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QUOTE

"Life is the art of drawing without an eraser."

— John W. Gardner

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Left, Nolan Shae Turner, 11. Right, Courtney Stafford Turner with infant, Ella Turner, now 8 years old. Photos courtesy of the Turner and Stafford families.

Vehicular Homicide Claims Life Of Carroll County Mother, Son

BY BRITTANY AND JASON MARTIN

banner@mckenziebanner.com

LEXINGTON (October 18) — A Carroll County woman and her son have died following a head-on collision with an intoxicated driver in Lexington, Tennessee on Wednesday.

Courtney Stafford Turner, 33, was traveling northbound on Broad Street in Lexington, Tennessee with her two children and a friend on Wednesday when a 2002 Dodge van driven by Bayron Gomez-Perez, 25, traveling southbound, crossed into oncoming traffic and struck her 2020 Chevrolet Malibu killing her son, Nolan Shae Turner, 11. Courtney was in critical condition and later died from her injuries.

Her daughter, Ella Turner, 8, was transported to Lebonheur Children's Hospital in Memphis with numerous injuries, but none were considered life-threatening, and

See HOMICIDE on Page 3

LEGACY REMEMBERED

The family members gathered to pay homage to the late Dale Kelley during the dedication ceremony. Pictured (L to R): Tommy Surber (back), Eli Surber, Meredith Surber, Rick Wallace (behind Meredith), Carlene Kelley (center), Amanda Wallace (behind Carlene), Tate Surber (back), Cliff Kelley, Max Kelley (front), Cole Edwards (back), Quinn Kelley and Holly Kelley. Photo by Jason R. Martin/The Banner

Huntingdon Government Complex Named in Memory of Dale Kelley

BY JASON R. MARTIN
jmartin@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (October 19) — The Town of Huntingdon dedicated its government complex building in

memory of long-time mayor and resident Dale R. Kelley on Thursday. A crowd of family and friends joined Huntingdon Mayor Nina Smothers for the dedication of the building. Smothers stated, "Dale R. Kel-

ley left us a history. Today, as we dedicate this building to become the Dale R. Kelley Center, we must

See KELLEY on Page 3

McKenzie Police Officers and Firefighters joined forces to raise funds for their annual Christmas for Kids project.

McKenzie Police, Fire Raise Funds for Kids

McKENZIE (October 21) — The McKenzie Police and Fire Departments worked with Hometown Hangout to raise funds for Christmas for Kids. Firefighters and police officers were on hand taking

part in a meet-and-greet with community members with police vehicles and fire trucks on the scene. They also helped serve and work the carry-out orders. A bounce house and slide were also provided

for the youth. A portion of all dine-in, carry-out, and ice cream shack sales

See POLICE on Page 3

Boo Bash Is Thursday

McKENZIE — On Thursday, October 26, 2023, the City of McKenzie and Bethel University will bring the annual Boo Bash event to the McKenzie town square for the 10th year. The Boo Bash will open with Trunk or Treating at 5:30 p.m. Prizes will be given for the best decorated trunk among the student organizations, businesses, and individuals giving out candy during the Trunk or Treat.

See BOO on Page 3

Carroll County Man Arrested On Tax Evasion

McKENZIE (October 10) — The Special Investigations Section of the Tennessee Department of Revenue conducted the investigation that led to the arrest of 28-year-old Alec Akin. Akin was charged with three counts of tax evasion and one count of theft for filing false documents related to transactions on personal vehicles. "The Department of Revenue strives to promote voluntary compliance of Tennessee's tax laws by educating taxpayers and consistently pursuing criminal sanctions for fraudulent activity," said Revenue Commissioner David Gerregano. "This arrest underscores the department's efforts to ensure a level playing field and a fair administration of Tennessee's tax laws." If convicted, these charges carry a maximum sentence of two years in prison and a fine up to \$3,000 for each count of tax evasion. There is also the possibility of a maximum of four years in prison and a fine up to \$5,000 for class D theft. The department is pursuing the criminal case in cooperation with District

See TAX on Page 3

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Pictured (L to R) Front Row: Pre-K — Trace Baker (HR); Ella Butler and Wiley Bradshaw; Brandy Baumgardner (HR); Janelea Dunn and CJ Martin. Second Row: Kindergarten — Lauren Banuelos (HR); Avery Kate Butler and Oliver Price; Jana Stafford (HR); Aspyr Becerra and Grayson Ownby; Kelly Simmons (HR); Selah Banuelos and Connor Russell; Anita Burden (HR); Unnamed and Scout Sceszny; Lindsey Holt (HR); Mia Norris and Brody Moore; Rachel Hardy (HR); Halle Pierce and Dominic Gordon. Third Row: 1st Grade — Lorrie Brown (HR); Hazel Tippitt and Chase Alexander; Kelsey Brown (HR); Briley Stafford and Jenson Cox; Rachel Edlin (HR); Alexa Ramirez and Kipton Taylor; Chase Barton (HR); Karli Kitner and Wyatt Hartz; Lauren Flannery (HR); Anderson Murphy and Landry Chappell; Ashley Crowell (HR); Brilee Berry and Corbin Fowler. Fourth Row: 2nd Grade — Cari Moore (HR); Layla Jones and Levi Gaskins; Brandy Turman (HR); Ellie Cross and Rildy McClure; Ashley Sellers (HR); Kaylee Olcott and Maddox Ferguson; Sydney Lane (HR); Blair Eldridge and Greyson Lowe; Megan Taylor (HR); Shiloh Campbell and Neyland Hollowell; Emily Bolin (HR); Charlee Pierce and Avery Pruitt. Fifth Row: 3rd Grade — Chris Wall (HR); Maylie Gotshall and Jake Stafford; Allison Winston (HR); Vera Tippitt and Ty Scott; Mary Spivey (HR); Adalynn Anderson and Coby Poore; Josie Brown (HR); Hadley Wilkins and Tripp Hollowell. Sixth Row: 4th Grade — Kristi Brown (HR); Addie Brown and Bo Snider; Courtney Kee (HR); Taylor Little and Cord Wall; Tiffany Smith (HR); Callie Davidson and James Barnhart; Amanda Oakley (HR); Mia Walker and Greyson Wilson. Photo by Jason R. Martin/The Banner

McKenzie Elementary Announces Fall Festival Royalty

The McKenzie Elementary School's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is hosting their annual Fall Festival Fundraiser on Saturday, October 28 from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at McKenzie Elementary School. There is no entry fee and this event is open to the public. There is a Silent Auction full of themed baskets and local business certificates and goodies, a Cake Walk, a Costume Contest and prizes for grades Pre-K-4th, food, sweet treats and games. They will also be crowning the 2023 Fall Festival King and Queen.

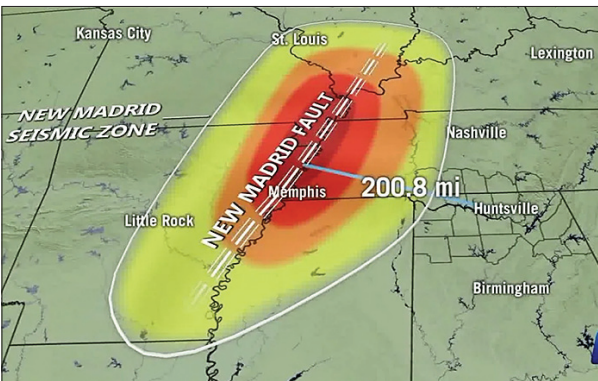
This fundraiser sets the PTO's budget for the year and helps provide the McKenzie Elementary students with playground equipment, educational field trips, donations to the library, choir, and much more.

Shallow Earthquake Hits Northwest Tennessee

DYER COUNTY (October 20) — Friday, an earthquake of 3.3 magnitude occurred at 9:59 p.m. near Dyersburg, Dyer County, Tennessee [11 miles from the epicenter]. The event was reported by the United States Geological Survey (USGS).

On Saturday, 233 people reported to the USGS they felt the quake. The strongest reports came from Missouri's bootheel with reports as far as Jackson, Tenn. Some residents reported a loud boom before feeling the trimmer.

According to preliminary data, the quake was located at a depth of 7 miles. Shallow earthquakes are felt more strongly than



Depicted is the New Madrid Fault Zone which runs along the Mississippi River area through Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas and Mississippi.

deeper ones as they are closer to the surface. No injuries or damages

were reported. Two additional agencies recorded the geological shift.



Above, Kirsten Sass. Right, Kirsten Sass competed in Kailua-Kona Hawaii in the first women's edition of the IRONMAN World Championship.



Kirsten Sass Completes IRONMAN

KAILUA-KONA, HAWAII (October 14) — Kirsten Sass, local triathlon legend and trainer, competed against an elite field of professional triathletes in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii for the first women's edition of the 2023 IRONMAN World Championship.

Prior to the competition, she stated that her top concern was just finishing the competition. She did far better than just finishing, Sass finished 24th in her age division and 168th overall. A full Ironman triathlon is 140.6 miles done across 3 sports: 2.4 mile swim (3,800 meters), 112 mile bike (180 kilometers), and 26.2 mile run (42.16 kilometers).

Her official times were as follows: Swim 1:05:37 - Division Rank 26, Bike 5:28:06 - Division Rank 27, Run 3:51:36 - Division Rank 24, Overall 10:33:40.

In a post thanking her friends and fans, she stated, "First and foremost, thank you to everyone who tracked, watched, and cheered yesterday. You all kept me going and I thought of you every time I crossed a timing mat... 7 weeks before this race, I was taken out by a dog while riding my bike. After skidding across the

pavement on my back and acquiring some impressive road rash and a broken rib, I had to adjust my training and race goals dramatically... on the start line, as I cleared my goggles one last time in preparation for the day - the strap broke... I tucked the one remaining strap under my swim cap, pressed the goggles onto my face and hoped for the best. It was far from ideal, I had to stop numerous times to readjust, and by the time I finished my eyes were so full of saltwater I could barely see, but I made it through.

"My father always dreamed of doing Ironman Hawaii. We were lucky enough to be able to do it together in 2014. I thought about him a lot while I was out there yesterday. I also reflected on how amazing it was to know so many incredible women out there on the course with me, and to know so many people that came to cheer. And I thought of all the people, in so many different places, who were tracking and cheering from afar, staying up later than usual, watching to make sure I made it through. Those thoughts got

me through a lot of tough times out there, and kept me moving forward. Thank you seems inadequate to express my appreciation, but from the bottom of my heart - Thank You."

Sass is a long-time McKenzie native. She graduated in the class of 1997 from McKenzie High School. In 1999, at the urging of her father, Dr. Volker Winkler, she completed her first triathlon. She pursued the sport and currently holds 10 ITU Triathlon World Championship gold medals and 40 National Champion titles in various multisport events in various age divisions.

In 2017, Sass began guiding visually impaired para-triathlete Amy Dixon. Together they earned a spot in the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics.

Sass is a Level 1 Certified USA Triathlon Coach, American Red Cross certified Lifeguard, Lifeguard Instructor, and Water Safety Instructor. She is a Physician Assistant with Christian Family Medicine in Huntingdon, Tennessee, and resides in McKenzie with her husband, Jeff Sass and two children.

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A235/43-2

Pictured (L to R): LaShanda Williams — Chairperson of the McKenzie School Board, Misty Aird, Dr. Justin Barden, Rotary President Jason R. Martin and Vice President Christy Williams.

Rotary Updated About McKenzie Schools

MCKENZIE (October 17) — On Tuesday, Dr. Just Barden, Director of Schools for the McKenzie Special District, spoke to the McKenzie Rotary Club. He spoke proudly about the things taking place at the three schools.

Dr. Barden also provided members with a status update on the all-purpose indoor athletic facility. He said while the exterior is complete, it would be close to

the end of November if not December before all the interior projects are completed.

During a Q&A session, he addressed the possible construction of a new school. Dr. Barden admitted a new school building is necessary in the new future, it will take some time before it comes to fruition. Many steps must be taken towards construction including the possibility of a tax increase.

He alluded to the possibility of the construction of a K-8 facility.

Members also approached Dr. Barden about joining the Rotary Club. He complimented the organization and said he would consider joining at the first of the year.

The McKenzie Rotary Club meets each Tuesday at noon in the Vera Low Enrichment Center at Bethel University.

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Above, Huntingdon Mayor Nina Smothers welcomes the crowd honoring former Mayor Dale Kelley. Right, Many friends and colleagues joined the Kelley family in honoring Dale Kelley. Photos by Jason R. Martin/The Banner



Kelley

...From Front Page

continue working daily to preserve, protect, and grow the future of Huntingdon, Tennessee, for our children and future generations.”

October 19 was the birthday of Mr. Kelley, it was noted as the reason the council meeting was moved up a week. Mayor Smothers added of his legacy, “A lake, a theater, parks for children,

lighted sidewalks, better fire protection, revitalized downtown are only a few of Huntingdon’s legacy from Mayor Kelley.

In remembrance of Kelley, some of his words of wisdom were mentioned: be hesitant in rushing to a judgment; the future of the community rests on its young; community leaders must serve as role models; choose your battles; the most important skill is communication; speak with confidence; always include humor; no good deed goes unpunished; disagreement

is always a part of life, how you respond makes all the difference; always do the right thing; surround yourself with the best people possible for every situation; finding people who share a vision and have the skills and resources to bring ideas to fruition is crucial for achieving progress.

Before the dedication ceremony, the council held its regular monthly meeting. A public hearing relating to the zoning amendment under Ordinance No. 623 was held with no citizens providing

input. The amendment was added to clarify regulations governing travel trailers/recreational vehicles.

The council approved Resolution No. 023-05 authorizing and providing for the financing of the construction of a water facilities project, including authorizing the execution of applications, other necessary documents, and making certain representations, certifications, and pledges of certain revenue in connection with such financing.

In essence, the \$400,000 in loan forgiveness from the State of Tennessee’s Revolving Fund loan in the principal amount of \$2 million will be used to fund water line replacement on Main Street East and the installation of automated meter reading (AMR) equipment.

Lastly, the council approved the request from the police department to transfer the \$18.50 town court cost fee collected per paid citation from Courtware Solutions, Inc.’s monthly records management software system fee

to the fee expense for the new records management system PRMIS.

In other business, Mayor Smothers acknowledged Family Court Awareness Month. She encouraged all residents to support their local communities’ efforts to prevent the harm of children in the hands of family members and to honor and value the lives of children.

The next regular meeting of the Huntingdon Town Council is November 27 at the Dale R. Kelley Center.

Huntingdon Teachers Granted Tenure

Board Policy Adjusts for Medical Leave

HUNTINGDON (October 18) — During Wednesday’s Huntingdon Board of Education meeting, four teachers were granted tenure at the recommendation of Director Dr. Jonathan Kee. The four individuals, Leeah Bergman (HMS Math), Ryan Vincent (HMS History), Lesley White (HMS ELA) and Candice Wilson (HPS Pre-K), meet the requirements from Tennessee’s Department of Education.

The Board amended two policies. Policy 5.305 concerning Family and Medical Leave was amended to include all staff not just certified/licensed staff to be eligible for leave within the “district for the birth, still-

birth or adoption of a newly placed minor child.”

Policy 4.70 concerning Testing Programs was updated allowing high school students to test out of certain courses. Essentially, students receiving a passing score can CLEP out of English IV, Pre-Calculus, World History and Geography, Economics, Personal Finance and Spanish I. Dr. Kee recommended that teachers throughout Carroll County work together creating countywide tests per subject. He added the recommendation that the Carroll County Vocational School should administer the tests to help with test security and integrity.

At the recommendation of the director, the Board agreed to amend the 2024-25 school calendar by moving the September staff development day from Monday to Friday. Students would have

an early dismissal on Thursday, September 12 at 1:30 p.m. Parent-teacher Conferences would be scheduled on Thursday afternoon from 2:30-6:30 p.m. Then the next day would serve as staff development alleviating the stress of a long work day.

The Board was informed the school system was awarded a \$52,000 state grant to be used for school improvements. The funds will be used to improve the phones and intercom system at the primary school. Additional cameras will be installed along with more perimeter door security enhancements.

Curriculum adoption for grades K-2 was tabled until a later date as the staff was still making their decisions.

The next regular meeting of the Huntingdon School Board is November 28 at 7 a.m.

Homicide

...From Front Page

was released on Saturday, her 8th birthday. Mikah Joyner, the other occupant in Courtney’s vehicle, sustained non-life threatening injuries.

Perez is charged with two (2) counts of Vehicular Homicide, eight (8) counts of Vehicular Assault, Driving under the influence, Driving on the right side of the roadway and Violation of Open Container Law.

On October 18, 2023, Lexington Police along with other emergency services entities, responded to the 600 block of North Broad Street regarding a serious injury crash with entrapment. Upon arrival ten (10) persons were discovered injured in the two (2) vehicle crash with a total of twelve (12) occupants.

Nolan Turner, 11, was pronounced deceased at Henderson County Community Hospital.

According to the family, Courtney underwent multiple surgeries including brain surgery and blood transfusions; she also suffered numerous broken bones and a torn artery. She died from her injuries at Skyline TriStar Hospital in Nashville on Sunday, October 22, 2023.

The other injured parties were transported to trauma centers in West and Middle Tennessee. No additional information is currently available regarding their conditions.

The operator of the van, Perez, was released from Skyline Medical Center in Nashville on Saturday, October 21, 2023, and was immediately taken into custody by Henderson County Sheriff’s Deputies. He is currently being held at Henderson County Justice Center with no bond or release date. Perez will be arraigned on October 24, 2023, in Henderson County General Sessions Court.

Overflow Church in McKenzie, where both the Turner and Stafford families actively participate, has stepped up to support the grieving family during this difficult time. Josh Crawford, the Chief of Staff for Overflow Church, expressed the church’s commitment to assist with medical bills and to cover the expenses associated with Nolan’s funeral.

Jesse Turner, father of Nolan and Ella, said “Thank you sincerely for all of the prayers, Ella’s birthday wishes, and kind gestures as we go through this impossible situation.”

After learning of Courtney’s passing, Jesse said, “You may have believed I’m a good dad, but kids need both parents, and I had an amazing coparent. Our marriage ended, but it didn’t take long at all for us to get the hang of putting every single decision we made through the lens of not just what’s best for our kids, but what they’d actually want.

“That meant when we went to the movies and Mom was off, she was invited too. Christmas morning with Santa needed Mom there too, even if it starts so early because Dad wakes everyone up. When Mom



Above, Ella Turner at her 8th birthday party on Saturday, October 21. Below, Courtney Stafford Turner holding her son, Nolan. Photos courtesy of the Stafford and Turner families.



Above, Hometown Hangout was the place to be Saturday night as the community came out to support the local police and fire departments. Below, Fire and police vehicles were on hand for the community to see during the fundraiser.



Police

...From Front Page

were donated to the program.

Fire Chief Brian Tucker stated, “There were mul-

multiple cans placed around for donations, and Drew Beeler texted me later that evening and said there was \$807 raised in donations alone.”

The total amount raised from sales along with donations was \$1,857. Chief

Tucker added, “I would like to thank the Beeler family for setting up and hosting this fundraiser at Hometown Hangout for our Christmas for Kids program. We are planning other fundraisers in the near future.”

Tax

...From Front Page

Attorney Neil Thompson’s Office. Citizens who suspect violations of Tennessee’s revenue laws should call the

toll-free tax fraud hot line at (800) FRAUDTX (372-8389).

The Department of Revenue is responsible for the administration of state tax laws and motor vehicle title and registration laws, as well as the collection of taxes and fees associated with those laws. The Depart-

ment collects around 87 percent of total state revenue. During the 2022 fiscal year, it collected nearly \$20.9 billion in state taxes and fees and more than \$4.3 billion in taxes and fees for local governments. To learn more about the department, visit www.tn.gov/revenue.

Boo

...From Front Page

A costume contest will begin at 6 p.m. on the stage on Banner Row. Prizes will be awarded in the follow-

ing categories: Tiny Terrors (ages 0 to 2 years), Small Spooks (ages 3 to 5 years), Middle Monsters (ages 6 to 9 years), Older Ogres (ages 10 to 14 years), and Fearsome Families.

In addition to these events, participants can enjoy haunted train rides,

photo ops, bounce houses, goblins galore, and more. The City of McKenzie will serve meals consisting of a hot dog, chips, and a drink for \$4. Bethel University will serve make-your-own s’mores and caramel apples for \$3 each. Cash is required for purchases.

HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

It Wasn't Exactly Like Sleepy Hollow...

Mom was not a big proponent of Halloween. She thought it had pagan roots. Or at least, she feared the idea of haunted houses, witches stirring up secret recipes over a burning cauldron, and guys running around wearing that bloody mask with the hatchet sticking into the skull might warp us for life.

In spite of her reservations, she'd dutifully cut out a Lone Ranger mask for me, sew an old bed sheet into a Casper, the friendly ghost, costume for David Mark and send us out into the night. We raced to the nearest house with our little hearts near 'bout beating out of our chests with excitement and anticipation!

It didn't have nothing to do with demons, ghouls, goblins, witches or secret recipes. We were going after the candy! And the adventure of being out "after dark" on our own...

Mrs. Brooks opened the door and greeted us with a smile. "Well, if it isn't the two youngest Colbert boys." She musta had x-ray vision! But it didn't matter. She gave us a handful of miniature Tootsie Rolls and a couple of Snicker Bars.

We rushed across the street to the Webb house. "Good evening, Kesley and David." Now, they might could figure me out with only a mask hiding part of my face. But Dave was completely covered with a sheet. They couldn't see nothing but his eyes!

We went "trick-or-treating" all over town. Of course, there was no tricking. We were immediately recognized at every house! We didn't dare throw an egg, stick a cherry bomb in a mailbox, or yell out any surreptitious incantations... Daddy would've found out about it before

we got back to the house! He would have done some serious incantations on our little rear ends!

The cherry bombs didn't get more important than the candy until we were in junior high. And I'm not going to point fingers here...but Bobby Brewer was the best gunpowder man we had.

You can't believe the confusion a cherry bomb could cause in any kind of crowd. And we didn't always reserve them for Halloween. You could just "get-away" pretty much "scot-free" with firing them off on a night demons, ghouls and such roamed the earth.

The Jaycees had a haunted house uptown. And you'd think it would be kind of chintzy in our small city. But actually, it was quite scary. It was a tent divided into several rooms, they had coffins and ghoulish sounds and smoke circulating throughout. It wasn't for the faint of heart.

We had a Halloween carnival in the high school auditorium. I'm telling you, dart throwing, apple bobbing, musical chairs, cake walks, best costume judging and fishing booths abounded!

The all-time award winning Halloween ride went to our older brother. Let me back up a minute before I get to that story. Leon was five years older than Dave and me. He didn't have to bother with going house to house. He'd just wait till we got home with all our candy and take what he wanted.

He'd have us pour it out on the living room rug and we'd divide it up "evenly." 'Course, he got the Butterfingers, Baby Ruths, and Milk Duds. We got the Sugar Daddy, fireballs, licorice and rock hard peppermint sticks.

The taste of the candy quickly faded...the memories never have.

Leon's Halloween night ride as the headless horseman is still talked about today. He buttoned up Daddy's white dress shirt (saturated with red dye) completely OVER his head, jumped on Nicky Joe Stafford's horse, planning to ride through town scaring the little kids.

Prince was a big horse, and for the most part, very gentle. And he really liked Leon. But he couldn't see that it was Leon getting on him. And Brewer might have accidentally dropped a cherry bomb.

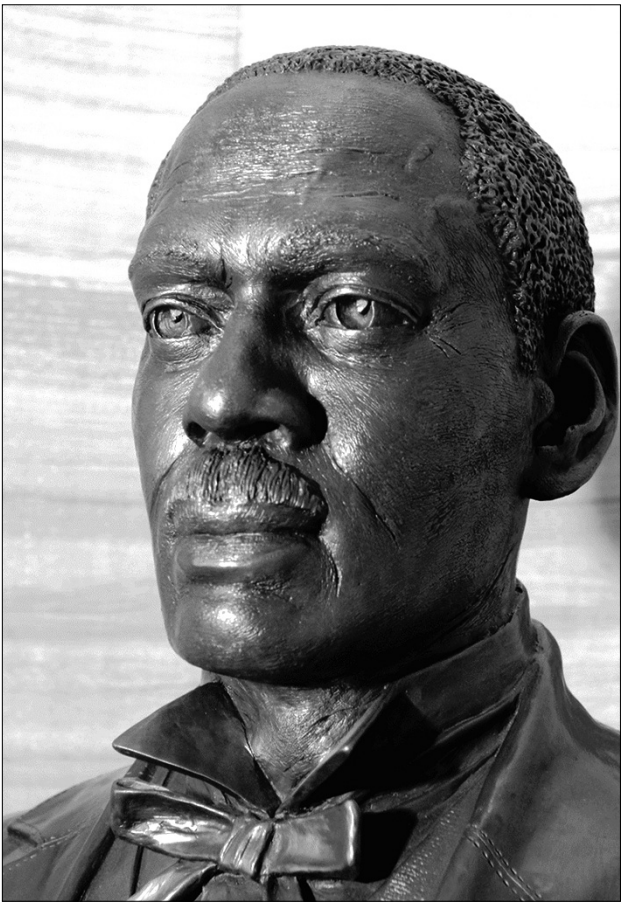
That horse reared up on his back legs...and took off towards town with a speed we'd never seen before! He was running over trash cans, mailboxes, dodging parked cars on the side of Stonewall Street and barely missing "trick-or-treaters" on every side! It didn't help that people got to yelling and cheering and stomping their feet as Prince flashed by.

A blind Leon wasn't steering a lick; heck, he was too busy holding on for dear life! Prince mercifully ran out of steam about halfway to Huntingdon...

When the bedraggled horse and rider finally limped back to the house, and we got Daddy's shirt unbuttoned and pulled down from over Leon's head, I asked him about the ride. He kinda shook his head. "I don't remember much, it went by in a hurry. But I do know I passed the Park Theatre, I could smell the popcorn..."

Mom might have been right about that warping thing.

Happy Halloween, Kes, Bobby, Dave and Leon



Sampson Keeble was the first African American to serve in the Tennessee Legislature.



Sampson Keeble
A Legacy in Politics

Sampson W. Keeble, a prominent figure in Tennessee's political history, left an indelible mark on the state through his remarkable accomplishments and dedication to public service. Born in 1833, Keeble's life journey took him from humble beginnings as a slave to becoming the first African American to serve in the Tennessee General Assembly in the late 19th century. His legacy of resilience and trailblazing in politics continues to inspire generations of leaders and citizens.

Sampson Keeble was born into slavery in Ruthersford County, Tennessee and gained his freedom after the Civil War. Growing up in the turbulent years following the war, Keeble displayed a remarkable determination to overcome adversity through education. According to some family members, he attended Fisk University, a historically black institution in Nashville, where he honed his intellect and developed a passion for civic engagement.

In 1866, he established Rock City Barber Shop. As a barber, Keeble's barber shop became a significant social hub for African Americans in Nashville. People would gather at his shop not only for haircuts but also for discussions, debates, and conversations about important social and political issues of the time. This informal setting allowed him to connect with his community and understand the concerns and aspirations of his fellow citizens.

The barbershop led to Keebler becoming an influential member of the African American community. The connections were instrumental in his political career, as they provided him with the support and endorsements he needed to run for political office.

Keeble's political career began in the 1880s when he decided to run for a seat in the Tennessee General Assembly. This was a time of significant racial discrimination and disenfranchisement of African Americans in the South, making his campaign a challenging endeavor. Nevertheless, Keeble's eloquence and tireless campaigning earned him a victory, and he became the first African American to serve in the Tennessee General Assembly in 1873. This historic achievement was a testament to his dedication and the support he garnered from his community.

Throughout his tenure in the General Assembly, Keeble championed numerous causes that advanced the

rights and opportunities of African Americans in Tennessee. He was an outspoken advocate for public education, pushing for better funding and improved access to schooling for African American children. His commitment to civil rights also extended to advocating for fair treatment in the criminal justice system and equal representation in public offices.

In addition to his work on civil rights issues, Sampson Keeble was a strong proponent of economic opportunities for all Tennesseans. He supported policies that promoted economic growth and job opportunities, particularly for African Americans who had been disproportionately affected by systemic inequalities.

He sought to return to the general assembly in 1878, but was defeated by a Greenback Party candidate.

As the first African American to serve in the Tennessee General Assembly, he blazed a trail for generations of leaders who followed. His tireless work as an advocate for civil rights and education left a lasting legacy, setting the stage for further progress in these areas.

Keeble's contributions to Tennessee were not solely confined to the political arena. He was also an influential figure in the business community, demonstrating that African Americans could excel in various fields. He helped establish the American Mechanics and Workmen's Cooperative Publishing Company, a significant enterprise that published a newspaper and provided opportunities for African American writers and journalists.

In addition to serving in the legislature, he was a Davidson County magistrate, serving from 1877 to 1882. Keeble died June 19, 1887, his obituary appeared in the Nashville City Directory where he was listed as a teacher. A brief obituary in the Nashville Daily American on July 3, 1887, said, "The many friends of Sampson W. Keeble (formerly of Nashville) will regret to learn of his sudden death, which occurred in Richmond, Tex., June 19, caused by a congestive chill [probably a form of malaria]. He was 54 years old."

A bronze bust of Keeble was dedicated in the Tennessee State Capitol in 2010.

Jason R. Martin
Jason R. Martin
B.S., M.A.Ed • M.L.S
Carroll County Commissioner
Former McKenzie Councilman
President McKenzie Rotary Club
WestStar Class of 2019
E: jmartin@mckenziebanner.com
P: 731.352.3323

Jason Martin is a life-long resident of McKenzie. He graduated from McKenzie High School in 2000; earned a Bachelor of Science in History from Bethel College in 2004; a Masters in Education from Bethel University in 2009 and a Masters in History and Humanities from Fort Hays State University in 2011.



Tennessee Unemployment Near Historic Low
September's Unemployment Rate Inches Up Slightly from State's All-Time Low Rate

NASHVILLE (October 19) — Tennessee's unemployment rate for September 2023 inched up slightly from the state's all-time low rate of 3.1%. Data from the Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD) showed the seasonally adjusted rate increased by 0.1 of a percentage point to 3.2% during the month.

Unemployment in Tennessee reached a historic low of 3.1% in July and the rate held steady at that number for two months.

The September 2023 statewide unemployment rate was 0.2 of a percentage point lower when compared to last year.

Over the month, Tennessee employers created a substantial number of new jobs across the state. They reported an increase of 8,700 new nonfarm jobs. The mining, logging, and construction sector accounted for the largest percentage of those jobs, followed by the leisure and hospitality sector, and then the education and health services sector.

During the last year, the number of new nonfarm jobs across the state increased by 54,000. The education and health services sectors saw the largest jump in employment, followed by the leisure and hospitality sector and then the government sector.

TDLWD has a complete analysis of Tennessee's September 2023 unemployment data available here.

Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment in September remained unchanged from the August rate of 3.8%.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. The Employment First initiative in Tennessee has made connecting people with intellectual and developmental disabilities to meaningful employment a top priority for more than a decade. When employers hire an individual's strengths, they strengthen Tennessee's workforce.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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

The McKenzie Banner reserves

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

From the pages of
A Pictorial History of McKenzie, Tennessee
Published in October 2004



Homecoming '86, Governor Lamar Alexander and wife, Honey. File photo originally published in "A Pictorial History of McKenzie, Tennessee," by The McKenzie Banner in October 2004.

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Obituaries

JIMMIE LEE HENDRIX 1947 — 2023

Jimmie Lee Hendrix, 76, of Paris, TN, died Friday, October 20, 2023, at Murray Calloway County Hospital in Murray, KY.

He retired after a long career from CSX Transportation where he worked as a conductor. He was a U.S. Marine veteran and a member of Point Pleasant Baptist Church in Buchanan, TN. Jimmie was an avid hunter and fisherman. He loved his dogs and anything outdoors. He was a proud member of the Henry County Gun Club, a gun enthusiast, and loved to be on the shooting range.

Jimmie was born July 5, 1947, in Buena Vista, TN, to the late Lee Duncan Hendrix and the late Mary Priestly Johnson Hendrix.

He was married August 26, 1989, to Vadean Laws Hendrix, who survives, of Paris, TN.

Along with his wife, he is also survived by one sister, Jennifer (Allen) Espey of Huntingdon, TN; a host of nieces, nephews, and cousins; a special family that were like Jimmie's children and grandson, Chris, Melissa and Hunter Fletcher; and caregivers, Donna Boyd, Kelly Kissick, Donna Griffin, Monique Gray, and Shermaine Finch.

In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by his son, Kenneth Lee Hendrix; and one sister, Joy Anderson.

Arrangements are being handled by Ridgeway Funeral Home, 201 Dunlap Street/PO Box 788, Paris, TN 38242. Visitation was Tuesday, October 24, 2023, 10-11 a.m. at Rose Lawn Mausoleum Chapel. The funeral service was at 11 a.m. at Rose Lawn Mausoleum Chapel. Chad Kennedy officiated.

Serving as pallbearers were Allen Espey, Will Espey, Chris Fletcher, Hunter Fletcher, Ricky McGee and D.L. Johnson.

Entombment followed the service in Rose Lawn Mausoleum in Paris, TN.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105 or the Paris-Henry County Animal Shelter, PO Box 970, Paris, TN 38242.

ROBERT LAWTON BROWN 1967 — 2023

NASHVILLE — Mr. Robert Lawton Brown, 56, of Hollow Rock, Tennessee, died Monday, October 16, 2023, at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee.

Funeral services were conducted on Thursday, October 19, 2023, at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home with Bro. James Ellington officiating. Interment followed in New Hope Cemetery.

Mr. Brown was born July 27, 1967, in Park Ridge, Illinois, to the late Bobby and Carolyn (Ford) Brown. Other than his parents, he was also preceded in death by a son, William Robert Brown.

His is survived by his wife of 31 years, Vicki Brown, and one son, Dylan Brown, of Hollow Rock.

JAMES M. DE JULIO III 1952 — 2023

JACKSON — Mr. James M. De Julio, 71, died Sunday, October 15, 2023, at Jackson Madison County General Hospital. The family will have a private memorial service at a later

date.

He was born in Salina, KS, on August 19, 1952, to Raymond De Julio and Joyce Worrell Hargis. He is a Vietnam Army Veteran and Auto Mechanic.

He is survived by his daughters Katie Robertson of Carthage and Janina (Clint) Warrington of Jackson, a son James M De Julio IV of Trezevant, a special friend Elizabeth Wisteria of Jackson, a sister Holly Telford, brother Ray De Julio both of Riverside, CA, and three grandchildren.

KEVIN LEE HOLLOWELL 1974 — 2023

HUNTINGDON — Mr. Kevin Lee Hollowell, 49, of Huntingdon, Tennessee, died Monday, October 16, 2023. Funeral services were conducted at 1 p.m. Friday, October 20 in the Chapel of Dilday-Carter Funeral Home. Brother Jeff Bryant officiated. The family received friends at Dilday-Carter Funeral Home on Thursday from 5-8 p.m. and on Friday from 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Mr. Hollowell was born January 12, 1974. He was preceded in death by his father Edward Lee Hollowell and mother-in-law Floy Nell Staggs.

He is survived by four sons Dylan Hollowell of St. Louis, Missouri, Dalton Hollowell of St. Louis, Missouri, Tristan Hollowell of Huntingdon, Tennessee, and Trace Hollowell of Huntingdon, Tennessee; mother Lee Hollowell of Huntingdon, Tennessee; one sister Kim (Marty) Nunley of Huntingdon, Tennessee and one brother Keith (Brooke) Hollowell of Yuma, Tennessee.

Dilday-Carter Funeral Home in charge of arrangements.

Mama T's

WHAT'S COOKIN'

E: recipes@mckenziebanner.com

By Teresa Washburn

Call 731.352.3323

Banana Nut Bread

1/2 cup butter
1 cup sugar
2 eggs
2 or 3 bananas mashed
1 1/2 cup flour
1 teaspoon soda
1/2 teaspoon salt
Bake at 350 degrees for 50 minutes.

1 can eagle brand milk
Mix all together and beat well. Pour into one

large or 2 small pans. Make crust with vanilla wafers or graham crackers. Sprinkle some on top and refrigerate.

Granny's Jam Cake

3 eggs
1 cup sugar
1 teaspoon soda
1/2 cup buttermilk
1 teaspoon allspice
1 3/4 cup flour
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1 teaspoon cinnamon
Mix all ingredients and bake at 350 degrees until toothpick comes out clean. Makes 2 layers.

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Gary Simmons invited McKenzie's entire Police Department, Fire Department, Volunteer Fire Department and dispatchers to a dinner catered and served by Hometown Hangout. They were served a pork chop dinner with salad, sides and rolls. During a short speech, Gary said that he was honored to provide the dinner and gathering as a token of his appreciation for all that these men and women do to serve and protect our community. Submitted photos



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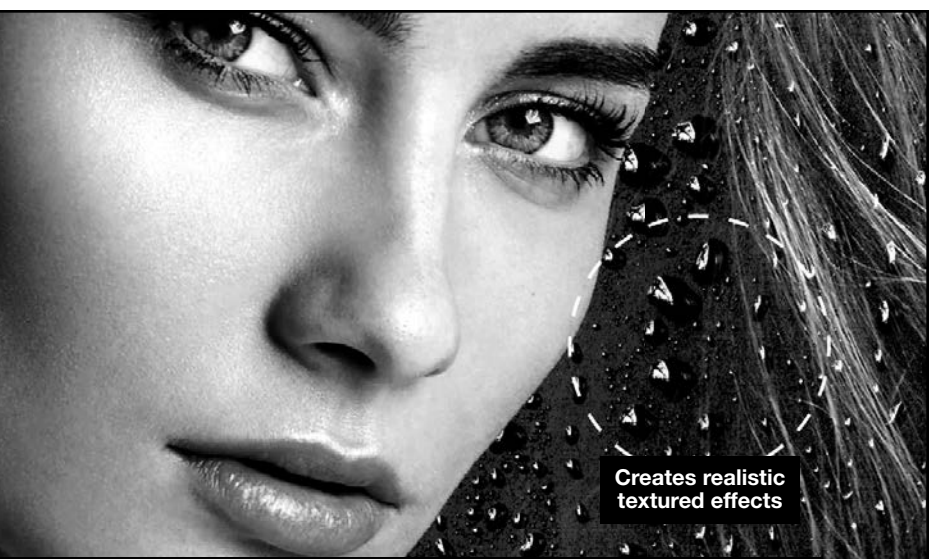
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

McKENZIE CHURCH OF CHRIST FREE SPAGHETTI SUPPER
The McKenzie Church of Christ is hosting a FREE spaghetti supper at their building on Highland Drive on Thursday, November 2, 5-7 p.m. (or until all food is gone). Dining-in is available or drive-thru if you want to pick it up and go home to eat. The menu consists of spaghetti, crackers, dessert and a drink (drink for dining in only). This meal is FREE to all who are hungry, or in need of

Christian fellowship. All you have to do is come by. Everyone is welcome. If you have questions please call (731) 352-2106 or (731) 695-6576.

CPR TRAINING AT CIVIC CENTER
Carroll County Emergency Management Agency and Fire Department are sponsoring Family and Friends CPR Training on Saturday, November 11, 2023 at the Carroll County Civic Center, 201 Fairgrounds Road, Huntingdon, TN 38344. The first class starts at 9 a.m. and the second class starts at 2 p.m. This course teaches the lifesaving skills of adult hands-only CPR, child CPR, adult and child AED use, infant CPR, and relief of choking in an adult, child or infant. This course is for people who want to learn CPR but do not need

a course certification card for their job. There is no charge for this training. Please call 731-986-1912 or 731-986-1916 to register or learn more.

WEST CARROLL BOO BASH / TRUNK OR TREAT TODAY
You are invited to attend the annual West Carroll Boo Bash / Trunk or Treat on Tuesday, October 24, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. held in the West Carroll Junior/Senior High School front parking lot at 760 Highway 77, Atwood, TN 38220. This event is free to the public. Student organizations, clubs, and teams will pass out candy during the event. There will be 17-20 trunks set up with candy and goodies. There will be music, a bounce house and a costume contest. For more information, contact Adam Douglas 731-662-7116.

no entry fee. There is a silent auction, full of themed baskets and local business gift certificates and goodies, food and more! The PTO is accepting business monetary donations and items for the silent auction. For more information, call MES at 731-352-5272 with questions.

PRAYER ON THE SQUARE
Please join us for Prayer on the Square. Prayer on the Square is the second Saturday of each month at 9 a.m. and lasts about one hour. The meeting is in the building called The Network located at 109 Court Square, Huntingdon. It is hosted by First Baptist Church of Huntingdon. All religious denominations are welcome. Retired Colonel James Harding is the coordinator of Prayer on the Square. Col. Harding's phone number is (731) 415-0427 and his email is jimhobo1@aol.com or you can call Tony Moore at 731-358-1130 or rocky1935@sbc-global.net.

now for our Ruby Red Christmas Gala to be held on Saturday, December 2 at The Venue at Waddell Place in McKenzie. We will send more info later but wanted you to know the date.

CAT SPAY, NEUTER VOUCHERS
We always have vouchers to help with getting cats spayed and neutered. The cost is \$50 each and can only be used at the Paris Vet Clinic. There is no limit to how many vouchers you can purchase, no residency or income requirements and we make it easy to obtain. You can call us at 731-352-9950 and leave a message or text and someone will return your call. Purchase by phone using a credit/debit card and we will send you the voucher number. That will save you a trip to our office. We can always issue those in person with cash.

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showing the last 12 months of usage at their current location. Individuals interested in applying for the LIHEAP Program should make an appointment at the Northwest Tenn. Economic Development Agency office in their county of residence.

Go to our website for county site contact information: <http://nwcommunityaction.org>.

Funding for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program is provided through the Tennessee Housing Development Agency (THDA).

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

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

CARROLL COUNTY 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. There are no meetings in December, February, and July.

CARROLL COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY MEETS

The Carroll County Republican Party meets Tuesday, October 24, at 7 p.m. in the court room of the Public Safety building, 12740 Lexington Street, Huntingdon. This is the last meeting of 2023. Next meeting is scheduled for January 23, 2024.

PASTA AND POLITICS EVENT RESCHEDULED

The Carroll County Republican Party annual Pasta & Politics dinner originally scheduled for September 30, 2023 has been rescheduled for January 27, 2024. More information to be provided at a later date.



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Wed. 7:05
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Tennessee River Jam Returns with New Format

PARIS (October 19) — The Tennessee River Jam announced its return for 2024 with headliner Little Texas and Sister Hazel. This year's main event is a free concert featuring Little Texas, Sister Hazel and local acts downtown on June 1, 2024. Venues in the area are invited to continue to be part of Tennessee River Jam with additional concerts throughout the weekend, contributing to the overall experience. "The decision to move the main concert to downtown was made with careful consideration of budgeting constraints and logistical challenges, but keeping in mind an overall commitment to providing a

top-quality experience for concert-goers and maintenance of the Tennessee River Jam brand," said Rachel Steedly, interim director of the Paris-Henry County Chamber of Commerce. Little Texas is a country band known for chart-tipping hits like, "What Might Have Been" and "God Blessed Texas. Sister Hazel is for rock fans as a response to repeated requests for diversifying the genres of music presented during Tennessee River Jam. Steedly expressed her enthusiasm for the upcoming Tennessee River Jam: "The Tennessee River Jam has always been a highlight on our community's calendar,

and we're excited to bring it back in 2024 with such fantastic headliners. We appreciate the continued support of Trolinger's as our presenting sponsor, which allows us to create memorable experiences for our community. While changes have been made this year, the spirit of unity and celebration remain unchanged. We can't wait to see familiar faces and new friends at this year's event." The Chamber of Commerce encourages community members to stay tuned for more details and updates on additional artists and local venues joining the Tennessee River Jam this year.

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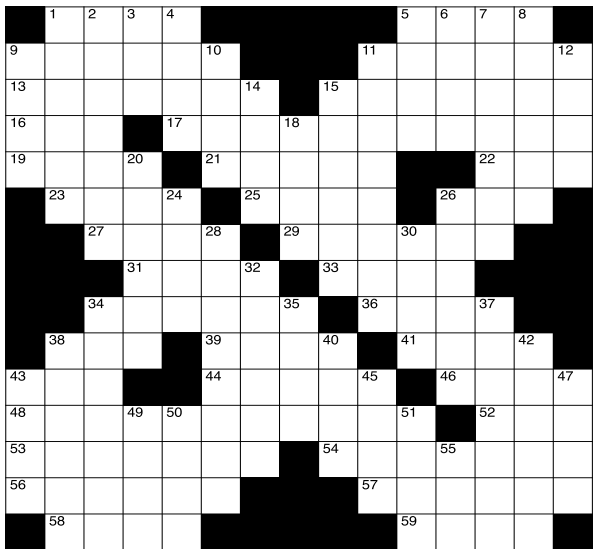
Weekly Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Male children
- 5. Robert Wagner series "Hart to ..."
- 9. Unfolded
- 11. Digestive disease
- 13. Wednesday
- 15. Malignant tumor
- 16. Conscientious investment strategy (abbr.)
- 17. Slowed
- 19. Letter of the Semitic abjads
- 21. Weights of cars without fuel
- 22. Former CIA
- 23. Asian country
- 25. Instead
- 26. Ancient Egyptian King
- 27. Privies
- 29. Shopping trips
- 31. Paradoxical anecdote
- 33. It's on the table
- 34. Ancient Persia ruler
- 36. Small American rail
- 38. File extension
- 39. Days (Spanish)
- 41. Everyone has one
- 43. South American plant
- 44. About ilium
- 46. Vanished American hoopster
- 48. A type of breakfast
- 52. Uncooked
- 53. Examined
- 54. Christian recluse
- 56. Strong posts
- 57. Some are for pasta
- 58. Skinny
- 59. School-based organizations

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Ringlet



- 2. Type of complex
- 3. Midway between north and northwest
- 4. It becomes something bigger
- 5. German courtesy title
- 6. Genus of birds
- 7. Marked by public disorder
- 8. Least aggressive
- 9. Russian city
- 10. Insect repellent
- 11. Interruptions
- 12. Scoundrels
- 14. 1,000 calories
- 15. What one does overnight
- 18. Dwarf planet
- 20. Pipe
- 24. Black powdery substance
- 26. Set of four
- 28. Canned fishes
- 30. North Carolina college
- 32. Secured
- 34. A disgraceful event
- 35. Physical suffering
- 37. The home of the free
- 38. Some are boys
- 40. Satisfy
- 42. Makes very happy
- 43. South American plants
- 45. Modes of transportation
- 47. Female sheep
- 49. Type of torch
- 50. Piece of merchandise
- 51. Jump over
- 55. Wife of Amun

Week 43

See solution in next week's edition.

Halloween Word Search

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

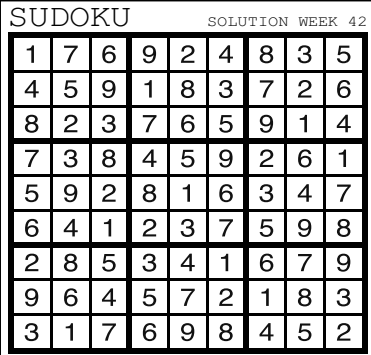
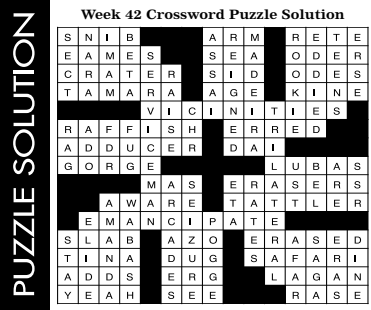
- Bag
- Candy
- Celebrate
- Cemetery
- Contest
- Costume
- Decorations
- Event
- Flashlight
- Fog
- Friends
- Fun
- Games
- Ghost Stories
- Halloween
- Jack-O-Lantern
- Makeup
- Mask
- Maze
- Movies
- Music
- Night
- October
- Party
- Photos
- Pumpkin
- Safety
- Scary
- Scream
- Sugar
- Trick or Treat

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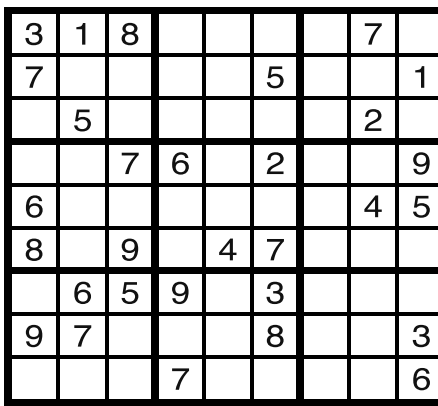


HISTORY

- 1636: THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY VOTES TO ESTABLISH A THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE, WHICH WOULD LATER BECOME HARVARD UNIVERSITY.
- 1726: "GULLIVER'S TRAVELS" BY JONATHAN SWIFT IS PUBLISHED.
- 1971: PROSPERO BECOMES THE ONLY BRITISH SATELLITE TO BE LAUNCHED BY A BRITISH ROCKET.



SUDOKU WEEK 43



Level: Beginner

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See solution in next week's edition.

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The senior members of the Bethel Women's Soccer were recognized in Friday's game. Pictured (L to R): Consultant Armand Hebert, Head Coach Misty Aird, Elizabeth Kriebel, Natasha Dudley, Nathalie Rojas and Assistant Coach Armando Castro.

Women's Soccer Wins Fourth in a Row

Lady Wildcats Upset of No. 24 Campbellsville On Senior Night

COURTESY BETHEL SID

MCKENZIE (October 20) — The Bethel Lady Wildcats won for the fifth time in their last six outings with a 2-0 win over No. 24 Campbellsville Friday

night in McKenzie. It was the fourth straight for the Cats who moved to 9-2 overall and 4-1 in the MSC. It was the eighth meeting between the two programs with the series now tied at 4-4. Campbellsville dropped to 4-6-3 and 1-2-1. It was Senior Night for the Wildcats. Elizabeth Kriebel, Natasha Dudley, Nathalie Rojas and manager Shelby Powers were honored in pre-game ceremonies.

A first period goal by Audrey LaRue gave Bethel a 1-0 lead at the break. Kalina Stanisic had the assist. Elle Carson posted the second goal in the second period. Stanisic again had the assist. Both teams finished with 15 shots each. Bethel had a 7-3 margin in shots on goal. Alicia Perez was credited with three saves for the Wildcats.



Longtime Alderman and City of Trenton supporter Frank Gibson was joined by his family on Saturday, October 14 as the city officially renamed his brainchild, Pedestrian Park, in his honor. Photo by Logan Watson/Trenton Gazette

Park Named After Bethel Hall of Famer

Trenton Honors Frank Gibson

TRENTON (October 14) — On Saturday, the City of Trenton honored longtime coach and city alderman, Frank Gibson. Pedestrian Park in downtown Trenton was The Frank Gibson Pedestrian Park. Gibson spearheaded the creation of Pedestrian Park, turning a vacant lot in the heart of the downtown area into what is now one of the most utilized and beautiful amenities the city has to offer.

Gibson is a 2003 Bethel College/University Hall of Fame inductee. A 1966 graduate, he was a dominant force on the basketball

court once pulling down 29 rebounds in one game. Gibson was teammates with fellow hall-of-famer and longtime McKenzie High School Principal Dewey Chism. "It's a great honor. One of the greatest honors that I've had in my lifetime," Gibson said, "but it is not a 'me' thing. It's a 'we' thing. We have so many people to thank. I'm very, very appreciative of you honoring my wife and I. I've enjoyed it. We're not going to quit. If you'd like to help, throw a nickel in." According to Trenton Mayor Tony Buriss, "In the fall of 2007 Frank Gibson and I stood on the front porch of City Hall and had a conversation about the downtown area. We both

agreed it was a mess, with its busted-up curbs, its old, dilapidated buildings and its trashed-up lots. The question was, 'What does the city need to do?'" Buriss went on to explain how Gibson obtained grants and worked with the community for donations. After the park was complete, he was often seen working on the grounds and even chlorinating the water fountain. "It's difficult for me to think of anyone that loves Trenton more than Frank Gibson," Mayor Buriss said regarding the 30 years as a teacher and coach and his 20 years of service to the Board. *Contributions by Logan Watson of Trenton Gazette



Bethel Inducts Five into Athletic Hall-of-Fame

MCKENZIE (October 20) — On Friday, as part of the Homecoming festivities, Bethel University honored three former athletic greats and two contributors with inductions into the prestigious Bethel Athletic Hall-of-Fame. It marked the 43rd class to be honored. Six teams and 109 individuals have been enshrined since 1980. Inducted were Michael Jasper, Dave Jesse, Arielle Montague, and Tom and Patty Kahlden.

Michael Jasper (Football, 2012) — Michael Jasper is in his fifth year as head coach of the Wildcats. Jasper also serves as Associate Athletic Director of Internal Operations. Before becoming the head coach, Jasper served as Assistant Head Coach and worked with the defensive line. Prior to that he held the titles of Offensive Line Coach and Run Game Coordinator, as well as overseeing the strength and conditioning program. Before joining the Bethel staff, Jasper served as Offensive and Defensive Line Assistant at Bishop Timon High School in Buffalo, NY. Mike spent three years in the National Football League with the Buffalo Bills, New York Giants and Carolina Panthers.

Coach Jasper played for the University of Tennessee at Martin in 2005 and was a starter on their 2006 Ohio Valley Conference championship team. After redshirting at Middle Tennessee State University, he joined the Bethel University Wildcats and was an offensive and defensive lineman from 2008-2010. He was the first-ever Wildcat drafted to the NFL in 2011 with his selection by the Buffalo Bills.

He graduated from Bethel University with a bachelor's degree in university studies. He and his wife Allison, along with their children Davis Reid, Millie Claire and Samuel David reside in McKenzie. Their rescue dog is named Caine.

Dave Jesse (Men's Basketball, 1992) — Dave Jesse began his career at Bethel College in the fall of 1988 by way of Elder High

School in Cincinnati, Ohio. Dave played for Bethel Hall of Fame Coach Mike Nienaber. Jesse and his teammates upset NCAA Division I Tennessee State during his freshman year, despite only having eight eligible players at the time. While at Bethel, Jesse's teams defeated highly ranked national powerhouses, David Lipscomb and Belmont several times throughout his four-year career.

Among his accomplishments while playing for the Wildcats, Jesse was named a 1990-91 and 1991-92 NAIA All American Scholar Athlete, a USA Today Academic All American, and was the District 24 1991 A.O. Duer Scholarship Award recipient, presented annually to junior student-athletes who have excelled in scholarship, character and citizenship. In addition, Jesse led the entire nation in rebounding during his senior season, pulling down over 13 rebounds per game, and was nationally ranked in the top 15 in field goal percentage at over 63 percent.

Jesse was named Bethel College's 1991-92 Hutchins Scholar, graduating #1 in his academic class in the spring of 1992 with a 4.0 grade points average, earning bachelor's degrees in both Math and Accounting.

Jesse is currently a certified public accountant and resides in Cincinnati with his wife, Tonya and their children, Kyle and Lexie. Arielle Montague (Women's Track & Field, 2013) — Arielle Montague came to Bethel from Bartlett High School in Bartlett, Tennessee where she graduated in 2009.

She excelled in track & field setting BHS school records in the 100m (12.66), 200m (26.22), and 400m (57.92). She competed at the Tennessee State Championships in the 100m (ranked 11th in state) and 400m (ranked 7th in state). Arielle still holds Bartlett High School's record for the 400m dash (2008).

Montague chose to attend Bethel and was a highly touted freshman in 2009. Montague continued to have success at Bethel Uni-

versity on academic and track & field scholarships. She holds the university's records for the 200m (24.68), 400m (53.89), 4x100m relay (45.75), and 4x400m relay (3:43.3). Throughout 2010-2013, Arielle achieved National All-American status seven times in indoor and outdoor championships. Notable achievements below:

Montague was the conference champion in several events during her career and was named All-American several times.

She graduated in 2013 from Bethel with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and a minor in Health.

Arielle currently resides in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania with her husband Michael Mattei (who is Director of Marketing at Sebela Pharmaceuticals) and their dog Charlie.

Tom and Patty Kahlden (Contributors) — Tom and Patty Kahlden are both Texans and graduates of Texas A&M University. Thomas earned a BS in Biomedical Science and Patty earned a BS in Agricultural Education. She also earned a Master's degree in Education at Texas A&M.

Thomas went straight to work in various oilfield related businesses such as: Dresser Industries, Conroe Chemical, Unichem, and Quaker Chemical. He and a partner eventually founded Refinery Specialties, Inc., which they operated for over 28 years. The company was officially sold in February of this year and Thomas retired.

After Patty taught school for a few years, she went to work as bookkeeper and secretary for Refinery Specialties, Inc.

Thomas and Patty have one son, Kolby, who is solely responsible for introducing them to Bethel University. Kolby played center for the Wildcat football team and was on the 2018 team that won the conference championship.

The Kahdens have been big supporters for Wildcat Athletics since Kolby started school there in 2013. They have a vested interest in Bethel University and their athletic programs.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY FOOTBALL

Wildcats Comeback in Second Half for Homecoming Win

COURTESY BETHEL SID

MCKENZIE (October 21) — It was a day of comebacks at Wildcat Stadium Saturday. Hundreds of alumni came back for Homecoming and the Bethel football team rewarded them with a second half comeback of their own to beat Cumberland University 24-7.

Trailing 7-0 at the half, the Wildcats scored 24 unanswered points in the second half.

Cumberland took the lead late in the first quarter on a five-yard run by Treyllon Sheppard. The 58-yard drive was capped off by the extra point from Jack Kanter.

Bethel got on the board at the 6:53 mark of the third quarter. Joaquin Collazo III hit Jaylen Taylor with a 22-yard touchdown pass. After an Andrew Welch point after the game was tied at seven all.

The Cats took the lead two seconds into the fourth quarter when Mitchell Faulkner finished a 69-yard drive with a two-yard run.

Collazo upped the Cat margin to 21-7 with a 23-yard touchdown pass to J.D. Dixon with 6:35 left in the game.

Welch put icing on the Homecoming Cake with less than a minute left with a 33-yard field goal to make it 24-7.

The Wildcats outgained the Phoenix 383-208 in total yards. The biggest difference was in passing yards with Bethel holding a 247-75 margin. Bethel's defense held CU to just 68 yards in total offense in the second half.

Collazo was 26-of-31 in passing for 247 yards and two touchdowns. Terrance Roberts led Bethel in rushing on 12 carries for 63 yards. Dixon caught nine passes for 85 yards. Taylor had six receptions for 64 yards. Roberts had four catches for 33 yards. Seven different Wildcats had two or more receptions in the win.

Bethel's defense was led by Xavier King with 10 total tackles. Brian Hughes followed with nine stops. Brody Franks contributed with eight total tackles. Darrien Lewis had two tackles for losses, a sack and seven tackles. Dee Hines had a big interception in the game.

Coach Mike Jasper was excited about the hard-



Above, #3 Demetrice Gilbert leaping into the end zone for a TD. Below, #11 Terrance Roberts breaking through the line for a first down. Photos by Gary Owens/The McKenzie Banner



fought win. "I'm pumped about how our guys handled adversity today! Coach Mathis and his staff had a solid game plan and played keep away a bit there, but our defense never backed down and stayed the course until the offense could capitalize on our opportunities. The fans were electric. The atmosphere was amazing! It was a blessing to see so many Wildcats come back

home! Excited to enjoy this a little while and then get ready for a tough road game ahead against Faulkner."

The Wildcats moved to 7-1 and 2-1 in the MSC. CU fell to 3-4 and 1-3. It was Bethel's third straight win in the series. Next Saturday, the Wildcats are on the road at Faulkner. Kick-off from Montgomery is 1:30 p.m.

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Above, Huntingdon's Gray Eubanks scores four touchdowns against Camden Friday night. Below, Huntingdon's CJ Pelonero intercepts a Camden pass attempt. Photos by Kathy Bush/The Banner



Huntingdon Mustangs Stifle Camden Lions, 61-13

BY KATHY BUSH
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CAMDEN (October 20) — On Friday night Huntingdon traveled to Camden for a region match-up against the Lions. With their decisive victory, the Mustangs clinched the number one spot in Region 6-2A for the 2023 season. Leading 48-0 at the half, Huntingdon easily outplayed Camden both offensively and defensively. Camden's only points came in the second half against Huntingdon's second team under a running clock. The win is the eighth straight for Huntingdon, now 6-0 in region play, with a season record of 8-1.

The Mustangs received the opening kickoff and began their first possession of the game at their own 46-yard line. Eight running plays later, quarterback Gray Eubanks pushed his way into the endzone from 5 yards out for the first Mustang touchdown of the night. Cole Chafin kicked the extra point, and with 8:51 remaining in the first quarter, Huntingdon led 7-0.

Camden began their first possession on their own 17-yard line. After gaining three first downs, their drive stalled and they were forced to punt. Huntingdon began their second possession on their own 18-yard line, but Eubanks quickly pushed the offense into Camden territory with a 25-yard run plus a 10-yard penalty. Four plays later, Eubanks found the endzone for his second touchdown of the night with a 14-yard run at 4:43 of the first quarter. Grayson Anderson added a successful extra point to broaden the Mustang lead to 14-0.

After another Camden punt, the Mustangs began their next drive with excellent field position at the Camden 25-yard line. Despite a series of penalties, Huntingdon scored another touchdown as time ran out in the first quarter with a Eubanks 10-yard run. Chafin added another extra point for a 21-0 lead.



Mustang Brady Warbritton scampers past the Camden Lion defense. Photo by Kathy Bush/The Banner

After beginning the next drive at their own 17-yard line, the Lions were forced to punt after a brief three-and-out. Mustang Brady Warbritton returned the punt to the Camden 13-yard line, which set up his 13-yard touchdown run on the first play from scrimmage. Kicker Anderson added another point to give Huntingdon a 28-0 lead with 10:15 remaining in the second quarter.

After the Lions turned the ball over on downs on their next possession, Huntingdon once again started their next drive with excellent field possession at the Camden 42-yard line. After Warbritton pushed the ball to the Camden 2-yard line with a pass reception and running play, Hutcherson rushed two yards for a Mustang touchdown at the 6:40 mark of the second quarter. Another successful Chafin extra point gave Huntingdon a 35-0 lead.

Huntingdon scored twice more in the second quarter. Eubanks scored his fourth touchdown of the night with a 48-yard run, followed by the Anderson extra point to push the Mustang lead to 42-0. Their last score of the first half occurred after a CJ Pelonero interception at the Camden 28-yard line led to a Warbritton touchdown 10-yard run with 1:32 remaining in the half. The Mustangs

went to the locker room with a 48-0 lead.

The Lions received the opening kickoff of the second half under a running clock. They were forced to punt, and kick returner Warbritton wove through the Camden defense fifty yards to reach the end zone for another Huntingdon touchdown. Anderson kicked the extra point to give the Mustangs a 55-0 lead. Camden began their first scoring drive of the night at their own 25-yard line. With six plays they found the endzone and scored the extra point to move the score to 55-7.

Huntingdon began their next drive at the Camden 29-yard line. Four plays later Kylan Turner scored on a 25-yard run to broaden the Mustang lead to 61-7 as the third quarter ended. Camden scored one more time on a touchdown run in the fourth quarter to end the game 61-13. Huntingdon gained a total of 339 yards with 39 rushing attempts and were 2 of 3 passing for 35 yards. For the Mustangs, Eubanks had 7 carries, 134 yards, and 4 touchdowns. Hutcherson had 12 carries for 107 yards.

This Friday the Mustangs (6-0 in region play and 7-1 for the season) will host Trenton Peabody at Paul Ward Stadium for their final regular season game. Kickoff is 7 p.m.



Left, Colt Norden had one touchdown in Friday night's game against Freedom Preparatory Academy. Right, Craegen Travis works to contain the Eagle defender. Photos by Tammy Graves



McKenzie Takes Eighth Win of Season

Rebels Continue to Dominate on Both Sides of the Ball

BY JASON R. MARTIN
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McKENZIE (October 20) — The Rebels continued to roll Friday night as they hosted Freedom Preparatory Academy of Memphis taking their eighth win of the season. McKenzie won 38-8 improving to 8-1 on the regular season and 4-0 in Region 6-1A.

The Rebels ran 32 plays accumulating 220 yards of total offense while the Eagles ran 47 plays totaling 61 yards of offense. McKenzie's passing game picked up 144 yards and the rushing games had 76 yards. Freedom Prep had 104 passing yards with the rushing game held to -44 yards.

Leading the passing game for the Rebels was Tate Surber, who went 10 for 11 with 144 yards and three touchdowns. In receiving, Colt Norden caught one pass for 36 yards and had one touchdown, Jake Cassidy had three catches for 31 yards and a touchdown and Stafford Roditis had three catches for 30 yards and one TD.

Brady Brewer had seven rushing attempts for 49 yards and two touchdowns followed by Norden with one carry for 16 yards.

The McKenzie defense was led by Cole Brown with five tackles (three for a loss) and KD Cunningham with four tackles (two for a loss).

McKenzie scored ten points in the first quarter. At the 5:51 mark, Surber hit Cassidy for an 11-yard touchdown. Roditis added the PAT putting the Rebels up 7-0.

After a bobbled snap by the Eagles to the punter on fourth down, the Rebels were in excellent scoring position for their second offensive drive. Taking over at



Jake Cassidy breaks free picking up positive yardage for the Rebels. Photo by Tammy Graves

the 11-yard line, McKenzie could not pick up the touchdown. Instead, the Rebels elected to go for a field goal on fourth-and-nine from the 10-yard line. Roditis hit the 38-yarder as McKenzie went up 10-0 with 30 seconds remaining in the quarter.

In the second quarter, the Rebels and Surber had two touchdowns. After a 14-yard punt by the Eagles, McKenzie taking over at the Freedom Prep 36-yard line needed one play from Surber to Norden to pick up the TD. Roditis picked up the extra point as the Rebels increased their lead to 17-0 with 10:42 to play in the half.

The Eagles were plagued by delay of game penalties on their next possession. Following a short punt, the Rebels fumbled the return as Freedom Prep recovered the ball. The Eagles had another three-and-out and McKenzie took over at the Freedom Prep 44-yard line.

In four plays the Rebels were in the end zone with a pass from Surber to Roditis from 11 yards out. Roditis' PAT was good putting the

Rebels up 24-0 at the half.

With 9:39 to play in the third quarter, Brewer had his first rushing touchdown on second-and-goal from the two-yard line. After the Roditis PAT, McKenzie was up 31-0 as the mercy rule went into effect with a running clock.

At the 2:34 mark of the third quarter, Brewer was in for six from nine yards out. Roditis tacked on the PAT as the Rebels led 38-0.

With 3:10 to play in the game, the Eagles scored on a 65-yard touchdown pass by Jalen Austin to Tyler Woodard followed by a two-point conversion pass from Austin to Josh Street. The final from Randy Thomas Field was 38-8.

Next Friday night at 7 p.m., the McKenzie Rebels host the West Carroll War Eagles for the Region 6-1A championship. Both teams are guaranteed to host the first round of the playoffs while the winner will host the first and second round of the playoffs (provided they win the opening round).



Left, McKenzie Mayor Ryan Griffin presents Mayfield Mayor Kathy O'Nan a challenge coin from the McKenzie Police Department. Right, Rotarian Rickey Price donated items from Pepsi Mid-America to be auctioned off. Pictured are Price and Mayor Kathy O'Nan.



Rotarians Give to Mayfield Children's Christmas

The McKenzie Rotary welcomed Mayfield, Kentucky Mayor Kathy O'Nan as a guest and program speaker. O'Nan who has served as mayor since January 2019 faced the COVID-19 pandemic and the F4 tornado that leveled most of Mayfield on December 10, 2021.

The mayor spoke on how the tornado left citizens homeless, destroyed entire residential areas along with the downtown central business district including every city government building and claimed the lives of twenty-four individuals in Graves County.

She explained how Mayfield looked like a war zone following the events of December 10. Now, nearly two years later, Mayfield is rebuilding and even welcoming a new industry. Residential areas are being rebuilt by numerous volunteers and organizations. The government buildings are put on the back burner to focus on the people.

After the meeting, Rotary President Jason R. Martin did an impromptu auction with items

donated by Rickey Price through Pepsi Mid-America and Ryan Griffin with the City of McKenzie. Members purchased the items, raising nearly \$600 for a children's Christmas fund in Mayfield.

Helping those in need is part of the mantra of Rotary.

Rotarians like those in McKenzie go by the slogan "Service Above Self." Each Tuesday at noon, the McKenzie Rotary Club meets at Bethel University's Vera Low Enrichment Center. If you are interested in being part of Rotary, join us for a meeting.



MHS Class of 1963 Holds Reunion

Twenty-two classmates of the Class of 1963 gathered at Mallard's Restaurant in Huntingdon at 3 p.m., Saturday, October 14, 2023.

Organizers were pleased with the number of attendees from an original class size of 50.

Thirteen had died, two had conflicts, some had health issues, others had

moved to great distances, and there were a few for whom class members had no contact information.

Pictured (L to R) Front Row: Linda Jo Tackett Miller, Glynda Finley Rich, Mary Burke Eubanks, Lucille Sydnor Cozart, Gail Townes Higdon, Sharon Manley Perry, Sandra Adams, Stanley Williams and

James Nutting. Back Row: Paula Pinson Watkins, Betty Jo Hutcheson Reynolds, Diane Stoner Stafford, Kay Brown, Barbara Cozart Elinor, Rex Hartsfield, Donald Bouldin, Tommy Gwaltney, Don Simmons, Robert Orr, David Byrd, Bobby Roberts, and Bill Corbin, Class President.

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- Ms. Smith, AHC McKenzie patient

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