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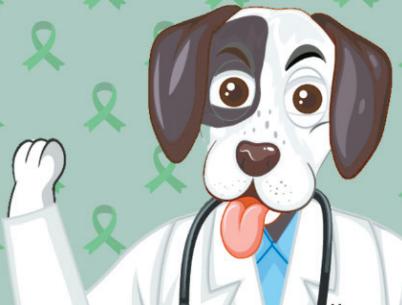
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2026

August 20-23, 2026

Tuesday, August 18, 2026

McKENZIE, TENNESSEE

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WEATHER

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WEDS. H 90° L 71°

THURS. H 84° L 69°

FRI. H 89° L 66°

SAT. H 90° L 68°

SUN. H 85° L 63°

MON. H 84° L 66°

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Marie Parsons, 68

QUOTE

"If there is no struggle, there is no progress."

— Frederick Douglass

Students Safe After Bus, Car Collision



BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS

lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (August 17) — An accident involving Carroll County School Bus 36 and a black Honda Fit occurred at the intersection of Cedar Street and Main Street South at approximately 3:24 p.m. Monday.

The school bus, which was carrying 48 students

A Carroll County school bus and a black Honda Fit collided at approximately 3:24 p.m. Monday. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

See BUS on Page 3

WILDCATS RETURN



Brantley Jent (pictured left) welcomes new students to Bethel. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

Bethel University Freshmen Welcomed by Community, University at Annual Fair

BY JOEL WASHBURN

washburn@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (August 15) — The McKenzie community joined Bethel University faculty, student organizations, and local representatives on Saturday to provide a warm welcome to the incoming freshman class. The event brought together a diverse group of local food vendors, medical professionals, and faith-based organizations, all gathered to introduce the new students to their new home.

See BETHEL on Page 3

Park Theatre Faces Long-Term Funding Questions

BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS

lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (August 13) — Ten years after reviving the Park Theatre, the City of McKenzie is now grappling with the venue's long-term sustainability following a decision to transfer \$54,000 from the General Fund to cover a lingering budget deficit.

During Thursday night's meeting of McKenzie's Board of Mayor and Council, City Attorney Beau Pemberton indicated that the council might need to face uncomfortable conversations about the future funding of the theatre.

See THEATRE on Page 3



McKenzie's Park Theatre. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Entering Final Days to Qualify For November Municipal Elections

BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS

lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

CARROLL COUNTY (August 14) — Municipal seats in Atwood, Bruceton, Hollow Rock, McKenzie, McMoresville and Trezevant are up for grabs come November, as yet another election looms ahead in Carroll County.

See ELECTIONS on Page 3

Former Police Station to House McKenzie Rotary Food Pantry

BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS

lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (August 13) — After living primarily in McKenzie City Hall for several months, the McKenzie Rotary Club's food pantry has officially found a home. During Thursday night's meeting, the McKenzie City Council agreed to house the food pantry in the city's former police station, located in the rear

See PANTRY on Page 3



McKenzie Rotary Club President Armand Hebert addressed McKenzie City Council Thursday night regarding the club's food pantry initiative. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

West Carroll School Board Approves \$11.5 Million Budget

BY HANNAH WILSON

Mirror-Exchange

ATWOOD (August 13) — The West Carroll Special School District Board of Education met Thursday for its regular monthly session to finalize the district's financial budget for the upcoming year. With all board members

See BUDGET on Page 3

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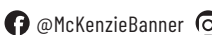
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West Carroll Schools Continue Free School Meal Program

BY MANDY DREWRY
WCSSD Child Nutrition Director

West Carroll Special School District serves all three schools under the National School Breakfast and/or School Lunch Program. West Carroll will continue participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) for the 2026-27 school year. No further action is required of you. The USDA provision allows your child(ren) to participate in the school meal programs without having to pay a fee or submit a meal application.

CEP is a key provision of the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010, which allows schools and school districts in low-income areas to eliminate school meal applications and serve breakfast and lunch at no charge to all enrolled students. CEP gives food service professionals more time to focus on preparing nutritious meals and therefore gives students

more time to eat by reducing time spent waiting in the lunch line. More importantly, by offering all students a nutritious breakfast and lunch at no cost, CEP helps ensure more students come to class well-nourished and ready to learn.

School Nutrition programs don't get extra money to operate; they must be self-sustaining.

Each meal served has to pay for the entire cost of the program — including food, staff labor, equipment, training, supplies and more. All of that has to fit into about \$5 per meal.

What West Carroll Receives in 2026-2027:

Lunch reimbursement — 85% of student meals: \$5.02 each; Remaining 15%: \$0.62 each.

Breakfast reimbursement — 85% of student meals: \$3.05 each; Remaining 15%: \$0.42 each.

When most meals are re-

imbursed at full rate, some are reimbursed at only cents; the program must stretch every dollar to cover all operating costs while still serving healthy, nutritious meals that help students learn and grow. That's why meal participation and careful budgeting are so important. Behind every school meal is a hard-working team committed to making it happen for our students.

Children need healthy meals to learn. WCSSD offers healthy meals every school day. Breakfast and lunch meals follow the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidelines for healthy school meals, so please encourage students to participate. "In the operation of child feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, sex, color, national origin, age, or disability."

Parents or guardians who need further information may contact Mandy Drewry, Child Nutrition Program Director 731-662-4200 or by email at mandy.drewry@wcssd.org.

McKenzie Moves Forward With 2026 Paving Project

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (August 13) — The McKenzie City Council on Thursday approved a bid offer for the city's next big paving project, which is now expected to begin within the next month. The project starts with David Street and continues with Field Street, Locust Avenue, the parking lot at theDEPOT and the parking lot adjacent to the former JT's Grill.

After reviewing bids from Pavement Restorations, Inc., Murray Paving Inc. and Martin Paving Company, the council moved forward with Mar-

tin Paving Company's low bid offer of \$268,000.

A Martin Paving Company representative was unable to indicate the company's soonest start date, but he assured the council that the project could begin within a month of agreement.

The \$268,000 project includes vegetation removal, surface cleaning, preparatory paving repairs and crack sealing, any incidental repair, excavation and preparation (milling) of the subgrade for the streets with installation and compaction of mineral aggregate base, replace/repair asphalt/concrete curbing as need-

ed, painting pavement lines and resurfacing streets with a 2-inch layer of compacted hot mix asphalt paving. It totals a little over 1,800 tons.

The David Street project starts at Cole Street and ends at Highway 79, the Field Street project begins at Locust Avenue and ends at Magnolia Avenue and the Locust Avenue project starts at Mulberry Street and ends at Park Street. The parking lot at theDEPOT begins at Lee Avenue and ends at Bruce Street, and the parking lot beside the former JT's Grill begins at Cedar Street and ends at University Drive.

Sweet Tea Festival is This Weekend

McKENZIE — The annual Sweet Tea Festival is August 20-23, 2026 in downtown McKenzie. The city-sponsored event features entertainment, arts and crafts booths, food trucks, car show, and a small carnival.

Both Broadway Street and Banner Row will close to accommodate the ever-growing number of vendors.

This year's event begins with the Carroll Arts' presentation of "A Southern Fried Funeral" theatrical production in the historic Park Theatre. The event is both Thursday, August 20 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, August 23 at 2 p.m. Tickets are available at the door of each performance.

On Friday, the food trucks and craft vendors roll in to downtown filling the streets and Veterans Memorial Park. Friday, the food and crafts are open 6 to 10 p.m.

Saturday, the events begin at 10 a.m. with food, crafts, and a carnival and



other kids' activities.

A car show is 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the McKenzie Banking Company parking lot.

A sweet tea taste-off is 2 to 4 p.m. on Broadway Street.

Free entertainment begins at 3 p.m. on Broadway Street on the big stage. Bethel University's Renaissance Bluegrass Band, per-

forms 3 to 5 p.m. The accomplished musicians and vocalists are renowned for their talent.

Vonda Peet and Company performs 5 to 7 p.m.

Dek of Hearts performs 7 to 9 p.m. They performed on The Voice.

The Saturday events conclude with a fireworks show at 9 p.m.



Left, Carroll County Mayor Joseph Butler presents retiring Road Supervisor Ricky Scott a plaque for his years of distinguished service. Right, Carroll County Mayor Joseph Butler presents retiring Property Assessor Rita Jones a plaque for her years of distinguished service. Photos by Jason R. Martin/The Banner

County Honors Retirees, Commission Votes Down Hazardous Duty Benefit

BY JASON R. MARTIN
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HUNTINGDON (August 10) — The Carroll County Commission honored retiring county officials and rejected a proposed hazardous duty supplemental retirement benefit during its Monday, August 10 meeting at the Carroll County Civic Center.

Recognized for their service were retiring county officials Property Assessor Rita Jones, Road Supervisor Ricky Scott and Sheriff Andy Dickson, along with County Commissioners Jimmy McClure, Joey Darnall, John Austin, Cyril Ostiguy, Joey Simmons and Daniel Thomas.

Resolution 8-08-2026, which would have established a Hazardous Duty Supplemental Benefit, generated considerable discussion among commissioners and Sheriff Dickson.

One concern was the requirement for the county to make a lump-sum payment of \$328,774 to the retirement system. Commissioners also discussed the limited number of individuals who would be eligible for the benefit. Volunteer firefighters were among those who would not qualify.

Prior to the vote, Commissioner Barry Mac Murphy moved to table the resolution until the next meeting. The motion received a second but failed 4-16-1. Several commissioners said the current legislative body should make the decision rather than leave the matter to the new commission taking office September 1.

Dickson noted that incoming Sheriff Eric Sawyers was present and could answer questions concerning his position on the proposal. Sawyers was not called on by the commission.

The commission then voted 4-15-2 against establishing the hazardous duty supplemental benefit.

Following the vote, Dickson requested the withdrawal of Resolution 8-10-2026, which would have amended the Drug Fund Budget by \$240,000 for the purchase of vehicles. The measure could return to the commission for consideration in September.

The commission approved Resolution 8-04-2026, extending Sunday hours for



Carroll County Mayor Joseph Butler presents retiring Sheriff Andy Dickson a plaque for his years of distinguished service. Photo by Jason R. Martin/The Banner

establishments selling beer in unincorporated areas of Carroll County. Under the resolution, beer sales are permitted from noon to midnight on Sundays. The measure passed 17-4.

Resolution 8-06-2026 established a one-year moratorium on data centers in Carroll County. The moratorium gives the Carroll County Mayor's Office, Carroll County Lake Planning Commission and Carroll County Legislative Body time to study the potential health and environmental effects of current and emerging technologies, including data processing, data mining and cryptocurrency mining operations. Among the concerns cited regarding such operations are their peak electrical demands.

The commission approved Resolution 8-07-2026, authorizing a second amendment to the Waste Disposal Services Agreement with Republic Services for rural trash collection and disposal. The agreement establishes a five-year contract between Carroll County and Republic Services, with an option for a five-year extension.

Republic Services assumed the county's waste disposal services following the collapse of Red River. The Solid Waste Committee recommended continuing with Republic Services following the company's acquisition of RaeKar.

Resolution 8-05-2026 amended the rules governing the Carroll County Legislative Body. Under Rule VII, language concerning the citizens forum was changed by deleting the phrase "on a

subject on the agenda" and replacing it with language allowing comments on matters germane to both agenda items and the jurisdiction of the legislative body. Under Rule X, the "Budget Committee" was renamed the "Finance, Ways and Means Committee."

Other Business, the commission also approved several other resolutions:

Resolution 8-01-2026 authorized retiring Sheriff Andy Dickson to retain a service weapon of his choice.

Resolution 8-02-2026 appointed Mary Ryan Bond and Rene Dickens to the Carroll County Library Board.

Resolution 8-03-2026 appointed Willie Huffman and Dr. Walter Butler to the Carroll County Electric Department Board.

Resolution 8-09-2026 amended the General Fund Budget for Animal Control by \$19,200.

Resolution 8-11-2026 amended the ARPA Fund Budget for a Civic Center grant in the amount of \$116,054.

Resolution 8-12-2026 amended the Grant Fund Budget for various county departments.

Notaries elected were Caleb Buchanan, Amy Countryman, Nelda Davidson, Tina Pauline Deloach, David Garcia, Amelia Jordan, Dwayne Maddox III, Andrew Maddox, Heather Moore, Courtney Oatsvall and Jamy Wortham.

The next scheduled meeting of the Carroll County Commission is September 14 at 7 p.m. at the Carroll County Government Complex in Huntingdon.

Trezevant Board Transfers Broad Street Property to IDB

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

TREZEVANT (August 11) — The Town of Trezevant Board of Aldermen voted Tuesday to rezone the property at 5340 Broad Street South to business and transfer its ownership to the town's Industrial Development Board (IDB) — putting an end to a months-long debate regarding what Town Attorney Charlie Trotter considered "the best piece of property in Trezevant."

In previous meetings, local entrepreneur Philip Colwell showed interest in putting a grocery store on the property, which is located adjacent to Pat's Restaurant on Highway 79. Colwell was scheduled to speak to the board on Tuesday night but was unable to appear.

The rezoning vote was split 4-1, with Alderman Don Barger being the only member to vote against it.

On the transfer of ownership, Trotter recommended that the council wait before voting one way or the other. He said the board needed to work with the IDB to create stipulations before giving the property away. He also recommended that the property only be offered to potential business owners on a long-term ground lease.

Alderman Barger, a former member of Trezevant's long-dormant IDB, disagreed with Trotter's first point.

"You can't operate an Industrial Development Board if you don't have anything to operate," Barger said. He emphasized that Trezevant's IDB members were hand-selected for the purpose of making

responsible decisions and that they should be trusted with the property.

As discussions continued, IDB Chairman Rita Foster said that the IDB is not yet ready to sell or lease out the property and that they want to build a partnership with the Board of Aldermen.

Despite momentarily agreeing that the IDB was not ready for the transfer, the board ultimately decided to transfer ownership in a 3-2 vote. Aldermen Pam Joyner and Dan Dieringer voted against the transfer.

The meeting continued, and Mayor Bobby Blaylock and Alderman Joyner presented the board with separate ordinance requests.

Mayor Blaylock's request to increase the town's maximum spending limit to \$20,000 faced criticism from both the Board of Aldermen and Trezevant residents in attendance.

Currently, the Town of Trezevant's spending limit is \$10,000. To purchase anything above that amount, the town must run advertisements in the local newspaper and receive outside quotes or bids.

"As expensive as everything is, \$20,000 isn't much anymore," Mayor Blaylock said. He explained that increasing the spending limit will help to replace items in an emergency situation.

However, Alderman Barger countered that there is no room in the budget to spend such a large amount of money and that large purchases should require time and thoughtful consideration.

On the side of the mayor, Alderman Dan Dieringer said he could see the

need for raising the town's spending limit in case of emergency and further explained that raising the spending limit does not necessarily affect the budget. "The pot of money is the same," Dieringer said. "It hasn't changed since 1988."

The board agreed to table the request, not feeling ready to take it to a vote.

Alderman Joyner's request urged for prompt, fair and consistent codes enforcement throughout Trezevant. She presented an ordinance for Codes Officer Jim Seaton to be able to issue citations to Trezevant residents.

"I've come to the board on many occasions — as recently as May 12 — to ask for support," Joyner said, "and actions have not been taken."

The ordinance aims to beautify Trezevant and requires written notice of violation.

The ordinance passed on the first of two readings.

In other dealings, Trezevant Police Chief Mike Mulligan informed the board of three vehicles — a 1990 Dodge Ram, a 2009 Dodge Charger and a 2002 Crown Victoria — that the department intended to declare as surplus. The board voted its agreement.

Erik Grimes with the Trezevant Water Department informed the board of \$198,000 that the town needed to spend by the end of the year, and Chief Municipal Financial Officer Gabrielle Davis presented budget amendments to the board. The board will meet for a special-called meeting Thursday, August 20, to further discuss the 2026-27 budget.

Bus

...From Front Page

from McKenzie Elementary and McKenzie Middle, was heading south down Main Street at the time of the accident.

McKenzie Special School District Director of Schools Dr. Justin Barden, McKenzie Elementary Principal Tonya Brown and McKenzie Elementa-

ry Assistant Principal Zach Renfro arrived at the scene shortly after the accident and began coordinating with parents to pick up their children.

The McKenzie Police Department, McKenzie Fire/Rescue, Carroll County Fire Department, Carroll County Emergency Management Agency (EMA), Tennessee Highway Patrol and Baptist Ambulance Service responded to the scene.

When emergency personnel determined the students were safe to exit the vehicle, students were relocated to McKenzie's Park Theatre where they were further evaluated for injuries.

The driver of the Honda Fit sustained minor injuries and was transported to Baptist Memorial Hospital-Carroll County.

A complete accident report was unavailable at press time.

Budget

...From Front Page

and Director of Schools Preston Caldwell in attendance, the primary focus of the meeting was the formal adoption of the fiscal year 2027 budget.

The board approved an \$11.5 million budget, supported by approximately \$10 million in projected revenue. A centerpiece of the fiscal plan is a \$750,000 renovation project at the elementary school. Notably, the FY 2027 budget includes a district-wide 5% salary increase, with personnel costs accounting for \$4.3 million of the total expenditures. Director Caldwell expressed confidence in the financial outlook, stating, "We are projected to be on budget with the exception of the construction project at the elementary school."

Beyond long-term budgeting, the board addressed immediate facility needs. Caldwell informed members that a 5-ton air conditioning unit servicing the high school's front offices had failed during recent extreme temperatures. To expedite the \$12,000 replacement, the board voted to waive standard advertisement requirements and approved the purchase from HVAC contractor Jeff Newbill, who expects the unit to arrive within two weeks.

The board also received a progress report on the ongoing elementary school renovations from Maintenance Director Mark Wright. Wright confirmed that all windows have been replaced and window seals are slated for completion by next week. While the vestibule wall is upright awaiting inspection, Wright noted



Preston Caldwell, director of schools of West Carroll Special School District.

a minor delay in securing exterior doors, which are currently five weeks out.

Turning to state funding and academic resources, the board approved a Consolidated Application for IDEA/ESSA, formally acknowledging \$591,000 in state-awarded funds. In a separate action, board members awarded a \$31,499 bid to Learning Labs for a new plasma cutter, following a recommendation presented by Kristin Lindsey.

Kristin Lindsey presented a bid to board members for a plasma cutter. "The lowest bid was from Learning Labs for \$31,499, and I recommend we award the bid to them," said Lindsey. Board members awarded the bid to Learning Labs.

The start of the new school year also necessitated organizational updates. The board approved the members for the Disciplinary Hearing Authority (DHA), which now includes Dr. Adam Douglas, Leslie Farmer, Brianna Rice, Crystal Polinski, Kellie Medina, Jaxon Stringer, Brandi Tolley, Jackie Wester, and Jessica Williams.

During his director's report, Caldwell praised the district's strong staff retention rates, attributing the success to effective leadership at both

the school and board levels. He confirmed that all safety and threat assessments are current. Furthermore, Caldwell announced WCSSD was awarded a \$50,000 Perkins Reserve Grant and took a moment to recognize BETA Club members for their recent achievements at the national level.

Policy updates were approved. Following a second reading of new TSBA policies, the board approved a specific COVID-19 provision. The policy grants employees who test positive five additional quarantine days, provided they submit physician documentation, without exhausting their regular sick leave.

Principals from all three campuses reported a successful first week of classes, expressing optimism for the year ahead.

The meeting concluded with a farewell to outgoing board members Betty Wallace and Keith Murray. "Thank you for all you've done over the last few years; we will miss you both," Caldwell remarked.

Incoming members Jonathan Wilson and Linda Black are scheduled to be administered the oath of office during the September meeting.

Ashley Ingram, Jason D. McCord, Michael B. Wilson and incumbent Jack R. Blocker have picked up petitions. Incumbent James A. Butler has not.

Hollow Rock

Mayor (two-year unexpired): Misty White has qualified to run. Incumbent Ronnie Webb has picked up a petition.

Two alderman positions: James Robison and newcomer Bobby Brotherton have qualified to run. Incumbent Angela Stockdale has picked up a petition, as have newcomers Sherry Ozier and Misty Dawn White. Incumbent T. Richard Goodwin has not yet picked up a petition.

Alderman (two-year unexpired): Incumbent Cathie Pardue and newcomer Thomas Ashley Ingram have qualified to run.

Huntingdon

Three council member positions: Incumbents John Sanders, Kelly Eubanks and Andrew Maddox have picked up petitions.

McKenzie

Mayor: Incumbent Ryan D. Griffin has qualified to run.

Three councilman positions: Incumbents Bobby L. Young and Tom Alexander have qualified to run, as has former councilman Raymond Glisson. Incumbent Car-

ol Armpriest and newcomer Armand J. Hebert have picked up petitions to run.

McLemoresville

Mayor: Incumbent Phil Williams and newcomer Austin Prater have qualified to run. Nathan Worrell has picked up a petition to run.

Five alderman positions: Incumbents Sharon Holland and Kim Wheeler and newcomer Robby Alford have qualified to run. Incumbents Mike Presson and Lana Y. Suite and newcomer Adam Martin have picked up petitions to run. Incumbents Don T. Reed and Angie Martin have not picked up petitions.

Trezevant

Three alderman positions: Incumbent Dan Dieringer has qualified to run. Fellow incumbents Donald M. Barger and Pamela D. Joyner have picked up petitions to run, as have Beth Anne Farrell and Liz Yohman.

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.

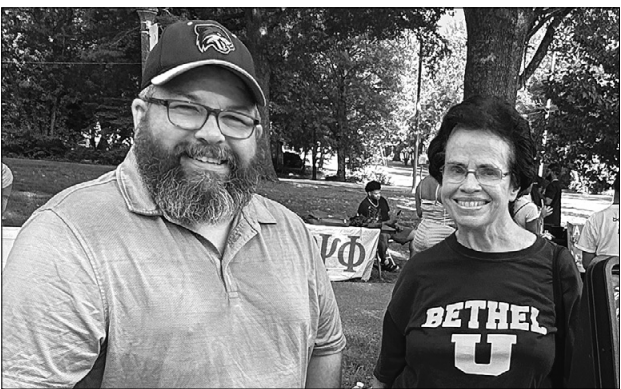
For more details, contact the Carroll County Election Commission Office at 731-986-1968, or www.carrolltnelections.com

Bethel

...From Front Page

Despite the sweltering Saturday afternoon heat, spirits remained high as participants lined the roadways in front of Campbell Hall. This long-standing Bethel tradition, known as the Freshman Fair, serves as a cornerstone of the orientation process, occurring annually on the Saturday before the start of the fall semester.

The move-in process for freshmen and student-athletes began earlier this week, marking the official transition to campus life. While on-campus classes are scheduled to begin Wednesday, August 19, many students are already hard at work; both athletes and members of the Renaissance performing arts program have commenced immediate practices for their upcoming seasons.



Above, Rob Harris and Donna Ward of First Cumberland Presbyterian Church greeted new freshmen at Bethel. Both Harris and Ward are Bethel alums. Below, Stacie Freeman, director of Bethel's Global Studies, greeted two freshmen students from Paris, France. Bethel's Global Studies is traveling to France in May, 2027. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner



Pantry

...From Front Page

of United Neighbors.

Councilperson Tim McBride presented the request to the board after establishing an agreement with the McKenzie Rotary Club President Armand Hebert.

Addressing the council, Hebert said the McKenzie Rotary Club provided food assistance to over 700 individuals in the preceding 30 days through various club initiatives.

"I really believe that that expresses that we're on the right track to really try to eradicate some hunger issues in our community," Hebert said.

Councilperson McBride's request stipulated that the space will serve as a dedicated site, collection area and distribution point for the Rotary Club's food pantry initiative.

The City will not charge any amount to the Rotary Club for rent or utilities, and it will absorb the cost and labor of cleaning the area of unnecessary items currently in the rooms. The City will



The McKenzie Rotary Club's food pantry's new home is at the former McKenzie City Hall/Police Department, located in the rear of United Neighbors. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

also update the space's electrical capability to ensure it is safe and up to standard.

The money which was going to be used by the Rotary Club for a food pantry can therefore be used for another service project for the area, McBride said.

The Rotary Club will, however, be responsible for installing a split unit in the space for the purposes of heating and cooling, as there are currently no signs of ventilation in the space.

Those in need of food assistance will enter through the back entrance of the building. Signage will soon be installed to indicate where to enter. The back entrance is meant to help

maintain anonymity and eliminate the potential stigma of needing assistance.

Councilman McBride's recommendation was met with agreement, as the council unanimously voted to allow the Rotary Club to use the space in the rear of United Neighbors as a dedicated food pantry site.

While the City of McKenzie is not responsible for the distribution of food, city officials will still provide aid to individuals requesting food boxes at McKenzie City Hall or the McKenzie Police Department. United Neighbors is not involved in any food distribution as a part of the Rotary Club's food pantry initiative.

Theatre

...From Front Page

Upon the passing of the 2026-27 fiscal year budget last month, Mayor Ryan Griffin received a letter from the Tennessee Comptroller regarding a \$53,483 deficit in the city's Theatre Fund. The mayor indicated that the deficit started after the theatre received repairs during the 2021-22 fiscal year.

To balance the budget, the council voted to move \$54,000 from the city's General Fund to the Theatre Fund.

During discussions, Pemberton said the board needed to figure out a long-term viability solution for the Park Theatre.

"Is the theater going to be able to continue being subsidized by the City and General Funds at this point?" Pemberton asked.

Mayor Griffin said he and City Recorder Jennifer Waldrup would need to have conversations about potential price increases to concessions or movie tickets. However, he reminded the council, "It currently is maintaining itself. This has just been a deficit that has been left untouched."

Mayor Griffin also discussed the possibility of consolidating the Theatre Fund into the General Fund, which would make balancing costs easier.

The council discussed several other financial items on Thursday, including the police and fire departments' potential purchase of a new communications system.

Carroll County's Sheriff's Office and Fire Department recently transitioned into using the Project 25 (P25) communications system,

which makes the city's current communications system almost obsolete.

McKenzie Police Chief Ryan White and Fire Chief Brian Tucker spoke about the current system and agreed that it is not a reliable system.

"Our radios don't work in the city as it is," Chief White said. "We have problems communicating from inside buildings to outside. It's just been a guessing game as to where we could go and how far we could use it. It's not been a proper working network since it all started."

The council agreed to take out a loan to purchase the P25 communications system, allowing the city's emergency departments to be on the same network as the county.

The loan has a 4.5% interest rate through Carroll Bank & Trust. Payments amount to roughly \$54,000 per year over five years, which Mayor Griffin said has already been budgeted in capital outlay for next year's budget.

The council also agreed to enter into a three-year lease with Tennessee Tractor for mowers and utility vehicles for the city's public works, parks and recreation, and fire departments.

"I prefer a lease on lawn-mowers because if one goes down, they supply it with a loaner. If it's going to take 24 hours or more to fix the problem, they will give us a loaner," Mayor Griffin said.

Public Works will receive three zero-turn mowers, Parks and Recreation will receive four zero-turn mowers, and Fire will receive one zero-turn mower. Parks and Recreation will also receive two GATOR maintenance carts, and Fire will receive one street-legal GATOR utility vehicle. The total cost of

the lease, between all three departments, is \$32,000 each year.

The council approved the Water Department, Parks and Recreation, Public Works and the Farmer's Market to declare various items as surplus. The City of McKenzie will sell these items through Ridgely Auction.

Councilmember Bobby Young also presented the council with bids for the Public Works Department's roofing project. American Roofing Co. had the lowest bid of \$25,000, followed by Stambaugh Roofing whose bid was roughly \$29,000.

American Roofing Co. and Stambaugh Roofing offered the same services, and neither were able to indicate definite start time on the project. Both said it would take at least a couple of months before they could get started.

Councilman Tim McBride made a motion to postpone the vote until start dates were set in stone. However, Vice Mayor Drew Beeler said he was concerned that any postponement would only put the city further in either company's books, therefore prolonging the timeline.

McBride's motion went to a 2-2 vote, with McBride and Councilman Jessie Townes voting to table the vote and Beeler and Young voting against tabling. Mayor Griffin broke the tie, deciding to move forward with the vote.

Vice Mayor Beeler motioned to choose American Roofing's bid offer of \$25,000. Beeler's motion passed unanimously.

The McKenzie Board of Mayor and Council's next meeting is Thursday, September 10.

Elections

...From Front Page

Potential candidates have until noon on Thursday, August 20 to turn in their signed petitions and qualify to be on the November 3 ballot.

Also on the November 3 ballot is the battle for Tennessee Governor. The Carroll County Election Commission released an ongoing list of petitioners for the November election on August 14 at 7:47 a.m.

Municipal seats on the November 3 ballot are as follows:

Atwood

Mayor: T.J. Herndon 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 qualified to run, and Tommy Polinski has picked up a petition. Incumbents Jim Lewis and Randy D. Long have not picked up petitions.

Bruceton

Mayor: Brad Hurley and Johnathan Pierpoint have qualified to run. Incumbent Robert T. Keeton, III, picked up a petition but has yet to file.

Two alderman positions: Robert Cole has qualified to run. Thomas

THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

They Call Him ‘Rambo’

His check has been signed by the Lewis County School District in Tennessee for forty years, but he works for the kids.

Generations of kids know the tall, thin man who always has a smile and encouraging word and who keeps the interior and exterior of their school looking nice as “Rambo”, a nickname he earned when he first started working there and was the antithesis of the Sylvester Stallone character.

Why does he enjoy being around the kids? Because he understands what it's like to struggle in school. He was eighteen years old when he was in the eighth grade and didn't graduated high school until he was twenty-two.

Today, he laughs and says, “I was the only eighth grader old enough to vote.”

His eight siblings (and anyone else who knew him) never thought he'd be able to live on his own and support himself. They figured the orphanage where he grew up would offer him a charity job of some kind and let him continue to live there.

He proved them all wrong. Even when he was born, the odds were against him. They call them “preemies” nowadays and provide intensive care for them in Neonatal Intensive Care Units. Not so when Rambo was born. He was tiny enough to fit in a shoebox and when taken home a few days later slept in a dresser drawer rather than

a baby bed. That's because he was also born into abject poverty.

The story is told of when he was a couple years old and sleeping in a second-hand baby bed that he was always slipping his head between the slats, and one of his siblings would have to push his head back through.

In his own words, he describes his early life:

The very first memory I have is of my daddy loading me and my eight brothers and sisters in a station wagon, each of us carrying a plastic bag with all the clothes we had, except for my baby sister, Beverly, who was only eighteen months old. My oldest sister, Brenda, who was sixteen and the oldest of all of us, carried hers and Beverly's clothes. Daddy drove us four hundred miles before he finally stopped and put us out and drove off.

None of us knew where we were, least of all me. There were all these two-story brick buildings that were facing each other across a small field. What I would eventually come to understand was that we were at Tennessee Orphan's Home. An orphan's home! Can you believe that?! He just dumped us out and left us there. That's just the way he was.

My younger brother, Lawrence, would be scared at night, and I'd let him get in bed with me. I'd tell him, “Everything's going to be all right.”

I don't remember my mama because she died when she was thirty-six and I was three or four. All I know about her is from stories my brothers and sisters have told.

When he was older, he was diagnosed with severe scoliosis and had to wear a brace for a year that went from his neck to his pelvis.

He's a cross between Forest Gump and Dustin Hoffman's character in Rain Man: simple, gentle, and sincere, with a mind for numbers. He knows the birthdates of all his siblings and their children and their children's children.

As far as I know, he's never spoken an unkind or mean word to anyone.

Through the years he's had a girlfriend or two but always found them to be “too much trouble.”

At the small country church he attends and leads singing sometimes, he's always been the favored “boy” of all the widow women. And he loves it.

When his family gets together, he's the center of attention, telling familiar tales that seem to have become embellished through the years, but no one minds because they enjoy hearing the hearty laughter of their brother who beat the odds.

Now, he's on the verge of retirement. He may retire, but he'll never be forgotten by the untold numbers of people who remember Rambo trying to cheer them up and encourage them when they were small and scared.

The world would be a better place if there were more people like my brother-in-law, Robert Johnson, in it.

Things In My Head with Charles Manfredi



Inglenook Book Club Hears from Local Author Mona Batchelor

MCKENZIE (August 12) — The Inglenook Book Club gathered for its monthly meeting on Wednesday, August 12, at 3 p.m. at Lakeside. President Gail Mack presided over the proceedings, which began with the traditional reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance, the Club Aim, and the Club Motto.

Hospitality was provided by hostess Victoria Ard, who treated the group to strawberry and pineapple cake alongside assorted beverages. The club also took a moment to celebrate August birthdays, with members joining in to sing for Jean Hollomon and Donna Ward.

During the business portion of the meeting, 16 members answered roll call. Following the approval of the July minutes and the financial report presented by Treasurer Donna Ward, the group reviewed committee updates. The Sunshine chair reported on recent card outreach, and the Membership chair noted that the club continues to welcome new participants.

The club discussed Senior Day at the Carroll County Fair, held on August 13. Members were also encouraged to begin considering

book submissions for the 2027 reading list. President Mack announced that a nominating committee for 2027 officers will be introduced at the September gathering.

The highlight of the afternoon was a presentation by guest speaker Mona Batchelor, a retired McKenzie librarian. Introduced by Debby Simon, Batchelor provided an inside look at the publication process while sharing excerpts from her upcoming book, “Nora T and the Champion Tree,” scheduled for release on September 29.

Following the program, the traditional “book passing” concluded the event. Members were reminded to bring back the books they received for the next meeting.

The club will reconvene on September 9 at 3 p.m. at Lakeside. Members are asked to bring donations of scissors or school supplies for that meeting. The program will be presented by Donna Ward, with Jean McKinnie and Genia Sherwood serving as hostesses.

The meeting concluded with the recitation of the Benediction. *Information submitted by Beverly Mueller.*

HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

Our Minds Need Bigger Yoga Pants

I had to write a report in Miss Belle Alexander's history class in the third grade. I asked Dad for some direction. He deadpanned, “Son, don't tell them everything you know in the first paragraph.”

I completely missed the humor, sarcasm, joke, or whatever he was conveying. All I could think of was I didn't know enough to fill up one paragraph, much less an entire page like she expected. I didn't have enough words. Or thoughts in my head. Or experiences to pull from.

Some days I wish I could go back to those simple times when my brain didn't have enough “stuff” in it to fill up one page. Knowledge is wonderful, but how much of it can we “take in” before we overload the circuits....

The mind is an amazing machine. It is as expandable as some of those yoga pants I see people wearing when they ought not to. Miss Belle put a fair share of “things” in my almost wide-open mind. When you add that to what the rest of the elementary teachers poured in over the years, you can see where I'm going here.

And then you've got to throw Leon in. Good gracious alive, my older brother started talking to me while I was still in the crib. And it wasn't nothing about two plus two, moon phases, or George Washington cutting down cherry trees. It was about us memorizing all the acts that ever appeared in Texas Jack's Wild West Circus.

Later, he was so proud of being caught up in that alien space ship, he told me everything they taught him. He said I could not be a true St. Louis baseball fan unless I could name everyone who ever played for them. Leon had a list of girls that he made

me memorize certain things to say to each one of them... about him.

He never quit. His stories had stories. I could never differentiate fact from fiction. So, I had to learn it all. He would wake me up to tell me some trivia that would do nothing but take up more space in my ever-expanding gray matter.

And there was Mom's family. I'm telling you, they just kept-a-coming! Aunts, uncles, in-laws, outlaws, cousins by the dozens. It was Coxeys' army on steroids. I couldn't just call them Earl and Billy Bob. I had to put a name with every face!

By the time I got to junior high, classmates were calling me balloon head behind my back.

And to my dismay, the learning really began to pile up in earnest. Mrs. Velna Gray Paschall was a history teacher extraordinaire. She didn't spoon knowledge in one small gulp at a time. She poured it in by the shovelful!

I learned to conjugate verbs in Latin when I was a sophomore. Guess how many people in life have rushed up asking me to give them a little amo, amas, amat lesson? Talk about taking up space. For no useful purpose! And somehow, you can't get rid of stuff like that. It just hangs around, like a stray cat, or an ex-girlfriend who really likes your mother.

College was a whole new ball of wax. Dates, battles, formulas, political theories, fiction as reality, Shakespeare unmasked, John Milton's funny side, and the life and times of Mahatma Gandhi were thrust upon us. I learned, in order, the names of five centuries' worth of rulers from countries I had never heard of.

By the middle of the last semester of my junior year, I thought my “overcrowded mind” was going to explode....

I worked one summer at the Grand Ole Opry. You'd better believe I “collected” every word Loretta Lynn said to me. I took to memorizing most every song any of the Opry stars were singing, including Roger Miller's “My Uncle Used to Love Me but She Died.”

Sadly, the mind does not work like an Etch A Sketch. You can't just turn it upside down and all the clutter and Roger Miller songs are erased.

And understand I'm not just talking about my brain here. You've got one too! You have your own Mahatma Gandhi collection. You might have even had a sibling like Leon. Although that is hard to fathom.

And then we reach the age where we walk into a room and can't remember why. We set the milk on the counter and never put it back. We greet an old friend on the street, and we can remember where he lives, how long we have known him, how many kids he has...we just can't remember his name.

I used to worry about losing my mind.

But my grandson, when he was about six, put me at ease on that score. I couldn't remember the exact date for the fall of the Alamo. I was really straining...Luke interrupted, “KK, don't worry about it. You are so old and know so much and have so many facts running around in your brain, it's no wonder they get jumbled up sometimes.”

Out of the mouths of babes....

Respectfully,
Kes
kesley45@aol.com

Trezevant Alderman Warns Dangers Of Data Centers: ‘They’re Coming’

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS

lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

TREZEVANT (August 11) — Alderman Dan Dieringer addressed his fellow aldermen Tuesday night at the beginning of the Town of Trezevant's August board meeting, warning of the dangers of data centers. He urged the council to consider creating an ordinance regarding data centers before they arrive in Trezevant.

Dieringer attended the Carroll County Commission meeting the night prior, during which commissioners approved a one-year moratorium on data centers on county property.

“That [moratorium] doesn't protect each town,” Dieringer said. “We're on our own.”

Dieringer listed water and power consumption as the two biggest threats data centers present to small towns. He also mentioned the potential for noise pollution.

Alderman Mark Argo, who works closely with the Trezevant Water Department, said the department would not be able to handle the needs of a data center.

Additionally, Dieringer told the board that data centers would not bring work to the area, as even the largest data centers only require up to 20 engineers on staff.

Data centers have begun popping up across West Tennessee, with one currently under construction in Humboldt.



Dan Dieringer. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

“It's coming, guys,” Dieringer said. “The snowball is coming down the mountain...Our town needs to decide what we want.”

Dieringer suggested building and passing an ordinance as soon as possible, before companies begin eyeing Trezevant as a potential location for data centers.

“We need to get on the books,” Dieringer said. “We can always amend ordinances.”

Dieringer's plea went without a motion or a vote, and it is up to the Town of Trezevant Board of Aldermen to develop and present an ordinance on data centers in the coming months.

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Above, Bethel’s Renaissance Choir led the worship service for incoming freshmen on Sunday. Below, Hannah Monroe performed a solo during the Renaissance Choir worship service.

Renaissance Choir Hosts Worship Service For Bethel Freshmen

MCKENZIE (August 16) — Bethel University’s Renaissance Choir conducted the worship service for incoming freshman on Sunday. It’s part of a period of orientation for the freshman as resident or commuter first-year students. The vocalists and musician accompanists provided a praise service in the Dickey Fine Arts Building (DFAB) at 10 a.m. Under the leadership of Megan Allen, vocalists showcased their

talents through solos, small group performances, and as a whole choir. Upcoming local worship performances include August 30 at McKenzie First Cumberland Presbyterian Church, 10 a.m., and Gleason First Baptist Church at 6 p.m. On November 22, the group will lead worship at McKenzie First Baptist Church at 10:30 a.m. The group also travels throughout a multi-state region.



Tennessee Trees Inspire Mona Batchelor’s Debut Children’s Novel

‘Nora T and the Champion Tree’ Releases September 29

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

In Mona Martin Batchelor’s debut children’s novel, “Nora T and the Champion Tree,” the retired McKenzie High School librarian uses the Tennessee Champion Tree Program to teach young readers about environmental stewardship, family traditions and the power one person has to make a difference. Batchelor described the book as a “roadmap love letter to Tennessee,” featuring a number of references to Tennessee’s culture — including mentions of Dolly Parton and the University of Tennessee at Martin’s Skyhawks. It also pays tribute to Batchelor’s Northwest Tennessee roots, based on her own family farmland in McKenzie.

Batchelor began writing “Nora T” fresh off the publication of her first book, “The Auctioneer’s Daughter: Family Tales Retold.” She self-published her first book, which was a collection of stories from her childhood, hoping the stories would live on even after she dies.

Writing “Nora T” was an entirely different process, Batchelor said. For one, it’s her children’s fiction debut. Secondly, it’s her first time working with a publishing house.

When “The Auctioneer’s Daughter” hit the market, Batchelor’s friends, some of whom are also published authors, began asking her what was next. She had no clue.

She’d had several ideas swimming in her head, stories examining small town life versus big city life. She also wanted to write about something that was close to her heart.

Batchelor became involved with the Tennessee Champion Tree Program in 2020, a year after her retirement. She and her husband Stephen had begun doing brush clearing on her family’s cattle farm, which hadn’t been maintained since her father died a few decades ago.

This is where she came face-to-face with a huge American beech tree she remembered from her



Mona Martin Batchelor holds a copy of “Nora T and the Champion Tree.” Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

childhood.

“I remember my dad picking me up and holding me up to see that tree. And it was huge when I was a little girl, a really little girl. And I thought, this should be written down somewhere,” Batchelor said.

She went to the Internet, where she found out about the Tennessee Champion Tree Program. Each year, people across the state can nominate large trees to become “champion trees.” A team goes out each summer and measures each nominated tree across the state, measuring height, trunk circumference and crown spread. After measuring, they decide if the tree’s size supersedes the past champion tree.

“But what that does is it creates a database of all the old trees in Tennessee,” Batchelor said.

For Batchelor, the Champion Tree Program isn’t about winning — although she does concede that the competition aspect is fun — but it is about keeping records of her family trees, many of which measure to be over 200 years old.

Several of Batchelor’s trees have won Tennessee champion titles, including the aforementioned American beech tree. She was also the owner of a champion tulip poplar tree — which is illustrated on the cover of “Nora T and the Champion Tree.”

From Batchelor’s champion tree experience, “Nora T”

was born.

In the story, 11-year-old Nora T Singleton, who lives in a high-rise apartment in Nashville, visits her grandparents’ farm in Northwest Tennessee during her summer break. While there, she becomes curious about the trees on her grandparents’ property. Her Gran introduces her to the Tennessee Champion Tree Program and urges Nora to submit a tulip poplar tree for consideration. In the process, Nora learns a lot about trees, the environment and activism.

“Nora T and the Champion Tree” started as a 36-page picture book — an avenue that Batchelor saw as much easier to pursue than a full-out novel. She contacted former student Maggie Latimer to illustrate the book, having spoken with her years beforehand about book illustrating.

“The first part of the book was going to be fiction,” Batchelor said, “and then when you flip the book over, the last half of it was going to be nonfiction, more technical information about the Champion Tree program.”

She finished writing the picture book, and she didn’t know where to go next. She didn’t want to self-publish this one. She began doing a lot of research and eventually began seeking university presses. One of her friends, who is an author in Knoxville, told her about the University of Tennessee Press and encouraged her to submit the story.

She sent an email to Katie Hannah, the director of the University of Tennessee Press, in the summer of 2024. That same afternoon, she received an email back. It was bad news. The University of Tennessee Press was not interested in publishing children’s books — especially not picture books.

However, Hannah gave Batchelor an olive branch: she asked if Batchelor was interested in turning her story into a children’s novel. Batchelor jumped on the offer. Within a month, she turned “Nora T” into an 80-page first draft of a novel.

Hannah was thrilled. Batchelor continued working on the story until January of 2025, when Hannah submitted it to the University of Tennessee Press Board of Directors.

The board unanimously voted to publish “Nora T.” It would go on to become the University of Tennessee Press’s second-ever story published under its new children’s publishing program. The first, “My Magic Tux: A Big Orange Story of Courage and Confidence” by J. R. Greene and Joe Shands, released in July 2026.

The final version of “Nora T and the Champion Tree” is 128 pages and still features Latimer’s artwork throughout. The book’s cover, also illustrated by Latimer, features the titular character looking up at the towering tulip poplar tree she would nominate for the Tennessee Champion Tree Program.

“The press is delighted to add this engaging and informative title to our burgeoning children’s list,” Hannah said. “Mona is a terrific writer, and young readers will love Nora T’s story. They might even learn something new!”

“Nora T and the Champion Tree” examines a multitude of topics, including the environmental impact of large trees and how small changes can make a big impact. It also examines the multi-generational relationships and the value of learning from older generations.

Batchelor’s “Nora T and the Champion Tree” is a middle grade-novel, friendly for readers in grades 3-6 and equally as enjoyable for adults of any age. It releases September 29, 2026, and is available to pre-order in paperback, hardcover or e-book format through all major booksellers.

Bethel Kicks Off Rotary Auction Donations



Bethel University provided the first donation for the annual McKenzie Rotary Auction, continuing a long-standing tradition between the university and the McKenzie Rotary Club. Bethel donated two \$2,000 scholarships to help kick off this year’s auction. Pictured are McKenzie Rotary Club President Armand Hebert and Bethel University Executive Vice President Dr. Wayne Scott.



Armand Hebert, president of McKenzie Rotary Club with Vickie Summers, executive director of the Gordon Browning Museum in McKenzie.

Gordon Browning Museum Remodeled, Expanding Community Outreach

MCKENZIE (August 11) — The Carroll County Historical Society, the steward of the Governor Gordon Browning Museum and Archives, is charting a new course of revitalization and community engagement, according to Executive Director Vickie Summers.

Summers, who addressed the Rotary Club of McKenzie on Tuesday, August 11, 2026, provided an update on the museum’s ongoing transformation, highlighting a shift toward greater accessibility, digital preservation, and community-focused programming.

The museum, which houses the Genealogical Resource Libraries, the Carroll County Archives, and many family histories and military uniforms of local veterans, has undergone significant changes since Summers and the newly constituted board of directors took the helm. Following a period of disrepair and a nine-month closure for extensive renovations, the facility has been overhauled to meet Title VI compliance standards. These improvements include new wheelchair accessibility throughout the building, the conversion of the old postmaster’s office into a modern conference room, and a complete reorganization of the museum’s collections. Governor Gordon Browning’s memorabilia was relocated to the front lobby of the former post office.

“The museum belongs to the community, it benefits the community, it is funded by the community, and it is run by volunteers of the community,” Summers told the Rotary members.

Summers emphasized that the museum oper-

ates entirely on volunteer power, with no paid staff. Despite a slim budget supported by city, county, and state funds, the organization has successfully secured grants for critical infrastructure, including roof repairs and electrical updates for the 1935 building. Looking ahead, the society is seeking further funding to refurbish restrooms and install an elevator to the basement, which would unlock significant new space for exhibits and educational programs.

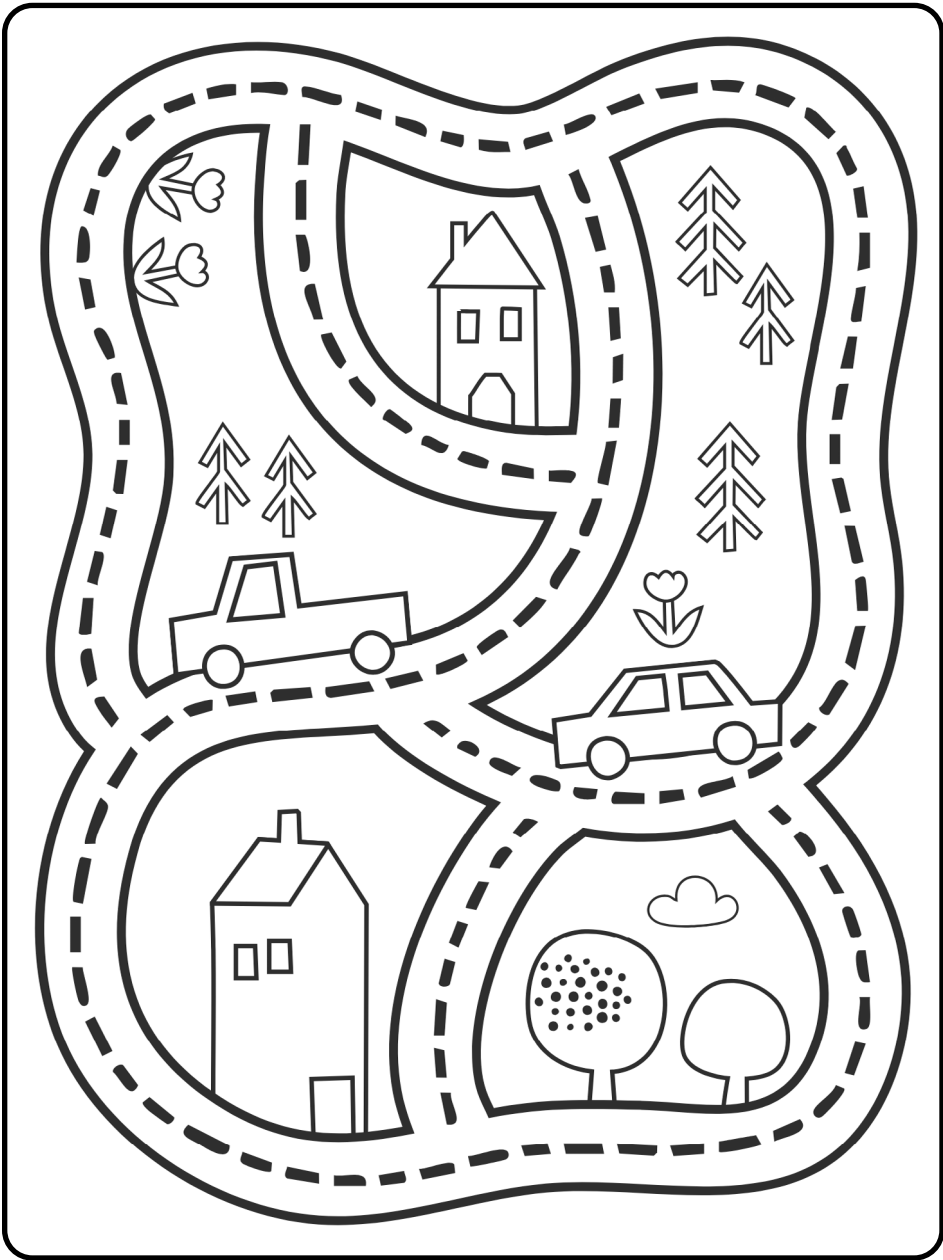
The museum is also expanding its digital footprint. A new website is currently under development, designed to replace outdated listings tied to legacy programs. Additionally, a retired Marine volunteer is nearing completion of a comprehensive cataloging project, which will allow the state to conduct an inventory and help the museum secure insurance for its priceless artifacts.

Community engagement remains a top priority. The society recently launched a monthly genealogy group, led by a certified genealogist from Paris, and has initiated a “living history” recording project. This project aims to capture oral histories, with a specific focus on documenting local family histories.

To bridge an annual \$3,000 budget gap, the museum is hosting a “memory tree” fundraiser, offering commemorative leaves for \$50 to honor loved ones.

As the museum continues to evolve, Summers invited the public to visit and witness the changes firsthand. The facility is open to the public on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

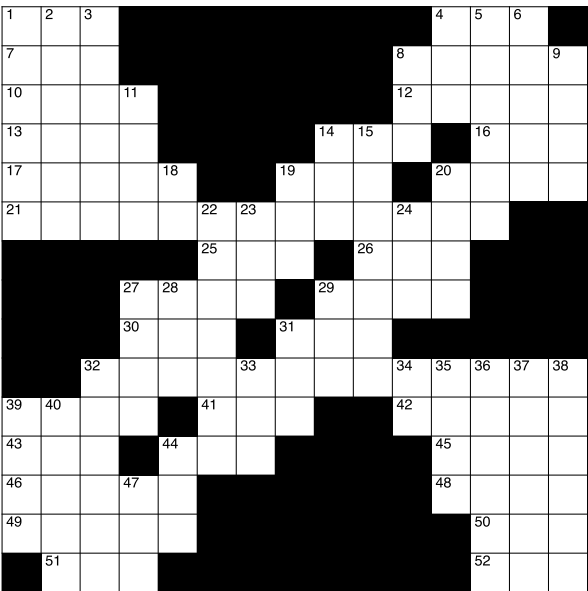
Color A Masterpiece



Weekly Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Microgram
- 4. Fixed charge
- 7. Each
- 8. Feeling of humiliation
- 10. Coat with sticky substance
- 12. Powerful "Severance" family
- 13. Japanese city
- 14. "Pulp Fiction" actress Thurman
- 16. Hat
- 17. Place where rockers work
- 19. Psyche
- 20. Snake-like fishes
- 21. Where people live
- 25. Body part
- 26. Old towel
- 27. One's essential being
- 29. Japanese alcoholic beverage
- 30. Boxing's GOAT
- 31. Wet muddy ground
- 32. Christian Laettner is one
- 39. A place to store lawn tools
- 41. Large tub for liquid
- 42. Old World lizard
- 43. One-time European member group
- 44. Healing student
- 45. Nuclear weapon
- 46. "Kiss of the Spider Woman" actress Sonia
- 48. Silk garment
- 49. About some Norse poems



- 50. Woman religious community member
- 51. Congressman (abbr.)
- 52. Two-year-old sheep

CLUES DOWN

- 1. An insane person
- 2. "Homeland" actress Danes
- 3. Buttock muscles
- 4. US federal agency
- 5. Birds of prey
- 6. Electronic communication
- 8. Ocean
- 9. Terminates
- 11. Low-pitched sound from a bell
- 14. Exclamation: yuck!
- 15. A place to attach a boat
- 18. Exclamation of surprise
- 19. Make a mistake
- 20. Border line
- 22. Have religious faith
- 23. Klutz
- 24. Large tree
- 27. House of ___ rulers
- 28. Red deer
- 29. Small coin (French)
- 31. Popular sandwich
- 32. 10-year period
- 33. Not good
- 34. Government lawyer
- 35. Egypt's intelligence agency
- 36. Without an occupant or incumbent
- 37. Stain with one's hands
- 38. Crippling
- 39. One point east of southeast
- 40. Large, united groups
- 44. ___ and cheese
- 47. Alcoholic beverage

Week 33

See solution in next week's edition.

On The Road Word Search

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

Ambulance
Bottleneck
Boulevard
Commuter
Congestion

Construction
Crosswalk
Gridlock
Highway
Intersection

Motorcycle
Overpass
Pedestrian
Police
Roundabout
Rush Hour

Speeding
Stop Sign
Tailgating
Traffic Light
Turn
Vehicles

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1814: British troops capture Washington, D.C., and set the Presidential Mansion and other buildings on fire.

1909: Workers start pouring concrete for the Panama Canal.

1991: Ukraine declares itself independent from the Soviet Union.

SUDOKU

WEEK 33

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

Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

See solution in next week's edition.



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

A. 16 21 8 22
Clue: Vehicles

B. 8 7 21 13 17 21 25
Clue: Place to drive

C. 11 26 8 18 26
Clue: Blend together

D. 16 7 12 18 26 22 6 4 7 12
Clue: Lots of vehicles

Answers: A. cars B. roadway C. merge D. congestion

LETTER MIX-UP

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

PEDESTRIAN

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

Riddle Me This

What kind of car, or vehicle, does a sheep drive?

Answer: Lamborghini

WORD SCRAMBLE

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

PTSO

Answer: Stop

GUESS WHO?

I am a singer born in England on August 22, 1995. I worked as a waitress while living in London. I started posting covers of songs on YouTube. I won Grammy Awards in 2019 for Best New Artist and Best Dance Record, and I've had many hits on the charts. I recently tied the knot.

Answer: Dua Lipa

Edward Jones

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A3272/33-1

PUZZLE SOLUTION

Week 32 Crossword Puzzle Solution

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION WEEK 32

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

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AVAILABLE STRINGER POSITIONS (Contract)

- **TERRITORY:** McKenzie, Gleason
- **TERRITORY:** Huntingdon, Hollow Rock-Bruceton
- **TERRITORY:** West Carroll, Clarksburg

Please include resume and writing samples.

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Left, The 2025-26 McKenzie Shooting Sports Team. Right, The McKenzie Shooting Sports rookie division (L to R) Emmett Cary, Jaxon Hochreiter, Emmalynn Adkins and Ashlynn Cobb. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



McKenzie Shooting Sports Celebrates Phenomenal Season

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (August 16) — The McKenzie Shooting Sports team gathered Sunday at the Carroll County Shooting Sports Park to celebrate a successful season. Shooters were presented with awards earned at matches throughout the season.

The team's varsity division included Lila Reed, Zane Bartlett, Wyatt Cary and Jake Townsend.

The team's intermediate division included Colton Cobb, Emilee Harris, Layla Arnold, Neyland Harris, Gabe Green, Chance Alexander, Addilyn Brown, Emory Williams and Ivy Kate Jones.

The rookie division included Emmett Cary, Ashlynn Cobb, Emmalynn Adkins and Jaxon Hochreiter.

Coaches were Justin Jones, Ryan Jones, Marty Brown, John Williams, Blake Alexander, Brian Cobb and Dennis Adkins.

Medals and other awards were presented by match location.

Montgomery County Shooting Complex

Optic Rifle - Rookie - First Place (Hochreiter, Adkins, Cobb, Cary)

Optic Rifle - Intermediate - First Place (Jones, Williams, Brown, Cobb)

Optic Rifle - Intermediate - Second Place (Green, Alexander, Arnold, N. Harris)

Optic Rifle - Varsity - First Place (Cary, Townsend, Bartlett, Reed)

Iron Rifle - Rookie - Second Place (Hochreiter, Adkins, Cobb, Cary)

Iron Rifle - Intermediate - First Place (Jones, Williams, Brown, Cobb)

Iron Rifle - Intermediate - Second Place (Green, Alexander, Arnold, N. Harris)

Iron Rifle - Varsity - Second Place (Cary, Townsend, Bartlett, Reed)

PCC - Open Division - Second Place (Townsend, W. Cary, C. Cobb)

High Overall - Colton Cobb

Carroll County Shooting Sports Park

Optic Rifle - Rookie - First Place (Hochreiter, Adkins, Cobb, Cary)

Optic Rifle - Intermediate - First Place (Jones, Williams, Brown, Cobb)

Optic Rifle - Intermediate - Second Place (Green, Alexander, N. Harris, E. Harris)

Optic Rifle - Varsity - First Place (Cary, Townsend, Bartlett, Reed)

Iron Rifle - Rookie - Second Place (Hochreiter, Adkins, Cobb, Cary)

Iron Rifle - Intermediate - First Place (Jones, Williams, Brown, Cobb)

Iron Rifle - Intermediate - Second Place (Green, Alexander, Arnold, N. Harris)

Iron Rifle - Varsity - First Place (Cary, Townsend, Bartlett, Reed)

High Overall Male, Rimfire - Rookie - Emmett Cary

High Overall Male, Rimfire - Intermediate - Chance Alexander

PCC High Overall - Colton Cobb

Dead Zero Shooting Sports Park

Optic Rifle - Rookie - First Place (Hochreiter, Adkins, Cobb, Cary)

Optic Rifle - Intermediate

First Place (Brown, Cobb, E. Harris, Williams)

Optic Rifle - Intermediate - Second Place (Alexander, Arnold, N. Harris, Jones)

Optic Rifle - Open Division - First Place (W. Cary, Green, Reed, Townsend)

Iron Rifle - Rookie - First Place (Hochreiter, Adkins, Cobb, Cary)

Iron Rifle - Intermediate - First Place (Alexander, Arnold, N. Harris, Jones)

Iron Rifle - Intermediate - Second Place (Brown, Cobb, E. Harris, Williams)

Iron Rifle - Non-Collegiate Open - First Place (W. Cary, Green, Reed, Townsend)

PCC - Intermediate - First Place (Alexander, Brown, Jones, Williams)

PCC - Non-Collegiate Open - First Place (W. Cary, C. Cobb, Green, Townsend)

High Overall Rookie - Emmett Cary

High Overall Male, Rimfire - Colton Cobb

High Overall Male - PCC - Colton Cobb

Nashville Gun Club (State Shoot)

Optic Rifle - Rookie - First Place (Hochreiter, Adkins, Cary)

Optic Rifle - Intermediate - Second Place (Alexander, Jones, Brown, Williams)

Optic Rifle - Varsity - Second Place (Cary, Townsend, Bartlett, Reed)

Iron Rifle - Rookie - First Place (Hochreiter, Adkins, Cary)

Iron Rifle - Intermediate - First Place (Alexander, Brown, Jones, Williams)

Iron Rifle - Varsity - Third Place (Cary, Townsend, Bartlett, Reed)

Iron Rifle - Intermediate



Above, The McKenzie Shooting Sports intermediate division (L to R) Front Row: Emilee Harris, Addilyn Brown, Ivy Kate Jones and Chance Alexander. Back Row: Layla Arnold, Neyland Harris, Emory Williams, Gabe Green and Colton Cobb. Below Left, Named to the Scholastic Sports Shooting Foundation All-Scholastic Team were Emory Williams (left) and Ivy Kate Jones. Below Right, The McKenzie Shooting Sports varsity division (L to R) Zane Bartlett, Wyatt Cary and Lila Reed. Not pictured is Jake Townsend. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Second Place (Arnold, N. Harris, E. Harris, Green)

PCC - Intermediate - Second Place (Alexander, Jones, Brown, Williams)

PCC - Open Division - Third Place (W. Cary, Townsend, Bartlett, Green)

Ruger National Virtual Match

Optic Rifle - Rookie - First Place (Hochreiter, Adkins, Cobb, Cary)

Optic Rifle - Intermediate - First Place (Alexander, Brown, N. Harris, Jones)

Optic Rifle - Intermediate - Second Place (Cobb, Williams, Green, E. Harris)

Optic Rifle - Varsity - Third Place (Cary, Townsend, Bartlett, Reed)

Iron Rifle - Rookie - First Place (Hochreiter, Adkins, Cobb, Cary)

Iron Rifle - Intermediate - First Place (Alexander, Brown, N. Harris, Jones)

Iron Rifle - Intermediate - Second Place (Cobb, Williams, Green, Arnold)

Iron Rifle - Varsity - Third Place (Cary, Townsend, Bartlett, Reed)

Iron Rifle - Individual Overall Female - Ivy Kate Jones

PCC - Intermediate - First

Place (Alexander, Jones, Brown, Williams)

PCC - Non-Collegiate Open - First Place (W. Cary, Townsend, C. Cobb, Green)

PCC - Individual Overall male - Jake Townsend

PCC - Individual Overall Female - Ivy Kate Jones

The Scholastic Sports Shooting Foundation named Emory Williams and Ivy Kate Jones to the All-Scholastic Team. Shooters must maintain a 3.5 GPA, meet minimum competition requirements and solicit letters of recommendation.



West Carroll Elementary staff wear yellow Dollar General sunglasses associated with the Dollar General Literacy Grant. Submitted photo

Dollar General Literacy Grant Supports Summer Reading at West Carroll Elementary

TREZEVANT — West Carroll Elementary School has received a Dollar General literacy grant to support its Summer Reading Program and expand the school library's collection of books available to students.

Grant funds were used to purchase new books

focused on the history and geography of the United States. The additions provide students with opportunities to explore American history while continuing to strengthen reading comprehension, vocabulary and overall literacy skills.

West Carroll Elementary

also kept its library open throughout the summer, giving students continued access to books while school was not in session.

In recent years, West Carroll Elementary has challenged students to read 100 books or earn 100 Accelerated Reader points during the school

year. During the 2025-26 school year, over 50 percent of students reached that goal.

That literacy focus will continue during the 2026-27 school year through the school's Readers' Detective Club theme. Teachers are using the theme to encourage students to approach reading with curiosity, explore new books and build their skills as readers.

West Carroll Elementary staff also recognized Dollar General's support by purchasing and wearing the company's yellow sunglasses, which are associated with its literacy fundraising efforts.

The school expressed its appreciation to Dollar General for its continued investment in literacy and for providing additional resources to support West Carroll Elementary students.

Webb School to Honor Class of 1966 During Annual Homecoming

MCKENZIE — The Webb School Alumni Association is hosting its annual homecoming and General Assembly over the Labor Day weekend, a celebration of the historic institution that served African American students throughout Carroll County for decades.

Webb School's history began in the early 20th century as a one-room schoolhouse known as Booker T. Washington High School. In 1927, the name was changed to Webb School to honor John L. Webb, whose financial contributions significantly funded the facility. Following a devastating fire in 1936, the school community and McKenzie Mayor Glen King worked to acquire the vacated 30-acre McTyeire College grounds to relocate the campus.

The current school facility was constructed in 1958 in the Modern Movement style. However, following the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the desegregation of southern schools, Webb School closed its doors in 1966. To preserve its enduring legacy, Professor James L. Seets spearheaded the formation of the Webb Alumni Association in 1969. The association successfully purchased the campus in 1976 and secured the school's listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

Today, the building on

Walnut Avenue serves as a community center and houses the Webb School Historical Museum, archiving memorabilia from the faculty and students who shaped the institution.

The upcoming festivities begin Friday, September 4, from 6-8 p.m., featuring a youth block party, line dancing, card games, and hospitality.

On Saturday, September 5, the General Assembly of Webb School Alumni will hold its annual meeting with guest speaker Gloria Harris of Milwaukee. A parade will follow at 1:30 p.m., concluding with a dinner and dance from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.

Sunday, September 6, features the "Unforgettable" fashion show at 5 p.m., honoring Tranquilla Pate.

The celebration concludes Monday, September 7, with a picnic day from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The picnic will include food, games, and door prizes for attendees.

At noon, the Webb High School Class of 1966—the institution's final graduating class—will be honored.

A special ceremony at 1:30 p.m. will recognize the Trezevant High School Blue Devil Women's Basketball Teams of 1974 and 1976.

The homecoming will wrap up at 3 p.m. with a Soul Train Line and performances by various artists.

DID YOU KNOW?

► Every month, **82%** of Tennessees 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

► **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

Source: Coda Ventures Market Study 2020



Above Left, Rebel Parker Ross stretches for a 29-yard catch. Above Right, Rebel Lelan Gordon cuts to the outside for positive yardage. Below Left, Rebel Aiden Carrington makes a leaping catch for a 14-yard gain. Below Right, Rebel Hunter Winstead wraps up a McCracken County ball carrier for a loss. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Jamboree a Good Final Test for Rebels

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

PARIS (August 14) — McKenzie High School traveled Friday to participate in the annual Henry County High School Football Jamboree, where the Rebels faced the McCracken County Mustangs for a two-quarter scrimmage with no contact on special teams plays.

McKenzie scored twice, once early and once late, but a tough Mustangs team scored four times in between for a 28-14 win.

The Rebels took first possession, starting at the far 30. Lelan Gordon ran for six, then quarterback Cole Brown kept for 44 yards. Jayden Callis gained three, then C. Brown kept for six. On third-and-one, Callis rushed for seven and a first-and-goal at the 4. C. Brown tossed to Avery Brown for a short loss, then Cole was stopped for another loss. An offsidess penalty against McCracken County moved the ball to the 3, and Callis punched it in. Jony Hernandez kicked the undefended PAT, and McKenzie led 7-0 with just under eight minutes to play in the first

quarter.

The Mustangs found a gap on their first snap for a 70-yard touchdown. A good kick tied the game at 7-7.

The Rebels couldn't get traction on their second drive and went three-and-out, but McCracken County did the same.

McKenzie started at their 35 with a 17-yard pass from Cole to Avery. Cole then found Aiden Carrington for 14 and another first down. A penalty backed up the Rebels, but Cole threw to Parker Ross for 29 yards to the 11. After a delay of game penalty, Cole found Jacobi Melton for four yards. The Mustangs jumped offside, then Cole threw incomplete. Callis was stopped short of the first down, then Cole was stopped on a fourth-down keeper at the 4. The senior QB also suffered a superficial injury that would sideline him for the remainder of the contest.

Taking over deep in their own red zone, McCracken County gained 36 on a completed pass. The drive stalled, and the Mustangs punted as the quarter ended.

The Rebels went three-and-out again to start the

second frame.

The Mustangs scored on two plays, the latter a 52-yard touchdown reception. Another good PAT gave McCracken County a 14-7 lead with under ten minutes to play.

On McKenzie's first snap, freshman quarterback Seth Stafford was intercepted for a Mustang touchdown. The PAT gave McCracken County a 21-7 lead.

Callis gave the Rebels a good start with a first-down run, but the drive stalled.

McCracken County scored on six plays, and the kick made it 28-7 with four minutes remaining.

The Rebels answered with their own six-play scoring drive. Ross ran for nine, and Callis converted a fourth-down. Callis followed with a 30-yard gain into the red zone, the Gordon punched it in from the 7. Hernandez kicked again, and McKenzie trailed 28-14 with a minute and a half to play.

The Mustangs managed four plays before time expired.

McKenzie's regular season begins Friday, August 21 at Huntingdon. Kickoff is 7 p.m.



Left, Kenton Smith run. Right, Keimonte Strayhorn TD reception. Photos by Russell Bush/The Banner

Mustang Offense Sharp in Jamboree Action with Lexington

BY RUSSELL BUSH
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HUNTINGDON (August 14) — Huntingdon High School seniors Kenton Smith and Zayden Connelly delivered a dominant performance Friday night, leading the Huntingdon Mustangs to a convincing 22-0 shutout of Lexington in the annual Huntingdon QB Jamboree. Smith, the reigning BlueCross Bowl MVP who helped secure the Mustangs' second state title last season, showcased his versatility with 64 rushing yards and two passing touchdowns. Connelly was equally effective, contributing a 67-yard rushing effort, a receiving touchdown, and a defensive safety.

Hosted at Paul Ward Stadium, the Jamboree is a rotating tradition between the two programs. The evening featured a developmental slate with 15-minute quarters for the freshman and junior varsity squads, followed by two 12-minute quarters of varsity action.

The Mustang varsity took control early, orchestrating a 70-yard, 11-play opening drive. While the first ten plays relied on the ground game, Smith turned to the air after a second-down sack at the Tigers' 36-yard line. On third down, he connected with Keimonte Strayhorn on a 36-yard touchdown strike. A fumbled snap on the extra point kept the score at 6-0.

Huntingdon's offense remained aggressive on their next possession. Starting from their own 20, the Mustangs quickly advanced to the 40 before K'Shun Carter broke loose for a 42-



Ayden King interception. Photo by Russell Bush/The Banner

yard sprint to the Lexington 8-yard line. Two plays later, Smith found Connelly for a 5-yard touchdown reception. Greyson Anderson's successful PAT extended the lead to 13-0.

Defensive pressure soon added to the tally. After forcing a turnover on downs, Huntingdon took over at the Tigers' 15-yard line. Though a Smith fumble near the goal line gave Lexington a temporary reprieve, Connelly immediately swarmed the Tigers' ball carrier in the end zone on the following play for a safety, pushing the lead to 15-0.

The Mustangs punctuated the night with a two-play drive, capped by Connelly's explosive 54-yard touchdown run. Anderson's final conversion sealed the 22-0 victory. Statistically, the Mustangs overwhelmed the Tigers, outgaining them 190 to -11 on the ground while holding a 41 to 40 edge in passing yards.

In undercard action, the Lexington freshman team topped the Mustangs 14-0. The Tigers utilized rushing scores of three and nine yards to capitalize on an offensive struggle for Huntingdon, which was limited to 16 yards on ten carries. Noah Webb provided a bright spot for the Mustangs with 20 rushing yards.

The Junior Varsity scrimmage also went to the Tigers in a narrow 6-0 contest. Jonah Ralston caught a 22-yard touchdown pass for the game's only score. Despite the loss, the Mustangs showed promise in the air as Noah Webb completed two passes for 44 yards, including a 28-yard gain to Kingston Smith and a 16-yard reception by Hayden Weathers. Huntingdon reached the Lexington 21-yard line late in the period, but a fourth-down incompletion ended the threat.



Left, War Eagle Isaiah Lott runs for a 30-yard touchdown. Right, War Eagles Isaiah Lott (7) and Ryker Cherry bring down a Red Devil ball carrier for a loss. Photos by Davarion Gilbert/The Banner

War Eagles Fall to South Fulton, 36-6

BY DAVARION GILBERT
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ATWOOD (August 13) — The West Carroll Junior High War Eagles hosted South Fulton Middle School Thursday night. The visiting Red Devils were in control and kept the lead throughout for a 36-6 final.

The War Eagles won the toss and elected to receive the opening kick. They began their first offensive drive on the opponent's 35 yard line after a penalty. War Eagle Ayden Taylor ran for eight yards, then Jeremiah Holley ran for five yards for a first down. The Eagles then turned over the ball.

The Red Devils ran the ball to the outside for a 43-yard touchdown. The two-point conversion was good, making the score South Fulton 8, West Carroll 0.

South Fulton made an onside kick and recovered the ball to start their second drive. South Fulton ran to

the outside to make it to the two yard line, then ran up the middle for a touchdown. The two-point conversion was again good, making the score South Fulton 16, West Carroll 0.

South Fulton's kick was recovered by West Carroll to start their second drive. Isaiah Lott ran for gains of four and two, then Kevin Pryor ran six yards for a first down. The Eagles were stopped there and turned over the ball to begin South Fulton's third drive.

The Red Devils ran to the outside, stopped at the 15 yard line. Two penalties against South Fulton pushed them back, but they ran to the outside for a 29-yard touchdown. The two-point conversion was denied by Taylor, making the score South Fulton 22, West Carroll 0.

West Carroll started their third drive in Red Devil territory with gains of four, three and two yards, making

it fourth-and-one. War Eagle Lott ran up the middle for a 30-yard touchdown. The two-point conversion was no good, making it South Fulton 22, West Carroll 6 to end the first half.

West Carroll kicked it off to South Fulton to begin the second half on their 40 yard line. South Fulton ran outside for a 60-yard touchdown. The two-point conversion was good, making it South Fulton 30, West Carroll 6.

West Carroll got a first down to start, but was then intercepted by South Fulton.

South Fulton gained a yard, then ran for a 20-yard touchdown. The two-point conversion was no good, making it South Fulton 36, West Carroll 6.

West Carroll got the ball back but couldn't get a first down. South Fulton took a knee twice to run out the clock.

Tigers Coast to Win Over Bulldogs

BY BRAD SAM
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GLEASON (August 13) — Gleason Junior High opened their football season at home Thursday against Hollow Rock-Bruce Central. The visiting Tigers controlled the game throughout, cruising to a 34-0 win.

The host Bulldogs received the opening kick but fumbled on four straight plays for a turnover on downs.

Keylan Gregory ran three straight times to start the first Central possession, earning a first down before having a 40-yard touchdown called back for a penalty. Briar Weatherly earned another first down, then Gregory broke multiple tackles for a 26-yard touchdown. A high snap doomed the two-point conversion, and the Tigers led 6-0 halfway through the first frame.

Gleason began their second drive at their 43. Liam Williams ran for seven yards, then Landon Aeschbacher gained four for a first down. Quarterback Jase Dilday kept for a short gain, then a false start backed the Bulldogs up. Williams was stopped for no gain as the first quarter ended. Dilday started the second quarter with a keeper for a short gain, then came up short on a fourth-down scramble.

Taking over near midfield, Weatherly had a big gain negated by a penalty. Gregory then took it 42 yards and followed with a



Tiger Keylan Gregory runs for one of his four touchdowns in Central's win. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

17-yard touchdown. Another two-point try failed due to a high snap, and Central led 12-0 with 5:26 to play in the second quarter.

Gleason went three-and-out and punted.

The Tigers took over near midfield. Weatherly ran 55 yards for a touchdown, but the score was negated by a block in the back penalty. Gregory took the next snap 42 yards to paydirt. The two-point try failed, and Central led 18-0 with three minutes to play in the half.

The Bulldogs quickly faced a fourth-and-one, but Aeschbacher converted. Dilday threw under pressure, and the ball was tipped to Tiger Scotty Whitenburg for an interception.

Taking over with nine seconds on the clock, Gregory took the first snap 70 yards to score. Weatherly threw to Skylar Jourdan for two points, and Central led 26-0 at the half.

Gleason began the second half with a successful onside kick. Aeschbacher ran twice for a first down, then Williams gained five on back-to-back carries. Dilday kept for a short gain to bring up fourth-and-four, and Williams moved the chains. The drive stalled there, and the Bulldogs turned it over on downs at the Tiger 23.

Central earned a first down as the third quarter ended, and Jourdan started the final frame with a 50-yard touchdown run. Weatherly kept for two points, and the Tigers led 34-0.

Gleason started the ensuing drive near midfield with a 31-yard run by Williams. Albe Collins ran for four, then Dilday had two carries for a first-and-goal at the 9. Two plays later, a fumble was recovered by Central at the 7.

The Tigers ran four plays before time expired.



Gleason Mayor Charles Anderson recently presented Gleason School Principal Lee Lawrence with a “Yard of the Month” sign. Photo courtesy Gleason School

Gleason School is Yard of the Month

Gleason School is the City of Gleason’s August Yard of the Month. Gleason Mayor Charles Anderson presented the award to Principal Lee Lawrence recently in recognition of the many community and school initiatives to maintain and improve the school property.

Gleason School has completed many improvement projects over the summer including the excavation and addition of a new sidewalk on Championship Drive, installation of a half basketball court on the school playground, elimination of a harsh speed bump at the gym entrance, installation of new “orange and black” parking bumpers and parking stripes on Championship Drive, landscape improvements including shrub and tree

trimming, and front door security decals.

These improvements are keeping our school heritage strong for the future,” the City of Gleason said. “Please drive by or visit to see for yourself what grassroots in Gleason efforts can accomplish.”

Gleason School thanked its many community partners who helped make the school’s improvements possible. All who contribute to the Gleason Downtown Projects fund, which helps to complete the school’s ongoing renovation projects, will have their names emblazoned on sponsorship signage at Gleason School. Interested sponsors are encouraged to speak with Luke Hughes at the Bank of Gleason, Mayor Charles Anderson at Gleason City Hall or Lee Lawrence at Gleason School.



Left, Virginia Parrish was the oldest female at 98 years. Center, Clark Brown was the oldest male at 83. Right, Married the Longest - Bob and Phyllis Wendt of Atwood at 66 years. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner.

Senior Day at the Carroll County Fair

HUNTINGDON (August 13) — The Carroll County Civic Center was the place for senior citizens on Thursday during the annual Senior Citizen Day. The Center was filled with senior citizens throughout the county, some of whom competed in contests and earned a small token for their winnings and the gratitude of the large audience of their age-related peers.

The event attracted vendors who provide services to senior citizens. Phipps Pharmacy provided lunch for attendees.

Contests included the oldest man and woman, couple married the longest and shortest, contests to select the king and queen as determined by a panel of three judges, the prettiest legs and the ugliest

legs.

The Senior Citizen Queen was Debbie Hartman with Callie Patterson as first runner-up, Peggy Work as second runner-up and Janice White as third runner-up.

The Senior Citizen King was Skip Bessette. Clark Brown was first runner-up, Charles Garner was second runner-up and Jay Barnett was third runner-up.

Ugliest Legs winner was Clark Brown, with Rebecca O’Dell as first runner-up and David Powers as second runner-up.

Virginia Parrish was the oldest female at 98. Clark Brown was the oldest man at 83.

Lynn Woods was judged to have the prettiest legs with Debbie Hartman and Janice White as runners-up.



The Carroll County Senior Queen Debbie Hartman with Senior King Skip Bessette. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

Bob and Phyllis Wendt of Atwood were married the longest at 66 years. Darus and Ida Johnson of Huntingdon were married the shortest at seven years.

Huntingdon Native Helps Navy Force Stay Mission-Ready

SILVERDALE, Wash. — Petty Officer 1st Class Benjamin Colvett, a native of Huntingdon, Tenn., serves in the U.S. Navy assigned to Trident Refit Facility Bangor (TRFB) at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, Wash., the homeport of West Coast ballistic-missile and guided-missile submarines.

Colvett graduated from Huntingdon High School in 2019. He said the skills and values needed to succeed in the Navy are similar to those found in Huntingdon.

“The lessons I’ve learned that I have carried with me are the importance of hard work and always doing the best job I can,” Colvett said. “I grew up with a mechanic as a father, and he always put in hard work at his job. He passed his knowledge to me and gave me a lot of hands-on mechanical experience. This

allowed me to excel in my job here in the Navy.”

Colvett joined the Navy six years ago and now serves as a machinist’s mate (non-nuclear, submarine auxiliary).

“I joined the Navy to get out and see what else was out there in the world,” Colvett said. Submarine support commands, like Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific (SWFPAC) and TRFB, help ensure the Navy’s Pacific Submarine Force is prepared for its missions.

SWFPAC, established in 1964, supports the nation’s sea-based nuclear deterrence program and deploys Trident II D5 missiles aboard the fleet’s ballistic-missile submarines. Marine Corps Security Forces Battalion Bangor works with SWFPAC to provide security for strategic assets.

Established in 1981 as



Petty Officer 1st Class Benjamin Colvett

the primary maintenance facility for Pacific ballistic-missile submarines, TRFB is responsible for repairing, overhauling and modernizing submarines during refits for the Ohio-class and future Columbia-class.

The Navy’s submarine force operates three ba-

sic types of submarines: fast-attack submarines, ballistic-missile submarines and guided-missile submarines.

Ballistic-missile submarines, often referred to as “boomers,” provide a platform for submarine-launched ballistic missiles. The Columbia-class ballistic-missile submarine will eventually replace the current Ohio-class submarines.

The Pacific Submarine Force provides strategic deterrence, anti-submarine warfare, anti-surface warfare, precision land strike, intelligence, surveillance, reconnaissance, early warning and special warfare capabilities around the globe.

With 90% of global commerce traveling by sea and access to the internet relying on the security of undersea fiber-optic cables, Navy officials emphasize the importance of recruiting and retaining personnel from communities across the country.

Colvett has had opportunities to achieve accomplishments during his military service.

“My proudest accomplishment is receiving the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal,” Colvett said. “I got this award for passing the diesel inspection on my boat and for my assistance with helping out other boats. Being recognized for this really brings me pride.”

Colvett said his service has played an important role in his life.

“Serving in the Navy means everything to me,” Colvett said. “Without the Navy, I wouldn’t be where I am today.”

Colvett is grateful to others for helping make his Navy career possible.

“I would like to thank my parents,” Colvett said. “Without their support, I would not have been able to keep the motivation to continue my naval career and become as successful as I am today.”

This year, the Navy is commemorating its contribution to the nation’s defense as the United States celebrates 250 years of independence

* Story courtesy of Mass Communication Specialist Seaman Diamond Kyles, Navy Office of Community Outreach.

Request of Lease Office Space

State of Tennessee

TR# 25-01-902

Department of Human Services

LOCATION: Located in Carroll County, TN

TYPE: Office space

Estimated Size:
Usable SF: 8,200 – 9,100
Rentable SF: 9,100 – 12,402

“Usable” SF does NOT include restrooms, mechanical rooms, janitorial closets, or vestibules.

Parking: Free, paved, lit, and striped parking for approximately 78 vehicles

TERM: Five (5) Years

PROPOSAL DEADLINE: 2:00 pm Central time on Tuesday, September 1, 2026.

Any proposals received after this time will NOT be considered.

Contact: (615) 961-0067
LPR.coordinator@tn.gov

You may review specific requirements and obtain the LPR at: www.tnopr.gov

Reference project number (TR#) above. The State reserves the unqualified right to reject any and all proposals.

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10:45AM

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JOINING OUR WORSHIP TEAM!

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MATTHEW HOLT

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BRIAN HILL

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