honors; Maggie C. Walker, Honors; Stafford Roditis, Highest Honors; Jaylie N. Singleton, High Honors; Katie L. Chesser, High Honors.

Trezevant — Sarah C. Browning, High Honors; John C. Crouse, Honors; Sondra K. Hilt, Highest Honors; Bonnie E. Nance, Highest Honors.

Westport — Seth Edwards, Highest Honors; Ashlyn G. Smith, Highest Honors; Angela Storey, Highest Honors; Megan G. Wood, Highest Honors; Morgan G. Wood, Highest Honors.

Yuma — Sarah C. Caruthers, High Honors; Chloe R. Crum, High Honors; Marley M. Scott, High Honors.

Living at Lakeside News

COURTESY OF SHEILA WILLIS

Nights on Broadway kicked off their summer concerts, and residents kicked up their heels as we joined a huge group of fans to hear the Flash-back Band. We have already made our plans to be there in July. We had our Errand Day, which had us going in all directions from Huntingdon Walmart, Save A Lot, Dollar General and Dollar Tree in McKenzie and then down Highway 124 to the Amish Store and through the country to some produce stands. We went to the Monday morning Breakfast Club at Hometown Clinic, where we discovered a new favorite among the group: balloon volleyball. It kept us all laughing and was a fun way to get some exercise. Our next project is a patriotic craft, so keep an eye on our Facebook page for upcoming pictures.

We had two other outings planned, but the rain had other plans. We needed the rain and enjoyed all the lush greenery and our flowers.

If you know anything about Lakeside, you know we enjoy time on our front porch enjoying the fresh air and maybe bomb pops on National Bomb Pop Day. We enjoyed the treat, and some people even enjoyed two. I’m not naming names.

The ladies had some fun in the kitchen this past month. We made four types of fudge on National Fudge Day: peanut butter, strawberry, caramel and chocolate.

On National Éclair Day, we made four chocolate éclair cakes for dessert the next day. It was hard to not dive right in. They looked and smelled so yummy. In the fridge for an overnight stay was the final step of our recipe before everyone dug into the desserts the next day!

Our dads hit it out of the park with a baseball-themed tribute to celebrate Father’s Day. We played a fun baseball game. Even the visiting kids got



James and Nellie Wright celebrated their 77th anniversary in June. Submitted photo

in on the action. Thomas Crawford was our MVP. He won a huge gift basket for taking first place, and Frank Lacey won in the kiddos’ round. Each gentleman received a baseball drink holder and a Sprite; a baseball box filled with cracker jacks and a bat and ball keychain. We had a scrumptious lunch of grilled bologna by Mark Stafford and pulled pork from the annual Rotary fundraiser. We presented our roster, read a poem and said a prayer for all dads. On Father’s Day we had several more children join, and our kitchen crew served up a feast for everyone to enjoy.

On National Go Fishing Day residents had a fishing tournament to see who could catch the most fish. After four rounds of magnetic fishing, Lonnelle McMillen had the biggest fish tale to tell, winning Goldfish — the edible kind.

A few vendors stopped by to share some information. Sarah Pitcher from Baptist Hospital shared information regarding heart health. Each resident received a stress relief squeezey and pamphlets to refer to for keeping a healthy heart. Becky with Cherrywood Post Acute returned from a recent conference in Las Vegas and thought she would see how our residents would

do against her in Blackjack. Residents beat her best two out of three and all the chips — potato chips, that is.

On National Social Media Day, a few students came to assist residents with any phone care wishes — for example, making fonts bigger, setting ring tones and helping set up Facebook so residents can see all the pictures from Lakeside events and share with their family and friends. We all agreed technology is for the young, but our residents are doing a pretty good job of keeping up with the times.

Jackson, Tenn., hosted the Miss America Volunteer program, and residents cheered on Meghan Poore who had come to visit us during her reign as she represented Tennessee. She did a fabulous job, but, in the end it was Miss Texas Volunteer who took home the crown.

We celebrated six birthdays: Ruth Turner, Mary Lacey, Marilyn Ward, Sue Smith, Joan Gibson and Barbara Harrison. One of our couples, James and Nellie Wright, celebrated 77 years of wedded bliss. We also welcomed a new resident to the Lakeside family, Juanita McCord.

We look forward to what all July will have to offer as we celebrate America’s 250th birthday.

Until next time...

Op-Ed: Tennessee Department of Veterans Official Touts New Resource

“Tennessee’s Veterans Have a New Front Door. Help Us Make Sure They Find It.”

BY NICHOLAS J. ATWOOD
Director of Military & Veteran Initiatives

Tennessee is home to more than 430,000 veterans. They live in every one of our 95 counties—in the cul-de-sacs of Williamson County, the river towns along the Mississippi, and the hollers of East Tennessee. They are our neighbors.

And too many of them do not know what they’ve earned—or where to begin looking for it.

That is the gap our new statewide resource, the Veterans Connect Portal, is built to close.

Announced this month by Governor Bill Lee and Tennessee Department of Veterans Services Commissioner Tommy Baker, the portal pulls together—in one trusted place—the employment, healthcare, housing, education, and community resources that veterans and their families qualify for across the state. Today, those resources are scattered across federal agencies, state offices, county service officers, and a patchwork of nonprofits. The idea behind the Portal is simple: one front door, many rooms.

The state can create the infrastructure, but only the people and institutions across Tennessee can make sure it reaches the people who need it most.

That is not a courtesy line. It is the central operational reality of an initiative like this.

A new URL does not, on its own, reach the 71-year-old Vietnam veteran in Hawkins County who always reads the weekly paper at the diner on Saturday morning. His local paper does. His pastor does. His VFW post does.

Tennessee is lucky to have strong local networks. Churches, civic groups, veteran organizations, local papers and community leaders often become the trusted bridge between people and the support systems surrounding them. That kind of trust cannot be manufactured from a state office, but it can help ensure veterans and military families actually find the help available to them.

From sharing news about a new VA benefit or a mobile clinic stopping in a rural county to reminding a surviving spouse to file for benefits she did not realize she qualified for, communities make a difference.

So to the organizations, local leaders and Tennesseans willing to help, I have three asks—if you’ll indulge a state official making them.

First, share the link.

Place TNVeteransConnect.tn.gov on the inside front page of every paper that can spare the inches. It belongs in church bulletins, high school football programs, and the corkboards in coffee shops. A resource that nobody can find is, functionally, a resource that doesn’t exist.

Second, make veterans issues part of regular community news—not just bi-annual features.

Memorial Day and Veterans Day produce thoughtful tributes; they do not,

on their own, change outcomes. Sharing veterans’ stories—a county service officer, a VFW post commander, a chaplain, a military spouse, or a young vet who has navigated the system—can dramatically expand awareness.

The Tennessee Department of Veterans Services can also serve as a resource for story ideas, source connections, data and more.

Third, hold us accountable.

Public resources improve when communities expect them to work. Are calls being returned? Are the verified providers in the portal showing up for the veterans they’re matched with? Are the Veteran Service Organizations and local agency partners actually using the coordination tools the state has equipped them with—and are rural counties feeling as connected as the metros?

We expect, and welcome, that scrutiny. Our veterans deserve nothing less.

Tennessee earned the name Volunteer State for a reason, and we have carried it with pride for more than two centuries. Launching Veterans Connect on Armed Forces Day was a fitting nod to that history.

The work of connecting a veteran to the care they earned is rarely glamorous. It is granular, local and built through one conversation at a time—and it cannot be done from Nashville alone.

A web address does not change a life. A trusted neighbor, pastor, editor or friend pointing someone toward it just might.

Help us be that connection.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE CASE NO: 2026PA104

ESTATE OF: TIMOTHY RAY VOLNER, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Notice is hereby given that on the **11TH** day of **JUNE, 2026** Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of **TIMOTHY RAY VOLNER** deceased, who died **DECEMBER 10TH, 2025**, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk & Master of Carroll County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required by law to file the same with the Clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

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

This 11TH day of JUNE, 2026.

THIS NOTICE WILL RUN TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

FILE CLAIMS IN TRIPPLICATE WITH:

KENNETH TODD - CLERK & MASTER

99 Court Square, Suite 105, Huntingdon, TN 38344

MICHAEL WAYNE VOLNER, Executor/Administrator

STEPHEN H. BYRD, Attorney

KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master

A561/R27742/25-2

HAPPY

Independence

DAY

★ ★ ★

We Will Be Closed on Friday, July 3!

THE McKenzie Tennessee BANNER

Marriage Licenses

Hunter Remington Scott, 20, Huntingdon, to Helen Alivia Perry, 22, Yuma.

Ashley Alane Patterson, 38, Huntingdon, to Micheal Wayne Horton, 38, Huntingdon.

Cade Braxton Crews, 23, Huntingdon, to Macey Elizabeth Culbreath, 24, Huntingdon.

Angel Elayne Furst, 22, Buena Vista, to Fischer-Blake Hayden Wortham, 25, Buena Vista.

Carter Benton Cary, 23, Huntingdon, to Anna Claire Batte, 23, Huntingdon.

Property Transfers

Thomas Romanano Morris as executor to The Testamentary Trust for Thomas Stephen Morris and others in District 6.

Daniel and wife Cayce Brinkley to Karla and husband Jeffrey Atchley in District 11.

Jacob R. and wife Kaitlyn W. Fussell to Bryan M. and wife Jessica H. Merrick in District 9.

42 Investments Properties, LLC to St. Peter, LLC in District 16.

Martin L. Jr. and wife Lisa A. Batte to Robert J. and wife Morgan B. Spring in District 16.

Morgan Brittany and husband Robert Springer to SP Investment Properties, LLC in District 11.

Middle Road Farms, Inc. to Middle Road Farms Partnership in District 21.

Diebold Enterprises LLC to A & W Management LLC in District 4.

Tabbys Properties, LLC to Hidden Dunes, GP. No district listed.

Brian Padilla to Bryan Keniel Catala in District 22.

George Anthony Ringold to George Anthony Ringold and others. No district listed.

Joey Darnall to Keaton M. Rogers and others in District 11.

William McElroy, trustee of the Camp Tyson Road Trust to Robert "Bobby" and wife Cindy Gaylord in District 4.

Joey Darnall to Keaton M. Rogers and others in District 11.

Classic Country Land LLC to Thomas Joseph and wife Micki M. Dulin-Riggins in District 5.

Morgan Davidson to Marie Davidson Winstead in District 2.

William and wife Colleen Lind to Pecan 2025, LLC in District 4.

Marquis Endeavors LLC to Henderson Family Property, LLC in District 4.

Ricky Maness to Bruce Allen Jr. and wife Teresa Johnson in District 11.

Wanda L. Crossett to Wanda Pearson Crossett as trustee. No district listed.

James T. Hill to Elizabeth Dawn Ballard in District 12.

James T. Hill to Elizabeth Dawn Ballard in District 12.

Christy Michele McGinnis to Frank Paul McGinnis Jr. in District 16.

Frank P. and wife Christy M. McGinnis to Frank P. McGinnis Jr. in District 16.

Christy Michele McGinnis to Frank P. McGinnis Jr. in District 22.

Carroll County General Sessions Court Report

HUNTINGDON (June 24) — The following cases were heard in Carroll County General Sessions Court on June 24.

The following cases were bound over to a grand jury:

Shannon Nathaniel Ellis, South Forrest Avenue, Camden, bound over, Evading Arrest; bound over, DUI: First Offense; bound over, Implied Consent – Enhancement Only; bound over, Open Container.

Thomas K. Schultz, Bayberry Drive, Jackson, Tenn., bound over, Financial Responsibility Law; bound over, Display of Registration Plates.

Thomas K. Schultz, Bayberry Drive, Jackson, Tenn., bound over, Driving While License Suspended; bound over, Meth – Mfg., Deliver, Sell, Possess with Intent; bound over, Possession of Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia Uses and Activities; bound over, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange; bound over, Schedule V Drugs: Mfg, Deliver, Sell, Possess – Consp.

Trace C. Swearingen, Meadow Drive, Lexington, Tenn., bound over, Reckless Endangerment – Vehicle/Felony.

Trace C. Swearingen, Meadow Drive, Lexington, Tenn., bound over, Reckless Endangerment – Vehicle/Felony; bound over, Evading Arrest.

Trace C. Swearingen, Meadow Drive, Lexington, Tenn., bound over, Reckless Endangerment – Vehicle/Felony.

The following cases resulted in a guilty plea or finding:

Austin B. Bohanan, Feather Ridge Road, Lexington, Tenn., guilty, Failure to Appear, no fine, two days, payment through clerk's office, sentence shall run consecutive to 26-CR-107.

George Allen Burpee, Mark 1 Drive, Henry, guilty – lesser charge, Vehicle Registration – Improper Use, no fine, 30 days, unsupervised probation for sentence, payment arrangements through clerk's office; dismissed, Driving While License Suspended; dismissed, Financial Responsibility Law.

James Randall Carter, Republican Grove Road, Atwood, guilty, Probation Violation – Booked, no fine, two months, supervised probation, probation extended two months, placed on call-in status.

Charlie A. Davis, Jr., Highway 79 South, Trezevant, guilty, Probation Violation – Booked, no fine, four months, supervised probation for 30 days, probation extended four months.

Travis C. Davis, Bunn School Road, Henry, guilty – lesser charge, DUI: First Offense, \$350 fine, 11/29, supervised probation until paid in full and compliant, minimum 90 day balance, unsupervised balance of sentence, alcohol drug evaluation and recommendation, cannot drive in Tennessee for one year, ignition interlock, sentence may be served on consecutive weekends, report to serve July 3 at 8 p.m.; dismissed, Open Container.

Shannon Nathaniel Ellis, South Forrest Avenue, Camden, guilty, Probation Violation – Booked, no fine, 11/29, time-served credit 14 days.

Andeshrea Nicarol Fuller, Timber Ridge Road, Lexington, Tenn., guilty, Probation Violation – Booked, no fine, three months, supervised probation for balance, accepted to Jackson Recovery Court for one year, shall complete Recovery Court as condition of probation through Madison County, shall pay all costs and supervision fees, will give monthly updates to probation by phone.

Kimberkyn Ann Goff, Ancore Club Road, Hornsby, Tenn., guilty – lesser charge, Drivers to Exercise Due Care, no fine, 30 days, unsupervised probation for sentence, payment arrangements through clerk's office.

Cody Edward Noah, Bluebird Lane, Huntingdon, guilty – lesser charge, Driving While License Canceled – 2nd or Subsequent, \$150 fine, 11/29, supervised probation for 11/29, consecutive to current probation must get valid Tennessee driver's license when eligible, unsupervised probation after all conditions satisfied.

Huntingdon.

Angel Elayne Furst, 22, Buena Vista, to Fischer-Blake Hayden Wortham, 25, Buena Vista.

Carter Benton Cary, 23, Huntingdon, to Anna Claire Batte, 23, Huntingdon.

Christy Michele McGinnis to Frank McGinnis in District 16.

Christy Michele McGinnis to Frank P. McGinnis Jr. in District 22.

Christy Michele McGinnis to Frank P. McGinnis Jr. in District 22.

Christy Michele McGinnis to Frank P. McGinnis Jr. in District 22.

Christy Michele McGinnis to Frank P. McGinnis Jr. in District 22.

Christy Michele McGinnis to Frank P. McGinnis Jr. in District 16.

Christy Michele McGinnis to Frank P. McGinnis Jr. in District 4.

Christy Michele McGinnis to Frank P. McGinnis Jr. in District 22.

Christy Michele McGinnis to Frank P. McGinnis Jr. in District 16.

Christy Michele McGinnis to Frank P. McGinnis Jr. in District 4.

Christy Michele McGinnis to Frank P. McGinnis Jr. in District 16.

Christy Michele McGinnis to Frank P. McGinnis Jr. in District 22.

Christy Michele McGinnis to Frank P. McGinnis Jr. in District 4.

James D. and wife Georgia L. Brown to Phil Lyle and wife Tina Marie Brown in District 16.

Dillon B. and Casey B. Drewry to Dillon B. Drewry and others in District 22.

O.P.E. Corp. to Darryl L. and wife Alene J. Ball in District 22.

Cody Edward Noah, Bluebird Lane, Huntingdon, guilty, Probation Violation – Booked, no fine, 10 days, supervised probation for balance of probation, report to jail June 26 at 6 p.m., consecutive to prior charge.

The following cases were dismissed:

Thomas K. Schultz, Bayberry Drive, Jackson, Tenn., dismissed, Driving While License Revoked; dismissed, Vehicle Registration; dismissed, Financial Responsibility Law; dismissed, Drivers to Exercise Due Care.

Stephanie Waynick, Steam Mill Fairy Road, Jackson, Tenn., dismissed, Failure to Appear.

Stephanie Waynick, Steam Mill Fairy Road, Jackson, Tenn., dismissed, Probation Violation – Booked.

The following cases were rescheduled:

Alexander Neal Gilliam, Skyler L. Hays, Toni Gail Pearson, Blake Speer.

Carroll County Sheriff's Reports

Theft of Firearm — On June 17, Deputy Jeremy Smith responded to a residence on Highway 22 in Yuma after a complainant reported a handgun had been stolen from a safe.

The complainant advised that he did not know when the firearm was taken or who may have stolen it. The missing firearm was described as a Glock 17 Gen 4 9mm handgun with an estimated value of \$500.

The firearm was entered into NCIC as stolen.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Theft Investigation — On June 18, Deputy Heather Townes responded to Equipment & Acquisition Co. in Yuma regarding an online purchase that was never received.

The business reported purchasing a diesel particulate filter through an eBay seller identified as HD Trucking Logistics LLC. Company representatives communicated with the seller through eBay, text messages and Cash App while arranging shipment of the part.

Tracking information initially showed the shipment originating in Glendale, Ariz., but later indicated it had been dropped off at a UPS store in Dallas, Texas. When the package arrived, employees discovered it contained only an envelope with a photograph of the ordered part rather than the diesel particulate filter.

After contacting eBay, the business was advised the seller had provided documentation claiming the package had been delivered. However, eBay also noted the delivered package's weight was inconsistent with the item purchased, as the ordered part should have weighed between 150 and 160 pounds.

The business also reported paying approximately \$300 in shipping through Cash App before the payment was later returned for unknown reasons. The ordered part, valued at approximately \$2,093, has not been received, and the business has not recovered its funds.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Aggravated Assault, Domestic Assault — On June 19, Deputy Heather Townes responded to a residence on Church Street in Trezevant after receiving 911 text messages reporting an armed domestic disturbance.

Deputies made contact with the victim, who was visibly shaken, breathing heavily and crying. The victim reported Karmen Lincoln, 55, of Huntingdon, had threatened days earlier that the victim would

"wake up with a gun to her head as it was getting blown off," and, on the day of the incident, allegedly entered the victim's bedroom, pointed a firearm at the victim, and made additional threats. The victim told deputies she was afraid to call 911 because she feared the defendant would hear the call.

Deputies attempted to contact Lincoln at the residence without success. A neighbor later contacted Lincoln by phone, but she refused to return to speak with deputies. After later speaking with Deputy Mark Boaz, Lincoln came to the Carroll County Sheriff's Office, where she was taken into custody.

During the investigation, the victim also reported that Lincoln had made repeated threats over the previous several days, took the victim's cellphone, acted as though she was going to strike the victim with a cross figurine, and removed the victim's belongings, including the bed, from the bedroom, forcing the victim to sleep on the floor.

Lincoln was charged with aggravated assault and domestic assault.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Confidence Scam — On June 23, a Huntingdon resident arrived at the Sheriff's Office and reported losing \$990 in a phone scam.

The complainant reported receiving a call from someone claiming to be "Deputy Anthony Dixon" with the Carroll County Sheriff's Office, who falsely stated the complainant had missed federal jury duty and that warrants had been issued for his arrest. The caller instructed the complainant that the warrants could be placed on hold by posting bond.

Believing the call to be legitimate, the complainant withdrew cash from a local bank in several transactions totaling \$1,000 before being directed to make electronic payments. After a Bitcoin kiosk was unavailable, the caller instructed the complainant to complete a Walmart money transfer totaling \$990.

When the caller attempted to persuade the complainant to complete a second transaction, a Walmart employee became suspicious and refused to process it. The complainant then told the caller he would accept being arrested rather than send additional money.

The complainant's wife also received a call from the scammer requesting her online banking information to secure her husband's release, but she refused and contacted her husband.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Found Property — On June 22, Deputy McClure conducted a traffic stop on a Ford Focus on Highway 77 near Hollow Rock after observing expired registration, a defective headlight and a defective brake light.

The driver was identified as Linda Scott, 59, of Huntingdon. During the stop, deputies located a prescription bottle containing medication prescribed to another individual.

Scott told deputies she and the prescription owner were friends and that the medication had been accidentally left inside her vehicle. Deputies secured the prescription medication for safekeeping and advised Scott that the owner could retrieve it from the Carroll County Sheriff's Office.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

CARROLL COUNTY BEER BOARD

NOTICE

The Carroll County Beer Commission has received an application for a beer permit for JLH Golf Group LLC DBA Carroll Lake Golf Club. Application is for on-premises consumption.

The business is located at 1305 Carroll Lake Road, McKenzie, TN 38201.

The business is bounded north by Michael Stafford, Bethel University, Joe Walker, east by Robbie Barker Life Estate, James A. Smith, James H Smith and Brenda Smith, Ryan Alan Frazier, William Chuck Gaskins and Cindy F. Gaskins, Matthew C. Aird Trust and Misty D. Aird Trust, south, by William J. Taylor, William J. Taylor and Melissa Taylor, Jonathan Moody and Jamie Moody, William Thomas Wilson and Stephanie Michelle Wilson, Clayton Nethaway and Christi L. Nethaway, Katlin Renee Otis, Lea R Finley Revocable Trust and Tamara Alyse Cole, Tamara Alyse Cole, Scott Andrew Wilson, Carroll Lake Rd., west by the State of Tennessee (Carroll Lake). A hearing will be held July 8, 2026, at 8 a.m. at the Carroll County Office Complex Conference Room, Huntingdon, TN 38344.

All people who wish to be heard may be present at this time.

Carroll County Beer Board

A7617/25-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE CASE NO: 2026PE101

ESTATE OF: CHARLES ANTHONY WILLIAMS, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Notice is hereby given that on the **5TH** day of **JUNE, 2026** Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of **CHARLES ANTHONY WILLIAMS** deceased, who died **JULY 13TH, 2025**, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk & Master of Carroll County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required by law to file the same with the Clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

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

This **5TH** day of **JUNE, 2026**.

THIS NOTICE WILL RUN TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

FILE CLAIMS IN TRIPLICATE WITH:

KENNETH TODD - CLERK & MASTER

99 Court Square, Suite 105, Huntingdon, TN 38344

GUY WILLIAMS & CHRIS WILLIAMS, Executor/Administrator

W. COLLINS BONDS, Attorney

KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master

A561/R27747/25-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE CASE NO: 2026PE108

ESTATE OF: ELAINE S. WILLIAMS, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Notice is hereby given that on the **12TH** day of **JUNE, 2026** Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of **ELAINE S. WILLIAMS** deceased, who died **MARCH 28TH, 2026**, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk & Master of Carroll County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required by law to file the same with the Clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

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

This **12TH** day of **JUNE, 2026**.

THIS NOTICE WILL RUN TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

FILE CLAIMS IN TRIPLICATE WITH:

KENNETH TODD - CLERK & MASTER

99 Court Square, Suite 105, Huntingdon, TN 38344

MARY ELAINE BROWN, Executor/Administrator

W. KENT JONES, Attorney

KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master

A561/R27743/25-2

Weekly Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. __ chat

5. Statue near the Pyramids

11. A process to change the look

14. Herb

15. Think about excessively

18. Bass vocal part

19. Supreme Allied Cmdr. of NATO

21. A major division of geological time

23. New Zealand parrot

24. Cognitive contents

28. Lump of yarn

29. Atomic #109

30. Let go of

32. Indian title of respect

33. Whereabouts unknown

35. Electronic data processing

36. Drivers' licenses count

39. Snakelike fishes

41. They precede C

42. Popular personal computers

44. Intermediate community stage in ecological succession

46. Wings

47. Indicates position

49. Pleasantly smooth or soft

52. Jeweled headdress

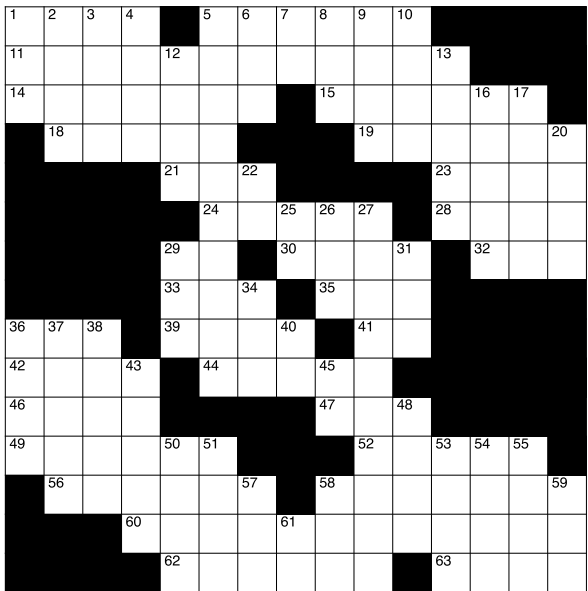
56. In slow tempo

58. __ Falls

60. Reassertions

62. Eras

63. Hyphen



CLUES DOWN

1. Corporate executive

2. A plant used for flavoring food

3. Opinion or belief

4. Sheep in their second year

5. Intensities of sound

6. Indicates support for

7. Expression of laughter

8. OJ trial judge

9. Pointed ends of pens

10. True bugs genus

12. Lawyers argue theirs

13. Body parts

16. Closes tightly

17. World Heritage site in Nigeria

20. Islamic calendar month

22. Commercial

25. "Westworld" actor Harris

26. They __

27. Religious guilds

29. Woman (French)

31. Parts per billion (abbr.)

34. Brew

36. Spiritual leader

37. Indigo bush

38. Burn with a hot liquid

40. Older citizen

43. Scad fish genus

45. Morning

48. Line passing through the center (abbr.)

50. Double S-shaped curve

51. Small, thin person

53. Older

54. Mars crater

55. Humanities

57. Word element meaning ear

58. To the __ degree

59. Residue

61. It cools your home

Week 26

See solution in next week's edition.



Day At The Park Word Search

S R E L A X A T I O N U K W Y E D B D N

P G P F P G X L H K Y M G P F G O S W M

G S M A R C E E A L P E F I L D L I W S

N A P F R I E S P B I M S C C S D B X P

I T H E S K Y S L L Y K N O U S Y I C O

K F T U S C X E E I O S H M G E G K A R

I K R S E H C N E B F M P M A N O I L T

H E S F W W G T M S R X W U Y L M N P S

L T E I X N A I Y Y D L A N E L Y G S U

B S U D K U R F D A W X B I G E X U L X

A C O O I E D I X W T Y Y T N W N S X P

F D B X Y S E N S H R S M Y N L H L L S

K Y A I S Y N R F T E R X B I I P A F C

R S U A M C E H G A E P D G M T Y T M X

I W I F D W I A H P S R H C S G D I D H

T I R E O L M N L E A T N O R O P L D P

R N U L K N O N C O Y L D O G U C S R P

A G F W F H A O W I Y W U E Y T W I N C

I S N T D I T O E I P N B D F S G U A B

L W M M N A T U R E D C E S S A R G E L

Benches

Biking

Community

Fitness

Flowers

Garden

Grass

Hiking

Leisure

Nature

Park

Pathways

Picnic

Playground

Relaxation

Social

Sports

Sunlight

Swings

Trail

Trees

Wellness

Wildlife

Youth

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

JUL

4

1634: The city of Trois-Rivières is founded in New France.

1776: The United States Declaration of Independence is adopted by the Second Continental Congress.

1939: Lou Gehrig informs the crowd at Yankee Stadium that he is retiring from baseball due to his illness.

SUDOKU

WEEK 26

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

Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

See solution in next week's edition.

☺☼☽☾☿♈♉♊♋♌♍♎♏♐♑♒♓♈♉♊♋♌♍♎♏♐♑♒♓

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

CRYPTO FUN

☰☷☹☼☽☾☿♈♉♊♋♌♍♎♏♐♑♒♓♈♉♊♋♌♍♎♏♐♑♒♓

Solve the code to discover words related to parks. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 7 = E)

A. 23 11 15 26 7 23
Clue: Rides for kids

B. 16 24 17 15 11
Clue: Walking path

C. 16 24 7 7 23
Clue: Park fixtures

D. 25 15 7 11 26
Clue: Open outdoor area

Answers: A. slides B. trail C. trees D. field

LETTER MIX-UP

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

PLAYGROUND

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____

9. _____

10. _____

11. _____

12. _____

13. _____

14. _____

15. _____

16. _____

17. _____

18. _____

19. _____

20. _____

Riddle Me This

Why did the chicken cross the playground?

Answer: To get to the other slide!

WORD SCRAMBLE

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

SSRPOT

Answer: Sports

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actress born on July 2, 1990 in Australia. I earned my first acting role shortly after graduating from college, and I went on to play a character on the soap opera "Neighbours." Eventually I found fame in the United States, bringing life to films about a fallen ice skating star and a beloved doll.

Answer: Margot Robbie

Edward Jones

Member SIPC

How much will you need to retire?

Let's explore.

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McKenzie, TN 38201
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> edwardjones.com

A3272/26-1

PUZZLE SOLUTION

Week 25 Crossword Puzzle Solution

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

SUDOKU

SOLUTION WEEK 25

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

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SAWYERS TREE SERVICE: 60' Bucket Truck. Take Down or Prune. Haul Off and Clean Up. Grind Stumps. Licensed and Insured, Free Estimates. Call 731-514-1708. A7061/24-TF

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

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MISCELLANEOUS

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FOR RENT

HOUSES AND APARTMENTS: MCKENZIE AREA. www.mckenzie-homefinders.com 731-352-2255. A1219/44-TF

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Steve Bowden

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QUALITY OFFICE SPACE FOR LEASE — From 430 Sq. Ft. to 3,000 Sq. Ft. Highway 79 Highland Mall, across from the post office. Call 731-352-2189. A5404/44-TF

AUCTIONS

GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT YOUR NEXT AUCTION! Save Time & \$\$\$.
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HAPPY Independence DAY

We Will Be Closed on Friday, July 3!

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McKenzie Housing Authority
JOB OPPORTUNITY

McKenzie Housing Authority is currently accepting applications for the position of Groundskeeper. In this position, you will be responsible for performing a wide range of tasks to ensure the cleanliness, safety, and attractiveness of our community. Experience in groundskeeping is preferred. McKenzie Housing Authority offers a generous benefit package. Applications may be picked up at McKenzie Housing Authority, 22 McDonald Avenue, McKenzie, TN 38201, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.
All applications must be submitted by July 31, 2026.

A473/26-1

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CIA

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A519/14-TF

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Blake Cossey
731-607-8643
Maleah Hollingsworth
731-694-7871

NICKYJOE STAFFORD REAL ESTATE
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Top Left, 17 and Under 5-on-5 Champions Team Hornets included Thomas Howard, Liam Witherspoon, Ian Perez, Davon Webb, Kenden Coleman, Eli Mann and Hunter Ashby. Top Right, 10 and Under 5-on-5 Champions Team Heat included Aiden Phelps, Cole Newsome, Kaden Johnson, Isaac Griffin, Mills Hughes and Janson Carroll. Above Far Left, 17 and Under Free Throw Champion Ronald Stenberg (left) and Hot Shot Champion Lawson Ownby. Above Left, 17 and Under 3-on-3 Champions Team Racers included Kenden Coleman, Davon Webb and Navadius Owens. Above Right, 10 and Under 3-on-3 Champions Team Jayhawks included Alden Pecktol, Easton Bynum, Kaden Johnson and Cannon Kilburn. Above Far Right, 10 and Under Free Throw Champion Max Cross (left) and Hot Shot Champion Lincoln Kendall. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Coach Jeff Britt’s Basketball Camps Develop Youth Talent

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (June 22-24) — The Annual Wildcat Individual Basketball Camp, hosted by Bethel University Men’s Basketball Head Coach Jeff Britt, welcomed dozens of young hoops enthusiasts to campus last week.

The three-day camp began Monday. Campers enjoyed one-on-one instruction from camp staff,

which included Coach Britt, assistant coaches Kyler Barnes and Christopher Beck, Student Coach Garrett Hicks, Wildcat players Ethan Turner, Taylor Stovall and DJ Starr, team manager Hayden Wingo and Bethel alum Ethan French, a teacher and multi-sport coach for Huntingdon schools.

Campers age 10 and under participated in the morning, and those 17 and under were in action in the afternoon. A total of 87

young men from around the region attended the camps. The youth also competed in individual and team events, free throw shooting, hot shots, 3-on-3 and 5-on-5.

The camps concluded Wednesday with 5-on-5 tournaments and an awards ceremony. Each camper received a camp basketball, an instruction book, a certificate and a camp T-shirt.

Coach Britt said, “It is a pleasure to have these

young men on our campus. It is a week to learn but also a week to have fun. The three days are as much fun for us instructors as they are for the campers. I think everyone had a great time. This was an active and fun group to have, and we feel they learned some things to help them enjoy the game even more. We enjoyed having each one of these players on our campus and look forward to seeing them at our games this next season.”

- 10 and Under Camp Winners**
- Free Throw Champion - Max Cross
 - Hot Shot Champion - Lincoln Kendall
 - 3-on-3 Champions - Team Jayhawks: Alden Pecktol, Easton Bynum, Kaden Johnson and Cannon Kilburn
 - 5-on-5 Champions - Team Heat: Aiden Phelps, Cole Newsome, Kaden Johnson, Isaac Griffin, Mills Hughes and Janson Carroll
- 17 and Under Camp Winners**
- Free Throw Champion - Ronald Stenberg
 - Hot Shot Champion - Lawson Ownby
 - 3-on-3 Champions - Team Racers: Kenden Coleman, Davon Webb and Navadius Owens
 - 5-on-5 Champions - Team Hornets: Thomas Howard, Liam Witherspoon, Ian Perez, Davon Webb, Kenden Coleman, Eli Mann and Hunter Ashby
- Coach Britt also hosted team camps earlier this month, with 42 high schools and 33 middle schools attending.



Above, Magician Terry Hedges performs a disappearing coin trick with help from library patron Adelyn Kee. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner Right, Jennifer Thornton of Second Harvest Food Bank reads “Pizza Counting Party” during Wednesday’s Tot Time. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Magic, More at Carroll County Library Events

BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS AND BRAD SAM
banner@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (June 23-24) — Carroll County Library’s summer reading program continued this week with special visits from magician Terry Hedges and Second Harvest Food Bank’s Jennifer Thornton.

Hedges wowed Carroll County Library’s summer reading program participants Tuesday morning with many magic tricks. His presentation revolved around the library’s di-



nosaur-themed summer reading program, “Unearth a Story,” as he walked students through an application to work at his new dino park. The presentation educated students about different dinosaur species while entertaining them with various jokes and magic tricks.

Wednesday’s Tot Time featured Thornton as a guest reader. She is the coordinator for volunteer and community engagement at

Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee-West. Thornton read dinosaur-themed books to the kids and provided a fun craft to wrap up the event. Each young attendee created and decorated his or her own hatching dinosaur egg.

She also encouraged parents to visit secondharvestmidtn.org to either identify food resources in the region or to get involved with Second Harvest’s efforts.

The Carroll County Li-

brary summer reading program continues Wednesday, July 1 with Tot Time featuring Head Start at 10:30 a.m. and Mr. Bond Science Guys at 2 p.m.

The library will be closed Friday, July 3 and Saturday, July 4 for Independence Day.

A program presented by representatives from Natchez Trace State Park is Tuesday, July 7 at 10:30 a.m.



51ST ANNUAL COTTAGE GROVE Freedom Festival



SATURDAY, JULY 4TH, 2026



FIREWORKS DISPLAY

★ ★ ★

★ FREE ADMISSION ★

★ ★ ★

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Turkey/Trap Shoot*
Corner of 140 & Hays Road
Sounding the Tornado Siren will signal the start of the Parade. This will suffice for the July Test.

10:00 AM

Parade – Grand Marshal Leon Bumpus
\$100 First Place for Most Patriotic Float.
\$50.00 2nd Place, \$25.00 3rd Place

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Game Booths Open

- Outside Concessions Open
- Hay Rides Begin
- Cake Walk Begins
- Vendor Booths Open

10:30 AM

Country Store Opens
A dollar a spin for homemade, homegrown and canned farm goods

1:00 PM

Auction

2:00 PM

Fire Boot Throwing Contest, Watermelon Eating Contest, & Cornhole Tournament
Contests are contingent on participation

3:00 PM

Bingo

4:00 PM

DJ / Music

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

The Walker Hill Band LIVE

8:45 PM

50/50 Drawing
(\$1 per ticket, \$50 Minimum prize)

9:00 PM

Fireworks Display









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A7392/25-2

Carroll County Youth Coalition Joined 500 Youth Leaders at the 2026 Tennessee Teen Institute

JACKSON (June 12) — Students from Carroll County, Tenn., joined 300 youth leaders from across the state at the Tennessee Teen Institute. The Tennessee Teen Institute (TTI) is a five-day youth leadership and prevention program sponsored by the Jackson Area Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (JACO). This year marked the 40th Anniversary of the Teen Institute Program in Tennessee. The program addresses teen issues such as bullying, violence, suicide, healthy relationships, human trafficking, distracted driving, teen health, and substance abuse prevention through a five-day, peer-led prevention camp designed to provide teen participants with the skills and education necessary to develop and implement alcohol and drug abuse prevention programs in their own communities. This is a comprehensive program that trains, mobilizes, and empowers youth to prevent the illegal use of alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs and self-destructive behaviors in themselves and their peers. TTI prepares students to not only make positive changes, but to be proud advocates of those changes. Students will have the opportunity to grow and learn as individuals, while



Pictured is Landon Seay, Allison Smith and Khira Smith.

enhancing their leadership abilities. Because TTI is peer-led, teens are given a unique opportunity to have a “voice” in addressing issues important to them. Giving youth some ownership in this type of program is one of the key factors in the success of enforcing a substance free lifestyle.

Held on the University of Tennessee at Martin campus in Martin, Tenn., June 7-12, TTI 2026 hosted approximately 500 teen leaders, adult advisors, and TTI staff. These participants leave motivated not only to make healthy decisions in their own lives, but also committed to work so that others are making healthy decisions in their communities as well.

Mission statement for the Teen Institute Program is: “To empower Tennes-

see’s youth to lead by example and take an active role in bringing about positive changes by giving them the skills, knowledge, and support they need make healthy choices, build positive relationships and live substance free lives.”

The Tennessee Teen Institute is funded in part by grants from TN Department of Health, TN Department of Mental Health Division of Substance Abuse Services, TN Highway Safety Office, and State Farm. JACO is a nonprofit organization funded in part by the State of Tennessee and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

For more information about the Tennessee Teen Institute visit www.tnteeninstitute.net or contact us at tnteeninstitute@jacoa.org.

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