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BANNER

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

McKENZIE, TENNESSEE

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Ring Ceremony for State Champion Huntingdon Mustangs is Wednesday



A ring ceremony for the 2025 Class 2A State Football Champion Huntingdon High School Mustangs is Wednesday, April 15 at 5:30 p.m. in the HHS gymnasium. The event is sponsored by Granges. *File photo*

Carroll County Students Shine at Special Olympics

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (April 10) — Carroll County students with varying abilities displayed their athletic prowess Friday morning during the county's annual Special Olympics, held at Huntingdon's Paul Ward Stadium for the fifth year.

Kicking off the event, Huntingdon High School junior Caleb Griswold delivered the Special Olympics oath: "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt." Concluding the oath, Griswold announced, "Let the games begin!"

And the games began. Students of all ages rotated from sport to sport, competing in a softball throw, Jump the Brook, mini hurdles, a 40-meter dash, a soccer goal kick, a hula hoop station, limbo, a bubble station, bowling, a Nerf football throw and a parachute game.

Huntingdon Special School District's Director of Special Education, Christy Carey, highlighted the joy displayed across Paul Ward



Huntingdon student Raylynn Brace crosses the finish line in the 40-meter dash rotation. *Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner*

See OLYMPICS on Page 3

McKENZIE SCHOOLS Bidding Opens For Heater, Asbestos Abatement

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (April 7) — The McKenzie Special School District Board of Education met Tuesday, April 7, in the McKenzie High School Library, handling a range of district business just prior to the school's annual honors banquet.

At the outset, the board approved an amended agenda to include two additional items: opening bid processes for a makeup air heater at McKenzie High School and for abatement services on the McKenzie Elementary School's gym floor.

High school students Madeline Gottshall and Ava Hastings presented on their recent participation in a Student Congress on Policies in Education (SCOPE) debate event at Belmont University.

See HEATER on Page 3

City Council Approves First Depot Entrepreneurs

The McKenzie City Council met on April 9 with a three-item agenda. These included an agreement with the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) for a J-Turn at the intersection of Highway 22 and SR-423; the approval / recommendation of three vendors to the Depot Entrepreneur Project; and the approval of Ordinance

See DEPOT on Page 3

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Gracie Aird and Brody Berryhill are pictured holding their glass trophies at McKenzie High School. *Submitted photo*

Students Share Details On State-Winning Project

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

McKenzie High School seniors Gracie Aird and Brody Berryhill made their mark at the 2026 Tennessee DECA State Career Development Conference (SCDC), winning first place in the International Business Plan competition.

Aird, Berryhill and five other McKenzie DECA students are now preparing for a trip to Atlanta, where they will compete in the DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC) April 25-28.

Aird and Berryhill started

See DECA on Page 3

Huntingdon High School To Dedicate Eubanks Field



Huntingdon High School will honor baseball Head Coach Alan Eubanks and his family with the official dedication of Eubanks Field Monday, April 20 at 5:45 p.m. First pitch of the Mustangs' district game against Camden is 6 p.m. *Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner*



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Above, West Carroll High School Contestants (L to R): Taytum Jenkins, Hayden Weaver, Hailey Cantrell and Leslie Baker. Below, West Carroll Junior High School Contestants (L to R): Chelsea Tolley, Shaylee Bynum and Anastin McAlpin. Submitted photos



Weaver Crowned Miss West Carroll

West Carroll Jr./Sr. High School recently hosted its annual Miss West Carroll Pageant, an evening that highlighted the confidence, poise and talent of students across multiple grade levels.

The event featured multiple divisions, allowing participants to represent both West Carroll Junior High (WCJH) and West Carroll High School (WCCHS).

At the conclusion of the evening, the following

students were crowned — Miss WCCHS and Best Model: Hayden Weaver; Miss WCCHS Princess and Best Hair: Hailey Cantrell; First Maid and Best Dressed: Taytum Jenkins; and Second Maid and Best Smile: Leslie Baker.

In the Junior High division, the following students were crowned — Miss WCJH and Best Model: Shaylee Bynum; First Maid, Best Hair and Prettiest Smile: Anastin

McAlpin; Second Maid and Best Dressed: Chelsea Tolley.

All participants were recognized for their hard work and dedication leading up to the event. The pageant provided students with an opportunity to build confidence and practice public presentation skills.

West Carroll is proud of all the contestants and grateful to those who helped organize and host a successful event.



Above, Huntingdon High School agriculture teacher Morgan Cole shows the various beef and pork products her FFA students had for sale on Friday and Saturday. Below, People shop from the Huntingdon High School greenhouse. Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner



Huntingdon FFA Hosts Spring Plant Sale

BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (April 10) — Huntingdon High School hosted its annual Future Farmers of America (FFA) Plant Sale Friday and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., selling not only a variety of plants but also pork, beef and chicken products.

The greenhouse behind the school was filled to the brim with plants, with some placed on tables and some hanging from the ceiling. In another building, students sold various USDA-certified meats.

This year, students, in a partnership with the Carroll County Co-op, raised boilers, hogs and chickens at the HHS farm behind the fieldhouse. They sold beef products including flat iron steak, ground beef, roast, beef fajita strips and more; pork products including ham and roast; and whole chickens.

Anyone wishing to shop from the Plant Sale may still visit during school hours, but is asked to call the HHS office ahead of time.



Huntingdon FFA President McCauley Spellings holds a hanging basket of flowers. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner



Bethel Renaissance Theatre Presents 'Clue'

MCKENZIE — The Bethel University Renaissance theatrical cast is presenting “Clue,” a murder-mystery farce promising murder, mystery, and mayhem. The show combines suspense with slapstick, puns, and physical comedy.

Tickets are now available for this Spring semester production. The venue is the Bethel University Performing Arts Center (the former First Cumberland Presbyterian Church) at the intersection of Church and Stonewall streets.

Production dates are:

- Friday, April 17, 7 p.m.
- Saturday, April 18, at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.bethelrenaissance.com/box-office.

The story is set in 1954 at Boddy Manor near Washington, D.C., on a “dark and stormy night”. Six guests arrive under aliases: Colonel Mustard, Mrs. White, Mr. Green, Mrs. Peacock, Professor Plum, and Miss

Scarlet. They are greeted by Wadsworth the butler and Yvette the maid. The guests soon discover they are all being blackmailed by their host, Mr. Boddy, who is subsequently murdered.

A chaotic race ensues to find the killer, weapon, and location as more bodies—the Cook, a Motorist, a Cop, and a Singing Telegram Girl—pile up. Like the film, the play features multiple endings.

Cast and Characters

The show features the following cast members and roles:

- Wadsworth (uptight British butler/narrator) - Quinton Slater
- Mr. Green (timid, clumsy, anxious rule-follower) - Nathan Salvador
- Professor Plum (academic) - Cooper Neely
- Colonel Mustard (pompous and dense military man) - Jayden Hendricks
- Miss Scarlet (dry, sardonic madam) - Grace Barber

- Mrs. Peacock (batty, neurotic wife of a senator) - Caroline Callahan
- Mrs. White (pale, morbid, tragic figure) - Grace Brown
- Yvette (flirtatious French maid) - Haylie Bowen
- Mr. Boddy (the black-mailer host) - Braylen Sain

Other characters include: Zowie Tipton (The Cook), Bailey Covington (Singing Telegram Girl), Izsabella Orchard (Motorist), Townes Boyd (Cop), Kaleb Sons (Chief), Blake Bell (Newscaster/Cop), and Michael Lowery (McCarthy/Cop).

The staging is fast and frenetic, making the set crucial to the farcical action. Boddy Manor’s multiple rooms, such as the Study, Library, and Kitchen, are represented through innovative staging. This is achieved using rolling set pieces, a revolving stage, moving walls, and hidden passageways.

West Carroll Spring Showcase is Saturday

West Carroll Junior Senior High School hosts its inaugural Spring Showcase Saturday, April 18. The new event combines several events and activities by various student groups, including a plant sale, vendor market, pageant, car show, art show and food trucks.

Principal Adam Douglas told The Banner, “We’re really excited to spotlight all of the great things that our students are doing. This event kind of spotlights all of the student groups, so we’re really excited to have that. And it gives the community another opportunity to come together and support the school.”

The Vendor Market is sponsored by West Carroll High School and features 20-plus vendors from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information, contact Keshia Jackson at keshia.jackson@wcchssd.org.

The Pageant is sponsored by the band program and is open to all ages of youth and young adults. It is a qualifier for the Strawberry Festival. For more information, contact Emma O’Bryan at emma.obryan@wcchssd.org.

The Car Show, also sponsored by the band, is from 9 a.m.-noon. For more information, contact Cailynn Smith at cailynn.smith@wcchssd.org.

The Art Show is in the WCJSHS Library from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. For more information, contact Cailynn Smith at cailynn.smith@wcchssd.org.

For more information about the food trucks, contact Principal Adam Douglas at adam.douglas@wcchssd.org.

The Plant Sale, sponsored by the FFA, is from 8 a.m.-3 p.m. A silent auction will

be held from 8-11 a.m. For more information, contact Noah Rogers at noah.rogers@wcchssd.org.

5” Potted Bedding Plants are \$5 per pot or five for \$20: Impatiens, Lantana, Wave Petunia, Petunia, Angelonia, Begonia, Persian Shield, Pentas, Coleus, Dwarf Sunflower, Vinca, Gerbera Daisy, Celosia, Ipomea (Sweet Potato Vine), Marigold, Calibrachoa, Succulents, Geraniums, Salvia, Lisianthus.

Vegetable Plants are \$4 for a four-pack; \$2 for 3” pots: Jalapeno Peppers, Bell Peppers, Tomatoes (many varieties), other vegetable plants available.

Large Pots/Hanging Baskets: One-gallon Pots \$10, 12” Wandering/Bolivian Jew Basket \$20, 12” Flowering Hanging Baskets \$20, 12” Boston and Macho Ferns \$20, 14” Porch Pot Ferns (Macho and Queen) \$25.

Chamber Banquet Nominations are Live

Are you aware of a business, nonprofit organization or leader who is making a significant impact in McKenzie?

The McKenzie Chamber of Commerce invites individuals to submit their nominations for this year’s Chamber Banquet.

In a change from previous banquets, anyone is eligible for nomination — not just Chamber members. However, Chamber members will receive additional points during the

evaluation process.

“Our goal is to acknowledge all individuals, businesses, organizations, nonprofits, and Chamber members who contribute positively to our community,” said Chamber Director Monica Heath.

This year, the Chamber will give out four awards: Businessperson of the Year, Small Business of the Year (1-49 employees), Large Business of the Year (50+ employees) and Non-Profit of the Year.

Nominees will be judged based on their community engagement, impact, leadership, workforce development and innovation.

Nominations are due by Monday, May 25, 2026. To nominate an individual or business, visit the McKenzie Chamber of Commerce’s website.

This year’s Chamber Banquet is Tuesday, June 16, from 6-8 p.m. at Bethel University’s Vera Low Cafeteria. Tickets go on sale Monday, April 20.

Historical Society to Discuss Bruceton Railroad

The Huntingdon Historical Society meets Wednesday, April 15 at 9 a.m. in the conference room of Huntingdon City Hall to hear a presentation on Bruceton's railroad from Anita Boyd.

Boyd is a 1947 graduate of Bruceton High School. She attended Bruceton's

grade school, now the location of LifeCare.

Boyd will discuss how the local railroad contributed to the Town of Bruceton's growth.

Ten passenger trains once stopped in Bruceton daily, traveling on the local railroad Boyd's grandfather helped build. Boyd

has fond memories of riding the passenger trains with her grandmother.

Boyd moved to Camden in 1974 and has lived in Camden since that time.

Individuals are invited to attend and learn more about Carroll County's history.

Depot

...From Front Page

#578 to amend the Zoning Map on Highland Drive.

The agreement with TDOT was brought back for discussion from the March 12 meeting after confusion arose regarding wording that mentioned SR-124. The approval of the J-Turn at the intersection of Highway 22 and SR-423 is a safety initiative aimed at preventing wrecks at the intersection. On March 9, the Carroll County Commission agreed to a J-Turn at the intersection of SR-124 and

Highway 22.

Three applications were approved for the Depot Entrepreneur Project. Those approved were a sweet treat confectionery, a boutique operated by Carli Beeler, and Big Buck Beef Chips, a beef jerky retailer. The depot is divided into four rooms — each with its own outdoor entrance. The rooms each have an attached private restroom, and one has an attached kitchen area. They each have their own air conditioner and meter. Three rooms are approximately 500 square feet, and one is about 700 square feet.

The last item on the agenda, Ordinance #578, rezon-

ing the property owned by the Perkins Corporation along Highland Drive that comprises Dollar General, Factory Connection, and Subway. At the request of Ed Perkins, who has a possible buyer for the property, the property is to be zoned as B-2 (Highway Business) instead of being split into B-2 and R-3 (High Density Residential).

The ordinance was approved on the first reading and will go before the council for a second reading in May, along with a public hearing.

The next regular meeting of the McKenzie City Council is May 14 at 6 p.m.

DECA

...From Front Page

working on their two-part project in October — five months before the state conference.

Together, they built a business plan revolving around one central question: What if 7 Brew opened drive-thru coffee shops in Canada?



Gracie Aird and Brody Berryhill “manifested” their first-place win, holding space for an imaginary trophy before awards were announced. Submitted photo

Aird noted the coffee chain's success in the United States. She and Berryhill thought it would make sense for the chain to carry its success over into Canada.

The two began researching Canada's merchandise laws and consumer laws to determine the feasibility of expanding the coffee chain. They also had to consider Canada's need for more coffee shops and determine if the drive-thru model is as successful across the border as it is in the States.

“The research was really heavy,” Aird said.

Aird, a barista at The Happy Book Stack in McKenzie, also had a special advantage in recognizing market trends. Using her experience-based perspective, she and Berryhill decided to remove certain 7 Brew drinks — blonde-roast coffees and some sugary drinks, for example — from the Canadian menu. They also included a maple bacon drink on the menu, wanting to add something that was uniquely Canadian.

Aird and Berryhill then wrote a 22-page business plan based on their research findings. They also prepared a 10-15 minute presentation for competition day, giving an overview of their business plan and explaining its implementation.

ga right after dinner.”

Despite the unexpected obstacle, the two made a fantastic impression on judges. They won the competition, earning a 100-percent on their essay and a 98-percent on their presentation.

Though Aird was unable to attend the awards ceremony, she and Berryhill took a photo together before she left, holding space for their eventual glass trophy.

“We called it the power of manifestation,” said Aird.

Aird and Berryhill have since recreated the photo, holding up their actual first-place glass trophies.

Now, the pair are preparing for the international conference, where the stakes are much higher. They will compete against groups from across the United States, Canada, China, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and several small European countries.

Integrated Marketing Campaign Project competition. Cole, alongside Avery Brown and Cole Brown, placed third in the state in the Finance Operations Research competition. Brooks and Townes are participating in the ASPIRE Academy leadership program.

Townes just wrapped up a year as Tennessee DECA's Vice President of Marketing.

The group is asking for sponsors leading up to their ICDC departure. So far, they have raised over \$3,000 of their \$7,000 goal. “Any little bit helps,” said Aird. “We're halfway there. A lot of businesses have helped, and we plan on thanking them. We're going to hand-write thank you cards, make a shirt with their names on it — all the fun stuff. We are really excited.”

Aird and Berryhill then wrote a 22-page business plan based on their research findings. They also prepared a 10-15 minute presentation for competition day, giving an overview of their business plan and explaining its implementation.

This year's SCDC fell between two pivotal girls' basketball games, which presented an unexpected challenge for the duo as Aird was expected to play in both games.

“It's a funny story,” said Aird. “I woke up at 6 a.m. on competition day, left for Chattanooga, and got there an hour before our competition. Then I left Chattanooga

from Hollow Rock-Bruceton Special School District, 25 were from South Carroll Special School District, 17 were from West Carroll Special School District, 26 were from McKenzie Special School District, and 24 were from Huntingdon Special School District.

Aird and Berryhill are two-year DECA students. Last year, they competed at SCDC as a duo in the Business Law and Ethics competition and appeared at ICDC as part of the ASPIRE Academy.

Gracie Aird is the daughter of Matt and Misty Aird. She plans to attend East Tennessee State University in the fall, where she will study international business. She hopes to one day become a corporate lawyer.

Brody Berryhill is the son of Richie and April Berryhill. He plans to attend the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga in the fall and pursue a career in healthcare.

Gasoline Prices Increase During Week

TENNESSEE (April 13) — Average gasoline prices in Tennessee increased 4.7 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.88/g today, according to GasBuddy's survey of 3,821 stations in Tennessee. Prices in Tennessee are 60.1 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand \$1.19/g higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased 4.1 cents compared to a week ago and stands at \$5.617 per gallon.

According to price reports, the lowest price in the state yesterday was \$3.29/g while the highest was \$4.99/g, a difference of \$1.70/g.

The national average price of gasoline is unchanged in the last week, averaging \$4.07/g today. The national average is up 39.1 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 93.4 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

Historical gasoline prices in Tennessee and the national average going back five years: April 13, 2025: \$2.69/g (U.S. Average: \$3.13/g); April 13, 2024: \$3.27/g (U.S. Average: \$3.62/g); April 13, 2023: \$3.36/g (U.S. Av-

erage: \$3.65/g); April 13, 2022: \$3.85/g (U.S. Average: \$4.07/g); April 13, 2021: \$2.66/g (U.S. Average: \$2.86/g)

“Average gasoline prices surged for many Americans through the first half of last week before easing in some areas after oil prices slipped following President Trump's announcement of a ceasefire,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. “However, with a breakdown in talks and renewed escalation over the weekend, motorists should prepare for another round of price increases.”



Above Left, Caleb Griswold is pictured with Huntingdon High School teacher Lynn McCloskey. Griswold delivered the Special Olympics oath to kick off the games. Above Right, Huntingdon students received medals for their participation in the Special Olympics. Pictured is Huntingdon student Isaiah Kee. Below Left, A student plays with bubbles during one of the Special Olympics rotations. Below Center, Students played with a multi-colored parachute, lifting it, making waves and hiding underneath it. Below Right, A McKenzie student jumps rope during the Special Olympics. Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner



Olympics

...From Front Page

Stadium.

“You can't be sad on a day like today,” Carey said. “It's just the best.”

The event ended with a small ceremony recognizing the athletes. Volunteers presented each student with a ribbon or medal for their participation in the games. Ribbons were donated by Dr. Clinton Smith, area director for the Upper West Region for Special Olympics Tennessee.

“These kids don't always get the recognition that all of their peers get to experience. This is a day for them,” Carey said.

The day succeeded in part due to a collaboration between all county school districts and Bethel University. Faculty and student volunteers from each school assisted students with activities throughout the morning, offering their support when needed and helping students feel like champions.

Huntingdon High



Huntingdon student Devan Hollingsworth is seated behind a bowling game with fellow student Christian Bunch and Huntingdon Middle School teacher Brody Franks watching. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

School's Mustang Mentors and Teen Health Council members also took a lead role in the event, running games and providing participants with snacks and water bottles.

The event had a total of 102 participants. Ten were

from Hollow Rock-Bruceton Special School District, 25 were from South Carroll Special School District, 17 were from West Carroll Special School District, 26 were from McKenzie Special School District, and 24 were from Huntingdon Special School District.

Heater

...From Front Page

Gottshall described the experience as valuable and said it provided insight into how school boards function and make decisions.

The board approved a request from the technology department to surplus outdated equipment, primarily older laptops that had already been stripped for usable parts. According to Director of Schools Dr. Justin Barden, the devices held no resale or recyclable value, leading the board to authorize scrapping the items in accordance with district policy.

On first reading, members also approved an update to the district's policy manual following a recent change in state law. The revision expands the scope of public comment at meetings, allowing speakers to address not only items on the agenda but also matters relevant to the board's jurisdiction. Dr. Barden noted the update ensures compliance with the new law and indicated further adjustments may be needed once legal references are finalized.

In facilities matters, the board approved opening a bid process for replacing a nonfunctional makeup air heater at McKenzie High School. The unit, which has not operated for several years, plays a role in regulating airflow and temperature within the building.



Students Madeline Gottshall and Ava Hastings share their experiences from Belmont University's SCOPE debate event. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Its failure has contributed to issues such as doors not closing properly, a concern flagged by fire marshals. An initial estimate for the project is approximately \$56,000, with work anticipated during the summer.

The board also approved moving forward with a bid process for asbestos abatement in the gym floor at McKenzie Elementary School. Testing confirmed asbestos in the underlying tile and adhesive, requiring specialized removal before any new flooring can be installed. The abatement alone is expected to cost around \$38,000. Officials said the project is complex and will likely take place over the summer, potentially requiring temporary closure of the space.

Currently, the gym floor is covered by a rubber layer, protecting students and faculty from asbestos exposure.

During the HR report, Dr. Barden announced that

longtime music teacher Veda Haney plans to retire at the end of the school year after approximately 35 years of service.

In additional staffing updates, Amy Reed was hired as an assistant at McKenzie High School, working for the remainder of the school year. Victoria Ashley was also hired as an English/language arts teacher at McKenzie Middle School for the 2026-27 school year, filling the vacancy left by Molly Hannah Wilson.

Board members received updates on upcoming TCAP testing, spring athletics and recent student activities, including an Ag Day event for fifth graders. Student representative Gracie Aird also shared plans to travel to Atlanta later in April for an international DECA competition and said her travel group is seeking community support for the trip.

The board's next meeting is Tuesday, May 5.

LETTERS
TO THE
EDITOR

A Response to a Kes Story

I am submitting this response regarding an article written by Kes - "Be Careful Whose Snake You Are Picking Up" in a recent submission in The McKenzie Banner under his column "Hunker Down With Kes" in the February 24, 2026 issue. In the article, he recollected being at a Primitive Baptist church where they were handling snakes in church worship. That portion of the article was a funny story - unless you attend a Primitive Baptist Church.

I am the son of a Primitive Baptist minister. I am the grandson of a Primitive Baptist minister. I pastored New Antioch Primitive Baptist Church in Lexington, Tenn. for just shy of 24 years.

I currently pastor at Union Primitive Baptist Church in McKenzie, Tenn. and have been there just over one year. As a child, my father pastored Wilmington Primitive Baptist Church in Wilmington, Delaware but he was from Mississippi.

He traveled extensively among the Primitive Baptists from Pennsylvania to Florida to Texas and all the states in between and, of

course, we were with him for most of his trips.

As a Primitive Baptist minister myself, I have also traveled to hold meetings, and also to attend meetings all over this country, including Nevada, Texas, Missouri, Louisiana, Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, Virginia, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Kentucky, and of course, West, Middle, and East Tennessee, and in the countries of Kenya and Tanzania in Africa. In all my travels among the Primitive Baptists as a child, and as a minister, I have never witnessed, nor ever even heard of a snake being used in worship, nor in any way associated with Primitive Baptist church gatherings or functions. In reading various church history books, covering dates before the 1800s to present, there is no mention of any Primitive (or Regular, Particular, Old School, etc.) Baptist church using snakes in worship.

The Primitive Baptists are Bible-believing people who gather to worship Jesus Christ because of His finished work of redemp-

tion, and to learn how to conduct our lives in discipleship according to the principles of the Kingdom of God. Our worship services are family - integrated and include a cappella singing, praying and preaching messages from the word of God, our only rule of faith and practice, which does not include snakes in any way, form or fashion.

**Historically and Respectfully,
Elder Paul Blair,
Pastor
Union Primitive Baptist Church
McKenzie, Tenn.**

From Hunker Down with Kes, "Be Careful Whose Snake You Are Picking Up," published February 24, 2026, "Except for the snakes. We were at a Primitive Baptist Church in the Appalachian Mountains in East Tennessee when I was in college. I found out quickly they are no kin to Southern Baptist when they brought out the rattlesnakes. Those things were hissing, twirling, craning their necks...and what I took to be a deacon was handing them out to be passed down the rows! I never even stuck my hand up. When the lady next to me turned and extended our snake, I said as humbly as I knew how, 'Ma'am, there is not a greedy bone in my body. You just give my snake to your sister-in-law sitting behind us.'"

Things In My Head with Charles Manfredi



HUNKER DOWN WITH KES
Talk About Heaven On Earth

I think it was the green grass. And maybe the maple trees putting on their leaves in the front yard. The soft breezes were refreshing. And the longer days were fraught with possibilities. You could feel it in the crispy morning air. It was actually fun to wake up and meet this kind of day.

April always arrives like a quiet miracle. Gone are the freezing days of January, the February doldrums, and the incessant winds of March. It was like the whole world was starting over with a new beginning. It would make you want to live forever!

And, of course, it didn't hurt that April has historically marked the beginning of the Major League Baseball season. As James Earl Jones reminded us in "Field of Dreams," baseball is the one constant in our lives.

I would clean and polish our old floor model Zenith radio thinking it would make the sound of the ball against the bat clearer, and bring the roar of the crowd right into our living room. We would water the ground around the base of our antenna right before the first pitch knowing that would enhance our reception.

But the magic for me was only partly in Sportsman Park in St. Louis, Ebbets Field in Brooklyn, or even in Yankee Stadium. As important as they were in "marking time" and ensuring us all was right with the universe, the real magic was in the dusty fields closer to home.

I have spent the better part of my life retelling the baseball exploits that unfolded on the lot between our house and Aunt Jessie's, the empty space beside Ricky Hale's house, the baseball field across from the pajama factory....

Those hallowed grounds held the glory of our times, and April had the honor

of kicking off season after season for us.

The Masters unfolds every April in Augusta, Georgia. Those folks in the green jackets have the money, prestige, and clout to play that major golf tournament anytime they want to. They are certainly not idiots... and they didn't select the second-best month to show off their magnificent golf course to the world.

This April thing is kind of universal. People wake up feeling good about themselves and the world. Neighbors seem to get along better. Conversations over the fence, in coffee shops, at the grocery store, and little league games linger longer.

Have you ever ridden a Western Flyer bike to town with the wind in your face in April? Or slid down a big hill on a piece of cardboard? Or raced your little brother down a gravel road barefooted?

Then you know what I am talking about.

If you were in elementary school, junior high, or high school there was a special kind of excitement. The long school year that had about beaten you down was coming to a close. April was the final full month of school. You could do a few more weeks with both hands tied behind your back.

Summer vacation was no longer a distant dream. In your younger days, you longed to do nothing for as long as someone would let you. As you grew older you started looking for a summer job. And it didn't matter what as long as it paid something...that didn't entail cutting okra or picking cotton.

I'm telling you, high school girls got amazingly prettier as soon as April rolled around. And friendlier. There is magic in the air! The highfalutin uptown

ladies would speak to you between classes. Even the dull ones seemed a little brighter. They all laughed easily. They moved with more energy.

April could make ordinary days feel like giant celebrations.

Easter was an entity unto itself. Mom would boil a bunch of eggs which we decorated in living color however our minds could imagine. The Easter egg hunt at the Colbert house-hold grew into a war as we gathered what we could quickly, and then threw them just as hard as we could at the closest brother.

We couldn't eat any of those eggs. They were too dilapidated. But I guarantee you the memories of little pieces of them stuck to our hair, our t-shirts, and the side of our faces are still intact. As is dressing up for church in the best clothes we owned to sing, "Up from the grave He arose, with a mighty triumph o'er His foes."

And who could forget Pat Boone singing, "April Love." I thought it was a mandate to start looking.

April wasn't just a month. It was a feeling, a transition, a wonderful crossroads from mundane... to bombs bursting in air. Talk about life changing! It could make old things new. It could awaken hearts, minds, souls, and passions. Everybody was living large!

My Mother was born in April. That alone is enough to make it special.

And April is the perfect time to sit outside in the fresh air and contemplate what was, what is, and what is to come....and to count your many blessings one by one....

Letter to the Editor Policy

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

Letters to the editor of public interest are solicited. Most letters, not libelous or harmful, will be published. The editorial staff may restrict the

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

The McKenzie Banner

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

THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON
Prejudiced But Didn't Know It; Part III

When Coach whistled us off the court, Eugene and I sat together on the bleachers - two outsiders having found common ground, sitting together as new-found friends.

For the rest of the day, I remembered in shame my initial reaction to Eugene. I asked myself hard questions that produced uncomfortable answers. The biggest truth I discovered? I was prejudiced and didn't know it. How subtly the influence of the culture I lived in had woven itself into the fabric of my character!

In 1968, the fact that changes needed to take place in America was clear to me. What I'd failed to notice was what changes needed to take place within me.

Eugene and I remained friends throughout high school. He served as the manager of the basketball team, his asthma not allowing him to play the game he loved. Because I spent plenty of time on the bench during my basketball career, we watched the games together.

For over thirty years I never heard a word about Eugene, though I thought

of him often.

One day I was in Martin, TN, about ten miles from Dresden, having a new set of tires installed at The Tire Barn. As I sat in a straight back chair waiting for the job to be completed, a black man came in. I glanced up and noticed his whitening hair then went back to reading.

The man spoke to someone about getting a tire fixed. Then he laughed.

A memory stirred in me. The laugh was familiar.

I looked up again and saw a broad, infectious smile. The door on my memory bank creaked open a bit more.

Could it be?

I let him catch my eye and smiled and nodded at him. He returned the nod and turned back to a friend who was with him.

I must be mistaken.

Suddenly, he paused and turned back to look at me. It had to be Eugene.

Standing up, I walked toward him with hand outstretched. "Are you Eugene McDonald?"

He took my hand. "Sure am."

Standing this close to him I see his eyes look clouded, possibly from

diabetes.

"You look familiar," he said.

"Eugene, I'm David Johnson. We graduated from Dresden High School together."

"David Johnson? I'm not sure...."

"You probably remember me by my nickname, 'Virgil.'"

"Virgil?! Of course! Man, how are you?"

We spent a few minutes catching up on what our lives had been like for the past thirty years. Then I told him the story of my first day at Dresden, of my having moved from Alabama, and how I initially felt about him being in the locker room at the gymnasium. "I've always felt I needed to apologize to you for that."

Eugene laughed that same easy laugh I remembered from years ago. "Man, that was a long time ago, a different time, a different place. Let it go. You don't owe me anything."

"Oh, but I do. More than you'll ever know."

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

Inglenook Book Club Welcomes Local Author

BY BEVERLY MUELLER

MCKENZIE — The Inglenook Book Club convened for its monthly meeting on April 8 at the Lakeside Senior Living Community. The gathering, called to order by President Gail Mack, featured a special appearance by local author Jennifer Kee Glass.

The program, introduced by member Beverly Mueller, centered on Glass, who shared her background, experiences, and the journey to writing and publishing her book, "Little Miss McKenzie". Club members had the opportunity to purchase copies of the book and have them signed by the author.

Eighteen ladies attended the meeting. President

Mack expressed gratitude to the hostesses, Donna Ward and herself, for providing delicious refreshments, including cheesecake, assorted mixed nuts, and beverages. The meeting began with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, Club Aim, and Motto, and a round of "Happy Birthday" was sung to April birthday honoree, Pedie Pedersen.

In club business, the March minutes were read and approved following the roll call. Treasurer Donna Ward presented her report, which was approved as read. Ward announced that a memorial will be given to the McKenzie Library in memory of Elaine Williams. Following committee reports, President Mack

thanked the group for their efforts.

The club also welcomed Genia Sherwood as the new Sunshine Chair. She requested that members notify her when a card needs to be sent to someone who is ill. Book passing was completed, with the next date set for April 22.

The next Inglenook Book Club meeting is May 13 at 3 p.m. at Lakeside. Carolyn Moore and Mary Newman will serve as hostesses. Members are asked to bring individually wrapped assorted food items for school donations. The program will be presented by Shirley Martin, who stated she will speak about our country's 250th-year celebration.

**Respectfully,
Kes
kesley45@aol.com**



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Obituaries



SUSAN MILLS
1964 – 2026

GEORGIA — Ms. Susan Mills, 62, of Jasper, Ga., died on April 5, 2026, Easter Sunday. She was born on January 7, 1964, in East St. Louis, Ill., to the late O’Neal Chandler and Mildred Frazee.

Susan spent the last 35 years of her life with her husband, Tom, building a life and family grounded in love, steadiness, and the simple joys she cherished most. She loved being at home and found deep peace in the land she lived on. Whether she was sitting on her big front porch taking in the view, watching the birds in her garden, feeding the deer that wandered by, or riding down her long driveway, Susan never took a moment for granted. She admired nature and constantly praised God for His creations. She adored animals, especially her dogs and her horses, and she had a special way of making every creature feel cared for. Susan was a true people person. Her career as a pharmacist was more than a mere occupation, it was her calling. She loved sending greeting cards “just because,” and she had a gift for making others feel remembered. Above all, she worshipped the Lord and loved her family with her whole heart. Her absence will be deeply felt by everyone who knew and loved her. “She loves to laugh, she loves to sing, she does everything. She loves to move, she loves to groove, she loves the loving things.”

She is preceded in death by her parents. Susan is survived by her husband, Thomas Mills; her children, Katherine Mills and fiancé Isaiah Patterson, Lauren and Jake Bolton, Phillip and Kristyn

Mills, Jefferey and Aurelie Mills; her grandchildren, Ryan Bolton, Alexis Bolton, Olivia Mills, Grant Mills, Oliver Mills, and Henry Mills. She is also survived by her brother and sister-in-law, Ronald and Carlina Chandler, and her sister and brother-in-law, Nancy and Virgil Bush, of McKenzie, Tenn.

The family will hold a celebration of Susan’s life on Saturday, April 25, 2026.

Cagle Funeral Home of Jasper, Ga., is proudly serving the family of Ms. Susan Mills. +

HAL EASON
1952 – 2026

BRUCETON — Mr. Hal Eason, 73, of Bruceton, died Monday, April 6, 2026, at St. Thomas West in Nashville.

Funeral services were on Friday, April 10, 2026, in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home. Burial was at New Prospect Cemetery in Hollow Rock.

Mr. Eason was born August 17, 1952, in Jackson, Tenn., to the late Robert Calvin and Lois Jean Eason. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth Smothers Eason.

He is survived by two daughters, Jennifer Ruth Roney and Sara Beth Eason, both of Bruceton; two sisters, Alice Stanfield (Bobby), Ellen McMackin (Donnie), both of Huntingdon; a brother, Dennis Eason (Becky) of McKenzie; and two granddaughters.

WALTON FOSTER
1937 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mr. Walton Foster, 89, of Huntingdon, died Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at his home.

Funeral services were on Saturday, April 11, 2026, in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home. Interment was in Carter’s Chapel Cemetery.

Mr. Foster was born February 10, 1937, in Huntingdon, to the late Curt and Iva (Green) Foster. He was a member of Carter’s Chapel Church. He was also preceded in death by his wife of 60 years, Shelby Jean Foster; a grandson, Jace Jones; two brothers, Donald Ray Foster and George Curtis Foster; and a sister, Doris Argo.

He is survived by three daughters, Debbie Wilson (Mike), Angela Jones (Tony), Emily Foster Butler (Ricky); and a son, Mike Foster (Tracy). He also leaves nine grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

GARY WAYNE DAVIS
1973 – 2026

BRUCETON — Mr. Gary Wayne Davis, 52, of Bruceton, died Saturday, April 11, 2026, at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville.

Graveside funeral services were on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 1 p.m. in Hebron Cemetery.

The family received friends in the Cherrywood Room of Chase Funeral Home on Monday from 5-8 p.m.

Pallbearers who served were Jeff Perritt, Toxey Perritt, Troy Davis, Adam Avalon, Chad Odle, and Richard Forrest.

Mr. Davis was born August 21, 1973, in Huntingdon, to the late William Lewis Davis and Ruth Eleanor Davis Eskew, who survives.

He is survived by his mother, Eleanor Davis Eskew, of Bruceton; and a brother, Terry Davis (Carrie Ann) of Bruceton.

MARGIE GIBSON
1939 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Margie Jane Gibson, 86, of Huntingdon, died on Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at Lakeside Assisted Living.

Funeral services were Saturday, April 11, 2026, in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home. Interment followed in Bethel Cemetery.

Mrs. Gibson was born June 13, 1939, in Huntingdon, to the late Bernie Everett and Verdie Mae Taylor. She was preceded in death by her husband, Ruel David Gibson; three brothers, Bobby Taylor, Tommy Taylor, Kenneth Taylor; and a sister, Patricia Taylor.

She is survived by two daughters, Angie Turner (David) of Huntingdon and Barbara Wallace of Lexington. She also leaves seven grandchildren and fifteen great-grandchildren.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

ALA UNIT 47 FAMILY DANCE NIGHT

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

SPRING REVIVAL AT FAIRVIEW MISSIONARY BAPTIST

A Spring Revival is April 19-24 at Fairview Missionary Baptist Church, 1375 Fairview Church Road, McKenzie. The times are 6 p.m. on Sunday, and Monday to Friday at 7 p.m.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB AT HOMETOWN HEALTH CLINIC

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

MHS CLASS OF 1976 REUNION

McKenzie High School Class of 1976 is holding a 50-year class reunion on September 26, 1 p.m. at Chandler Farms in McKenzie. The event is in conjunction with the MHS Alumni Association annual reunion. For more information, e-mail Amy Rich Carter at amycarter58@gmail.com or Marsha Spain Smith at smithmarsha99@yahoo.com.

Carroll Humane Society Events, News

Cat Vouchers

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

McKENZIE TOPS MEETS WEEKLY

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

CARROLL COMMISSION MEETS MONTHLY

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

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT #47

We are the male and female spouses, grandmothers, mothers, sisters, daughters and direct and adopted descendants of veterans! ALA Unit 47 meets the first Monday of each month in the lower level of the Carroll County Courthouse in Huntingdon at 6 p.m. If you value patriotism, responsible citizenship, volunteerism and advocacy for veterans, the military

and their families, you will feel right at home! Info: Pamela Davis Moss 731-415-5171 or Mary Lou Ozee 731-415-8066 (text only) or Facebook: American Legion Auxiliary, Huntingdon, TN Unit 47.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

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

3 Family Yard Sale

452 Sycamore Lane

Holly Hills — McKenzie

Friday, April 17
8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Saturday, April 18
8 a.m.-2 p.m.

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Tues. 7:30
Wed. 7:30
Thurs. 7:30

PROJECT HAIL MARY (PG-13)
Tues. 7:20
Wed. 7:20
Thurs. 7:20

REMINDERS OF HIM (PG-13)
Tues. 7:35
Wed. 7:35
Thurs. 7:35

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Thurs. 7:35

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April is National Stress Awareness Month

Simple Steps To Feel Better

NEWS FROM UT EXTENSION

April is recognized as National Stress Awareness Month—a time to reflect on how stress affects our daily lives and to take simple steps toward better health.

Stress is something we all experience. In fact, studies show that between 75% and 90% of doctor’s office visits are related to stress-related conditions. While a small amount of stress can motivate us, ongoing stress can take a toll on both our physical and mental health.

Stress can affect nearly every part of the body. It may cause headaches, trouble sleeping, anxiety, or difficulty concentrating. It can also impact heart health, digestion, and even weaken the immune system over time.

The good news is that there are simple, effective

ways to manage stress:

Get enough sleep – Aim for 7–8 hours each night.

Stay active – Even a short walk can boost mood and reduce tension.

Take deep breaths – A few slow, deep breaths can calm your body quickly.

Talk to someone – Sharing concerns with a friend or trusted individual helps lighten the load.

Make time for yourself – Enjoy hobbies, music, or quiet moments to recharge.

Eat balanced meals – Proper nutrition supports both physical and emotional health.

Think of stress like holding a glass of water—the longer you hold it, the heavier it feels. Taking breaks and setting it down for a while is essential.

This month, challenge yourself to take one small step each day to reduce stress. Whether it’s a walk outside, a phone call to a friend, or simply pausing to breathe, those small actions can make a big difference.

For more information on managing stress, contact

Lacy Yeley at the Carroll County Extension office.

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THIRD QUARTER

McKenzie Elementary Honor, Merit Roll

HONOR ROLL
First Grade

C. Barton: Hunter Brown
K. Brown: Remington Bynum, Caroline Campbell, Addison Carroll, Easton Flannery
A. Crowell: Adalynn Ghyers, Harper Johnsonius, Emersyn Langley, William McClain, Robert Sutherby
R. Edlin: Wiley Bradshaw, Josiah Branch, Amina Brown, Alyston Broyles, Azelynn Johnson, Lark Sczesny, Cameron Turner, Kambrea Winchester
L. Flannery: Kingston Pace, Karley O'Rourke
C. Moore: Sebastian Guzman, Colton Ham, Gunnar McKinnon, Harley Smith, Harper Waddell

Second Grade
E. Bolin: Sean Bomar, Luca Bynum, Brody Moore, Piper Russell, Larissa Staten
L. Brown: Jase Arvizu, Graeme Brown, Brinley Dodd, Jett Estes, Connor Russell, Hadleigh Veazey
S. Lane: Max Cross, Drake Simmons
K. Simmons: Faith French, Mia Norris, Mathias Robinson, Antonio Tell ez-Berumen, Isabel Umsted, Hudson Wallace, Nash Williams, Axel Wilson
B. Turman: Timothy Coleman, Scout Sczesny

Third Grade
J. Brown: Liliana Paredes, Bailey Smith, Charlie Smith, Kipton Taylor, Hazel Tippitt
M. Spivey: Ruby Allen, Josiah Armstrong, Isabella Benson, Rowan Conger, Corbin Fowler, Wyatt Hartz, Briley Stafford
M. Taylor: Anderso Murphy, Kayelynn Riola
C. Wall: Landry Chappell, Thomas Dugger, Calee Hughes, Kaitlyn Long, Emerie Monteith, Laylah Waller, Becknan Warren

Fourth Grade
K. Brown: Ramsey Allen, Grant Cunningham, Maddox Holmes, Allison Padilla, Kyren Sczesny, Chris Sneed, Lydia Walker, Kingston Wilson
C. Kee: Essie Owen, Liam Sevieri, Easton Webb, Hannah Winstead, Avery Winston
A. Oakley: Maddox Ferguson
A. Sellers: Rachel Parham, Gatlin Weaver

MERIT ROLL
First Grade
C. Barton: Andie Allen, Dawsyn Allen, Saylor Allen,

Zan'Travisous Arnold, Ella Butler, Lockleen Caliendo, Hannah Elohim, CJ Martin, Malaya Townes
K. Brown: Nora Foster, Dominick Jones, Aurora Neaveill, Shawn Trevathan
A. Crowell: David Artymovich, Mason Case, Aryana Middlebrook, Kylie Satterfield
R. Edlin: Amelia Brown, Lane Coleman, Harmony Jones, Sarai Olson
L. Flannery: Ivy Kee, Oakley Estes
C. Moore: Ansley Boyd, Lucas Henderson

Second Grade
E. Bolin: Selah Banuelos, Kirby Bell, Willow Haberland, Savannah Harris, Calum Petering, Kip Warmath
L. Brown: Adrian Calderon, Briella Howard, Penny Jones, Myrcella Knight, Wyatt Mason, Liam Wilson
S. Lane: Stella Brown, Easton Bynum, Waylon Cook, Avery Meddings, Landon Nunnery, Mason Pruitt, Antwain Spears
K. Simmons: Avery Butler, Allura Dugger, Lenox Ferguson, Richard Navarro
B. Turman: Aspyr Berra, Elizabeth Case, Cain Zuniga

Third Grade
J. Brown: Nola Aldridge, Oliver Arnold, Kinzlee Harris, Ashima Mendoza-McEwen, Luna Tabor, Callie Watson, Baylin Weimer, Camden Wilson
M. Spivey: Chase Alexander, Jordan Baker, Aiden Godrum, Cason Hernandez, Emma Hopkins, O'Shyn Taylor, Heidi Workman
M. Taylor: Leilani Cole, Charlie Dean, Cole Epperson, Beckham Flippin, Isaac Griffin, Charlotte Mann, Haizley Mann, Liam Neville, Alexa Ramirez, E'Kaiya Shaw
C. Wall: Ethan Anderson, Brilee Berry, Jensen Cox, Stella Mason, Caden Solomon, Eva Townes, Claire Veliz, Logan Wilson

Fourth Grade
K. Brown: Isabella Avila, Jazzlyn Carroll, Iaden Fortune, Levi Gaskins, Jana Glisson, Layla Jones, Ridley McClure, Charlee Pierce
C. Kee: Barrett Barksdale, Shiloh Campbell, Major Howard, Olivia Kearschner, Marlee Wheat, Kai Robinson, LilyAnn Wolski
A. Oakley: Amon Aldridge, Avery Barksdale, Jace Brown, Carver Holt, Briley Cupples, Lane

Mathis, Ava Moore, Julianne Stafford, Mya Vermillion, Cooper Yeley
A. Sellers: Amelya Berra, Bryson Butler, Sophia Coradini, Ellie Cross, Avery Pruitt, Tyler Snead-Soto

PRINCIPAL'S P.R.I.D.E. READING
First Grade: Zan'Travisous Arnold, Addison Carroll, Emersyn Langley, Kambrea Winchester, Kacelynn Bramlett, Creed Mann
Second Grade: Brody Moore, Hadleigh Veazey, Stella Brown, Faith Lynn French, Cain Zuniga
Third Grade: Liliana Paredes Jaime, Heidi Workman, Kayelynn Riola, Beckman Warren
Fourth Grade: Ramsey Allen, Easton Webb, Maddox Ferguson, Gabriel Johnson

B.U.G. AWARD (Bringing Up Grades)
First Grade: Dawsyn Allen, Shawn Trevathan, Parker Wilson, Konnor Lee, Ivy Kee, Lucas Henderson
Second Grade: Scarlett Oakes, Leviathan Pence, Giselle Cholicco, Daniel Baker, Carter Edwards
Third Grade: Kinzlee Harris, Abbey Doster, Farrah Klinzing, Brilee Berry
Fourth Grade: Ja'Monie McCuller, Zayden Cavette, Willow Doster, Jeremy Weinrich

PRINCIPAL'S P.R.I.D.E. MATH
First Grade: CJ Martin, Dominick Jones, Mason Case, Lark Sczesny, Zykee Pearson, Ella Manns
Second Grade: Sean Bomar, Graeme Brown, Avery Meddings, Allura Dugger, Easton Prince
Third Grade: Charlie Smith, Ruby Allen, Isaac Griffin, Beckman Warren
Fourth Grade: Kingston Wilson, Olivia Kearschner, Julianne Stafford, Brayla Long

CITIZENSHIP AWARD
First Grade: Ella Butler, Gatlin Schieman, Kylie Satterfield, Josiah Branch, Wilder Nerie, Silayah Byrd
Second Grade: Savannah Harris, Myrcella Knight, Isaac Smith, Richard Navarro, My'Ami Strayhorn
Third Grade: Nola Aldridge, Emma Hopkins, Leilani Cole, Thomas Dugger
Fourth Grade: Isabella Avila, Shiloh Campbell, Zakys Johnson, Mya Staggs

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Clarksburg Defeats Gleason

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

CLARKSBURG (April 10) — Clarksburg High School softball hosted Gleason Friday. The visiting Lady Bulldogs kept pace early, but the Lady Rockets pulled away in the fourth inning for a 15-5 win.

Gleason struck first with a pair of runs in the top of the first frame, but Clarksburg pulled ahead with five in the home half. The Lady Bulldogs tied it with three in the second, but it was all Lady Rockets from there, with a run in the bottom of the second, two in the third, six in the fourth and one in the fifth to end the game early.

Lady Rocket Carlie Swinford was 3-for-4 with an RBI, three runs scored and two stolen bases. Brooklyn Laws was 2-for-2 with two runs scored and a stolen base. Alyssa Belew was 2-for-3 with an RBI, a run scored and a stolen base. Natalie Scott was 1-for-3 with a double, a walk, three runs scored and two stolen bases. Addison Milam and Molly Williams were both 1-for-4 with two runs scored and two stolen bases.

Lady Bulldog Zoe Healy was 3-for-3 with a double, three RBIs, a run scored and a stolen base. Kadence Witherspoon was 1-for-3 with an RBI. Ava Bennett was 1-for-3 with a run scored.

Addison Milam earned the complete-game win for Clarksburg, allowing five runs (two earned) on five hits while walking three and striking out six.

Emma Pettit took the loss for Gleason, allowing nine runs (two earned) on four hits while walking two and striking out two in three innings. Marley Crews pitched the final inning and two-thirds, allowing six runs (three earned) on six hits and a walk.

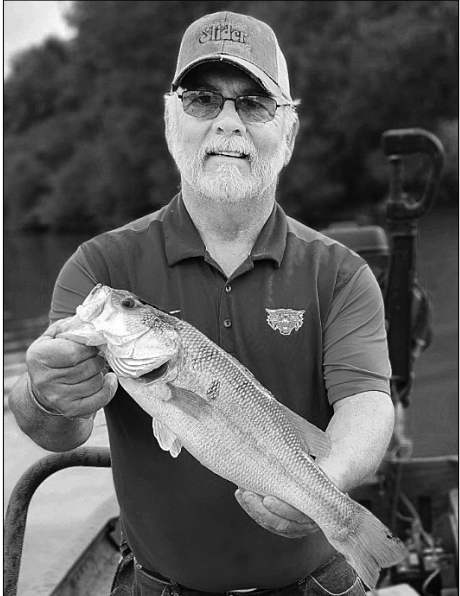
Garry Mason Transformed Fishing Into a National Collegiate Sport

BY PEYTON MCKINNIE
Tiger Bend Outdoors

Garry Mason, a respected West Tennessee fishing guide with roots firmly planted in Paris, Tennessee, pioneered the nation's first scholarship-based collegiate bass fishing program at Bethel University, creating a championship dynasty and fundamentally changing the sport forever. Long before collegiate bass fishing became one of America's fastest-growing sports, Mason was building its foundation.

Mason spent decades learning the West Tennessee waters of Kentucky Lake and Reelfoot, establishing a reputation as one of the state's most knowledgeable outdoorsmen. This passion for teaching and mentoring led him to launch Bethel University's team, a groundbreaking idea that quickly earned national titles and produced some of the most successful young anglers in the country. His significant influence has led many to refer to him as the "John Wooden of college bass fishing," a title earned through years of discipline, success, and leadership on the national level.

Mason's contributions, however, reach far beyond weigh-ins and championships. Together with his wife, Cindy, he founded the Legends of the Outdoors National Hall of Fame to preserve the stories and achievements of the icons who shaped America's hunting and fishing traditions. Through this effort, Mason became not only a pioneering coach and guide but also a historian and storyteller of the outdoor lifestyle. His role was further cemented by his work in outdoor television, specifically with "Legends of the



Garry Mason, coach of Bethel University Bass Fishing Team.

Outdoors TV," which brought the lives of legendary sportsmen and women to audiences nationwide.

Those closest to Mason attest that his greatest impact remains the people he helped, including young anglers, guides, and future leaders. They learned from his example that the outdoors is about much more than competition; it is centered on respect, conservation, tradition, and legacy.

Today, Garry Mason remains one of the most influential figures in the history of bass fishing, inspiring the next generation every time they launch a boat.



The Wilkins legacy: Coach Mitch Wilkins (standing center) with his wife Jane; sons Mark, David and John; and ten grandchildren. Mitch and his sons have accrued six state championship and two runner-up trophies. Photo courtesy Mirror-Exchange

Gibson County's Wilkins Retires From Coaching After 1,126 Victories

BY MICHAEL ODOM
Mirror-Exchange

When the Gibson County girls basketball team was eliminated in the Class 2A semifinals on March 11, most Lady Pioneer fans didn't know it at the time, but it marked the end of an era. Around one week later, head coach Mitch Wilkins announced to his team that he was retiring after 14 years at Gibson County.

"It's been a long time coming obviously, with this being year 50," Wilkins said. "I still enjoy it. Working with kids and being able to watch them mature into now young ladies that hopefully can be productive in our community and leaders. I coached boys for the first 36 years of my career, with 30 of those in Missouri. It has all been a true blessing to me. But with the family continuing to grow and expand, I think it's time for me to get in a different role.

"When I first took the job at Gibson County, I had no idea that I wanted to coach girls. I had coached boys all my life, but God presented the opportunity. I stepped into it apprehensive and not knowing how it would go. But I was blessed right off

the bat with young ladies that wanted to go to work with a tradition that Gibson County had. It has been such a blessing and uplifting."

Wilkins led the Lady Pioneers to two state championships—2019 and 2024—and one state runner-up finish in 2016 in a total of eight trips to the state tournament.

"Those state titles have been a great way to finish a career, and I've been blessed," Mitch Wilkins said. "God has honestly blessed me with success throughout my career. I have been in programs that wanted to be successful and Gibson County is no different. With the boys' programs, we were able to win district titles and get to the state tournament, and we weren't able to win a state championship. We competed very hard every year, but to finish with the ultimate crown, God has truly blessed me."

But Wilkins' legacy goes much deeper than what he has done at Gibson County. He started coaching in 1976 at Parma High School in Parma, Mo. He transitioned to Kelley High School in Kelley, Mo. in 1979 and then to Troy Buchanan in Troy, Mo. in 1983.

At all three stops, he

coached boys basketball and got to coach all three of his sons — John, David and Mark.

In 2006, he made the move to Henry County to coach boys' basketball, and after four seasons, he made the move to Gibson County in 2012 and coached girls' basketball for the first time.

Through his career, Wilkins has a 1,126-365 record, which is a 75.5 percent winning percentage.

During his career, Wilkins has won 25 district championships, made 12 state tournament appearances and won 20 coach of the year awards to go with 30 20-win seasons and five 30-win seasons.

Through most of his coaching tenure, his wife Jane was right by his side.

"When you think of all of the ups and downs," Wilkins said. "Jane says it best, 'Sometimes, one night we're on top of the world, and the next night, we are at the bottom of the valley. Her supporting me and the kids, watching them, supporting me, supporting them, it's amazing. If you could figure out how many ball games she has been in the bleachers for 47 years with me.'"

Story continues on mckenziebanner.com.

the

April 2026

West Carroll 3-2-1 Update

Each month, our board meeting reminds me of the same thing: West Carroll is a small district doing big things. This month was no different.

3-Highlights from Across the District

- More Than a School, A Community That Cares: When a family lost everything in a house fire over spring break, West Carroll Primary showed up. Staff raised over \$1,500 for temporary housing, organized a meal train, and collected clothing and everyday necessities. That is who we are.
- Games, Goals, and a Great Family Math Night: West Carroll Elementary took math outside this spring. Ms. Brianna Rice coordinated a Math Carnival Night at the community park, drawing families together for games, face painting, and food. Back in the classroom, 73 students hit their 75-book reading goal. Learning is happening here, and families are part of it.
- From Family Farm to the State Stage: Sophomore Carson Cooper became the first West Carroll student to win a state FFA championship. His Beef Production award reflects years of hard work on his family farm. He competes at the National FFA Convention in Indianapolis this October.

2 Quotes from Our Leaders

"We are doing everything we can to make sure students are confident and ready to show what they know."
— **Dr. Jessica Williams**, Principal, West Carroll Elementary School

"When students take the ACT early, they arrive junior year already knowing what to expect."
— **Dr. Adam Douglas**, Principal, West Carroll High School

1 Challenge for Our Community

Beginning April 20th, students complete state assessments. Help them by limiting screens at night, keeping bedtime consistent, and sending them off with a word of encouragement. The work is done. Now it is time to show it.

Small school, big opportunities. Thank you for being part of what makes West Carroll special.

The next board meeing will be May 7th. Hope to see you there.

Preston Caldwell
wcssd.com/321



Download Our West Carroll App

A315015-1

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Mustangs Sweep Milan in Home-Away Set

BY BRAD SAM

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MILAN/HUNTINGDON (April 6-7) — Huntingdon High School baseball began the week with a home-away set against district foe Milan. Monday, Milan hosted as the Mustangs took a 4-2 road win. Tuesday, Huntingdon hosted and held the Bulldogs hitless for a 3-0 victory to complete the sweep.

Huntingdon Mustangs 4, Milan Bulldogs 2

Milan struck first Monday with a run in the bottom of the first. Huntingdon responded with one in the top of the second, then took the lead with two runs in the third. The Mustangs added a run in the fifth, and the Bulldogs mustered one in the sixth.

Mustang Colt Wood was 2-for-3. Broox Bennett was 2-for-4 with a stolen base. Cy Hankins was 1-for-3 with

a walk, two RBIs and a run scored. Kenton Smith was 1-for-4 with two runs scored. Silas Sharp was 0-for-1 with two walks.

Bulldog Will Johnson was 3-for-3 with a home run and a walk. Lucas Morris was 1-for-3 with a home run. Whitten Dobbs was 1-for-3.

Caleb Ezell earned the complete-game win for Huntingdon, allowing two earned runs on five hits while walking two and striking out six.

James Carter took the loss for Milan, allowing four runs (two earned) on six hits while walking four and striking out two in six innings. Alex Nelson pitched the final frame, allowing no runs, hits or walks.

Mustangs 3, Bulldogs 0

In Tuesday's low-scoring game, Huntingdon scored single runs in the third, fourth and sixth innings.

Mustang Owen Kreuziger was 2-for-3. Colt Wood was 1-for-3 with an RBI and two runs scored. Caleb Ezell was 1-for-1. Cy Hankins was 1-for-2 with a walk. Silas Sharp was 1-for-3. Hayes Eubanks was 0-for-2 with an RBI sacrifice fly.

Bulldog Judson Scott was 0-for-1 with two walks and a stolen base. Whitten Dobbs was 0-for-1 with two walks. James Carter was 0-for-2 with a walk and a stolen base.

Kenton Smith earned the win for Huntingdon, allowing no runs or hits while walking five and striking out eight in six innings. Cy Hankins threw the final frame, allowing no runs, hits or walks.

Will Johnson took the complete-game loss for Milan, allowing three runs (one earned) on six hits while walking two and striking out five.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL



Above, Rebel Hudson Garrett pitched the final two-thirds of an inning in relief, allowing no runs, hits or walks. Right, Rebel left fielder Parker Ross gets under a pop fly for the out. Photos by Davarion Gilbert/The Banner



Rebels Thump Bradford, 13-3

BY BRAD SAM

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MCKENZIE (April 10) — McKenzie High School baseball hosted Bradford Friday evening. Two big innings sealed a 13-3 win for McKenzie in five frames.

The visiting Red Devils struck first with a pair of runs in the top of the second inning. The Rebels responded with seven in the home half. Bradford plated a run in the third, but McKenzie answered with five in the bottom half. The Rebels added one in the fourth.

Rebel Avery Brown was 1-for-3 with a home run, one RBI and two runs scored. Xander Johnsey was 2-for-4 with a double, three RBIs,

two runs scored and a stolen base. Ace Brown was 2-for-3 with a double and two runs scored. Cole Brown was 2-for-3 with a walk, an RBI, two runs scored and a stolen base. Fletcher Holt was 1-for-2 with a walk and two RBIs. Lelan Gordon was 2-for-2 with a walk, an RBI and two runs scored. Cooper Davidson was 1-for-4 with an RBI and a run scored. Maddox Shiell was 0-for-3 with a run scored and a stolen base. Parker Ross was 0-for-3 with a run scored.

Red Devil Hayden White was 2-for-2 with two RBIs. Brodie McDaniel was 1-for-3 with a double and a run scored. Luke Clifton was 1-for-2 with an RBI. Alex Massey was 1-for-2 with a

walk. Trevor Harrington was 1-for-2 with a run scored. Quacey Lewis was 0-for-0 with a walk.

Cooper Davidson earned the win for McKenzie, allowing three runs (two earned) on six hits while walking two and striking out one in four and a third innings. Hudson Garrett pitched the final two-thirds of an inning, allowing no runs, hits or walks.

Eli Leyhue took the loss for Bradford, allowing 12 runs (three earned) on eight hits while walking three and striking out one in two and a third innings. Hayden White pitched the final inning and two-thirds, allowing one earned run on three hits with no walks and one strikeout.

MIDDLE SCHOOL BASEBALL



Left, McKenzie second baseman Rex Thompson gets under a shallow fly ball for the out. Right, Kenden Coleman earned the complete-game shutout win for McKenzie, allowing two hits with no walks and one strikeout. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

McKenzie Dominates Stewart County, 12-0

BY BRAD SAM

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MCKENZIE (April 7) — McKenzie Middle School hosted Stewart County Tuesday for a conference baseball game between two sets of Rebels. McKenzie was dominant on both sides of the ball for a 12-0 victory in four innings.

McKenzie scored eight in the first inning and four in the second.

McKenzie's Seth Stafford was 2-for-3 with a double,

two RBIs, two runs scored and two stolen bases. Rex Thompson was 1-for-1 with a sacrifice fly, two RBIs and a run scored. Lane Brown was 1-for-2 with a walk, two RBIs, a run scored and a stolen base. Leighem Broyles was 1-for-2 with an RBI and two runs scored. Dierks Ghyers was 1-for-2 with a walk and two runs scored. Jake Ghyers was 1-for-3. Reed Gaskins was 0-for-1 with a walk and a run scored. Jackson Barden

and Kenden Coleman were each 0-for-2 with a run scored.

Stewart County's Silas B. was 2-for-2 with a double.

Kenden Coleman earned the complete-game shutout win for McKenzie, allowing two hits with no walks and one strikeout.

Braylon W. took the complete-game loss for Stewart County, allowing 12 runs (four earned) on seven hits while walking three and striking out three.

Fillies Trample Lady Tigers, 11-4

BY BRAD SAM

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WAVERLY (April 7) — The Huntingdon High School Fillies traveled to Waverly Central Tuesday for a district softball contest. An early lead and a big sixth inning sealed an 11-4 win for the Fillies.

Huntingdon set the tone with two runs in the top of the first frame, then added two more in the second. Waverly got on the board with a run in the bottom of the fourth. The Fillies plated one in the fifth, then erupted for five in the top of the sixth. The Lady Tigers managed three in the home half. Huntingdon tacked on a run in the seventh.

Huntingdon's Camdyn

Sellers was 2-for-5 with a home run, three RBIs and a run scored. Knox Bennett was 2-for-4 with two doubles, a walk, an RBI, two runs scored and a stolen base. Kylie Tippitt was 3-for-5 with two RBIs. Gracey Martin was 2-for-3 with a walk, an RBI, two runs scored and three stolen bases. Emalynn Maness was 1-for-3 with a sacrifice fly, two RBIs and a run scored. Millie Luther was 1-for-5 with a double and two runs scored. Aubry Castleman was 1-for-4 with a walk, an RBI, a run scored and a stolen base. Ellie Wilson was 1-for-4 with a walk and a run scored. Grier Bartholomew was 0-for-1 with three walks, a run scored and a stolen base.

Lady Tiger Abigail White

was 2-for-3 with a walk and a run scored. Carley McKlemurry was 1-for-4 with two runs scored and a stolen base. Marley Bissinger was 1-for-3 with an RBI. McKenzie Elmore and Major Daniels were each 1-for-3.

Marcie Mitchell earned the complete-game victory for the Fillies, allowing four runs (three earned) on six hits while walking two and striking out three.

Ashton Cash took the loss for Waverly, allowing four runs (two earned) on five hits while walking one and striking out one in an inning and a third. McKenzie Elmore pitched five and two-thirds innings of relief, allowing seven runs (two earned) on eight hits while walking six and striking out four.

Rebels Defeat Mustangs

BY BRAD SAM

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HUNTINGDON (April 6) — Huntingdon Middle School baseball hosted McKenzie Monday afternoon. A big fourth inning was the difference as the visiting Rebels took an 11-4 win in five innings.

McKenzie struck first with a run in the top of the first. Huntingdon took the lead with a pair of runs in the bottom of the second, then scored two more in the third. The Rebels charged back with six runs in the fourth and added four in the fifth.

Rebel Seth Stafford was 1-for-3 with a double, two RBIs and a stolen base. Kenden Coleman was 2-for-3 with an RBI and two runs scored. Leighem Broyles was 2-for-3 with a

double, a run scored and a stolen base. Reed Gaskins was 1-for-3 with two runs scored. Rex Thompson was 0-for-1 with a walk and two runs scored. Jackson Barden was 0-for-1 with a run scored and a stolen base. Jake Ghyers was 0-for-3 with two runs scored and a stolen base. Lane Brown was 0-for-4 with an RBI and a stolen base. Dierks Ghyers was 0-for-3 with a walk and a run scored.

Mustang Elijah Harris was 2-for-2 with a walk, an RBI, a run scored and a stolen base. Banks Butler was 1-for-2 with a walk, a run scored and a stolen base. Bryson Bolen was 1-for-3 with an RBI. Bryce Maddox was 0-for-1 with a walk and a run scored. Miller Holmes was 0-for-1 with two walks. Cohen Gray was 0-for-2 with a walk and a

run scored. Nathan Huss was 0-for-3 with an RBI.

Leighem Broyles earned the win for McKenzie, allowing four runs (two earned) on four hits while walking one and striking out six in three innings. Lane Brown pitched an inning of relief, allowing no runs or hits while walking five and striking out one. Seth Stafford threw the final frame, allowing no runs, hits or walks while striking out three.

Bryce Maddox took the loss for Huntingdon, allowing five runs (one earned) on four hits with no walks and two strikeouts in three and a third innings. Bryson Bolen pitched one inning of relief, allowing six unearned runs on two hits while walking two and striking out two. Banks Butler pitched the final two-thirds of an inning, allowing no runs, hits or walks.



Left, Lady Rebel third baseman Braylin Auvenshine fields a ground ball and fires to first for the out. Right, Lady Rebel Addyson Littleton is greeted by her teammates at home plate after hitting a two-run home run. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Lady Rebels Fall to McEwen

BY BRAD SAM

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MCKENZIE (April 6) — McKenzie High School hosted McEwen Monday for a district softball game. Lady Rebels Addyson Littleton and Aurora Johnson each crushed a two-run home run, but the Warriorettes mustered more offense overall and claimed a 7-4 road win.

McKenzie struck first with two runs in the bottom of the first frame. McEwen answered with four in the top of the third, then added three in the fifth. The Lady Rebels

answered with two in the home half.

Lady Rebel Aurora Johnson was 2-for-4 with a home run, two RBIs and a run scored. Addyson Littleton was 1-for-3 with a home run, two RBIs and a run scored. Haylee Beard was 2-for-2 with a walk. Maggie Hall was 1-for-3 with a double, a walk and two runs scored.

Warriorette Morgan Henry was 1-for-4 with a home run, two RBIs and a run scored. Tylee Tummins was 4-for-4 with a double, an RBI and two runs scored. Carly Baker was 2-for-4 with a double,

two RBIs and a run scored. Ava Lastovka was 2-for-4. Layla Fleming was 1-for-4 with a double. Kylie Ange was 1-for-3 with a walk and a run scored.

Morgan Henry earned the complete-game win for McEwen, allowing four runs (two earned) on six hits while walking two and striking out six.

Aurora Johnson took the complete-game loss for McKenzie, allowing seven runs (one earned) on 11 hits while walking one and striking out four.

HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS



Left, McKenzie's Owen Walker makes a return in singles play. Right, McKenzie's Ava Hastings stretches to make a return in singles play. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

McKenzie Falls to Obion County

BY BRAD SAM

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MCKENZIE (April 6) — McKenzie High School tennis hosted Obion County Monday for district matches at Bethel University's courts. Obion County swept their matches, with the girls winning 7-0 and the boys winning 4-0.

In girls' singles, Obion

County's Lindsey Webb defeated Ava Hastings (8-1); Micah Poore defeated Ashley Dunavant (8-5); Libby Carman topped Raychel Oliver (8-1); Lily Wright bested Morgan Little (8-1); and Laura Hooks topped Lillian Brown (8-3). In exhibition, Anna Heathcott defeated Lola Sumrok (8-2).

In girls' doubles, Webb and Carman defeated Dunavant

and Hastings (8-4) and Poore and Heathcott bested Oliver and Little (8-3). In exhibition, Wright and Hooks topped Brown and Sumrok (8-1).

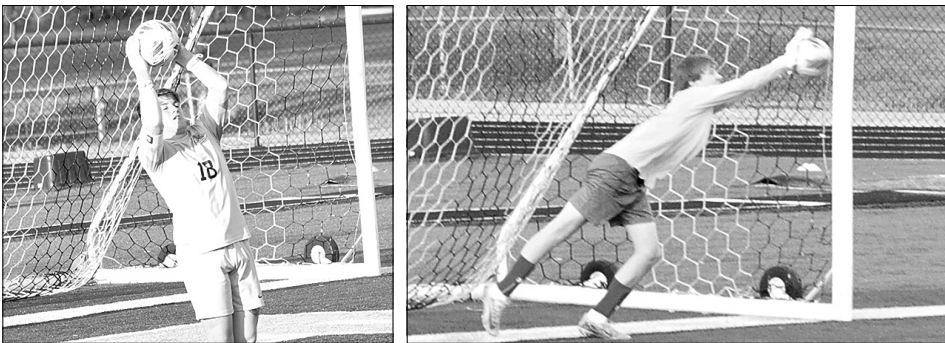
In boys' singles, Obion County's Braden Elam defeated Owen Walker (8-1); AJ Gammons topped Tobey Brooks (8-0); and Bronson Pergande bested Davarion Gilbert (8-2).

In the lone boys' doubles match, Elam and Sam Cunningham defeated Walker and Brooks (8-1).

McKenzie Celebrates Eighth Grade Night



McKENZIE (April 6) — McKenzie Middle School soccer celebrated Eighth Grade Night Monday. The scheduled game was canceled, but players played a split-squad scrimmage. During a break in the action, five eighth grade players and one manager were recognized on the field, joined by family members. Eighth graders were (L to R) Andres Hernandez, Javonte Piro, Aiden Long, Ulises Ramirez, Lucas Wilson and manager Mahalet Rivera. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner



Left, Mustang goalkeeper Gage Foster reaches high to make a stop. Foster had 12 saves for Huntingdon. Right, Rebel goalkeeper Sawyer Nunnery makes a diving deflection on a free kick. Nunnery had three saves for McKenzie in the second half. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

Mustangs Nip Rebels, 1-0

BY BRAD SAM

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HUNTINGDON (April 10) — Huntingdon High School hosted McKenzie Friday

evening for a district soccer match. The contest was scoreless at the break and through most of the second half until the host Mustangs scored in the final ten minutes on a free

kick to claim a 1-0 win. Mustang Greyson Anderson scored the lone goal. Huntingdon goalkeeper Gage Foster had 12 saves. McKenzie goalkeeper Brody Davis had two saves in the first half. Sawyer Nunnery had three saves in the second half.

Central Defeats Gleason

BY BRAD SAM

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BRUCETON (April 10) — Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School baseball hosted Gleason Friday. The host Tigers had a huge sixth inning en route to an 11-1 win. Gleason struck first with a run in the top of the first, but Central tied it in the home half. The Tigers took the lead with a run in the third, then added a pair in the fourth and pulled away with seven in the sixth.

Tiger Drake Hollingsworth was 3-for-4 with a triple, a double, an RBI and three runs scored. Parker Boyd was 3-for-4 with an RBI. Brayden Maness was 2-for-3 with a walk, an RBI, a run scored and a stolen base. Braxton Howard was 2-for-4 with a walk, an RBI, three runs scored and a stolen base. Dalton Howard was 2-for-2 with a walk and a run scored. Tanner Walters was 1-for-3 with a sacrifice fly, an RBI, a run scored and a stolen base. Gage Weatherly was 1-for-4

with a double, an RBI and a run scored. Parker Finley was 1-for-4 with an RBI. Bulldog Parker Morgan was 1-for-3 with a run scored. Ty Keeling was 1-for-3. Junah Smith earned the complete-game win for Central, allowing one unearned run on two hits while walking none and striking out three. Bryce Pettit took the loss for Gleason, allowing ten runs (seven earned) on 13 hits while walking three and striking out two in five and a third innings. Parker Morgan faced the final three batters, allowing one earned run on two hits with no walks.

McKenzie Police Reports

Drug Possession — James Edward Simmons, Park Circle, McKenzie, was charged with Possession of Schedule II and Tampering with Evidence on April 7. Officer Dalton Raspberry and Investigator Kyle Beauchamp were at Simmons' residence to serve an outstanding warrant when Simmons appeared to throw an item into a pile of bicycle parts. The item was a rolled napkin with a crystal-like material inside, identified as meth. Simmons was transported to Weakley County Jail.

Driving While Suspended — Brittany Lakey Whiteside, Senatobia, Mississippi, was charged with Driving While Suspended on April 9. Officer Matthew Cunningham stopped Whiteside's vehicle for speeding and determined her license was suspended. She was cited into Carroll County General Sessions Court. **Aggravated Assault** — Rodger D. Lawson, Florida Avenue, McKenzie, was charged with Aggravated Assault after he reportedly attacked his neighbor with a knife on April 7.

Officer Michael Cunningham reported Lawson attempted to cut his neighbor with a knife after kicking open the door and entering the house. The neighbor did sustain a cut on his finger, and the knife was recovered. Lawson was charged with aggravated burglary after he also took a pizza from the residence. Lawson lived in a shed behind the victim's house.

Domestic Assault — Timothy S. Hickey, Brighton, Tenn., was charged with Domestic Assault after he entered the lawn of a resident on Reynolds Street and assaulted her.

Officer Daniel Pollard reported that Hickey had assaulted the female victim and then drove away. He had previously been banned from the property due to ongoing problems. **Driving on Revoked** — Matthew Espey, Tower Road, McKenzie, was charged with Driving on Revoked License on April 11. Officer Michael Cunningham stopped Espey's vehicle for failure to yield at a stop sign. A check of his driver's license revealed the suspended status for failure to appear in Gleason City Court to answer a citation. Espey was cited into General Sessions Court.

More Sports Coverage Online

This time of year, The Banner's pages are saturated with spring sports most weeks (so long as the fickle West Tennessee weather cooperates). The sheer number of games happening in a given week is enough to make one's head spin, between high school baseball and softball, middle school baseball, tennis, boys' soccer, track and field and middle school volleyball.

The Banner's reporting staff makes a presence at as many sporting events as possible to capture the action on camera, often bouncing between multiple games in one day. On top of that, we gather scores and stats from as many other contests as possible, though we may not have been able

to attend in person. The result is tons of content, and there are limits to how much can be included in the print edition. Luckily, the internet is more than big enough to hold all of that content. The Banner's website, mckenziebanner.com, is updated daily with the latest sports results from our area teams. Check it out all spring long for coverage of your favorite teams!



Left, Rebel Xander Johnsey earned the complete-game win, allowing two unearned runs on nine hits while walking none and striking out eight. Right, Tiger center fielder Brody Huff secures a fly ball for the out. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

McKenzie Edges Central, 3-2

BY BRAD SAM

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McKENZIE (April 6) — McKenzie High School hosted Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central Monday for a district baseball contest. The host Rebels edged out a 3-2 win despite the Tigers outhitting McKenzie, 9-4. McKenzie struck first with a run in the bottom of the first, then added two in the second. Central rallied for

a pair in the top of the fifth. Rebel Aiden Legens was 1-for-2 with a walk and a run scored. Lelan Gordon was 1-for-3 with an RBI. Cole Brown was 1-for-3 with a run scored. Cooper Davidson was 1-for-3. Maddox Shiell was 0-for-1 with a walk and a run scored. Tiger Tanner Walters was 2-for-4 with a double and an RBI. Braxton Howard was 2-for-4 with a run scored. Drake Hollingsworth was

1-for-4 with a double and a run scored. Brody Huff, Gage Weatherly and Dalton Howard were each 1-for-3. Brayden Maness was 1-for-4. Xander Johnsey earned the complete-game win for McKenzie, allowing two unearned runs on nine hits while walking none and striking out eight. Gage Weatherly took the complete-game loss for Central, allowing three runs (one earned) on four hits while walking four and striking out eight.

West Carroll's Butler Signs with Bethel Football

BY BRAD SAM

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ATWOOD (April 10) — West Carroll senior Nigel Butler signed to join the Bethel University Wildcat football program Friday morning in a ceremony in the West Carroll Junior Senior High library. Butler was joined by his parents, coaches and teammates for the event. West Carroll Head Coach Jay Taylor said, "I'm really proud of Nigel. In the one year I've known him, he has worked extremely hard. He's doing a great job, did everything the coaches have asked him to do. That hard work and that work ethic, he's gonna have to use all of it at the next level. College football is a full-time job. It's very hard. It is a grind. But I know that Nigel will work hard and he will succeed and he will represent West



West Carroll senior Nigel Butler signed Friday to continue his football career at Bethel University. Pictured (L to R) Seated: Nigel's father, Ricky Butler; Nigel; and his mother, Tacurra Graves. Standing: West Carroll Head Coach Jay Taylor and Athletic Director/Assistant Coach Nicholas Cobb. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Carroll well." Butler said, "Thank you everyone for coming here and being with me on this journey to where I am now. I hope to go far and continue to put forth the effort I always have."

Butler played defensive end and outside linebacker for the War Eagles and expects to be in the latter position with the Wildcats. He will major in Education with plans to teach Biology and coach football.

Fillies Sweep Westview, Mustangs Fall

BY BRAD SAM

brad@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (April 9) — Huntingdon High School hosted Westview Thursday for district tennis matches at Bethel University's courts. The host Fillies swept the Lady Chargers, 7-0, while the Chargers swept the Mustangs, 7-0. In girls' singles, Huntingdon's Jazmine Seiber defeated Westview's Ryne Roney (8-6). MK Stevens bested Cami Carlson (8-1). Celeste Perez topped Ella Hamlin (8-2). Lila Reed defeated Audri Dowdy (8-1). Madisyn Barton bested Kaylynn Pearce (8-0). In exhibition, Kensley Rich topped Jade Moody (8-2). In girls' doubles, Fillies duo Seiber and Stevens defeated Roney and Dowdy (8-6) and Perez and Reed bested Carlson and Pearce (8-0). In exhibition, Fillies Mandie Hodge and Maria Barreto de Vicente defeated Moody and McKensie Babb (8-4). In boys' singles, Charger Alistair Bradcock defeated Mustang Shawn Simpson (tiebreaker, 7-5). Dylan Parker bested Alijah



Huntingdon's Jazmine Seiber makes a return in her singles win. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Hastings (8-1). Isaac Ostenson topped Caden Cargile (8-1). Carter Peevyhouse defeated Kyle Byrd (8-2). Cameron Norwood bested Eli Hayes (8-2). In boys' doubles, Westview duo Braddock and Parker defeated Hastings and Cargile (8-0) and Ostenson and Peevyhouse topped Byrd and Hayes (8-2).

Lady Bulldogs Rout Greenfield

BY BRAD SAM

brad@mckenziebanner.com

GREENFIELD (April 7) — Greenfield High School hosted Gleason Tuesday for a district softball contest. The visiting Lady Bulldogs scored early and often en route to a 20-0 win in three innings. Gleason scored 13 runs in the top of the first frame, five in the second and two in the third. Lady Bulldog Ava Bennett was 4-for-4 with an RBI, three runs scored and four stolen bases. Brylee Robertson was 1-for-1 with a triple, a

walk, two RBIs and two runs scored. Kristiana Addison was 1-for-1 with a walk, two RBIs, two runs scored and two stolen bases. Olivia Scarbrough was 1-for-1 with a double, an RBI, two runs scored and a stolen base. Sophie Beasley was 1-for-1 with a walk, a run scored and a stolen base. Maya Bouazra was 1-for-1 with a walk and two RBIs. Presley Scott was 1-for-1 with a run scored. Lady Bulldog Marley Crews was 0-for-0 with two walks, three RBIs and three runs scored. Emma Pettit was 0-for-0 with three walks, three RBIs

and a run scored. Karlie Wilson was 0-for-0 with a walk, two runs scored and a stolen base. Kinley Baumgartel was 0-for-0 with two walks and a run scored. Haylye Roberts was 0-for-0 with a walk and an RBI. Zoe Healy was 0-for-0 with a walk, a run scored and a stolen base. Kadence Witherspoon was 0-for-1 with a walk and a run scored. Lady Yellowjacket Kionna Thomas was 1-for-1 with a double. Aubrie Clark and Reagan Reynolds were each 1-for-1. Emma Pettit earned the win for Gleason, allowing no

runs on three hits while walking two and striking out one in one inning. Marley Crews pitched the final inning, allowing no runs, hits or walks with one strikeout. Reagan Reynolds got the start for Greenfield but didn't record an out, allowing seven earned runs on one hit and five walks. Kionna Thomas pitched two innings of relief and took the loss, allowing 11 earned runs on eight hits and seven walks. Aubrie Clark recorded one out in the final inning before the game was called, allowing two earned runs on one hit and three walks.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE CASE NO: 2026PA64

ESTATE OF: NORA PAULINE MITCHELL, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Notice is hereby given that on the **10TH** day of **APRIL, 2026** Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of **NORA PAULINE MITCHELL** deceased, who died **OCTOBER 30TH, 2025**, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk & Master of Carroll County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required by law to file the same with the Clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

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

This **10TH** day of **APRIL, 2026**.

THIS NOTICE WILL RUN TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

FILE CLAIMS IN TRIPPLICATE WITH:

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MARK L. MITCHELL, Executor/Administrator

TRAVIS STRICKLER, Attorney

KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master

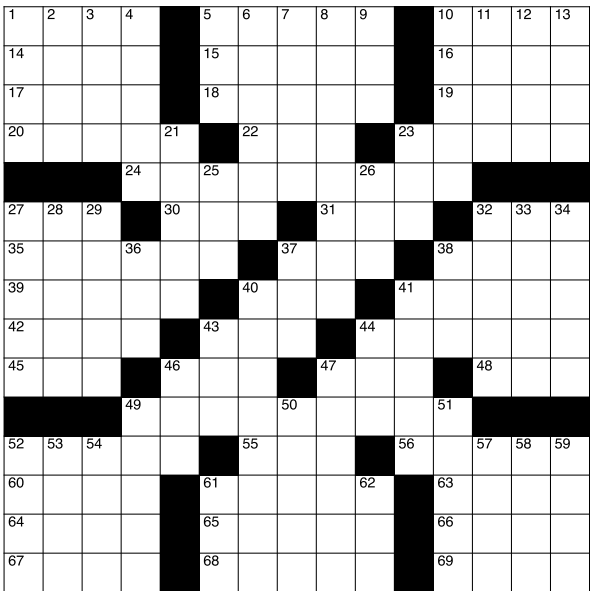
A561/R27398/15-2

Color A Masterpiece



Weekly Crossword

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Greek goddess of marriage
 - 5. Tropical American blue jay-like bird
 - 10. Abba __, Israeli politician
 - 14. Dark olive black
 - 15. Light, crinkled fabric
 - 16. Notre Dame has a golden one
 - 17. Leaked blood
 - 18. Confronted
 - 19. Negligible amount
 - 20. Facilitated
 - 22. Hill or rocky peak
 - 23. Minneapolis suburb
 - 24. Songs to one's beloved
 - 27. Brake horsepower
 - 30. Angry
 - 31. Children's game
 - 32. Spelling is a type of one
 - 35. Obtained in return for labor
 - 37. Indicates center
 - 38. Chinese dynasty
 - 39. Old World buffaloes
 - 40. Slang for time off
 - 41. Fabric
 - 42. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
 - 43. Defunct regional economic organization
 - 44. Philly footballers
 - 45. Female sibling
 - 46. Peter Griffin's daughter
 - 47. Digital audiotape
 - 48. Insecticide
 - 49. Scientific instrument
 - 52. Pages may be dog-__
 - 55. Israeli city __ Aviv
 - 56. Type of sword
 - 60. Middle Eastern military title
 - 61. Wise individuals
 - 63. French Polynesian island
 - Bora __
 - 64. Popular shoe type
 - 65. One of 50
 - 66. Divulge a secret
 - 67. Dish of cooked meat mixed



- with potatoes
68. Actress Zellweger
69. Romanian city
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Greek cupbearer of the Gods
 - 2. Ancient Syrian city
 - 3. Small Eurasian deer (pl.)
 - 4. Range of mountains
 - 5. One thousand cubic feet (abbr.)
 - 6. Spoke
 - 7. City in Georgia
 - 8. Theatrical
 - 9. CNN's founder
 - 10. Icelandic poems
 - 11. Bjorn __, tennis player
 - 12. Bowfin genus
 - 13. One point north of northeast
 - 21. Political divisions in ancient Greece
 - 23. Electroencephalograph
 - 25. Cool!
 - 26. Male parent
 - 27. Where some gymnasts work
 - 28. Capital of Vietnam
 - 29. Sailboats
 - 32. Shelter (Scottish)
 - 33. Completed
 - 34. Discharge
 - 36. Arrest
 - 37. Partner to cheese
 - 38. Coffee receptacle
 - 40. Stagnate
 - 41. Satisfies
 - 43. Snake-like fish
 - 44. Consume food
 - 46. Type of school
 - 47. Erase
 - 49. Inform
 - 50. Girl's given name
 - 51. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
 - 52. Every one of two or more things
 - 53. Northern India city
 - 54. Seventeenth stars in a constellation
 - 57. Weapon
 - 58. Amounts of time
 - 59. Isodor __, American Nobel physicist
 - 61. Soviet Socialist Republic
 - 62. Witness

Week 15 See solution in next week's edition.

Military Service Word Search

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

Artillery
Barracks
Battalion
Camouflage
Coalition
Commandeer

Deployment
Fortification
Garrison
Infantry
Lieutenant
Logistics

Maneuver
Ordnance
Protocol
Reconnaissance
Regiment
Skirmish

Squadron
Strategy
Tactics
Uniform
Vanguard
Veteran

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



- 1736:** The ultimately short-lived Kingdom of Corsica is founded.
- 1861:** President Abraham Lincoln tries to calm the insurrection that will become the Civil War.
- 1923:** Insulin becomes generally available for those with diabetes.

SUDOKU

WEEK 15

	7			5	3			
			1		7	6		9
4	8				2		7	3
	3	9		2	1			
		4						1
7		5	9		4	3	6	
5			2	3		7	1	
2	6		7	1		4		
					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 the military. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 3 = O)

- A. 16 7 5 7 22 10 26 9**
Clue: Related to armed forces
- B. 19 6 26 12 7 8 6**
Clue: Action of helping
- C. 22 26 3 3 14 19**
Clue: Soldiers
- D. 20 3 24 3 26**
Clue: High respect

Answers: A. military B. service C. troops D. honor

LETTER MIX-UP

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

CAMOUFLAGE

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

Riddle Me This

Did you hear about the soldier who bought a camouflage sleeping bag?

Answer: He can't find it.

WORD SCRAMBLE

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

YDTU

Answer: Duty

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actress born on April 15, 1990, in France. I attended a theater arts school and starred in school plays. My big break came playing a famous, magical character on the big screen. I also was a live action Disney princess.

Answer: Emma Watson

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PUZZLE SOLUTION

Week 14 Crossword Puzzle Solution

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION WEEK 14

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

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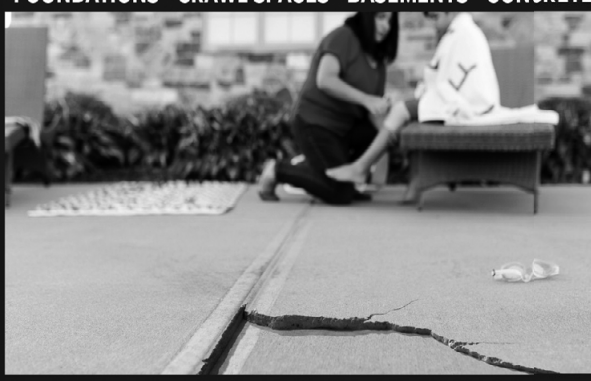
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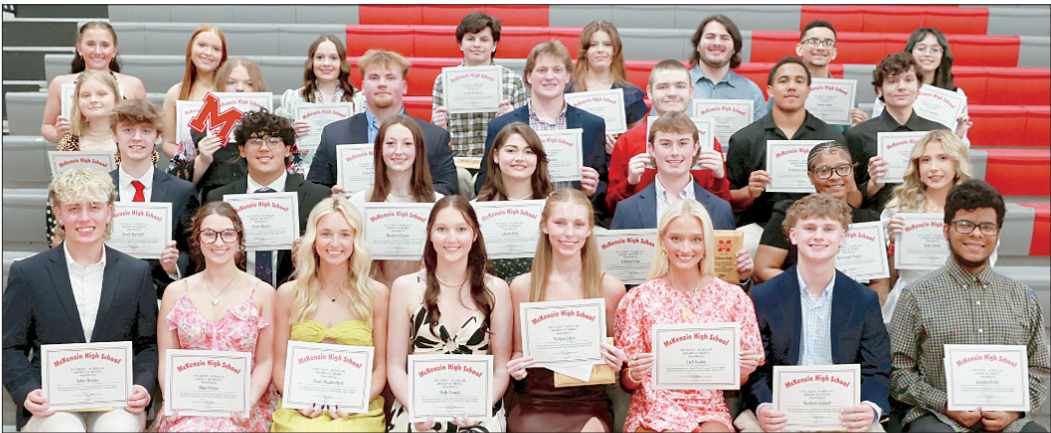


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Top Left, MHS Seniors. Top Right, MHS Juniors. Above Left, Four-year honors. Above Right, MHS Sophomores. Below Left to Right, MHS Principal Kelly Spivey was the emcee for the event. Devan Raymer, a graduate of Bethel University and Bethel Physician Assistant program was the featured speaker. Rotary President Ricky Price welcomed the honorees and guests to the 41st MHS Honors Banquet sponsored by the McKenzie Rotary Club. Below Right, MHS Freshmen. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner



McKenzie High School Honors Students at Annual Banquet

BY JOEL WASHBURN
washburn@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (April 7) — The McKenzie High School gymnasium was the venue for the 41st annual Honors

Banquet, where students, parents, teachers, and administrators gathered. Sponsored by the McKenzie Rotary Club, the evening celebrated academic achievement and featured an address from

Devan Raymer, a physician assistant and proud graduate of Bethel University. The event started with a welcome from Ricky Price, president of the Rotary Club of McKenzie. Each year, the

club sponsors the event, which includes a dinner for the honored students. Price said he is a proud alumnus of 52 years. He listed a few of his high school teachers who inspired him.

Kelly Spivey, principal of McKenzie High School, served as the event's emcee. Spivey welcomed the students, parents, faculty, Justin Barden, director of schools, members of the McKenzie Board of Education, and members of the Rotary Club.

Each student was honored individually as he or she crossed the elevated platform and received a certificate of accomplishment. Each student had a grade-point average of 95 or above, had good conduct at school, and good attendance. Twelve seniors were additionally recognized as four-year honorees.

Raymer, who earned his degree in biology and pre-professional health from Bethel University's School of Arts and Sciences and later completed the university's Physician Assistant program, currently practices in orthopedics and orthopedic surgery, assisting Dr. Melton. A former student-athlete, he drew upon his experiences to deliver a message centered on the true nature of excellence.

He shared a personal anecdote from his sixth-grade year, recalling how a teacher's belief propelled him to achieve the top academic rank, a feat he never thought possible. This early lesson, he explained, underscored that "a ninety-five or above doesn't happen by accident. It happens because of discipline, consistency, and effort, especially on days when you didn't feel like it." Raymer emphasized that consistency

triumphs over raw talent, a principle he learned on the football field and applies daily in medicine.

Beyond academics, Raymer stressed the paramount importance of character. "God doesn't care about your comfort, but rather your character," he quoted a mentor, asserting that integrity, humility, and a strong work ethic will outlast any award or title. He reminded the audience that while achievements might fade from memory, how one treats others leaves a lasting impression.

Addressing seniors embarking on new journeys and underclassmen, Raymer encouraged them to embrace life's unpredictable path, assuring them that "life isn't a straight line; it twists, it turns, and sometimes it completely reroutes." He urged students to build a life they are proud of, not just one designed to impress others, and to extend their pursuit of excellence beyond the classroom into all aspects of their lives—as friends, siblings, and future family members.

The evening concluded with Kelly Spivey offering a heartfelt thank-you to the McKenzie Rotary Club members for their continued investment in students, recognizing not only achievement but also the character and effort that truly matter. Raymer's message resonated deeply, reminding everyone that "the world doesn't just need smart people, it needs good ones."

Honorees were:

Ninth grade: Kynlee Barden, Alleigh Britt, Brylie Chester, Meghan Cowan, MaKayla Dabbs, Sophia Dameron, Ryan Davis, Elissa Doede, Clay Fowler, Belle Glisson, Liam Moore, Mary

Ryan Morris, Brin Murray, Madeline Neighbours, Dawson Reeder, Sebastian Sass, Lola Smurok, Marlee Toombs, Frances Trout and Kinsley Wilson.

Tenth grade: Braylin Auvenshine, Ethan Bradberry, Athena Chaput, Sophie Cole, Aden Cook, Molly Drewry, Ethan High, Alex Hughes, Addyson Lee, Addison Milam, Cayden Ownby, Stephanie Padilla, Olivia Pate, Matthias Pierce, Janyla Piro, Katelyn Prather, Bryson Smith, Jaycee Stafford, Sophie Taylor and Triztan Vela.

Eleventh grade: Devon Armstrong, Branson Baker, Lashontiana Clark, Kailynn Cowan, Jasmine Curtis, Abigail Ghyers, Allie Giles, Chloe Hitt, Kennedy Hutchens, Bianca Pryor, Alyssa Redmond and Brooklyn Shafer.

Twelfth grade: Gracie Aird, Ethan Batton, Carli Beeler, Brody Berryhill, Dylan Bomar, Tobey Brooks, Olivia Cantrell, J.T. Cathey, Coleson Cook, Jayden Curtis, Liberty Dyal, Katelynn Essary, Molly French, Matthew Gaylord, Kylie Gulleddge, Bethaney Hatley, Ta'Marion Johnson, Morgan Little, Christa Lomonaco, Laila McDade, Landyn McLearen, Landon Otis, Brayden Priddy, Miley Prince, Kiley Smith, Jacob Snead Soto, Keelan Sneed, Kaelyn Stebbins, Connor Summers, Makensiah Teague, Ryan Toombs, Caden Tucker, Seth Walker and Charli Weatherford.

Twelfth grade all four years' attendance: Gracie Aird, Ethan Batton, Brody Berryhill, Dylan Bomar, Tobey Brooks, Coleson Cook, Matthew Gaylord, Morgan Little, Landyn McLearen, Landon Otis, Kaelyn Stebbins and Caden Tucker.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Rebels Defeat Central, 3-1

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

BRUCETON (April 9) — Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School hosted McKenzie Thursday for a district baseball contest. The visiting Rebels came out on top in a defensive battle, 3-1.

McKenzie struck first with a run in the top of the second inning, then added one in the fourth and one in the top of the seventh. The Tigers scored their lone run in the

home half.

Rebel Xander Johnsey was 2-for-4 with a triple and a run scored. Cole Brown was 1-for-3 with a walk and a stolen base. Parker Ross was 1-for-3 with an RBI and a run scored. Fletcher Holt was 1-for-4 with a double and a run scored. Ace Brown was 1-for-3 with an RBI. Cooper Davidson was 1-for-4 with an RBI.

Tiger Parker Boyd was 1-for-3 with a triple and a run

scored. Dalton Howard was 1-for-3 with an RBI. Braxton Howard was 1-for-3 with a stolen base.

Fletcher Holt earned the complete-game win for McKenzie, allowing one earned run on three hits while walking two and striking out 11.

Drake Hollingsworth took the complete-game loss for Central, allowing three runs (two earned) on seven hits while walking one and striking out five.

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7TH THRU 12TH GRADE

JESUS SUMMER JAM

JUNE 22, 2026

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