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AUGUST ELECTION

Hundreds Cast Early Ballots

BY LYNDEY SUMMERS
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CARROLL COUNTY (July 20) — The Carroll County Election Commission Office was a popular destination last Friday, with 307 Carroll Countians taking to the

polls for the first day of early voting. By presstime Monday afternoon, the Carroll County Election Commission had already tallied 576 early votes. Of those, 460 were from Republican voters, 96 were from

See ELECTION on Page 3

McKenzie, Huntingdon Lead County in TCAP Performance

BY LYNDEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

The Tennessee Department of Education released the 2025-26 TCAP assessment dashboard last week, revealing state- and district-level results. The released

data reveals that McKenzie and Huntingdon had the highest percentages of students meeting or exceeding state expectations compared to their in-county

See TCAP on Page 3

County Celebrates America 250

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (July 18) — Citizens of Carroll County gathered downtown Saturday for a celebration of America's 250th birthday, sponsored by the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce.

One side of the square was blocked off for the event, bookended by fire trucks from Huntingdon and McKenzie with large American flags waving from their ladders.

The event opened with a parade of patriotic youngsters, led by Grand Marshal Moe Shamell, meteorologist at WBBJ-TV.

Shamell was also one of three judges for a homemade apple pie contest, along with Sheila Horne, Bethel University Director of University Admissions, and SSG Courtney Churchwell, Carroll County National Guard recruiter.

Ten pies were entered for judging on appearance, crust and taste. Winning first place was Mary Sturdivant, followed by Angie Martin in second place and Melissa Powell in third.

A program was presented on the steps of the courthouse, led by

See 250 on Page 2



Carroll County's America 250 celebration began with a parade of patriotic youngsters, led by Grand Marshal Moe Shamell, meteorologist at WBBJ-TV, and "Uncle Sam" (Chris Finley). Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Trezevant Town Council Backtracks on Rezoning Vote

BY LYNDEY SUMMERS
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TREZEVANT (July 14) — The Trezevant Town Council voted against rezoning the former Hillsman property at 5340 Broad Street on Tuesday, further stalling an eight-month effort to bring a hybrid grocery store to the town.

The council's decision backtracked its June vote, during which the council unanimously agreed to rezone the property from residential to commercial (B1). At the time, some aldermen said they were unaware of what they were voting for and voiced their disapproval of rezoning.

"This is an important decision," Alderman Dan Dieringer said. "I think we need to take time."

See TREZEVANT on Page 3

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Grace Baptist Church warmly invites you and your family to join us for our weekly services. Our doors are open to everyone in our community.

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Habitat for Humanity Dedicates Latest Home in McKenzie

BY JOEL WASHBURN
washburn@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (July 19) — The atmosphere was one of palpable joy on Walnut Street as the Habitat for Humanity of Carroll County held a dedication ceremony for its newest home, officially welcoming JayAnn Johnson as its owner.

The event drew supporters, including Habitat board members, construction volunteers, local church members and family, all gathering to celebrate a project that represented months of collaborative labor.

Rhonda Walsh, president of Habitat for Humanity of Carroll County, opened the ceremony with a warm tribute to Johnson, whom she described as a person of boundless enthusiasm. Walsh praised

See HABITAT on Page 3



JayAnn Johnson holds the keys to her new home. Pictured are Rhonda Walsh, Kassie Taylor, JayAnn Johnson, and Elder Samuel Perryman.

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McKenzie Police Department's K9 Toby to Receive Body Armor Donation

MCKENZIE — McKenzie Police Department's resident K9 officer, Toby, will soon receive a bullet and stab protective vest thanks to a charitable donation from non-profit organization Vested Interest in K9s, Inc.

K9 Toby's vest was sponsored by Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. and will be embroidered with the sentiment "In memory of Don Fike." Delivery is expected within ten weeks.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., established in 2009, is a 501(c)(3) charity whose mission is to provide bullet and stab protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the United States.

This potentially lifesaving body armor for four-legged K9 officers is U.S. made, custom fitted and National Institute of Justice (NIJ) certified. Each vest has a value of \$1,800, weighs an average of 4-5 lbs. and comes with a five-year warranty.

Since its inception, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. has provided over 6,603 vests



K9 Toby is pictured during the City of McKenzie's 2026 Freedom Festival. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

valued at \$6.9 million to K9s in all 50 states, made possible by both private and corporate donations.

The program is open to U.S. dogs that are at least 20 months old, actively employed and certified

with law enforcement or related agencies. K9s with expired vests are also eligible to participate.

There are an estimated 30,000 law enforcement K9s throughout the United States.

Carroll County Fair Releases 2026 Schedule

HUNTINGDON — The 2026 Carroll County Fair is just weeks away, beginning on Saturday, August 8. This year's fair appears to be bigger and better than ever, with two days of pageants, four carnival days, two days of Predator Monster Truck rides, a Lawn Mower Rodeo, Hub City Wrestling and more.

Schedule

Saturday, August 8: Pageants from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. — Little Miss Carroll County (4-6), Little Miss Fairest of the Fair (7-9), Ju-

nior Fairest of the Fair (10-12), Miss Teen Fairest of the Fair (13-15) and Miss Fairest of the Fair (16-20). \$5 spectator admission.

Sunday, August 9: Pageants from 2:30-4:30 p.m. — Fair Friends Baby Show (0-23 months) and Tiny Mr. and Miss Carroll County (2-3). \$5 spectator admission.

Wednesday, August 12: Family Night — Carnival, Petting Zoo, Predator Monster Truck Rides (free gate admission).

Thursday, August 13: Lawn Mower Rodeo, Car-

nival, Petting Zoo, Predator Monster Truck Rides (\$2 gate admission).

Friday, August 14: Hub City Wrestling (\$10 admission), Carnival and Petting Zoo (\$2 gate admission).

Saturday, August 15: Dog Show at 8 a.m. (\$5 spectator admission), Tractor Pull, Carnival and Petting Zoo (\$15 gate admission).

Gates open at 5 p.m. on August 12-15.

Armbands are available for \$25 on August 12-13 and for \$30 on August 14-15.



Top, A community choir, led by pianist Connie McCain, performed several patriotic selections. Above Left, Brent Bullock recites the Declaration of Independence on the courthouse steps. Above Right, Hot dog-eating contest winners (L to R) First Place - Dr. Dale Mathis, Second Place - Mitchell Stembridge and Third Place - SSG Ed Humphries, TN National Guard. Below, Eight competed in the hot dog-eating contest. Bottom, The homemade apple pie contest was judged by (L to R) Moe Shamell, SSG Courtney Churchwell and Sheila Horne. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



250

...From Front Page

Chamber President Brad Hurley. The National Anthem was played, and Hurley delivered a prayer.

Huntingdon Mayor Chad Edwards welcomed everyone to the event, and Carroll County Mayor Joseph Butler presented a proclamation celebrating the nation's milestone and recognized veterans for their contributions

and sacrifices.

McKenzie Mayor Ryan Griffin introduced the community choir, led by pianist Connie McCain. The choir, which included Griffin, performed "My Country 'Tis of Thee," "America the Beautiful" and "God Bless America."

Huntingdon Historical Society co-founder Johnny McClure recited a letter written from Thomas Jefferson to Washington, D.C. Mayor Roger Weightman in 1826 just days before his death on July 4 reflecting on the writing and signing of the

Declaration of Independence 50 years prior.

Brent Bullock recited the Declaration to close the program.

Following the program, a hot dog-eating contest was held. Eight competitors vied to be the fastest to eat ten hot dogs. Finishing first was Dr. Dale Mathis. In second place was Mitchell Stembridge, and SSG Ed Humphries of the Tennessee National Guard was third.

Besides the scheduled events, there were plenty of games and activities to enjoy.

RE-ELECT

Ronnie WADE

Carroll County Road Supervisor

RE-ELECT
Ronnie WADE
Carroll County Road Supervisor

- Daily on-the-job experience and knowledge as Carroll County Road Supervisor for the past four years
- Possesses operational management skills
- Values the workers' needs while maintaining good leadership ability
- Oversight of public infrastructure
- Realizes the importance of balanced project and overall budgets
- Awareness of road safety issues
- Knowledgeable of regulatory compliance with local, state and federal regulations, including safety protocols and environmental guidelines
- Willingness to listen to the issues of Carroll County residents and arrive at resolutions that are possible according to restrictions already in place by other agencies

Paid for by the candidate.

29-3

RYAN WHITE
FOR CARROLL COUNTY SHERIFF

With 25 years of law enforcement experience, I have served at every level — from Patrolman to Police Chief.

A SHERIFF FOR ALL OF CARROLL COUNTY

From the city centers to our most rural back roads, I have a stake in the success of the entire county. I am a graduate of West Carroll, resident and Police Chief of McKenzie and fell in love with law enforcement in Huntingdon with the Carroll County Sheriff's Office. I live and work here, my family lives here, and my commitment is to serve every citizen in the county equally.

GENERAL ELECTION AUGUST 6, 2026
EARLY VOTING NOW UNTIL SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

I HUMBLY ASK FOR YOUR VOTE FOR SHERIFF ON AUGUST 6

My philosophy is simple: "Right is right and wrong is wrong." As your Sheriff, I will always stand for what is right and hold individuals accountable — no matter who they are.

THE EXPERIENCE TO LEAD

- ★ **EXECUTIVE:** Current Chief of Police, Former Assistant Chief and Lieutenant.
- ★ **SPECIALIZED:** K-9 Handler, Narcotics / General Investigator, Former Clan Lab Technician / Site Safety Officer.
- ★ **TECHNICAL EXPERTISE / INSTRUCTOR:** Current Firearms Instructor, Former General Departmental Instructor (GDI) and Former Driving School Instructor and Evidence Custodian.
- ★ **BOOTS ON THE GROUND:** Patrol Officer, Corporal, K-9 Handler, and Sergeant.

ORGANIZATIONS

- ★ TACP (Tenn. Association of Chiefs of Police)
- ★ McKenzie Rotary Club

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

- ★ First Line Leadership Graduate (2014)
- ★ SELA Graduate (Southeastern Leadership Academy, 2017)
- ★ Carroll County Leadership (Class of 2025)
- ★ WestStar Leadership Program (Class of 2026)

TOP PRIORITIES

- ★ **FASTER EMERGENCY RESPONSE:** Implement Strategic County Zoning to ensure rural areas receive the same fast response as towns.
- ★ **MODERN ACCOUNTABILITY & TRANSPARENCY:** Implementing body cameras, increased deputy training and communication with the public.
- ★ **FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY:** Save taxpayers money through grants while implementing new programs.
- ★ **AGGRESSIVE DRUG ENFORCEMENT:** Leveraging years of experience as a narcotics investigator working with and alongside local, state and federal agencies.
- ★ **JAIL REFORM:** Reduce recidivism by implementing "Second Chance" life-skills programs for inmates and utilizing mental health services.
- ★ **COMMUNITY INVESTMENT:** Launch a county-wide Shop with a First Responder program.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Scan the QR code to Like/Follow Ryan White for Sheriff on Facebook!

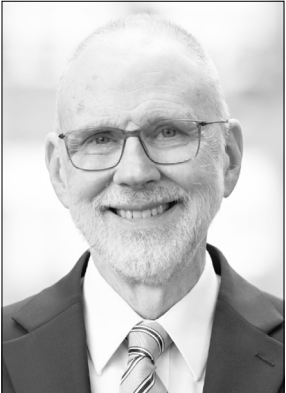
PAID FOR BY RYAN WHITE FOR SHERIFF. CARRIE HOLLOWELL, TREASURER.

Bethel University Names Dr. Joe Hames as Permanent Provost

MCKENZIE (July 20) — Bethel University announced Monday that Dr. Joseph R. Hames has been named University Provost. Hames, who has served as interim provost since 2025, becomes the first person to hold the position permanently in the University's 184-year history. The appointment follows a competitive national search that attracted highly qualified candidates from across the country.

"It is no surprise that Dr. Hames stood out from the rest of the field," said Bethel University President Dr. Perry Moulds. "Over the past 15 months, he has led our undergraduate and health-related academic programs with great success while essentially inventing the role of provost at Bethel in the process. His work, especially through the development of Vision 2030, has made our university better in numerous ways. I look forward to a bright future with Dr. Hames serving as the inaugural provost of Bethel University."

As provost, Hames serves as the University's chief academic officer, overseeing undergraduate and health-related academic programs, student life, the library, the regis-



Dr. Joe Hames

trar and the offices of institutional research, effectiveness and accreditation. "I am deeply grateful for the trust President Moulds and the Board have placed in me," Hames said. "Bethel has been home to my family for nearly 30 years, and it has been a privilege to serve alongside faculty and staff who care so much about our students. I look forward to continuing that work together in the years ahead." Dr. Hames brings nearly three decades of service to Bethel and a distinguished career in medicine and academic leadership. A Diplomate of the American Board of Family Medicine, he earned a bachelor's degree in English from Furman University, where he was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa,

and graduated from the University of South Carolina School of Medicine as a charter member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society. He completed his family practice residency at Memorial Medical Center in Savannah, Ga., and practiced medicine in South Carolina before moving to McKenzie in 1998.

At Bethel, Hames served on the exploratory committee that established the University's Physician Assistant program, which enrolled its first class in 2001, and became the program's founding medical director. He was named dean of the College of Health Sciences in 2010 and vice president of the College of Health Sciences in 2014 before his appointment as interim provost. He also served on the Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant Program from 2016 through 2021 and earned a Master of Arts in Christian Counseling from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary in 2026.

Hames is married to the Rev. Dr. Anne Hames, dean of the Chapel at Bethel University.

They have three grown children and eight grandchildren.



The new home of JayAnn Johnson.

Habitat

...From Front Page

the effort that brought the house to fruition, noting that volunteers and contractors poured hundreds of hours into the build over the past several months. She highlighted a significant financial achievement for the project: through the dedicated work of volunteers and local business contributions, the organization saved over \$75,000 in construction costs.

"Without all of you, we couldn't do this," Walsh told the gathered audience.

Following the opening remarks, Kassie Taylor, the Habitat office manager who oversees day-to-day operations, introduced Johnson. Taylor spoke of their shared journey over the last few years and reflected on the project's origins, including the groundbreaking ceremony held in April. She spoke of Johnson's enthu-

siasm and dedication to performing the requisite service hours.

The homeowner's cousin, Reginald Caldwell, was among the family members who addressed the audience. Caldwell expressed deep happiness that Johnson had made the transition from apartment living to homeownership, noting that the entire family shared in her joy.

The emotional peak of the ceremony came when Johnson herself addressed the crowd. Attributing the home to divine providence, she quoted Psalm 127:1—"Except the Lord build the house, the labor is in vain"—and expressed awe at seeing the project completed ahead of schedule. She shared her gratitude with local church leaders and the volunteers she affectionately referred to as "my own children." In her remarks, she extended a warm, signature invitation to her new neighbors and friends: "The door's always open, so you can come and

visit."

The home itself measures 1,008 square feet. When Johnson finally unlocked the front door and stepped inside, her reaction was immediate and overwhelmingly joyful: "Oh my God. Oh my God. This is beautiful. This is beautiful. This is beautiful."

The home was formally consecrated by Elder Samuel Perryman, who offered prayers for peace and protection over the dwelling.

After the blessing, Johnson received traditional Habitat gifts, including a new family Bible and a home pin, before unlocking the front door to see her new residence for the first time.

The house will soon be fully furnished with help from volunteers and items sourced from the Habitat ReStore in Huntingdon. Following the dedication, attendees were invited to tour the home, marking the beginning of a new chapter for the Johnson family in McKenzie.

Local Candidates Begin to Qualify for November Election

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

CARROLL COUNTY (July 16) — Municipal seats in Atwood, Bruce-ton, Hollow Rock, McKenzie, McLemoresville and Trezevant will be up for grabs come November, as yet another election looms ahead in Carroll County.

The general election for the above-listed cities is Tuesday, November 3. Also on the ballot is the battle for Tennessee Governor.

Candidate-petitioning for Atwood, Bruceton, Hollow Rock, Huntingdon, McKenzie, McLemoresville and Trezevant municipal seats began June 22. Candidates must turn in their signed petitions to qualify by noon August 20 to be on the November 3 ballot. The Carroll County Election Commission released an ongoing list of petitioners for the November election on July 16 at 10 a.m.

Municipal seats on the November 3 ballot are as follows:

Atwood

Mayor: Terry Joe Hern-don has picked up a petition for the seat. Incumbent Fridie Algee has not yet picked up a petition.

Two alderman positions: Dustin Church and Joann Long have filed petitions, and Tommy Polinski

has picked up a petition. Incumbents Jim Lewis and Randy D. Long have not picked up petitions.

Bruceton

Mayor: Incumbent Robert T. Keeton, III, has picked up a petition.

Two alderman positions: Incumbent Jack R. Blocker has picked up a petition; his fellow incumbent James A. Butler has not.

Hollow Rock

Mayor (two-year unexpired): Incumbent Ronnie Webb has picked up a petition.

Two alderman positions: James Robison and incumbent Angela Stockdale have picked up petitions. Fellow incumbent T. Richard Goodwin has not yet picked up a petition.

Alderman (two-year unexpired): Incumbent Cathie Pardue has picked up a petition.

Huntingdon

Three council member positions: No one has picked up a petition. Incumbents are John Sanders, Kelly Eubanks and Andrew Maddox.

McKenzie

Mayor: Incumbent Ryan D. Griffin has filed a petition.

Three councilman positions: Incumbent Bobby L. Young has filed a pe-

tion, and his fellow incumbents Tom Alexander and Carol Armpriest have picked up petitions. Armand J. Hebert, III, also picked up a petition.

McLemoresville

Mayor: Incumbent Phil Williams, Austin Prater and Nathan Worrell have picked up petitions.

Five alderman positions: Incumbent Sharron Holland and Robby Alford have filed petitions. Incumbent Mike Presson, incumbent Lana Y. Suite and Kim Wheeler have picked up petitions. Incumbents Don T. Reed and Angie Martin have not picked up petitions.

Trezevant

Three alderman positions: Incumbents Donald M. Barger, Dan Dieringer and Pamela D. Joyner have picked up petitions. Beth Anne Farrell and Liz Yohman have also picked up petitions.

Kirk D. Carter also qualified in March as an independent candidate for the Tennessee House of Representatives District 79 seat. Representative Brock Martin (R-Huntingdon) currently holds this position.

For more details, contact the Carroll County Election Commission Office at 731-98-1968, or www.carrolltnelections.com

Election

...From Front Page

Democratic voters and 20 were from general voters.

Early voters for the August 6 election can make their decisions on local school board and county offices — including the contested Carroll County Sheriff seat — as well as state and federal Republican/

Democratic primaries.

Carroll County residents wishing to cast an early ballot must vote at the Carroll County Election Commission Office, located at 625 High Street in Huntingdon (in the rear of the Carroll County Government Office).

Voters have from until August 1 to cast an early vote. Voting hours are as listed:

- Monday through Friday:

8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Saturday: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

After the early voting period, the election day is August 6 at the respective local precincts.

All voters must present a federal- or state-issued photo ID, unless an exception applies. College student IDs, non-U.S. Citizen IDs and IDs issued by local governments or other states are not accepted.

Trezevant

...From Front Page

Dieringer also argued for putting housing projects on the property. Trezevant already has a grocery store, he said, referring to Dollar General. He didn't think the town was large enough to support two grocery stores, and he said the best way to support population growth was to either build additional housing or open factories.

Rita Foster, Trezevant's newly-appointed Industrial Development Board (IDB) chair, told Dieringer that she knew of several residentially-zoned properties in Trezevant that could support housing, but the former Hillsman property was the only place she knew of that could support a new grocery store.

The property is just off Highway 79 and receives heavy traffic, Foster pointed out. "Wouldn't you want a business there instead of a house?" she asked.

Foster spent several years trying to find someone to open a new grocery store on the property and said that she wouldn't have dedicated so much time and effort to it if she had known the council had no intention of rezoning.

During the IDB's June meeting, interested buyer Philip Colwell said he had run out of patience with the town and threatened to back out of his offer if no progress was made to rezone or sell the property.

Ultimately, the council wanted more detailed information from the IDB regarding Colwell's plans. Under the recommendation of Town Attorney Charlie Trotter, the council also



IDB Chair Rita Foster appeals to the Trezevant council, asking them to consider zoning the 5340 Broad Street property from residential to business. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

agreed that they would only be interested in leasing the property to Colwell — not selling.

Colwell told the IDB last month that he was not interested in leasing the property, as he will be building the grocery store from the ground up.

"I don't see how many people would want to spend \$300,000 on leased land," Foster told the council. "Maybe in larger cities, but not here."

Trezevant Mayor Bobby Blaylock voiced his concerns with the board: "We need to talk about what we're doing. Are we just going to keep doing this every month?"

The council agreed to revisit the rezoning issue next month if the IDB presents more detailed information regarding its agreement with Colwell.

In other business, the council approved its fireworks ordinance on its final reading, voting to lower the sales license fee from \$1,500 to \$150 after determining the previous fee was excessive. Alderman

Dan Dieringer was the only board member to dissent. The license is required for each sales period, meaning businesses must obtain one for Independence Day and another for New Year's celebrations.

Andrew Simmons from the Northwest Tennessee Development District spoke to the council regarding grants. He told them about the Community Development Block Grant, for which Trezevant is a 13% match, and asked the council for detailed wishlists from each municipal department.

Dieringer vowed to check for grant openings each month.

Mayor Blaylock then took the floor, asking to raise the town's spending limit from \$9,999 to \$20,000 — meaning the town would only need to request bids for purchases over \$20,000.

"\$10,000 used to buy a pretty decent vehicle," Blaylock said. "Now, you can't get anything for \$10,000."

Blaylock's proposal came at the recommendation of the Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS).

The council will vote on the change in future meetings, as it needs to be presented as an ordinance.

Lastly, IDB Vice Chair Janet Dickson gave an update regarding the town's up-and-coming website. She recently gained access to start building the site and has already completed several components. She requested photos and contact information from each alderman and advertised the opportunity for individuals to feature their local businesses on the website for free.

The Town of Trezevant Mayor and Board of Aldermen's next meeting is Tuesday, August 11.

TCAP

...From Front Page

counterparts.

The TCAP dashboard shared the results of all school districts in Carroll County except the South Carroll Special School District.

With 43.1% of students elementary through high school meeting or exceeding expectations in English/language arts (ELA), the McKenzie Special School District outperformed its county neighbors and is the only county district to exceed the state's percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations.

Statewide, 42.3% of students met or exceeded expectations in ELA.

Hollow Rock-Bruceton had 37.8% of students meeting or exceeding the state average in ELA, Huntingdon had 40.9% and West Carroll

had 34.1%.

The Huntingdon Special School District topped its neighboring districts in math, with 46.3% of students elementary through high school meeting or exceeding expectations. Both Huntingdon and McKenzie (45.5%) districts exceeded the state's percentage of students meeting or exceeding expectations.

Statewide, 40.9% of students met or exceeded expectations in math.

Hollow Rock-Bruceton had 35.3% and West Carroll had 27.4% of students who met or exceeded state expectations in math.

Middle-schoolers across the state were also tested on their social studies knowledge. McKenzie Middle School students topped its neighbors in social studies, with 57.1% of students meeting or exceeding expectations.

Statewide, 50% of students met or exceeded ex-

pectations in social studies. While McKenzie's numbers exceeded the state percentage, Huntingdon Middle School met the state percentage exactly.

Hollow Rock-Bruceton had 39.2% and West Carroll had 47.2% of students meeting or exceeding state expectations in social studies.

For a more in-depth look at each district and school's performance, the TCAP dashboard can be viewed at https://tdepublicschools.ondemand.sas.com/state/assessment.

Results can be filtered by grade, subject level, student groups and communities.

Individual student data will be available in the TCAP Family Portal later this month. 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.

Things In My Head with Charles Manfredi



The Weight of Witnessing a State-Sponsored Execution



**Editor's
VIEWPOINT**
BY JOEL WASHBURN
washburn@mckenziebanner.com

If you were granted the opportunity to witness a state-sponsored execution, would you take it? It is a question that challenges the boundaries of professional duty and personal beliefs.

The Tennessee Department of Correction has scheduled the execution of Anthony Hines for August 13, 2026. In accordance with state law, the department recently issued invitations to recognized news organizations to apply for a role as a statutorily required witness. Seven representatives and two alternates will be chosen by drawing at the Riverbend Maximum Security Institution to observe the proceedings and report their observations to the public.

The invitation I received read: "In accordance with state law, the Tennessee Department of Correction (TDOC) is now accepting applications... for the scheduled execution of

Anthony Hines #109293." It is a "distinction" that carries a heavy burden, tasking journalists with providing a transparent account of the state's most final act.

This is not the first time such an invitation has reached me. Decades ago, my brother Jeff—then the editor of the Dresden Enterprise—and I, in my capacity as editor of The McKenzie Banner, were invited to witness an execution. The case was local; the inmate was from McKenzie and the victim was a child from Weakley County. Despite the professional relevance, we both declined.

Our decision was shaped by a shared history. Beyond our roles in the media, we both served as emergency medical technicians. In both professions, we had already stood as witnesses to death and the fragility of life. We understood that witnessing the end of a life, even one mandated by the legal system, is an experience that leaves an indelible memory.

As August 13 approaches, the question for The Banner's readers is, "What would you do if you were asked to witness and report on the final moments of a human life?"



**Editor's
VIEW**
BY BRITTANY
WASHBURN MARTIN
Publisher • Graphic Designer

Respect Your Elders

This morning on my way to work I met an older man driving slowly. I got a glimpse of his face and it was familiar, but I couldn't place where I'd seen him. Like he was someone I used to see often, maybe a former business owner?

The man behind him was visibly frustrated by the pace, obviously in a hurry to get wherever he was headed. I'm usually guilty of that sentiment as well, but today I observed what it looks like from the outside.

And it hit me, that's how we – more often than not – treat older people in our society.

We complain that they are taking too long or assume they are dumb if they don't understand a new concept as quickly as younger folks.

We assume ignorance and don't exercise patience to teach and assist.

The irony is – almost everything we know had to be taught to us by someone else with patience.

Our parents literally wiped our butts until we were potty trained. Now, that's real love.

Our way of life has changed so much just in my 40 years on earth.

I jokingly say, "Please be patient with me, I'm from the 1900s."

That statement is slowly becoming

less of a joke and more of a warning to younger generations who attempt to explain new concepts to me.

The cliché is that if older people want help with their electronics, they should ask the grandkids.

Well, that street goes both ways.

All the knowledge of the world was once held in the minds of the now-older generations. Before the internet and AI – the way a person knew things was a lot more tedious. You had to go to a library or ask someone who knew. We relied on each other a lot more then.

Reliance on others and mutual respect were casualties of the access to lightning-speed information.

It's also made us a little complacent about the people and things in our lives.

When you don't have to put in the work to get the result, a little bit of the perceived value is lost.

There's a lot of knowledge to be gained by listening to older folks.

For example, my husband, Jason, and I bought this newspaper in 2023. That process was a crash course in business practices, state and federal laws and a handful of other "good to know" things.

My parents, with their decades of combined knowledge of business management and accounting, were able to answer all our questions.

After three years of business ownership, I still don't know all the things I need to know. There's lots more to learn.

With time, knowledge is gained; but if you want to get a crash course in life's wisdom, ask an older person.

And please, be patient.

GUEST EDITORIAL

Do We Really Need Local Libraries And Small-Town Newspapers?

BY DAVID JOHNSON
davidjohnsonbooks@gmail.com

With the world at our fingertips via the click of a mouse or the touch of a mobile phone screen, are libraries and newspapers necessary anymore, especially in small towns? It's a legitimate question that's being asked across the country, a question that's often driven by economics as the cost of newspapers increases and the strained budgets of cities struggle with funding a library.

How a person answers the question will be determined by two things: how they themselves use the two resources and what they believe the functions of local libraries and small-town newspapers are.

I will admit that I am now a senior citizen and that I have not checked out a book from a public library in decades, even though as a child I loved going to the library and checking out books. So, on the surface you would think that I would see no point in having a local library, but the truth is the opposite and that is because what libraries used to be a long time ago and what they need to be in the present and for the future are radically different.

According to a recent Pew Research study, 53 percent of Millennials (those 18-35) in the United States visited a library at least once in 2016, more than in any other generation.

- Why is that?**
- Books are more expensive than ever (even though there are hundreds of thousands of books on Amazon for 99 cents, it's important to remember that not all young

"If information is the currency of democracy, then libraries are its banks."

— Senator Wendell Ford

- people have the necessary technology nor the money to get them)
- Libraries offer quiet spaces for young people to gather and work on projects, do research, or do homework. Quiet, conflict-free spaces in homes are harder and harder to find.
 - Successful libraries are offering services that people can't find elsewhere: learning English as a second language, teaching how to build a resume, filling out a job application online, a place where self-help groups (like divorce recovery, grief recovery, 12-Step groups) can meet, mentors can meet with their mentees without being disturbed, parenting classes, classes on divorce recovery, meeting place for book clubs.
 - Children's libraries promote literacy through scores of specialized programs and events.
- "Libraries are the great symbols of the freedom of the mind." —Franklin D. Roosevelt.
- "If information is the currency of democracy, then libraries are its banks." Senator Wendell Ford
- "Freedom is found through the portals of our nation's li-

HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

Off The Cuff, And Then Some

If you are looking for a witty, intriguing, plot-thickening story of the Old South, with a jaw-dropping ending...stop right here! And do yourself a favor. Move on to the column below. I don't have a story in mind today.

But I have always wondered if an article could be written when you have absolutely nothing to say. Kinda like a no story, story. Just start with the first thing that pops into your head and go from there. No idea. No message. No real direction. No underlying innuendos. No hidden meaning in the fourth paragraph that would be indiscernible to everyone except Peggy Sue Blackman.

This is the last warning I will give you to jump out of this experiment!

Hamburgers are always on my mind. It started way back when I was a kid eating pinto beans and okra for supper one night, and corn and green tomatoes the next. Hamburgers were as scarce as hens' teeth at our house for a fairly understandable reason; we couldn't grow them in our garden.

I have written dozens of times about the rare delight of a City Café 40-cent hamburger in the days of my youth. The secret was to start with good beef and let the grease runneth (King James version) over. I classify those burgers to this day as, "A thing of beauty, and a joy forever."

There are eateries now charging 15 dollars for one hamburger! I'd rather eat the beans and tomatoes! I understand cattle farmers have to make a living. We all know there are transportation and delivery costs. Excise taxes. Cooks and waiters get a cut. And the owner has a car payment like the rest of us.

But 15 bucks for one hamburger? It feels un-American to me. It's enough to make you quit eating altogether. And please don't pile a thousand French fries around it to make me think I'm the one breaking even....

How come it was Leon sitting beside me eating beans and not Karen Webb? They were both the same age. With just a nod from God, she could have been my older sibling. She lived just a few houses down the street. God would not have had to switch them all the way across the country.

I would have an older sister. And Billy Webb would get a younger brother. It makes perfect sense to me. Leon couldn't order me around. Make me mow the yard. Carry his books to school. I had to swim across the Obion River once and retrieve a baseball he had flung to the other side just "to see if it could be done."

Karen was about perfect in every respect. She was gentle as a lamb. And beautiful. And most importantly, she would fuss at Leon if he was taking advantage of me. Good golly, an older sister who was always on your side....

I'm going to ask God about that one day.

Of course, if Leon hadn't been placed in our family, you would never have heard of me because I would have run out of story ideas 30 years ago!

And remember, it was Leon who made the second most profound statement I've ever heard. When Mom was fussing at him for his low English grade in high school, he assured her, "I already know more English than I'm using now."

Before you ask, Will Rogers once wrote, "Everybody is ignorant, only on different

braries." David McCullough

My research on the topic of local libraries led me to the conclusion that people today who have wealth and position have less of a need for libraries than those who do not, which leads to the problem that the very ones who will have to help pay for a library don't want to because they think it is an unnecessary expense. However, it is vital in our narcissistic world of today to remember the obligation we have to help those who are less fortunate than ourselves, and supporting a local library is just one of the ways that can be done.

So, where do small-town newspapers fit into this discussion? First of all, to compare small-town newspapers to large metropolitan newspapers or national news organizations is to miss the point.

Small-town newspapers are about me and my friends and neighbors. They are chock-full of good news (as opposed to the doomsday spin the national media puts on every story) and feel-good stories. It is there that I can learn what has been going on down the street or what is going to be happening soon. They make an effort to keep the local government honest by reporting on what happens in council meetings and board meetings. Citizens are invited to air their unedited gripes and concerns on the editorial page. A photographic record is displayed of children who have achieved success of every conceivable kind—sports, music, dance, reading, academics, beauty pageants. Local, small businesses are promoted.

If we lose our local library or small-town newspaper, then we lose a piece of ourselves and what connects us to each other. Therefore, both are worthy of our generous support.

subjects." Nothing tops that!

Will's words lingered on my mind when I was pondering on just how to turn an education into a productive career. My maturity was still in question (in my own mind) when the principal of Port St. Joe High School called and asked me to come to Florida. I said no.

Until no one else called. And I gave everyone plenty of time. And then waited some more....

I do not know to this day if I chose to teach school in Florida. Or if a classroom in Florida chose me. But I would not trade the experiences I've had with anyone else in the world...well, except maybe Arnold Palmer or Clint Eastwood. I'm being silly here; I can't play golf or act. Arnold and Clint would have to get along without me.

But that does bring up an intriguing proposition. If I'm not me, if I chose a different sibling, another occupation, to be somebody other than who I am, think of the people I don't meet in my life. Like my first wife. Or Loretta Lynn and Carl Perkins. Or Buddy and Yogi. Or the girl from Cottage Grove who when introduced to me said, "You don't look much like a baseball player."

Everyone needs a slice of humble pie now and again.

Maybe the grass is not greener on the other side. Maybe we have it better than we might think. Maybe God knows more about us, and who our older brother needs to be, than we do.

There is absolutely no story here today. But as Will Rogers might say, there is a bit to chew on....

Respectfully,
Kes
Kesley45@aol.com



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Obituaries

CHARLES RICHARD BOSTIC 1965 — 2026

GLEASON — Funeral services for Charles Richard Bostic were Saturday, July 18, 2026, at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home. Interment was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery.

Mr. Bostic, 62, died at St Francis Hospital, Memphis, on July 11, 2026. He was a welder at Republic Doors.

Born on March 25, 1965, in Chicago, Ill., to James Chester and Emma Jean Ramey Bostic.

He is survived by his brothers, James (Renee Leach) Bostic of McKenzie and Roy (Sue) Bostic of Punta Gorda, Fla.

He is preceded in death by his parents and his brother, John Anthony Bostic; and sister, Anita Carol Bostic.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home.

DORIS BRASFIELD 1935 — 2026

McKENZIE — Funeral services for Doris Imogene Brasfield were Monday, July 20, 2026, at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home. Interment was at Highland Memorial Cemetery, Jackson, Tenn.

Mrs. Brasfield, 90, formerly of Jackson, died at Lakeside Senior Living on Tuesday, July 14, 2026.

She was born in Jackson on October 12, 1935, to Thomas and Pearlle Bawcum Conder.

She is survived by her daughter, Sharon (Daniel) Grisham of McKenzie; a sister, Wanda Hill of Berkeley Springs, West Virginia; eight grandchildren, 16 great-grandchildren and four great-great grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents; husband, James Brasfield; son, Stephen Brasfield, Sr.; two brothers, Thomas Conder and Robert Conder; and two great-grandchildren.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home.

DON RENFROE 1947 — 2026

MIXIE — Mr. Don Renfro, 79, of Mixie, Tenn., died Monday, July 13, 2026, at his home.

Funeral services were Saturday, July 18, 2026, at 1 p.m. in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Hom. Burial was at Mixie Cemetery.

Mr. Renfro was born May 12, 1947, in Huntingdon, to the late Virginia Lee and Garvin Ora Renfro.

He was also preceded in death by a brother, Royce Renfro; grandchildren, Aron Renfro and Alyssa Renfro; and a brother-in-law, Kevin Holland.

He is survived by his loving wife of 22 years, Tina Renfro of Mixie; a daughter, LeeAnn Ellis of Henry; a son, Chris Renfro, of Henry; step-children, Chuck Kinkead (Patti) of Cottage Grove and Page France (Jason) of Paris; a sister, Andoria Holland of Huntingdon; and two brothers, Loyce Renfro (Kathy) of Jackson and David Renfro (Vickie) of Huntingdon. He also leaves nine grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

CHARLES BIRDWELL 1954 — 2026

GREENFIELD — Mr. Charles E. Birdwell, 71, died at his home on July 13, 2026. There are no services; he requests cremation without services.

Mr. Birdwell was born in Huntingdon, on November 18, 1954, to James P. and

Pauline Harrison Birdwell. He was a butcher and farmer by trade.

He is survived by his wife, Leticia Birdwell of Greenfield; a son, Roger Birdwell of Greenfield; three stepsons, John Oliva of Lexington, and Jason and Chris Rakin of Jackson; a daughter, Regina Stem of Tullahoma; stepdaughter, Sofia Oliva of Memphis, a sister, Brenda (Billy) Harrison of McKenzie; Sale (Kathy) Birdwell of McKenzie and Joe Birdwell of Gleason; and 12 grandchildren.

He is preceded in death by his parents and brother, James Harold "Pete" Birdwell.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home at 731-352-4848 or visit brummittmckenziefuneralhome.com.

JOSHUA MAYBERRY 1981 — 2026

Mr. Joshua Leon Mayberry, 44, of Portland, Ore., died Saturday, July 11, 2026, at Jackson Madison County General Hospital.

Mr. Mayberry was born November 6, 1981, in Milan, to Tom Mayberry and Debra Baumgardner Mayberry. He worked in home health as a C.N.A.

Along with his parents, Debra Mayberry of Huntingdon and Tom Mayberry (Kim) of Trezevant, he is survived by a sister, Lydia Armour (Jeremy Gordon) of Huntingdon.

Chase Funeral Home.

BETTY JANE CROCKER 1936 — 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Betty Jane Crocker, 90, of Huntingdon, died Friday, July 17, 2026, at Huntingdon Health and Rehabilitation Center.

Funeral services were Tuesday, July 21, 2026, in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home. Interment was in New Independence Cemetery.

She was born February 23, 1936, in Bradford, Tenn., to the late Paul and Nell (Barton) Spain. She was also preceded in death by her husband, George Crocker; a daughter, Kim Waller; a son, Michael Crocker; and a great-granddaughter, Audrey Denson.

She is survived by a son, Mark Crocker (Cammy) of McMoresville; a sister, Judy Deere (Larry) of Atwood; seven grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren.

DANNY JOE BEAL 1954 — 2026

McKENZIE — Danny Joe Beal, 72, died Friday, June 26, 2026, at Carrolton of Fayetteville in North Carolina following a brief illness. A native of McKenzie, Danny was a 1972 graduate of McKenzie High School and remained a resident of the community he loved. He was born March 1, 1954.

Danny was preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth Paulette Yocom Beal; his son, Michael Dean Beal; and his parents, Joe and Nettie Marie Beal.

He is survived by his grandchildren, Logan Simoes Beal and Grace Simoes Beal, both of Fayetteville, N.C.; and his dear friend, Patricia Simoes Beal, also of Fayetteville; his step-children, Edward James of McKenzie, Matthew James of Lawrenceburg, Tenn., and Kellie Gray of St. Joseph, Tenn.

A graveside service for the burial of his ashes will be conducted at Fairview Cemetery in Loretto, Tenn. The service is Monday, August 3, 2026, at 12 p.m., where family and friends will gather to honor his memory.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FREE BACK-TO-SCHOOL CLOTHES, HAIRCUTS

Back to School Event is on July 25 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for K-8 grades at Webb School, 938 Walnut Ave W., McKenzie, TN 38201. There will be free clothes, shoes, underclothes, free haircuts, and hairstyles. For more information, call 731-697-5468. More information will follow.

AREA BACK-TO-SCHOOL DATES

The five Carroll County school districts (McKenzie, Huntingdon, West Carroll, Hollow Rock-Bruceton and South Carroll) begin staff in-service on Monday, July 27. Students report for a half-day on Tuesday, August 4.

Weakley County Schools begin later, with staff reporting for in-service on Monday, August 3. Students begin the year with a full day on Monday, August 10.

In-service for Henry County School System staff begins Thursday, July 23. Students report for a half-day on Monday, August 3. Students in the Paris Special School District also return for a half-day on Monday, August 3.

HUNTINGDON BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

August 2, 5-7 p.m., at the Carroll County Sesquicentennial Park across from the Civic Center in Huntingdon. For Huntingdon students and their families, free food, school supplies, games, and Rollin Snow food truck.

SCHOOL SUPPLY GIVEAWAY

August 2 is the date of a school supply giveaway at Mulberry Park in McKenzie. The event begins at noon.

McKENZIE REBELS MEET AND GREET

August 8, 5:30-9:30 p.m. is the Meet and Greet for the McKenzie Rebels including the MHS and MMS Football teams, MHS and MMS Bands, MHS and MMS Cheerleaders, and the youth football league. There will be a dunking booth, concessions, vintage jerseys on display, and a kick-punt tournament. The admission price is \$5.

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, and 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.

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.

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 amyr-carter58@gmail.com or Marsha Spain Smith at smithmarsha99@yahoo.com. Deadline for registration is August 31.

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.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB AT HOMETOWN HEALTH CLINIC

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

McKENZIE TOPS MEETS WEEKLY

Win over weight with support and encouragement by meeting with the McKenzie Chapter of TOPS (Take Off Pounds

Sensibly) each Monday at 3 p.m. in the McKenzie Church of Christ gymnasium. The first meeting is free. For more information, call 731-352-7309. If no answer, leave a message.

CARROLL COMMISSION MEETS MONTHLY

Carroll County Commission meets the second Monday of each month at 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.

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City of Paris Begins \$1.6 Million Paving Project

PARIS (July 20) — The City of Paris's 2026 Annual Street Paving Program is officially underway. Crews began milling on Volunteer Drive Monday morning, marking the start of this year's \$1.6 million street improvement program.

Each year, City of Paris officials evaluate city streets using a pavement condition grading system that helps the Public Works Department identify which roads are in the greatest need of repair. This objective process allows the city to prioritize paving projects where they will have the greatest impact.

This year, the city in-

creased its annual paving budget to \$1.6 million in recognition of several factors that accelerated pavement deterioration, including:

- Damage caused by the January winter storm
- Street cuts and pavement impacts resulting from the Paris Board of Public Utilities water rehabilitation project
- Normal wear and aging of city streets

These additional funds will allow the city to address more streets than in a typical paving season.

The following streets are scheduled for milling and/or paving during this year's

program: Abbott Lane, Ann Street, Brewster Street, Brown Street, Caledonia Street, Corbin Street, Crossway Street, Culpepper Drive, Dumas Street, Dunnlap, E. Blythe Avenue, Emerald Cove, Ellis Street, Green Street, Guthrie Road, Hardy Street, Highland Street, Jackson Street, Jack Younger Drive, Lake Street, Maple Street, McCambell Street, McClain Street, Paris Harbor Drive, Park Street, Penny Lane, Pin Oak, Poplar Street, Powell Street, Post Oak Drive, Recycling Drive, Rison Street, Short Road, Volunteer Drive, Whiskey Ridge Road, White Oak Drive, Williams Street, Winn Street and Wright Street.

Milling on Volunteer Drive from Patriot Avenue to Eiffel Tower Park is the only project currently in progress.

Rotary Club of McKenzie Hears Urgent Call To Action in Fight Against Local Hunger

MCKENZIE (July 14) — The Rotary Club of McKenzie received a sobering yet hopeful update on the state of food insecurity in the region during their meeting on July 14, as Donna Vick, donor relations manager for the Second Harvest Food Bank of Middle Tennessee, issued a direct call for community involvement.

Vick, who also serves as president of the Camden Rotary Club, told of the challenges facing Carroll County. According to the latest "Map the Meal Gap" statistics from 2023, nearly 5,000 people in the county—roughly 17.4% of the population—are food insecure. Perhaps most concerning is the impact on the county's youth, with 1,400 children, or 22.3%, missing meals.

"Hunger doesn't take a vacation," Vick told the club, noting that summer is a particularly difficult season. With school-provided meals unavailable, families face increased pressure, while charitable donations often dip as the community shifts into vacation mode.

Second Harvest, which covers 46 counties across Middle and West Tennessee, has significantly expanded its footprint in the region since acquiring nine West Tennessee counties nearly two decades ago. In 2018, the organization opened the Ray Smith Family Distribution Center in Camden, which now serves as a vital hub for 14 counties, including Carroll.

Vick detailed the multifaceted approach the food bank takes to nourish the community. Beyond traditional food distribution, the organization employs a "Food Rescue" program that collects near-date items from local retailers like Walmart and Kroger, purchases fresh produce



Donna Vick of Second Harvest Food Bank and Armand Hebert, President of McKenzie Rotary Club.

from local farmers—including Bell Farms in McKenzie—and operates a social enterprise called "Project Preserve" to manufacture shelf-stable goods.

Perhaps most notably, the organization has begun growing its own food. Vick, who manages the project, shared that the Camden facility's four-acre "Project Grow" farm recently harvested 450 pounds of cucumbers in a single day, which were promptly distributed to families in need across the region.

Despite these efforts, Vick admitted that the organization struggles to meet the demand in Carroll County. Currently, Second Harvest works with two primary local partners: the Huntingdon Church of Christ and the Trezevant Ministerial Alliance. They have also invested in specialized programs, such as the "Food is Medicine" pilot with Hometown Health, backpack programs at local schools, and mobile markets at the McKenzie Housing Authority.

Vick's message to the Rotarians was clear: the community is the "hope"

in the fight against hunger. She challenged the club members to contribute in three specific ways:

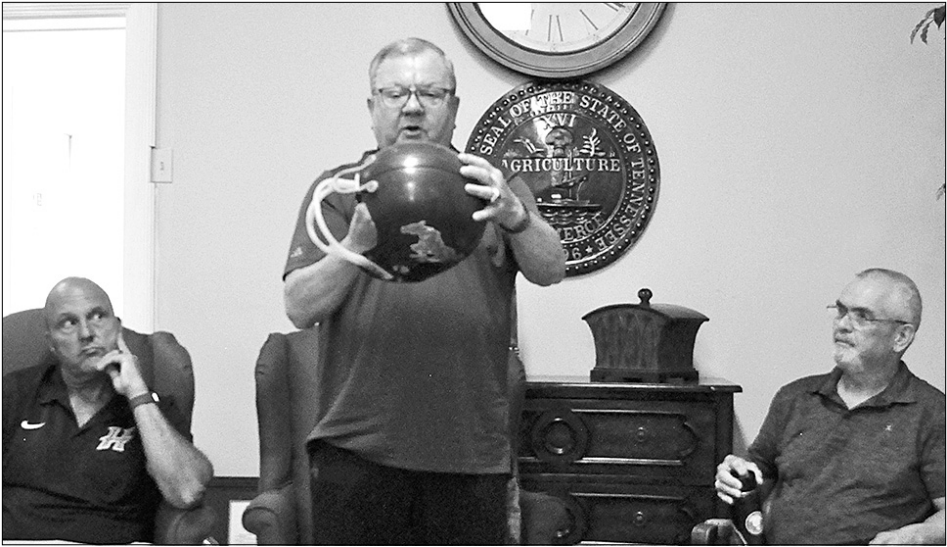
Time — Volunteering at the Camden distribution center for "dry sort" or "cold sort" shifts.

Talent — Organizing local food drives, with the assurance that all collected items remain within the community.

Treasure — Financial support, noting that 96 cents of every dollar donated goes directly to feeding programs, with a single dollar providing four meals.

The presentation concluded on a note of partnership. Vick highlighted a new initiative funded by Centennial Bank that will provide shelf-stable food to agencies in Carroll and Chester counties throughout the year.

As the meeting adjourned, the Rotary Club of McKenzie began discussing plans to schedule volunteer shifts and support an upcoming back-to-school event, signaling a renewed commitment to serving their neighbors in need.



Top, HHS Head Coach Eric Swenson (center) was presented resolutions honoring the 2025 championship team and his own coaching accolades by State Representative Brock Martin (left) and State Senator John Stevens. Above, Former Mustang coach Jimmy Pritchard (standing) displays a 1960s-era football helmet during Wednesday's panel discussion with HHS Head Coach Eric Swenson (left) and Historical Society co-founder Johnny McClure. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Huntingdon Coaches Talk Football at Historical Society

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (July 15) — Featured speakers at this month's meeting of the Huntingdon Historical Society on Wednesday morning were former Huntingdon High School football assistant coach Jimmy Pritchard and current Head Coach Eric Swenson.

The pair sat for a one-hour panel discussion in the conference room of Huntingdon City Hall, led by Historical Society co-founder Johnny McClure.

Pritchard spent 40 years as a teacher and coach in Carroll County before his retirement, mostly at his alma mater, Huntingdon High School.

Swenson began his career as middle school head coach at West Carroll in 1990. From 1996-2004, he served as an offensive coordinator at HHS, then, after a stint at Hickman County, he returned to accept the head coach position in 2008.

Coach Swenson became the winningest coach in program history last year with his 170th victory. The Mustangs added five more wins to the record en route to a state championship, the school's second.

Both Pritchard and Swenson were on the staff for Huntingdon's first title in 2003.

The pair of coaches

traced the history of football in Huntingdon back to its origins at Southern Normal University, a private school that began a football program in 1904.

Huntingdon High School was established as a public school in 1919, and they launched football in 1927. Math teacher J.O. Mills started the school's athletic program, which also included basketball.

The team was known as the Eagles or Blue Eagles until they became the Mustangs in 1934. Also that year, C.H. Pudor was hired as head coach. Pudor, who would come to be known as "the Godfather of Huntingdon football," led the team to its first undefeated season in 1937.

The coaches spoke about some other memorable players and coaches, who Pritchard said there are "too many to name."

Besides rattling off over a dozen players who made huge statistical impacts, they mentioned two players noteworthy for their physical presence. Desmond Taylor wore the largest helmet available, the same size as NFL legend William "Refrigerator" Perry. Steve Walker wore a size 18.5 shoe. The team had to search far and wide to find cleats he could wear, eventually acquiring a pair from the Atlanta Falcons.

Swenson spoke about last

year's championship run. He said, "It's very seldom here that we get to be the underdog," referring to the Mustangs' projected fifth-place finish in the region. "They didn't have a bullseye on their back. They never got uptight about anything; they didn't feel pressure."

He noted the turnaround from the team's Week 3 lopsided loss to Milan to their one-point victory in the semifinals. "They just got better and better and better. It was just a run where everything went right. We were very blessed with a great group of kids, a great coaching staff and great support from our town."

At the end of the program, attendees were invited to view some Mustang memorabilia, including the two championship rings.

Prior to the program, State Representative Brock Martin and State Senator John Stevens presented Swenson with two resolutions honoring the 2025 championship team and Swenson (for being named Coach of the Year by the Tennessee Football Coaches Association and West Tennessee Coach of the Year by the Tennessee Sports Writers Association).

Next month's Huntingdon Historical Society program will feature Lynn Compton, who will speak about the history of electricity in Carroll County.

New Book Explores Carroll County During the Civil War

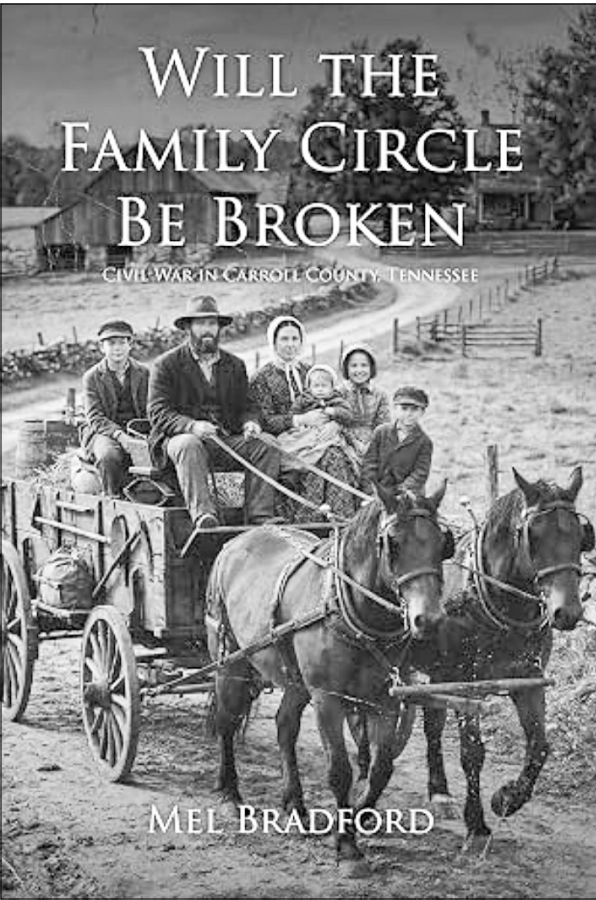
Author Mel Bradford's new book, "Will the Family Circle Be Broken: Civil War in Carroll County, Tennessee," transforms Carroll County into a battleground during the turbulent years of 1850 to 1865.

The narrative follows Bradford's ancestors as they experience the war years, discovering that neutrality becomes impossible when war arrives at their doorstep. Though a fictional account of the Bradford family's experiences, each chapter is anchored by factual summaries of what was happening across the nation during this period.

At the heart of the tale lies Kathy, a paper delivery girl harboring a secret that threatens those closest to her, while bushwhackers and lawlessness transform her home into a battleground where survival itself becomes uncertain.

Bradford's journey to writing this novel emerged from a lifetime of curiosity about his own family heritage. After spending his early years teaching and coaching in a small rural community, he transitioned into an insurance career before retiring early to pursue his passions. His investigation into genealogy led him to discover ancestors who lived through the Civil War era, and that revelation sparked deep research into Tennessee's divided loyalties and complex history. Learning that some of his Bradford ancestors sided with the Union rather than the Confederacy prompted him to examine the region's intricate social and political landscape during this turbulent period.

"Will the Family Circle be Broken" examines the



profound cost of civil conflict on ordinary families caught between opposing forces. Readers will witness how the war fractures communities, tests bonds of kinship and friendship, and forces difficult choices upon those who wish only to survive. The book reveals how a group of local coffee drinkers established their own form of justice in Carroll County, highlighting the vigilante justice that emerged when official authority collapsed.

"This story represents years of family research and historical study," said Bradford. "I wanted to show how the Civil War affected ordinary people in small Tennessee communities, and how my own ancestors navigated these impossible circumstances.

The hidden secrets, the threats from bushwhackers, and the personal losses suffered by the Bradford family reflect the real struggles that families endured during this period."

Published by Christian Faith Publishing, Mel Bradford's work provides readers with an intimate portrait of how war transforms communities and families. This novel invites reflection on how historical events continue to shape our understanding of American identity and regional conflict.

Readers who wish to experience this gripping work can order "Will the Family Circle Be Broken" at bookstores everywhere, or online at the Apple iTunes Store, Amazon, Google Play or Barnes and Noble.

Gasoline Prices Increase During Week

TENNESSEE (July 20) — Average gasoline prices in Tennessee increased 12.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.59/g today, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 3,821 stations in Tennessee. Prices in Tennessee are 8.8 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 85.8 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has decreased 22.3 cents compared to a week ago and stands at \$5.077 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Tennessee was priced at \$3.19/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$4.49/g, a difference of \$1.30/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$3.19/g while the highest was \$4.49/g, a difference of \$1.30/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 13.0 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.95/g today. The national average is up 6.5 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands

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

Historical gasoline prices in Tennessee and the national average going back five years:

July 20, 2025: \$2.73/g (U.S. Average: \$3.09/g)

July 20, 2024: \$3.10/g (U.S. Average: \$3.47/g)

July 20, 2023: \$3.17/g (U.S. Average: \$3.55/g)

July 20, 2022: \$4.01/g (U.S. Average: \$4.44/g)

July 20, 2021: \$2.85/g (U.S. Average: \$3.17/g)

“Average gasoline and diesel prices rose in nearly every state for the second straight week, with the national average price of gasoline likely to reach \$4 per gallon within the next 48 hours and diesel already back above \$5 per gallon nationally,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. “While the ongoing U.S.-Iran situation continues to weigh on markets, the story is increasingly less about

crude oil and more about global refining capacity — the Strait of Hormuz remains closed while continued Ukrainian attacks on Russian refineries further squeeze an already strained supply picture. With WTI crude approaching \$85 per barrel in Sunday night trading, price-cycling markets are likely to see another jolt higher in the coming days, and motorists should brace for a rougher stretch ahead.”

GasBuddy*, a PDI Technologies company, is North America’s trusted fuel savings platform, helping consumers fuel up for less for over 25 years. With over 100 million app downloads, GasBuddy delivers real-time prices at 150,000+ stations and tangible savings through Pay with GasBuddy+™. It is the most authoritative source of station-level fuel pricing data, updating averages 288 times daily from the broadest mix of inputs—spotter reports, direct station integrations, and transactional data.

SOURCE GasBuddy

McKenzie Police Reports

- Seized License Plate** — The registration plate on a vehicle was seized by McKenzie Police on July 17.
- Officer Jayden Rembert stopped a speeding automobile on Highland Drive. The driver, Nayomi Sammeria, of Wisconsin, was advised of the reason for the traffic stop. A computer check of the driver’s license and the vehicle registration revealed the driver’s license was valid, however, the registration plate was suspended due to multiple parking violations and fines. Officer Rembert seized the registration plate.
- Disorderly Conduct** — Julia J. Hull-Marbry, May Street, McKenzie was arrested for Disorderly Conduct on July 18.
- Officer Jeff Winberry filed the report on behalf of himself and responding officers Cunningham and Rembert, who reported Hull-Marbry refused to leave the premises of a convenience store after being ordered to do so. She was arrested for Disorderly Conduct and transported to Carroll County Jail.
11. Lowell Eugene Brown to Don A. and wife Jenna C. Bush in District 8.
- Blake Coffman to James K. and wife Sabrina B. Peterson in District 11.
- Chris Gurley and others to Alan L. and wife Kim Cobb in District 13.
- Patsy C. Cate to Patsy Church Cate, Trustee of the Patsy Church Cate Living Trust. No district listed.
- Lisa Jo Kapeller and Tina Bateman Kelly, as co-representatives, to Lisa Jo Kapeller and others in District 2.
- Alice J. Chapman to Darlene Sue Hoskins in District 22.
- Chad Hamilton to Jeremy Chase and wife Allyson Nicole Skousen in District 4.
- Linda Edwards and others to Jason Edwards in District 22.
- Don H. Renfroe to David O. Renfroe in District 10.
- Don H. Renfroe to David O. Renfroe in District 10.
- Don H. Renfroe to David O. Renfroe and others. No district listed.
- Don H. Renfroe to David O. and wife Martha V. Renfroe and others. No district listed.
- David Joseph Gedemer to The Ashley Harwell Smith GST-Exempt Trust in District 6.
- Mona A. Harris to Britiani Realty Group LLC. No district listed.
- Blayne Cecconi to Jennifer Johnson in District 19.
- Charley D. and wife Janna Crutchfield Brown to Blake L. Reed and Alyson L. Gossett in District 4.
- Timothy and wife Autumn Pickard to Billy Jack and wife Nancy Pruitt in District 2.
- Rita F/K/A Rita Salmons and husband William Larry Galloway to Cody and wife Gracie Wildridge in District 2.
- Steve G. Morgan to Barry and wife Connie Martin in District 11.
- Cary and wife Monica Hayes and others to Eugene and wife Vickie Jean Scholze-Parker in District 24.
- Karlon King to Karlon and Tiffany King in District 15.
- Cameron J. Malone and wife Alexis R. Kime to Hi Tech Properties, LC. No district listed.
- Daelyn Anne and husband James Harlon Darnell to Brian A. Biddix. No district listed.
- Nathaneal L. and wife Fannie T. Borntrager to John F. Schwartz and Wilbur T. Eichler in District 10.
- Nathaneal L. and wife Fannie T. Borntrager to John F. and wife Elsie N. Schwartz in District 10.
- FirstBank to Kamilha Rentals and Renovations, LLC in District 11.
- Janet Warren, as executrix of the John Samples Estate to Janet Warren in District 24.
- Dennis G. Hair to David Keith Hair. No district listed.
- William E. and wife Lois J. Sylvia to Thomas M. Sylvia Trustee of the William and Lois Sylvia Irrevoc. No district listed.
- Margaret Blair Sage f/k/a Margaret Blair Ecker to Rita and husband William Larry Galloway in District 2.
- Chantel Nicole Chandler to Chantel Nicole Chandler and Bruce Phillips and wife Tammy Chandler in District 16.
- Janice Smith Kizer and others to Ray Smith Family Limited Partnership. No district listed.
- Randy Venn to Diebold Enterprises LLC in District

Carroll County Sheriff’s Reports

Possession of Schedule II Methamphetamine, Driving on Suspended License — On July 10, Deputy Dustin McClure conducted criminal interdiction on Highway 77 when he observed a white Chevrolet Silverado whose driver appeared to shield his face in an apparent attempt to avoid being identified. After pulling behind the vehicle, Deputy McClure observed it fail to maintain its lane and initiated a traffic stop.

The driver was identified as Kevin Blackmon, 49, of Camden. Blackmon advised he did not have a valid driver’s license, and dispatch confirmed his Tennessee license was suspended. Dispatch also confirmed Blackmon had two active warrants out of Madison County. Deputies noted both Blackmon and passenger Misty Holland, 44, of Camden, appeared unusually nervous during the stop. Holland later admitted there was methamphetamine inside her bag and stated Blackmon had instructed her to place it there.

A K-9 alerted on the vehicle, and a search located approximately 3.25 grams of methamphetamine inside a blue bag between the front seats.

Blackmon was charged with possession of Schedule II methamphetamine and driving on a suspended license (second offense) and was held on two active Madison County warrants. Holland was charged with possession of Schedule II methamphetamine.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Dog at Large Causing Injury — On July 13, Deputy Alex Sherwood responded to Hames Street in Trezevant after receiving a report of a dog attack.

Beth Farrell, 37, of Trezevant, was identified as the dog’s owner.

Deputies determined Farrell’s dog had been running loose when it approached and bit a pedestrian in a public area, causing an open wound to the victim’s right calf that required medical treatment. Photographs of the injury were taken as evidence.

Farrell was cited for allowing a dog to run at large causing injury and ordered to report to the Carroll County Jail for booking.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Cyber Fraud Investigation — On July 13, Deputy Parker Graham responded to a Huntingdon business after receiving a report of unauthorized activity involving multiple business accounts. The complainant reported discovering that 12 unauthorized direct deposit transactions had been

established across separate business accounts in an attempt to steal more than \$90,000.

The transactions were stopped before the funds were transferred. An information technology specialist determined the business’s QuickBooks account had been compromised, and a cybersecurity firm concluded the incident was a sophisticated targeted attack that exploited a failure in antivirus protection. During the attempted thefts, fraudulent emails were also sent in an effort to conceal the unauthorized transactions.

The complainant later learned one client’s fraudulent tax return had been filed and processed, resulting in approximately \$36,000 being fraudulently obtained. Identity theft reports were filed with the Internal Revenue Service, and the IRS has opened an investigation. Deputy Graham requested assistance from the Sheriff’s Office Criminal Investigation Division.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Possession of Schedule II Methamphetamine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia, Tampering with Evidence — On July 13, Deputy Dustin McClure was conducting criminal interdiction on Highway 79 in Atwood when he observed a maroon Pontiac sedan whose driver immediately turned onto a side street after his marked patrol vehicle pulled behind it. The vehicle briefly stopped in a residential driveway before returning to the roadway. Deputy McClure observed the vehicle cross the centerline multiple times and conducted a traffic stop.

The passenger was identified as Michael Smith, 29, of McKenzie. During the investigation, deputies learned Smith had an active warrant out of Weakley County. The driver consented to a search of the vehicle, and deputies located a black zippered pouch on the front passenger seat where Smith had been sitting. Inside the pouch, deputies found approximately 0.52 grams of methamphetamine, which Smith admitted belonged to him.

Smith also told deputies he had thrown a syringe from the vehicle because he believed children would not be able to access it where it landed. Deputies searched the area but were unable to locate the syringe.

Smith was arrested and charged with possession of Schedule II methamphetamine, possession of drug paraphernalia and tampering with evidence.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Dog Attack Investiga-

tion — On July 14, Deputy Bradley Hardin responded to Baptist Memorial Hospital in Huntingdon after receiving a report of a dog attack. The victim, a 58-year-old Huntingdon man, had suffered a severe bite to his left hand that caused a deep laceration extending into his palm and exposed bone. Hospital staff also advised the victim sustained head injuries after overturning his three-wheeler while attempting to fight off the dog and escape the attack. The victim was diagnosed with a brain bleed and was airlifted to Vanderbilt University Medical Center for treatment.

Before being transported, the victim told Deputy Hardin the large white dog frequently stayed along Baker Road near the old radio station and regularly chased people. Deputy Hardin and Deputy James Boaz responded to the area and located dogs matching the description. No one was home at the residence where the dogs were found, and deputies continue working to identify and contact the owner.

The investigation remains ongoing.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Possession of Schedule II Methamphetamine, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia — On July 15, Deputy Alex Sherwood conducted a traffic stop after observing a 2005 Pontiac G6 fail to maintain its lane while turning from Highway 70 onto Highway 104. A K-9 conducted a free-air sniff of the vehicle and alerted to the presence of narcotics, giving deputies probable cause to search the vehicle.

The driver was identified as Casey Hardy, 44, of Nashville, and the passenger was identified as Casi Garrett, 35, of Estill Springs. During the search, deputies located approximately 2.5 grams of methamphetamine concealed inside the driver’s side door trim, along with a syringe and a container containing methamphetamine residue. Garrett was also found to be concealing two plastic bags on her person containing a combined 11.5 grams of methamphetamine. All of the substances field tested positive for methamphetamine and will be submitted to the Tennessee Bureau of Investigation crime laboratory for analysis.

Hardy was charged with possession of Schedule II methamphetamine and possession of drug paraphernalia. Garrett was charged with possession of Schedule II methamphetamine.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Carroll County General Sessions Court Report

HUNTINGDON (July 15) — The following cases were heard in Carroll County General Sessions Court on July 15.

The following cases were bound over to a grand jury: Lesenda M. Gregory, Park Cove, McKenzie, bound over, Child Abuse/Neglect/Endangerment.

Harrison Stephen Maness, Paris Street, Huntingdon, bound over, DUI: First Offense; bound over, Implied Consent – Enhancement Only; bound over, Improper Lane Change.

Charles Dewight Pryer III, Highway 641 North, Camden, bound over, Reckless Driving; bound over, Evading Arrest; bound over, DUI: Third Offense.

The following cases resulted in a guilty plea or finding:

Jason Allen Brasure, North Cedar Street, Gleason, guilty – lesser charge, Possession of Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia Uses & Activities, \$150 fine, 11/29, supervised probation for until conditions met, unsupervised probation for balance of sentence, cognitive behavioral training course, alcohol drug evaluation and recommendations; dismissed, Schedule II Drugs: Meth – Mfg., Del., Sell, Possess.

Patrick Dylan Cox, College Street, Bruceton, guilty – lesser charge, Disorderly Conduct; dismissed, Driving While License Cancelled.

Netisha Gordon, Walnut Circle, McKenzie, guilty – lesser charge, Drivers License to be Carried and Exhibited, no fine, litigation taxes only, payment arrangements through clerk’s office, unsupervised probation for 30 days.

Rosa Hampton, Hillcourt, Huntingdon, guilty – lesser charge, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange, \$400 fine, 11/29, supervised probation for sentence, cognitive behavioral training course, alcohol drug evaluation and recommendations; dismissed, Possession of Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia Uses & Activities – Sol.

Joe H. Hunt, Cole Street, McKenzie, guilty, DUI: First Offense, \$350 fine, 11/29, unsupervised probation for 11/29, ignition interlock, DUI school, report to jail on July 29 at 8 a.m., cannot drive for one year.

Dorian Williams, 4th Avenue, Huntingdon, guilty, Probation Violation – Booked, no fine, six months, supervised probation for balance, complete recommendations from alcohol and drug evaluation.

Trevor Jamar Willis, Blackburn Road, McKenzie, guilty – lesser charge, Driving While License Cancelled, no fine, six months, supervised probation for until conditions met, must obtain a valid driver’s license as a condition of sentence.

The following case resulted in judicial diversion:

McKenzie A. Sollis, Lower Standing Rock Road, Dover, judicial diversion, Underage Driving While Impaired, litigation taxes only, \$250 fine, 11/29, supervised probation for until conditions met, cognitive behavioral training course, alcohol drug evaluation and recommendations, DUI school.

The following cases were dismissed:

Andreas Adams, John Bragg Highway, Murfreesboro, dismissed, Driving While License Revoked.

Jazz Johnson, Paris Street, Huntingdon, dismissed, Driving While License Revoked, \$20 fine, contempt for being late.

Robert W. Prebeck, Watkins Road, Big Sandy, dismissed–cost to defendant, Public Intoxication, litigation taxes only.

The following cases were rescheduled:

Tytus Jeremiah Guajardo, Steven Merrell.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
PROBATE CASE NO: 2026PE126

ESTATE OF: DONNA FAYE WALKER, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE
Notice is hereby given that on the **9TH** day of **JULY, 2026** Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of **DONNA FAYE WALKER** deceased, who died **OCTOBER 6TH, 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.

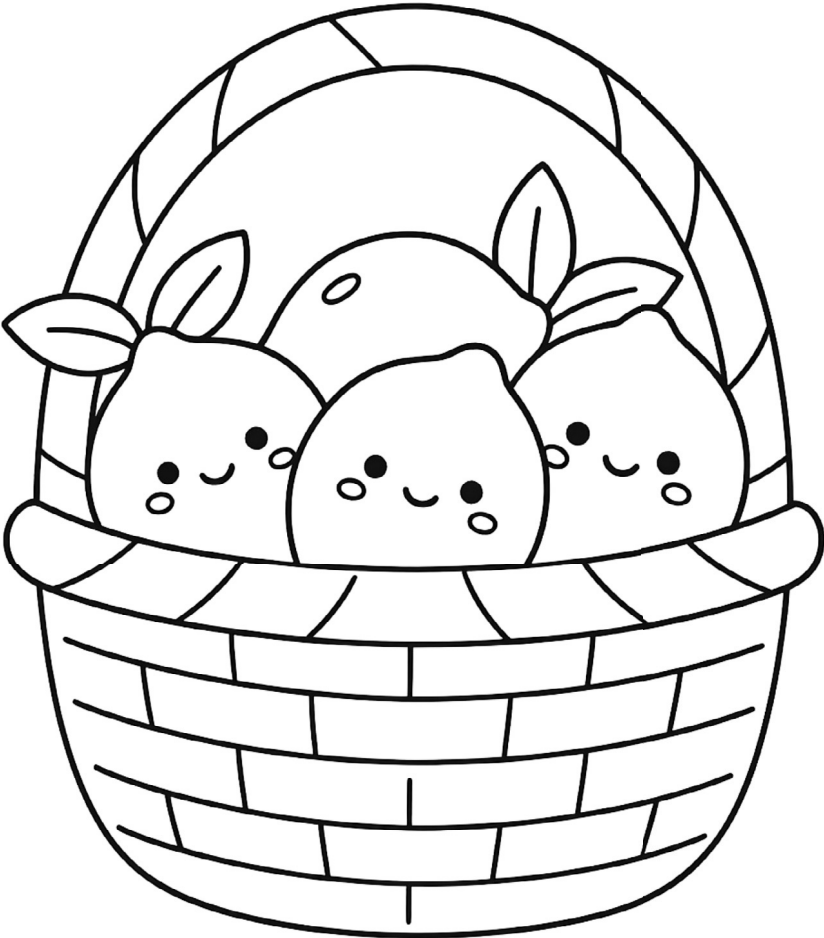
This 9TH day of JULY, 2026.
THIS NOTICE WILL RUN TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

FILE CLAIMS IN TRIPLICATE WITH:
KENNETH TODD - CLERK & MASTER
99 Court Square, Suite 105, Huntingdon, TN 38344

DANIEL W. WALKER, Executor/Administrator
W. KENT JONES, Attorney
KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master

A561/R27833/28-2

National *July 23*
LEMON DAY



1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17					18						19			
20					21		22				23			
				24		25				26				
27	28	29		30				31				32	33	34
35				36				37			38			
39								40			41			
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45				46				47				48		
				49				50			51			
52	53	54								56		57	58	59
60					61					62		63		
64					65						66			
67					68						69			

See solution in next week's edition.

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

Strokes
Sunscreen
Swimsuit
Towel
Training
Water

A calendar icon with a dark header bar containing the text 'JUL' in white. Below the header, the number '22' is displayed in a large, bold, black font. The calendar page has a white background and a small folded corner at the bottom right.

1997: The second Blue Water Bridge opens.

WEEK 29

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

Level: Advanced

See solution in next week's edition.

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to swimming.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 23 = E)

D. 24 25 2 23 24
Clue: Can have rapids

Answers: A. pool B. ocean C. lake D. river

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

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

What does Cinderella wear at the beach?

Answer: Glass flippers.

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

Answer: Stroke

I am a singer/dancer/actress born on July 24, 1969 in New York. I danced before I took up acting, and my breakout performance was playing the lead character in a biopic about a slain singer. I have sold more than 80 million records worldwide, and I've starred in many hit films.

Answer: Jennifer Lopez

One of the many services we provide.



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

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

FOR SALE

FOR SALE — FIVE PIECE BLACK WEATHERTECH FLOOR MATS for a 2021 Lincoln Nautilus Like new, \$150. Call 731-662-7955 or 731-986-1147. R27875/29-2

FOR LEASE

AVAILABLE — 4,000 SQ. FT. NEXT TO H&R BLOCK, at Cedar Street Plaza, 1926 Cedar Street, McKenzie. Call 731-352-2189. A5404/20-TF

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

SERVICES

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► **Every month, 82% of Tennessee Adults read a newspaper**

► **72% of adults in Tennessee read public notices in newspapers**

- 64% of Tennesseans believe they should STAY in newspapers
- 84% of adults in Tennessee feel newspapers are the most trusted source for public notices

► **Newspapers reach 84% of voters in Tennessee**

► **Local newspapers are relied on more than any other media for information on local government**

Source: Coda Ventures Market Study 2020

► **89% if Tennesseans who are shopping or intending to buy a new vehicle in Tennessee read newspapers**

► **96% of Tennesseans who are considering increasing their education with an educational institution read newspapers**

► **Almost 1/2 of Tennesseans traveled on vacation in the past 12 months, Here is where they went:**

- 37% to visit family
- 17% went to the beach
- 15% visited state or national parks
- 15% went to SHOP
- 13% went to visit a historical attraction
- 12% went because of a sporting event

► **85% of these vacationers read newspapers**

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Wilson Receives UT Martin Business Award

MARTIN — Gleason native Sophie Wilson recently received the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair of Excellence Rising Leader Award from the University of Tennessee at Martin's College of Business and Global Affairs, now called the College of Business. She also received UT Martin's Faculty Choice Award, Outstanding Student Award and Solar Farm Team Member Award. Wilson received her Bachelor of Science in Finance from UT Martin in May, graduating summa cum laude. She is now working toward completing another baccalaureate degree in accounting. She is shown with John Clark, interim director of the Horace and Sara Dunagan Chair



of Excellence in Banking, during the presentation of the college's awards at the April 16 ceremony in the

Duncan Ballroom in the Boling University Center.

Photo courtesy UT Martin

Tennessee Sales Tax Holiday is July 31-August 2

NASHVILLE — Tennessee's traditional sales tax holiday on clothing, school supplies and computers begins at 12:01 a.m. on Friday, July 31, 2026, and ends at 11:59 p.m. on Sunday, August 2, 2026.

During this time clothing, school supplies and computers may be purchased tax-free, with certain restrictions.

Items must be purchased for personal use, not for business or trade.

Items sold online are also eligible.

CLOTHING

Exempt: General apparel that costs \$100 or less per item, such as shirts, pants, socks, shoes, dresses, etc.

Not exempt: Apparel items priced at more than \$100 (items sold together, such as shoes, cannot be split up to stay beneath the \$100 maximum); items such as jewelry, handbags, or sports and recreational equipment.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Exempt: School and art supplies with a purchase price of \$100 or less per item, such as binders, backpacks, crayons, paper, pens, pencils, rulers and art supplies such as glazes, clay, paints, drawing pads and artist paintbrushes.

Not exempt: School and art supplies individually priced at more than \$100 (items that are normally

sold together cannot be split up to stay beneath the \$100 maximum).

COMPUTERS

Exempt: Computers for personal use with a purchase price of \$1,500 or less. Laptop computers, if priced at \$1,500 or less, also qualify, as well as tablet computers.

Not exempt: Storage media, like flash drives and compact discs; individually purchased software; printer supplies; and household appliances.

For more information, visit tn.gov/revenue/taxes/sales-and-use-tax/sales-tax-holiday.

CARROLL COUNTY



Pictured (L to R): Madelynn Pewitt and Stella Higdon.

Local Teens Place in Tennessee Pageants

BY LYNDESEY SUMMERS
lsommers@mckenziebanner.com

JACKSON (July 19) — Four young women represented Carroll County on the big stage last week, competing in the Miss Iris Tennessee Teen and the Miss Tennessee Teen Volunteer pageants at the Carl Perkins Civic Center. Two went home this weekend

as fourth runners-up to the new titleholders.

Madelynn Pewitt, of McKenzie, won fourth runner-up in Miss Iris Tennessee Teen 2027. Pewitt competed as Miss Henry County Iris Teen Volunteer.

Stella Higdon, a senior at Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School, won fourth runner-up in Miss Tennes-

see Teen Volunteer 2027. She also won the Community Service Award for her gourmet bakery charity, Cedar Street Sweets. Higdon competed as Miss Hub City.

Also competing in the Miss Tennessee Teen Volunteer Pageant were McKenzie's Addison Davis (Miss Paris) and Carleigh Lunn (Miss Fall Fest).

McKenzie Recognized for Support of The Ronald McDonald House Charities

MEMPHIS (July 17) — The Ronald McDonald House Charities of West Tennessee and Northeast Arkansas recently recognized the McKenzie community for its contributions through the McDonald's Round-Up program.

During the first half of 2026, the McKenzie community raised a total of \$4,459.22 for the Ronald McDonald House through the Round Up program.

According to the organization, at least 24 families from Carroll, Henry and Weakley counties have traveled to Memphis for pediatric cancer treatment. While in Memphis, the Ronald McDonald House served as their home. They received meals and various family services that offered them relief during some of life's most difficult moments.

This year, the Ronald McDonald House Charities pledges to serve even more families with the opening of a new Ronald McDonald House in Jackson.

Families who live over 30 miles from the Ronald McDonald House in Memphis or Jackson can utilize the House for free while their child is receiving treatment.

"Ronald McDonald House West Tennessee and Northeast Arkansas is truly blessed to not only have McDonald's as its forever partner, but the McKenzie, Tenn., team's efforts and the community's participation in Round Up for the House are positively impacting lives and helping us serve families with children who are ill or injured," said Jill Crocker, executive director of Ronald McDonald House Charities of West Tennessee and Northeast Arkansas. "We are so thankful for their partnership and leadership in raising money and awareness for Ronald McDonald House."

To support families from around the world, the Ronald McDonald House asks the community to round their McDonald's order totals up to the nearest dol-

lar when placing an order through the app or at the kiosk, counter or drive-thru. Spare change may also be dropped in any of the donation boxes in the restaurant or drive-thru. Funds from McDonald's Round-Up Program support the Ronald McDonald House mission to provide a home for sick children near the care they need with the family they love.

The Ronald McDonald House offers care for families with children who are ill or injured. The vision is to provide a place where families have what they need to ensure the best health outcomes for their children. The House provides essential services that remove barriers, strengthen families and promote healing when children need healthcare. These services are always free of charge and help support the mission to keep children near the care they need with the family they love.



PARTY MEAT BALLS

2 lb ground chuck
3 slices bread
1/4 cup milk
16 oz. grape jelly
12 oz. bottle chili sauce
salt and pepper to taste
Sprinkle meat with salt and pepper. Soak bread in milk. Mix meat and bread thoroughly with hands. Shape into small meat balls. Brown in skillet. Place in baking dish. Mix jelly and chili sauce and

pour over meat balls. Bake at 375 degrees for about one hour, until sauce becomes thick. Serve in chafing dish or fondue pot to keep warm.

FROSTED PEANUTS

2 1/2 cup raw peanuts
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup water
Combine all ingredients and cook over low heat for 15 to 20 minutes un-

til sugar crystallizes. Pour onto baking sheet. Bake for 30 minutes in 300 degree oven. Stir occasionally.

GRAPE PUNCH

Bring 1 quart of water and 1 cup of sugar to a boil. Cook and add 1 pint grape juice, 2 oranges and 2 lemons.

FRUIT MUFFINS

1 cup butter
1 cup sugar
Cream together and add 3 well beaten eggs
1 t cloves
1 t allspice
1 t nutmeg
1 t cinnamon
1 cup chopped nuts
1 cup coconut
1 cup dates
1 level teaspoon soda
1 cup buttermilk
1 1/2 cup plain flour
Add to above mixture and bake at 350 degrees until golden brown.

Can McKenzie Make Another Run at the TSSAA Class 1A State Championship Game?

BY MICHAEL ODOM

The McKenzie Rebels football team lost the opening game of the 2025 season, but the Rebels did not lose again until the Class 1A state championship game. The team won 13 straight games last season and took the Region 6-1A championship.

The Rebels lost 42-14 in the state championship game.

McKenzie was the only team from the region to win a game in the Class 1A playoffs as McEwen, Wayne County and Collinwood had first-round exits.

McKenzie quarterback Cole Brown was a Class 1A Mr. Football finalist as a junior, and he has the weapons around him to earn the honor once again.

Predicted Order of Finish

1. McKenzie
2. Wayne County
3. Perry County
4. Bruceton
5. McEwen
6. Collinwood

Top Region Games

Wayne County at Perry County (Week 7; Oct. 2) – These two could be battling it out for second place, but this matchup is early in the region schedule. Perry County didn't win a region game last year and will be looking to bounce back, while Wayne County wants to move up one spot and earn a home playoff game.

McKenzie at Wayne County (Week 10; Oct. 23) – The Wildcats finished third in the region last season. But they might be the Rebels' toughest test this season. McKenzie will also have to go on the road to play this one.

15 Players to Watch

- Avery Brown (McKenzie, Sr., WR/DB)
- Cole Brown (McKenzie, Sr., QB/WR/S)
- Korbin Brown (Bruceton, Jr., RB/S)
- Case Butler (Wayne Co., Sr., QB/LB)
- Jayden Callis (McKenzie, Jr., RB/LB)
- Daegan Collins (Bruceton, Sr., RB/LB)
- Casey Garner (Perry Co., Sr., DL/OL)
- Jacob Laman (Perry Co., Jr., QB/S)
- Weston Martin (Perry Co., Sr., ATH/LB)
- Javon McFadden (Perry Co., Jr., WR/S)
- Jacobi Melton (McKenzie, Sr., WR/DB)
- Bennett Rich (Collinwood, Sr., ATH/DB)
- Daylan Van Fleet (Wayne Co., Sr., WR/DB)
- Avery Vaughn (Wayne Co., Jr., RB, S)
- Hunter Winstead (McKenzie, Jr., OL/DL)

Team Tidbits

Bruceton

Mascot: Tigers
2025 record: 7-3 (2-3 6-1A)

Head coach: Clay Mackins (3rd season: 8-12)

What to know: After three straight seasons of going 1-9, the Tigers had a turnaround

season as they went 7-3. But despite the seven-win season, Bruceton still did not make the Class 1A playoffs last season. The Tigers' last playoff berth was 2020. This team will have to do some rebuilding this year after losing some key players. Braxton Howard threw for 2,032 yards with 23 touchdowns and seven interceptions last season, and Brady Roberts had 754 receiving yards with eight touchdowns. Both players graduated along with second leading receiver Seth Thomas. Bruceton does return leading rusher Korbin Brown, who was a sophomore last year and rushed for 571 yards and seven touchdowns with three games of 100 yards or more. Carter Lowe had 105 tackles last season, and he is back to lead the defense for the third straight season. Bruceton's first two games of the season are at home against Scotts Hill and Gleason, which are two opponents this team should be able to compete against and gain confidence.

Collinwood

Mascot: Trojans
2024 record: 3-8 (2-3 6-1A)

Head coach: Boyce Dixon (5th season: 14-26)

What to know: The Trojans were back in the playoffs last season for the second time under Dixon's leadership. Collinwood beat Perry County 32-14 and Bruceton 43-22 to earn a spot in the playoffs, beating Bruceton in a head-to-head tiebreaker. Collinwood gave up 30 or more points in six of its eight losses last season. The Trojans scored seven points in the regular season finale loss to Wayne County and then 13 points in the first round of the Class 1A playoffs against Richland.

McEwen

Mascot: Warriors
2024 record: 8-4 (4-1 6-1A)

Head coach: Cecil Andrews (2nd season: 5-5)

What to know: In Andrews' first season in charge, he led the Warriors to a .500 record and a home playoff game after finishing second in Region 6-1A. McEwen is set to bring some skill players back this season, but the key is going to be line play and depth for the Warriors to have success. Senior Tylon Carter led the team in passing, while senior Aiden Kelsey led the team in rushing. McEwen went on a stretch and won four of five games in the middle of the season, and this team will need a run like that again.

McKenzie

Mascot: Rebels
2024 record: 13-2 (5-0 6-1A)

Head coach: Keith Hodge (3rd season: 26-3)

What to know: Cole Brown made the move from wide receiver to quarterback last season and made a smooth transition. He was named a Tennessee Titans Class 1A Mr. Football finalist

as he threw for 3,011 yards (184-of-252 passes) for 36 touchdowns and five interceptions. He also rushed for 1,042 yards and 24 touchdowns on 115 carries. McKenzie also returns its top five wide receivers, so this passing attack will be stout. Jacobi Melton had 989 receiving yards and eight touchdowns, Avery Brown had 878 receiving yards and 13 touchdowns and Kason Brown had 412 receiving yards and seven touchdowns to be the top three receivers. Junior Jayden Callis developed well at running back last season to finish with close to 1,00 rushing yards with 13 touchdowns. While Ryan Toombs graduated, McKenzie has two of the top linemen in West Tennessee returning in Hunter Winstead and Maddox Shiell to control the trenches. McKenzie also has the top two tacklers from last year back in Lelan Gordon (101 total tackles) and Cole Brown (95 total tackles). McKenzie has won five straight region titles.

Perry County

Mascot: Vikings
2024 record: 3-7 (0-5 6-1A)

Head coach: Calvin Zemer (9th season; 18-61)

What to know: The Vikings' playoff drought continued last season as the team didn't win a region game, despite high expectations going into the season. The Vikings haven't reached the playoffs since 2011, and it was 2010 when the team made the run to the Class 1A semifinals. Perry County won its first two games of the season last year – 16-12 over Greenfield and 40-0 over Scotts Hill – but only won one win in the final eight games. The Vikings scored seven touchdowns in the final four games of the season, which were all region games. Perry County graduated its leading rusher, but Jacob Laman and Weston Martin are both set to be back.

Wayne County

Mascot: Wildcats
2024 record: 4-7 (3-2 6-1A)

Head coach: Derek Willis (4th season; 14-18)

What to know: While the Wildcats didn't win as many games as in 2024, Wayne County still had a strong season with a second straight appearance in the Class 1A playoffs. The Wildcats didn't have an explosive offense as they scored 28, 28, 24 and 16 points in their four wins last year. But this team was young last year and many of the skill players are back and trying to get this program its first home playoff game since 2018.

Michael Odom is the sports editor for the Mirror-Exchange, Weakley County Press, Brownsville States-Graphic and Fayette Falcon. Follow him on X (formerly Twitter) @GC-SportsWriter. Reach him by email at michaelodom@milanmirrorexchange.com.



Carroll County Library Director Erin Crockett shows Abby Winchester her finished artwork at the facepainting station. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner



Above Left, David Oh earned first place in Advanced Readers, reading for 235 total hours. Above Right, One of the Carroll County Library's resident dinosaur pals gives a summer reading program participant a hearty hug. Below, The Nance family attended all but two events during the Carroll County Library's summer reading program this year. Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner



Carroll County Library Celebrates Successful 'Unearth a Story' Summer Finale

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (July 17) — The Carroll County Library wrapped up its two-month-long summer program with a jubilant finale on Friday. The finale included face-painting, scavenger hunts and even a visit from the library's resident dinosaur friends. Most important of all, the finale celebrated each participant's reading milestones over the summer. Carroll County Library's "Unearth a Story" summer reading program was more

than the occasional tot time visit or activity. Each year, the program incentivizes children — and sometimes adults — to read during the summer months. The program began with attendees choosing how to count their reading milestones — by the number of books read or the amount of time spent reading. On Friday, attendees reaped the benefits of their milestones, receiving library cash and raffle tickets to purchase or win different dinosaur-themed goodies the library had to offer.

The library also recognized the program's top readers. Of participants counting their number of books read, Henry Travis and Gabby Hammer tied. Grace Vincent was the program's top intermediate winner, reading for 150 total hours. David Oh earned first place in the advanced category, reading for 235 total hours. Lastly, Cathy Crockett won in the adult division, reading for 237.5 hours. When asked what she loves most about the annual program, Children's Librarian Grace Hawkins

said, "There's so many things I love about it. It's really exciting to see all the children's hard work pay off. They've worked so hard over the summer reading and listening to books." This summer, attendees have had the chance to attend many educational and, at times, wacky events at the library — including visits from magician Terry Hedges and Carroll County Mayor Joseph Butler and interactive programs by beekeeper Lisa Costello and Natchez Trace Park Ranger Jeffrey Johnson.

Katie Nance and her children, Robin, Harley and Dante, attended all but two events during this year's program. This was their second year attending the program. Katie said the summer reading program has been a great way to get her children, who are homeschooled, to engage in activities with other kids near their age. Robin said her favorite event this summer has been the library's fossil dig, which was held last Tuesday. Dante's favorite event was Run-away Puppet Theater, and Harley's favorite event was

the T-Rex Tea Party. Robin and Harley each read for 36.5 hours this summer, and Dante read for 25 hours. They spent their reading reward cash on candies, lightsabers, squishies and more. The Carroll County Library is located at 625 High Street, Suite 102, in Huntingdon. It is open to the public Monday through Wednesday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Thursday from 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Friday from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon. The library is closed on Sundays.

BETHEL UNIVERSITY



Participants and leaders of Coach JJ's Girls Residential Soccer Camp hosted by Bethel University. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Coach JJ's Holds Girls Residential Soccer Camp

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE/HUNTINGDON (July 11-13) — Bethel University hosted the annu-

al Coach JJ's Girls Residential Soccer Camp Saturday through Monday. Malang Jarju, head coach of the Bethel men's soccer team, runs the camp with his fellow

Wildcat coaches and players. Jarju has been on the Bethel staff since 2008 and was named head coach in 2016. This is the fifth or sixth year of the camp, according to the coach. Coach Jarju told The Banner, "This is something I wanted to do to get the local players in, make sure we give the opportunity to

the girls soccer teams to get something like a preseason, to get them going before their season starts. So my goal is to prepare them, get them ready for high school, but also to develop them as players. It could be beneficial to Bethel, where some of them could be recruited to the women's soccer team. It's good for recruiting pur-

poses, and it's also good to give something back to the community. My goal is to get more teams next year." Five high school teams participated this year: McKenzie, Huntingdon, Dyer County, Henry County and Mayfield (Ky.). The teams, split into multiple squads, competed in scrimmages during the

days, ending with a tournament on Monday afternoon. Jarju thanked McKenzie and Huntingdon high schools for the use of their fields during the camp. In the evenings, the campers (many of whom stayed in Bethel's dorms during the camp) participated in fun team-building activities, including a talent night.



Congressman David Kustoff (center) is pictured holding the American flag with Coach Eric Swenson and assistant coaches Robbie Miller, Adam Parish, Bryan Dickens and Trevor Burlison at Paul Ward Stadium. Photo courtesy Congressman David Kustoff

Kustoff Recognizes Mustang Team with Flag Presentation

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

Congressman David Kustoff (R-TN-08) recently paid a visit to Paul Ward Stadium, presenting Huntingdon High School Head Football Coach Eric Swenson and his staff with a flag flown over the U.S. Capitol in honor of the Mustangs' 2A state championship win. The Huntingdon visit was one of many stops Kustoff made across Tennessee's Eighth Congressional District during the week of July 6–10. In recognition of America's

250th birthday, Congressman Kustoff made 20 stops across the district to present flags to West Tennesseans whose service and hard work he said have helped shape America's story. "America's 250th birthday is an opportunity to honor the people who keep our country moving forward," said Congressman Kustoff. "Here in West Tennessee, that spirit is alive in the men and women who serve their neighbors and strengthen our communities. It was an honor to recognize West Tennessee's finest and present them with

flags flown over the U.S. Capitol." Congressman Kustoff's tour included stops with local businesses, farms, first responders, educators, law enforcement and community organizations across TN-08, including Carroll County's new E911 complex. Tennessee's Eighth Congressional District includes Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Dyer, Fayette, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henderson, Henry, Lake, Lauderdale, Madison, McNairy, Obion and Weakley counties and parts of Benton, Shelby and Tipton counties.

Area Back-to-School Dates

A new school year is just around the corner, and area school districts have released schedules for the return of staff and students. The five Carroll County school districts (McKenzie, Huntingdon, West Carroll, Hollow Rock-Bruceton and South Carroll) begin staff in-service on Monday, July 27. Students report for a half-day on Tuesday, August 4.

Weakley County Schools begin later, with staff reporting for in-service on Monday, August 3. Students begin the year with a full day on Monday, August 10. In-service for Henry County School System staff begins Thursday, July 23. Students report for a half-day on Monday, August 3. Students in the Paris Special School District also return for a half-day on Monday, August 3.

NIGHTS ON BROADWAY Johnny Mac Performs in McKenzie

MCKENZIE (July 16) — Johnny Mac, whose legal name is John Austin McDaniel, is a prominent regional country, blues, and roots rock musical performer based out of Big Sandy, Tenn. He was the featured musical performer at Nights on Broadway in downtown McKenzie. The one-man show, Johnny Mac, performs with an acoustic guitar and adds his vocals to many cover tunes of country artists. Johnny Mac is a frequent performer at area venues and at regional festivals. Johnny Mac is widely recognized by locals as an engaging, authentic performer who embodies the rich, grit-and-soul musical traditions of West Tennessee. In downtown McKenzie, he



performed from a small stage erected on Banner Row as the audience sat under the canopy of trees in the downtown Veterans Memorial Park.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Rebels Travel to Lexington for 7-on-7



LEXINGTON (July 7) — The McKenzie High School Rebels played against JCM, Lexington, Columbia Central and Adamsville in 7-on-7 action Tuesday at Lexington High School. McKenzie was on fire for the event, winning against every team. Pictured is Rebel receiver Lelan Gordon making a catch near the end zone. Photo by Davarion Gilbert/The Banner



Lil Rebs Soccer Camp attendees with members of the McKenzie High School Rebel and Lady Rebel soccer teams and Head Coach Karlene Ellis. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Lil Rebs Soccer Camp Develops Young Talent

BY BRAD SAM
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MCKENZIE (July 13-15) — The McKenzie High School Rebel and Lady Rebel soccer teams and Head Coach Karlene Ellis hosted the Lil Rebs Soccer Camp from Monday through Wednesday, drawing 25 kids ages 4-10. During the evening sessions, the young footballers participated in passing drills, learned how to move with and without the ball, developed listening skills and competed in scrimmages.

Kids also played some “just for fun” games for prizes, including “Soccer, Soccer, Ball,” a play on “Duck, Duck, Goose.” On the final day, campers competed in tournaments and then gathered

to recap what they had learned and receive soccer swag. Coach K thanked camp sponsors Maria’s Mexican Restaurant and Dilla’s Sewing as well as several high school parents for their contributions, particularly Jamie Emerson, who assisted throughout and posted many photos to the McKenzie High School Soccer Facebook page.



Owners Joe and Kelly Malikowski in front of their food truck, Bubba’s Hot Dogs. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Bubba’s Hot Dogs Brings a Chicago Original to West Tennessee

BY BRAD SAM
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A Yuma couple originally from Chicago has brought a taste of Windy City culture to West Tennessee with their food truck, Bubba’s Hot Dogs. Joe and Kelly Malikowski moved from the Illinois metropolis to rural Carroll County just over four years ago after visiting some friends who had recently moved to the area.

Bubba’s serves not the more-famous “Chicago dog,” but its lesser-known predecessor, the Chicago-style “Depression dog,” which consists of an all-beef Vienna hot dog on a plain white bun topped with mustard, relish, onions, sport peppers and hand-cut french fries. Joe told The Banner, “One of the things we missed the most was this style of hot dog.”

For the first several years of their time in Tennessee, the pair worked at the Mic Stand Bar and Grill in Huntingdon, Joe as general manager and Kelly as bar manager.

They knew when they moved that they wanted to have their own business here, but didn’t decide until last year what path to take. Once they decided, it took about six months to acquire a truck and get it operational.

Kelly has always worked in the food industry, and Joe also has extensive food service experience, besides serving as a firefighter in Chicago.

Kelly says food service is something she’s always been comfortable doing. “I followed in my mother’s footsteps. It’s something I’ve always been very familiar with. It’s providing the best possible customer

“I absolutely love it down here... It’s a smaller community. It’s how everybody sticks together. Everybody knows everybody. Everybody’s friends with everybody. You don’t get stuff like that up in Chicago.”

— Joe Malikowski

service that I can. I know when I go out, I want that exceptional service and to be happy when I leave. So I want to be able to provide that for others.”

Joe first ventured into the industry as a server because it was “easy, quick money.” Then, he said, “I’d leave [it], and I’d always wind up right back to it. It’s always been an easy thing to go back to when I was looking for something different... And then it kind of took off from there. I got more involved, I got into management. So, when we decided to do this, we both have the experience and background from all ends of it, and we knew what we had to do. So we thought we would do good with it.”

They considered a brick-and-mortar restaurant, but were drawn to the flexibility and mobility of the food truck. Joe said, “We can pick up and move wherever we want. We can go where we want. We go to all the festivals and stuff like that that go on all summer.”

Bubba’s launched on a Tuesday in mid-April, setting up in Huntingdon. “We were kind of sticking around the Carroll County-Huntingdon area in the beginning, just to get the

feel for it and start getting our name out there. The more people that started coming out, we started getting invited to more places.”

As of this mid-July interview, Bubba’s had ventured as far as Lexington, Buchanan and Humboldt, with a stop in Jackson planned for later in the month.

Joe said, besides missing the food and family members up north, “I absolutely love it down here. Especially this area of Carroll County. It’s a smaller community. It’s how everybody sticks together. Everybody knows everybody. Everybody’s friends with everybody. You don’t get stuff like that up in Chicago.”

Kelly added, “I love it here. It’s nice. It’s calm. It’s relaxing. It was a big culture shock at first, because we’re used to the city life, but I super enjoy it. I absolutely love the community here. Everyone is always very supportive. So I truly do enjoy being down here, I just need some more of the Chicago food!”

Kelly also shared the origin of the business’ name. Bubba was the nickname Kelly’s mother, Marge, gave to her son, Mikey, when he was born. Mikey died in 2021 at age 22, and Marge died in 2024. “It was my way to make a tribute to them.”

Kelly touched on some future hopes and goals for Bubba’s, “Eventually, if it continues to grow like it is, we will get a second trailer so we can have multiple locations. If that continues to grow, we’ll decide on a brick-and-mortar.”

Regular updates on upcoming locations can be found on the Bubba’s Hot Dogs Facebook page.

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