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(L to R): Stephanie Slack-Allen, DNP, APRN, PMHNP-BC; Chris Blount, PA-C; Elly Riley, DO; Lori Holladay, NP; Jill Bennett, NP; Katharine Bullock, FNP; and Emily Ezell, DO.

A147832-TF-EOW



THE BANNER

The Hub of Carroll, Henry and Weakley Counties Since 1870.

Tuesday, July 14, 2026

McKENZIE, TENNESSEE

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OBITUARIES

- Carter Allison, 17
Jeff 'Bud' Barker Jr., 76
Linda Sue Brinkman, 80
Philip Neal Edwards, 96
Walter 'Pete' Hargrove, 85
Elmer Lee Maness, 81
Nancy Pearl Moore, 60
Susana Maria Reynolds, 80
Dorothy May Rushing, 81



Grace BAPTIST CHURCH

Looking for a place to grow in faith and find a welcoming community?

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

SUNDAYS
10 a.m. — Sunday School (Classes for all ages)
11 a.m. — Morning Service
1:30 p.m. — Afternoon Service

WEDNESDAYS
7 p.m. — Mid-Week Prayer and Bible Study

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Jon King Pastor
Fred Morris Associate Pastor
747 WEST MAGNOLIA AVE.
McKENZIE, TENNESSEE

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Early Voting Starts This Week

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

CARROLL COUNTY — Early voting for the August 6 Carroll County election begins Friday, July 17. On the ballot are school board and county offices — including the contested Carroll County Sheriff seat. Voters can also make a decision in the state and federal Republican/Democratic primaries.

Carroll County residents wishing to cast an early ballot must vote at the Carroll County Election Commission Office, located at 625 High Street in Huntingdon (in the rear of the Carroll County Government Office).
Voters have from July 17–August 1 to cast an early vote. Voting hours are as listed:
- Monday through Friday: 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Saturday: 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

After the early voting period, the election day is August 6 at the respective local precincts.
All voters must present a federal- or state-issued photo ID, unless an exception applies. College student IDs, non-U.S. Citizen ID's and IDs issued by local governments or other states are not accepted.
See a sample ballot provided by the Carroll County Election Commission on page 9 of The Banner.

CARROLL COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS DISTRICT



Congressman David Kustoff presented a flag that was once flown over the U.S. Capitol to Carroll County's Emergency Communications District on Thursday. Kustoff is pictured with Carroll County E911 Director Kristy Meggs and several members of the Carroll County E911 Board. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Kustoff Gifts Flag Flown at U.S. Capitol to New E911 Complex

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

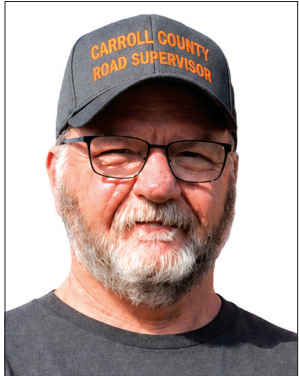
HUNTINGDON (July 9) — Congressman David Kustoff (TN-08) toured the new Carroll County Emergency Communications District (CCECD/E911) headquarters on Thursday. In recognition of Car-

roll County's dedicated dispatchers, he presented Carroll County E911 Director Kristy Meggs with an American flag once flown over the U.S. Capitol at the conclusion of his visit.
Meggs and several members of the E911 Board walked Kustoff through the 5,422 square-foot

building while explaining the significance of the new building's training area, administrative space, backup dispatch center and FEMA-approved weather-safe room. Meggs said she planned to move

See FLAG on Page 3

PAID ANNOUNCEMENT



Ronnie Wade

Ronnie Wade Candidate Announcement

To the Voters and Citizens of Carroll County:
My name is Ronnie Wade, and I currently serve as one of the Carroll County Road Supervisors. For those who may not know me, I have lived in Carroll County my entire life. I am the son of Jimmy Wade and the late Melba Wade of the Mixie Community.
I was fortunate to grow up working alongside my father, learning to operate heavy equipment at an early age. That experience gave me a strong work ethic and a practical understanding of

See WADE on Page 3

McKENZIE School Board Approves \$15.7 Million Budget

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (July 7) — The McKenzie Special School District Board of Education approved a \$15.7 million budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year during a brief meeting Tuesday afternoon. Also approved was the certified property tax rate of \$.7483 per \$100 assessed

See BUDGET on Page 3

Boyfriend, Girlfriend Missing from Greenfield

Porter Shell, 17, and Serenity Smitherman, who is also known as Sera Leyhue, 14, are both missing from Greenfield, Tenn.
According to available information, the two were last seen at approximately 8 p.m. on July 10, 2026 traveling in a Red 2010 Ford F-150 bearing Tennessee license plate 203 BBDR.
Serenity Smitherman was wearing a black tank top and gray shorts.
Porter Shell was wearing a black Salt Life T-shirt and black pants.
The Greenfield Police Department urges anyone who has seen the juveniles, the vehicle, or who has any information regarding their whereabouts to contact the department immediately. Even seemingly minor details may be valuable to the investigation.
Anyone with information is asked to contact the Greenfield Police Department at (731) 364-5454.





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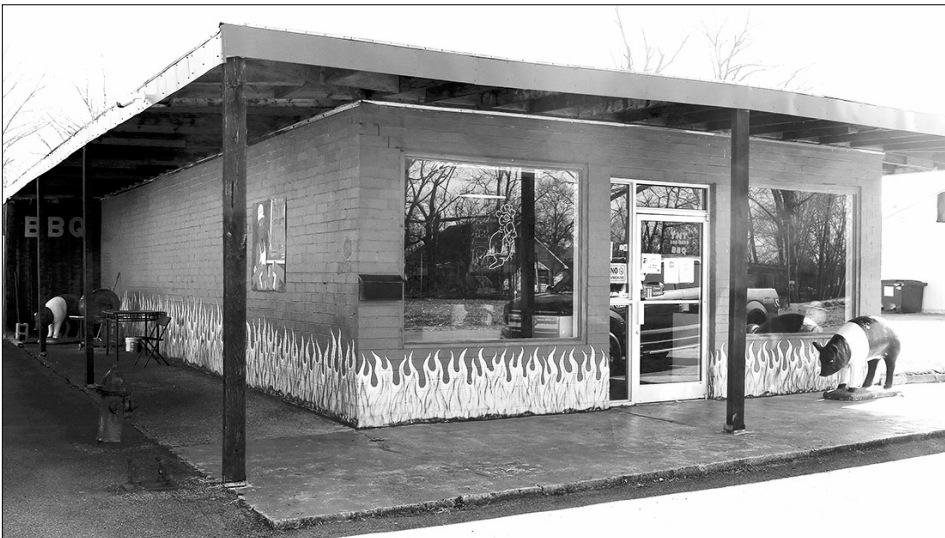
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Top, TNT BBQ located at 436 Elm Street in McKenzie. Above, Anton Townes and Michael Taylor, owners of TNT BBQ, are pictured in the dining area of the restaurant. File Photos

McKenzie’s TNT BBQ to Close July 31

MCKENZIE (July 11) — After almost six years of serving the McKenzie community, local favorite TNT BBQ has announced it will permanently close on July 31, 2026. Owners Anton Townes and Michael Taylor opened the restaurant on September 16, 2020, at 436 Elm Street, realizing a goal they had held since childhood. The location, which previously housed Pat Houston’s Grocery, held special meaning for the owners, who grew up visiting the site.

“This has been a goal of

ours since we were kids,” Townes said during the restaurant’s ribbon-cutting ceremony in 2020. Over the years, the restaurant became known for its hickory-smoked meats, including ribs, pulled barbecue, wings, and house-made sides like potato salad and slaw. In a statement posted to social media on July 11, the owners shared that the decision to close was difficult, but they expressed their appreciation for the community. “We are incredibly thankful for the trust you placed in

us and for allowing us to be a part of this community for the last 5 years,” the owners wrote. “The friendships, conversations, and memories we’ve made with all of you are something we’ll always cherish.” TNT BBQ remains open for business during its regular hours—Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.—until their final day of operation on July 31. The owners invite customers to visit for a final meal and to share a few laughs before they close their doors.

Prater’s Taters Sign Removed in McKenzie



MCKENZIE (July 7) — The “Prater’s Taters” sign in downtown McKenzie has officially seen its last day — two years after the McKenzie restaurant closed. Darrin Graves removed the sign on Tuesday afternoon, as a source said the building’s owner is preparing to put the former restaurant space up for sale. Despite leaving McKenzie, Prater’s Taters is still open at its Paris, Huntingdon and Parsons locations. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner



The Redd family is pictured — (L to R) Jules, Nyla, Karson, Eden and Kevin. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Baptist Hospital Welcomes CAO Kevin Redd

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (July 9) — Baptist Memorial Hospital-Carroll County welcomed new Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) Kevin Redd to its team Thursday, celebrating with a community grab-and-go hot dog box lunch event in the hospital cafeteria.

Redd began his new position on June 29, continuing a 13-year career with Baptist Memorial Hospital. Before the move, Redd worked at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Collierville. Redd, a native Memphian, and his family — wife Jules, son Karson and daughters Eden and Nyla — relocated to Huntingdon this summer. Redd was already familiar

with Huntingdon, though, as he had completed both a one year fellowship and a rotation at the Carroll County hospital earlier in his career. “My family and I are glad to be here in Carroll County,” Redd said. “We have such a great team here, and the community has been nothing but welcoming to us.”

Two Paris Businessmen Indicted On Drug, Firearms Charges

COURTESY SHANNON McFARLIN
Forever Communications

PARIS (July 7) — A Henry County Grand Jury has indicted two local businessmen on drug and firearms charges. The Henry County Sheriff’s Office and 24th Judicial Drug Task Force arrested Jay Sukhadia and Dharmendra Sukhadia Tuesday on Grand Jury indictments that were returned on Monday, July 6. Jay Sukhadia, 29, was charged with possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony, possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell, manufacture or deliver. Dharmendra Sukhadia, 60, was charged with possession of a controlled substance with intent to sell, manufacture or deliver, possession of a firearm during the commission of a felony and prohibit-



(L to R) Dharmendra Sukhadia and Jay Sukhadia.

ed purchase of tobacco products. Both were booked in the Henry County Jail and have bonds of \$100,000 each. Sheriff Josh Frey said the arrests are related to search warrants executed at Patriot Mart and Fuel Pro last November. Search warrants were executed at both businesses and items were seized from the properties. Frey said in a press release at the time, “On November 6, 2025, the 24th

Judicial Drug Task Force, Henry County Sheriff’s Office and the 24th Judicial District Attorney Office executed search warrants at two Paris businesses. These search warrants were executed after numerous complaints and a lengthy investigation into the sale of illegal drugs. This is still an ongoing investigation and testing is being conducted on all substances believed to be illegal. Once testing is completed prosecution will be determined.”

Coming Soon: The New McKenzieBanner.com

We’re excited to announce that a brand new McKenzieBanner.com is on the way! Very soon, The McKenzie Banner will unveil a completely redesigned website built to make it easier than ever to stay up-to-date on news and developments in the tri-county area. Whether you’re reading on your computer, tablet, or smartphone, you’ll enjoy a faster, cleaner and more user-friendly experience.

Here’s What You Can Expect

- A modern, mobile-friendly design
- Frequent breaking and local news updates
- Convenient access to the e-Edition
- Improved search and article organization
- FREE weekly e-Newsletter delivered right to your inbox
- Simple online subscription management
- More video coverage and photo galleries
- Dynamic HTML web advertisements
- Community news, sports, obituaries, public notices, event coverage and much more — all in one place

Free Access for a Limited Time

To celebrate the launch, the current McKenzieBanner.com will be available free of charge until launch day. The new website will be available free of charge for one month after launch, giving everyone an opportunity to experience our new web home. During this introductory period, readers will enjoy unlimited access to local news and features without

“The Banner has been telling McKenzie’s story for generations, and it deserved a website built to the same standard.”
— Roger Morris, web developer

a subscription or paywall. We encourage everyone to explore the new site, become familiar with its features and see everything it has to offer. After the introductory free-access period ends, our regular digital subscription plans will resume, helping us continue the tradition of providing quality local journalism that serves Carroll, Henry and Weakley counties.

About the Developer

The new McKenzieBanner.com was developed by McKenzie’s own Roger Morris, whose mother, Deborah Turner, developed and managed The Banner’s first in-house website in the late 1990s. Morris is a full-stack web developer and systems architect with 15 years of experience building websites and web applications. His background spans custom web development, database architecture, cloud infrastructure, digital marketing, and integrating AI into business workflows. Most recently he served as Director of Operations and lead developer for a multi-office real estate brokerage in Paris, Tenn., where he built the company’s property search platform, agent CRM, and

marketing systems from the ground up. Earlier in his career he built websites for small businesses across West Tennessee and led technical marketing for companies in California.

About Novel
Novel (novel.ad) is a new web development studio founded by Morris and based in McKenzie. The company builds modern, custom websites and software for local businesses, publishers, and organizations — with a focus on fast, mobile-friendly sites and practical uses of AI like automated content tools and smarter search. The new McKenzieBanner.com is Novel’s first project to go live. Morris said, “The Banner has been telling McKenzie’s story for generations, and it deserved a website built to the same standard.”

“My goal was to make the site fast, easy to read on a phone, and simple for the Banner staff to update — so the technology gets out of the way and the news comes first. “As someone who lives here, getting to build this for my hometown paper is about the best first project a new company could ask for.”

Launching Soon

For more than 156 years, the McKenzie Banner has been committed to informing, connecting and celebrating our communities. While our website is getting a fresh new look, our commitment to trusted local journalism remains stronger than ever. Be on the lookout for launch updates, and be among the first to experience the new McKenzieBanner.com.

McKenzie Council Approves Vehicle Purchases

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (July 7) — The McKenzie City Council approved the purchase of three new vehicles for the city’s police and water departments during a special-called meeting on Tuesday, July 7. The council voted to purchase two 2026 Tahoe trucks for the McKenzie Police Department from Wilson County Motors at approximately \$60,125 each. Police Chief Ryan White confirmed the purchases would not use taxpayer funds, noting the expense will be covered by the city’s Safe Street and Drug funds, which are supported by traffic camera revenue and asset seizures, respectively. Additionally, the council approved the purchase of a 2026 Case 580SN backhoe-loader for the Water Department at

a discounted price of \$99,426.56. The city will trade in the department’s existing 15-year-old backhoe to secure the discount. During the meeting, Paris Pike resident Scott Kelley addressed the board regarding inactive tornado sirens and drainage issues in his neighborhood. Kelley reported a malfunctioning siren near his residence and noted that drainage culverts at the intersections of Paris Pike and Eastwood, and Paris Pike and Shady Lane, were insufficient. He estimated he had sustained \$12,000 in landscape damage due to flooding. Mayor Ryan Griffin stated the tornado siren issue would be addressed during next month’s council meeting. Regarding the drainage concerns, the mayor directed Street Di-

rector Johnny Mercer to meet with Kelley to investigate the situation. During department updates, City Recorder Jennifer Waldrup announced that the city will replace 20 streetlights with new 60-watt bulbs, prioritizing the city’s oldest fixtures. Preceding the special-called meeting, the council, sitting as the beer board, approved new certificates for Type A “off-premise” permits to Aanal Patel, doing business as Valero Foodmart (15300 Highland Drive) and Little General (528 Magnolia Avenue). The McKenzie Board of Mayor and Council is scheduled to reconvene for a special-called meeting on Friday, July 24, at 10 a.m. The agenda includes opening and approving bids for fencing and gates at the new Mulberry Soccer Complex.

Italian Ice & Froyo Co. Hosts Soft Opening



McKENZIE (July 8) — McKenzie has a new sweet spot on the map. Wednesday marked the soft opening of Italian Ice & Froyo Co., a new dessert and snack shop located at 16214 Highland Drive. Owner Shane Yarbrough said a grand opening celebration is in the works for later this month. Italian Ice & Froyo Co.'s hours are as follows — Wednesday–Saturday: 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.; Sunday: 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.; Closed Mondays and Tuesdays. Owner Shane Yarbrough is pictured with Sylar Yarbrough, Kade Sawyers, Bobbie Lipscomb and Jayden Kendall on opening day. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Timber Theft Case Ends With Restitution for Henry County Landowner

NASHVILLE — A Kentucky man has been ordered to pay \$15,000 in restitution to a Henry County property owner following a timber theft investigation conducted by the Tennessee Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Crime Unit (ACU).

In January 2026, ACU Special Agent Morris Rogers received a report from a Henry County resident that several white oak trees had been cut and removed from his property without permission. During the investigation, Rogers determined that James Thomas Williams Jr., of Murray, Ky., intentionally entered Jones' property and harvested timber.

A consulting forester determined that approximately \$18,000 worth of timber had been cut and removed from the property.

Following the investigation, Rogers obtained war-

rants charging Williams with theft of property over \$10,000 and criminal trespass. The Henry County Sheriff's Department extradited Williams to Tennessee in February.

On May 28, 2026, Williams pleaded guilty in Henry County General Sessions Court to aggravated trespassing. As part of a negotiated plea agreement, he was ordered to pay \$15,000 in restitution to the victim.

"The goal in cases like this is to make the victim as whole as possible," Agriculture Commissioner Andy Holt said. "Recovering losses for Tennessee landowners is an important part of justice. If someone chooses to commit an agricultural crime in Tennessee, they should know we will work tirelessly with our law enforcement partners to investigate the case and hold those responsible accountable."

ACU Special Agent in Charge Greg Whitehead said timber theft can have significant financial impacts on landowners, making thorough investigations critical.

"Timber is a valuable agricultural commodity, and these cases often require extensive investigation to document ownership, determine value and establish criminal intent," Whitehead said. "Our priority is protecting Tennessee's farmers and landowners while pursuing outcomes that help restore victims' losses whenever possible."

ACU investigates agricultural-related crimes across Tennessee, including livestock theft, timber theft, equipment theft, crop theft and other offenses affecting the state's agricultural community. The unit consists of 10 special agents strategically located across the state, from Memphis to Mountain City, with each agent responsible for approximately nine to 12 counties.

ACU investigated 60 cases in June 2026.

Wade

...From Front Page

the work I continue to do today. I attended school in Huntingdon and graduated from Huntingdon High School in 1987.

My wife, the former Pam Smothers of Westport (a Clarksburg High School graduate), and I have been married for 36 years. Together, we have raised two daughters, Tiffany and Kelcie, and we are proud grandparents to our 15-month-old grandson, Slade.

Serving my community has always been important to me. I have served for many years as Chief of the Carroll County Fire Department, District 2 (Vale). I also serve as Trustee and President of the Vale Community Center and am a member of Faith Baptist Church in Hollow Rock.

My career began as a truck driver before moving into the fire equipment industry. I later owned and operated Ronnie Wade's Towing and Trucking in Bruceton for nine years. For the past 11 years, I have been employed with the Carroll County Highway Department, where I have worked in nearly every aspect of the department's operations. Those experiences have given me firsthand knowledge of the equipment, the employees, the daily responsi-

bilities, and the challenges involved in maintaining our county roads.

I gave considerable thought and prayer before deciding to run for Road Supervisor in 2022, and I approached this election with the same careful consideration. I have never taken the responsibilities of this office lightly.

For the first time in Carroll County's history, voters will elect one Road Supervisor instead of two. Many people I have spoken with were unaware of this recent change in state law. With one supervisor assuming all of the responsibilities previously shared by two, it is more important than ever to elect someone who understands every aspect of the job and is prepared to meet those increased demands.

I want you to know that I am ready, willing, and able to accept those additional responsibilities. This is a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week position. When emergencies occur—whether it is a tree blocking a roadway, storm damage, or another urgent situation—the Road Supervisor is responsible for responding. Over the past four years, I have personally responded to approximately 90 percent of those calls.

The position also requires a thorough understanding of the laws governing county roads and the ability to ensure the

Highway Department operates in compliance with those laws. Just as importantly, the supervisor must carefully manage the department's budget to maintain all 723 miles of county roads in Carroll County. That often requires making difficult decisions that may not always please everyone, but making those decisions responsibly is part of serving in this position.

I am fortunate to work alongside an outstanding group of Highway Department employees who take great pride in their work each day. Their dedication and commitment deserve recognition, and I am grateful for everything they do to serve the citizens of Carroll County.

In closing, I want to sincerely thank you for the trust and confidence you placed in me four years ago. It has been an honor to serve as your Road Supervisor. I want to continue building on the progress we have made and work to ensure that the Carroll County Highway Department remains one of the finest in the State of Tennessee.

I respectfully ask for your vote and support as I seek re-election as your Carroll County Road Supervisor.

Thank you, and may God bless you and your families.

Sincerely,
Ronnie Wade
(731) 415-1797
Paid for by the candidate.

Area Back-to-School Dates

A new school year is just around the corner, and area school districts have released schedules for the return of staff and students.

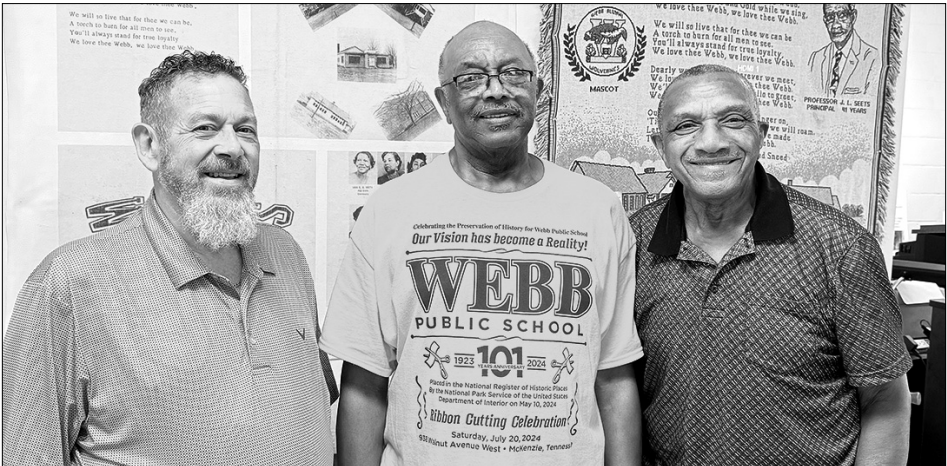
The five Carroll County school districts (McKenzie, Huntingdon, West Carroll, Hollow Rock-Bruceton and South Carroll) begin staff in-service on Monday, July 27. Students report for a half-day on Tuesday, August 4.

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

In-service for Henry County School System staff begins Thursday, July 23. Students report for a half-day on Monday, August 3.

Students in the Paris Special School District also return for a half-day on Monday, August 3.

LEGACY OF LEARNING



Armand Hebert, president of McKenzie Rotary, along with Ike Gilbert and Neal Williamson, both members of the last graduating class of Webb School.

Alumni Reflect on the History of Webb School

McKENZIE (July 7) — The Rotary Club of McKenzie recently held its weekly meeting at the historic Webb School, gathering in the museum and library of a facility that remains a cornerstone of local heritage. The visit served as a poignant backdrop for a story into the institution's enduring legacy and its continued significance to the Carroll County community.

In a look back at Carroll County's educational history of Blacks, Ike Gilbert and Neal Williamson shared their personal experiences as students of the historic Webb School, an all-black student school. Both men were members of the Class of 1966, the final graduating class of the institution before its closure during the consolidation of schools following the era of integration.

The integration was a part of the landmark Civil Rights Act of 1964, signed into law on July 2, 1964, by President Lyndon B. Johnson. Originally proposed by President John F. Kennedy in 1963, the bill overcame a 60-day Senate filibuster before passing Congress and officially ending legal segregation and employment discrimination nationwide.

Despite being possibly the newest school facility within the county, integration led students to attend other

county schools; the 10-year-old building was closed.

The closure of the school in 1966 during the era of integration did not signal the end of its impact. Instead, it galvanized a movement to protect its history. In 1969, Professor Seets spearheaded the formation of the Webb Alumni Association, which successfully purchased the campus in the early 1970s. Alumnus Roscoe McKenzie was the first president of a newly-formed alumni association, which purchased the building and surrounding campus from the County of Carroll. This dedication to preservation culminated in the school building being listed on the National Register of Historic Places, an effort supported by Carroll Van West, the Tennessee state historian. In 2016, the association furthered its mission by opening a museum on-site to archive and display artifacts, photographs, and records that tell the story of the faculty and students who shaped the institution.

During the presentation, Gilbert and Williamson recounted the rigorous environment that prepared them for life beyond the classroom. Students often balanced their studies with significant responsibilities, including agricultural work and multiple jobs, to support their families and their education.

Despite the hardships of the era, the school provided a comprehensive foundation in academics, agriculture, and vocational skills, with teachers who were deeply committed to their students' success.

"Webb prepared you to take life anywhere you want to," Williamson noted, reflecting on the school's curriculum and the guidance of educators like Professor T. A. Wofford instilled a sense of discipline and self-reliance in the student body.

Today, the organization continues to maintain the campus and archive the school's history, ensuring that the contributions of Professor Seets, the faculty, and the students are not forgotten.

The school serves as the home for the Northwest Tennessee Head Start and as a community gathering place. After-school tutoring is offered in the school. Webb Alumni Association also has a historic library in the school building. It is open to the public on Tuesdays and it features graduating class photograph composites, typewriters, photos of the former dorms, agriculture building, and information about the history of the school, its teachers, and its students.

Flag

...From Front Page

into the new headquarters in the coming weeks.

"It's a beautiful facility," Kustoff said. "Thank you to Director Kristy [Meggs] and the 911 Board of Directors for their leadership in making this new facility possible. Thank you to Sheriff Andy Dickson, Huntingdon Chief of Police Jason Oliver, our dispatchers and all first responders for keeping our communities safe."

"We're honored that some-

one took the time to come in and see what we offer here in Carroll County," Meggs said of Kustoff's visit.

The new headquarters was approved by the district's board of directors in May 2024. The estimated cost for the new building, sketched by A2H designers and architects, was valued at \$2.875 million, which the CCECD had in reserves.

"We built for growth," Meggs said. "We've been saving for probably 10–15 years for this project."

Each of the three areas is isolated from the others.

The backup dispatch cen-

ter will have backup capabilities for a multi-console dispatch area and will be used in the event that the county's Emergency Operating Center (adjacent to the Sheriff's Department) is inoperable.

The new training area will be available for any agency or organization to host training sessions or meetings, Meggs shared.

The E911 Board of Directors approved a bid to demolish the former E911 headquarters in May. Like the new E911 headquarters, the former 800-square-foot office building was on Dillahunt Lane in Huntingdon.

Budget

...From Front Page

value, unchanged from last year. The tax rate is distributed between the General Purpose Fund (\$4,898) and the Debt Service Fund (\$2,585).

The budget includes a three percent across-the-board raise and a \$1,000 bonus for all district employees, as well as additional raises for educational assistants and cafeteria staff.

The General Purpose Fund totals \$13,476,896, a 3.1 percent increase over the previous year.

The Federal Projects Fund, which accounts for federal grant funds under

ESSA, IDEA and Carl Perkins Vocational, is \$763,334.

The Central Cafeteria Fund, funded primarily by the USDA, has a budget of \$1,003,200.

The Education Debt Service Fund budget is \$475,639, which represents scheduled payments on the district's bonds. The total outstanding principal and interest on the district's bonded debt is \$2,362,872. The final payment on the debt is due April 1, 2032.

During the meeting, Director of Schools Dr. Justin Barden addressed the status of several projects.

Replacement of the fence at the football and practice field at McKenzie Middle School is expected to begin by next week.

The MMS restroom flooring renovation has been postponed to June 2027 as the time window is too tight to complete before the return of students.

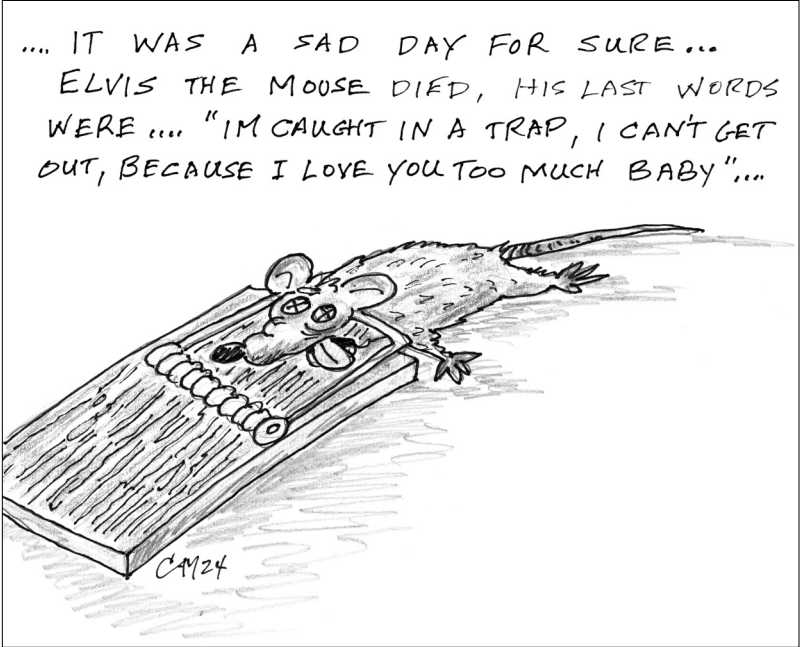
Painting in the MMS gymnasium and in some of the classroom pods will be completed this summer.

The McKenzie Elementary School gymnasium floor project could potentially occur this month, but Director Barden is awaiting information from the contractors.

For the storm water drainage project at MES, representatives from Lashlee-Rich and TLM will conduct an on-site visit in the near future.

Tuesday's meeting adjourned after nine minutes.

Things In My Head with Charles Manfredi



HUNKER DOWN WITH KES Why I Don't Smoke

Me and Buddy Wiggleton grew up wanting to be the Marlboro Man. We studied his picture on the billboard above the DX Service Station out where Highways 79 and 22 intersected. You talk about a rugged guy. We believed with all our little hearts he could drink a cauldron of hot molten lead and spit out horseshoes till the cows came home.

Which, of course, is exactly what the Marlboro cigarette people wanted us to think.

Buddy did point out a few discrepancies between two little guys on the ground and the giant on the billboard: neither of us had a white cowboy hat, or a crimson red shirt with a western yoke, double front pockets, and pearl buttons, or a black vest. We were 13 years away from growing a mustache. And no matter how hard we scrunched, we could not get any sun burned, wind whipped wrinkles to pile up around our eyes.

And there was one other small incongruity, neither of us smoked. Yet!

But we grew up in a world and a time when just about every grownup did. Well, most all of the men anyway. And a lot of the women. I believe the term was “fashionable.” We saw it in relentless newspaper and billboard ads. We listened to the “Lucky Strike Hour” on the radio. When we finally got a TV, near 'bout every other show was sponsored by a cigarette company.

The slogans still dance through my head: “I’d walk a mile for a Camel,” “Winston tastes good like a cigarette should,” “Come to where the flavor is. Come to Marlboro Country,” “Call for Phillip Morris,” “L.S./M.F.T.” (Lucky Strike Means Fine Tobacco)

It is no wonder that by the beginning of junior high we were down in the big ditch behind George Sexton’s house with some cigarettes in our hands. We didn’t have a whole pack. Good golly, that would cost 25 cents! Which was the equivalent of FIVE packs of baseball cards. There ain’t no way on God’s green earth we’d do that!

Ricky had “borrowed” a couple of Lucky Strikes out of an open pack his dad left on the kitchen table. Yogi and Buddy did the same. I was the only one that didn’t bring any smokes to the game. I wasn’t brave enough to risk Daddy finding out I had pilfered something from him.

We pretended to be sooo grownup passing a cigarette around. But we ended up being a little disappointed. It didn’t taste nothing like a Baby Ruth or Butterfinger. It was just hot air coming in and going out.

And Yogi, who was always our cutting-edge guy, got to telling us, as we smoked, about Kent cigarettes with the new “Micronite” filter. He said it was supposed to be a safeguard to your health. That was so strange to us. We had never thought of cigarettes being unsafe.

It didn’t cross our minds there might be a problem with puffing on them morning, noon, and night. Of course, come to think of it, as Yogi pontificated on, I got to pondering how some of the older men in town didn’t quit coughing until the middle of the afternoon.

And I remembered some other slogans, “More doctors smoke Camels than any other cigarettes,” “L&M filters are just what the doctor ordered,” and Chesterfield assured us “Not a cough in a carload.”

Maybe there was more to this smoking thing than they were telling us....

Mr. Bill Rogers was our junior high principal. When they could not find anyone else, he stepped in to be the football coach. Buddy and I were in the seventh grade. He called the team up after practice one afternoon and out of the blue said, “Young men, if you want to be a good athlete, don’t ever smoke. It will cut your wind.”

Well, I wanted to be a good athlete. And I hoped and prayed that a few puffs down at the big ditch hadn’t ruined my chances.

I never even thought about smoking again.

The jingles went on without me. The billboard overlooking the DX Station changed from the Marlboro Man to a Buick Skylark. I never got to look “cool” by sticking a cigarette behind my ear. I never rolled up a pack of Pall Malls in my white tee shirt sleeve. I didn’t waste time hanging out with the guys smoking behind the ag building in high school between classes.

But I did save a lot of money. I have no idea what a pack cost today. But I suspect that it would be a bit north of the 25 cents me, Yogi, Ricky, and Buddy didn’t pay.

I dodged a bullet for sure. And I am thankful for a junior high football coach who cared enough to warn us about the dangers of smoking when we were still wet behind the ears.

Although, honesty compels me to admit, I didn’t know then, and I still don’t know to this day exactly what “cut your wind” means. But it sounded bad enough to get the job done!

Respectfully,
Kes
kesley45@aol.com

Inglenook Book Club Explores Club History

The Inglenook Book Club gathered for its monthly meeting on July 8, 2026, at 3 p.m. at the Lakeside Senior Living Community in McKenzie. President Gail Mack presided over the meeting, which opened with the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance, the Club Aim, and the club motto.

Hostesses Sherri Priestley and Debby Simon provided refreshments, serving ice cream cake, a snack medley, and beverages. The group also took a moment to celebrate July birthdays, recognizing Victoria Ard, Shirley Martin, and Debby Simon.

During the business portion of the meeting, 10 members answered the roll call. The minutes from June were approved following a motion by Victoria Ard,

seconded by Jean Hollomon. In the absence of Treasurer Donna Ward, Beverly Mueller presented the financial report, which was subsequently approved after a motion by Victoria Ard and a second by Debby Simon.

President Mack called for committee updates. Sunshine chair Genia Sherwood confirmed that cards were sent to members. Jean Hollomon was recognized for coordinating meeting notifications and organizing school donations, and Victoria Ard provided an update on the book-passing progress.

The afternoon’s program was presented by Beverly Mueller, who discussed the history of book clubs in America and the specific history of the Inglenook Book Club in McKenzie. Draw-

ing from an extensive collection of memorabilia dating back to 1921, Mueller shared that the “Inglenook” name was adopted in 1975, with “ingle” referring to a chimney and “nook” to a corner.

The club continues its initiative to support local schools and expressed gratitude to members who contributed donations this month. The next meeting is scheduled for August 12 at 3 p.m. at Lakeside Senior Living Community. Hostesses for the upcoming gathering will be Victoria Ard and Pedie Pedersen, and Debby Simon will present the program. Members are asked to bring individually wrapped snack items for the school donation drive.

Bethel/Eastside FCE News

COURTESY DANITA LAMAN

The Bethell/Eastside FCE met Thursday, June 11 in the lovely home of Penny and Mary Mays.

Seven members were present as well as our agent, Lacy Yelley. The meeting was called to order, and the Collect was read by our president, Gail Eubanks.

Roll call was answered with, “If you could add one change to your home to make life easier, what would it be?” Most of us said we would like to add a maid. That would make life easier!

The May meeting was skipped because we met at the lake, so minutes were read from the April meeting. The treasury report was given: still in the black.

Discussing old business,

Bethel/Eastside FCE is still doing meals in a bag. Five meals were donated to the Carl Perkins Center last month. Cakes for the nursing home is another ongoing project. This month, it was Danita Laman’s turn to take two cakes to the nursing home. Whoever is the hostess for the month is also responsible for the devotion, cakes and educational program.

In new business, Bethel/Eastside FCE learned that October is Fire Safety Month. It was suggested we meet at the firehouse for an actual demonstration of a fire. This was tabled for a Saturday in a cooler month, to be discussed more. The club voted to give \$50 for a basket at the Mini Conference.

The next cluster meeting is July 24 in Benton County. The Carroll County Fair is August

8-16, and Mini Conference is August 12.

The educational program was given in the month of June. There are assigned national days to each month, but when I went to the web and typed in happenings in June, I was given a calendar of events for each day with a dessert. I shared this with the club:

June is Alzheimer’s and Brain Awareness Month, Men’s Health Month, National Employees Wellness Month, and National Migraine and Headache Awareness Month.

June is the home of National Donut Day, Flag Day, June-teenth, National Handshake Day and even Milkshake Day on Saturday, June 20. Three of our ladies met for milkshakes to celebrate that day!

The hostess for July is Judy Roberts.

Tip for the day: deep clean your microwave.

Lifeline Blood Services July Blood Drives

Lifeline Blood Services has released its blood drive calendar for the month of July, urging individuals to save a life by donating blood this summer.

The organization has a need for Type O negative blood, but all blood types are wanted. Only six to seven percent of the population has Type O negative blood, but 100 percent of urgent trauma patients receive it.

Platelet donors are asked to make appointments at the Jackson, Dyersburg or Paris centers. Platelet donors impact local cancer patients.

Lifeline Blood Services is also halfway through its Eighth Annual Car Giveaway, with a 2024 Ford Maverick XLT Truck, donated by Joe Mahan Ford, on the line. The giveaway is open to all donors aged 18 and older and lasts until Labor Day. Lifeline will notify the winner on September 8, 2026.

See if Lifeline Blood Services is making a stop near you this month:

LEXINGTON — Henderson Co. Community Hospital, July 9, 1-6 p.m.

HUMBOLDT — Tennessee State Veterans’ Home, July 10, 12:30-5:30 p.m.

BROWNSVILLE — Tennessee National Guard, July 12, 8 a.m.-12 p.m.

MARTIN — Martin City Hall, July 13, 10:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

SELMER — Selmer Court-

house, July 13, 12-6 p.m.

RIPLEY — Walmart, July 13, 1-6 p.m.

CORINTH — Magnolia Regional Health Center, July 15, 7-11:30 a.m.; 12-4 p.m.

HUNTINGDON — Huntingdon Health and Rehab, July 16, 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

HUNTINGDON — First Baptist Church, July 16, 3-6 p.m.

PARSONS — Parsons Library, July 17, 11:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

CAMDEN — Cash Savers, July 17, 1-6 p.m.

PARIS — Joe Mahan Ford, July 17, 1-6 p.m.

ERIN — McGlashing Piggly Wiggly, July 20, 12-5 p.m.

KENTON — Hay’s Family Grocery, July 20, 12:30-5:30 p.m.

DRESDEN — Southside Church of Christ, July 20, 1-6 p.m.

RIPLEY — TCAT, July 21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

COVINGTON — TCAT, July 21, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

BELLS — Bells Nursing and Rehab, July 21, 12-5 p.m.

UNION CITY — TCAT, July 22, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

SHILOH — Shiloh National Military Park, July 22, 12-4 p.m.

SOUTH FULTON — South Fulton Baptist Church, July 22, 2-6 p.m.

TRENTON — Food Rite (Armory Street), July 23, 12:30-5:30 p.m.

SAVANNAH — Savannah

Nursing and Rehab, July 23, 2-6 p.m.

LEXINGTON — TCAT, July 24, 9 a.m.-1 p.m.

BOLIVAR — CB&S Bank, July 24, 12-5 p.m.

JACKSON — Lowe’s (Vann Drive), July 25, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

HENDERSON — Piggly Wiggly, July 27, 12-6 p.m.

GREENFIELD — Tate’s Family Foods, July 27, 12-5 p.m.

UNION CITY — E.W. James & Sons, July 27, 1-7 p.m.

JACKSON — West TN Healthcare Sportsplex, July 28, 9-11 a.m.

MILAN — Milan General Hospital, July 28, 12:30-5:30 p.m.

JACKSON — Northbrooke Post Acute, July 28, 1-4 p.m.

SELMER — Food Giant, July 28, 2-5:30 p.m.

JACKSON — Jackson Madison Co. General Hospital, July 29, 9-11:30 a.m.; 12-5 p.m.

DECATURVILLE — Decaturville Pentecostal Church, July 29, 2:30-6:30 p.m.

McKENZIE — Cherrywood Post Acute, July 30, 12-5 p.m.

HUNTINGDON — Baptist Memorial Hospital, July 30, 1-5 p.m.

DRESDEN — First Community Bank, July 31, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

MARTIN — First Community Bank, July 31, 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

MIDDLETON — Centennial Bank, July 31, 12-5 p.m.

Local Residents Receive Degrees from UT Martin

MARTIN — Several Carroll County residents were among students who received degrees from the University of Tennessee at Martin during spring commencement ceremonies held May 2, 2026, on the UT Martin campus.

The students receiving undergraduate degrees were:

Atwood — Angus Oliver

McCoy; Anessa Rose Higgs; Erin L. Norman; Paul Lucas Moore; Buena Vista — Lucy Jean Heuring; Cedar Grove — Noah B. Hickman; Hollow Rock — Nevaeh Sky Davis; Huntingdon — Brayden Isaac Bales; Kaley Pearson; Emma G Ross; Hannah Katherine King; Natalie Anne Taylor; Lauren Grace Colvett; Ellia Grace Lewis; Car-

ter Benton Cary; Jacob William Sullivan; McKenzie — Andra Grace Herrin; Connor Moore Viana; Sierra Paige Tyler; Clara Irene Kallaos; Trezevant — Bonnie E. Nance.; Yuma — Sarah Caruthers Pope; The students receiving graduate degrees were; Huntingdon — Alli Reeves Dale; McKenzie — Ashlyn Nicole Drewry.

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Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.



Obituaries

PHILIP EDWARDS
1930 – 2026

MCKENZIE — Philip Neal Edwards, 96, died on July 9, 2026, at Collierville Baptist Hospice House.

A graveside service was at Carroll County Memorial Gardens on July 14, 2026, at 12:30 p.m.

Mr. Edwards was born on April 23, 1930, in McKenzie, to the late Frank and Mary Edwards.

On August 19, 1951, he married the love of his life, Frances Edwards. Together they shared 71 wonderful years of marriage, building a life centered on faith, family, and unwavering devotion to one another.

He is survived by his two sons, Steven Neal (Donna) Edwards of Collierville, Tenn., and David (Susan) Edwards of Bartlett, Tenn.; six grandchildren; and twelve great-grandchildren.

LINDA SUE
BRINKMAN
1946 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Linda Sue Brinkman, 80, of Huntingdon died Saturday, July 4, 2026, at Jackson Madison County General Hospital.

Funeral Services were Saturday, July 11, 2026, at 1:30 p.m. at Richard's, Raff & Dunbar Funeral Home, 838 E High Street, Springfield, Ohio, followed by burial at Fern-Cliff Cemetery.

Mrs. Brinkman was born on May 31, 1946, in Springfield, Ohio, to the late Paul and Kathryn Kriegbaum, and was survived by her sister, Carol Reeves; children, Sara (Tim) Toma, Paul (Jennifer) Brinkman, and Todd Brinkman; and 11 grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

PETE HARGROVE
1940 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mr. Walter "Pete" Hargrove, 85, of Buena Vista, died Sunday, July 5, 2026, at Baptist Hospital in Huntingdon.

Funeral services were Thursday, July 9, 2026, at 2 p.m. in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home. Burial was in Pleasant Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Hargrove was born on August 24, 1940, to the late Jessie and Claudean (Walker) Hargrove.

He was preceded in death by four brothers, Paul Raymond Hargrove, William Hargrove, Jessie Hargrove Jr., James Hargrove; and a sister, Lou Hicks.

He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Flora

Hargrove; two sons, Randy Hargrove of Buena Vista and Rodney Hargrove (Cindy) of Bruce-ton; a sister, Blondell Allen (Donnie) of Camden; four Brothers, George Hargrove (Reba) of Nashville, Sam Hargrove (Linda) of Camden, Danny Hargrove (Louise) of Hol-low Rock, and Wayne Har-grove of Memphis; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

ELMER MANESS
1955 – 2026

WESTPORT — Mr. Elmer Lee Maness, 81, of Westport, Tenn., died Friday, June 19, 2026, at his home.

Funeral services were in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home on Satur-day, June 27. Burial was in Mt. Comfort Cemetery in Westport.

Mr. Maness was born on November 2, 1944, in Lexington, Tenn.

He is survived by his wife, Felicidad Maness; and a son, Cody Lee Maness.

NANCY PEARL
MOORE
1965 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Ms. Nancy Pearl Moore, 60, of Huntingdon, died Satur-day, July 4, 2026, at Baptist Memorial Hospital.

All services are with family only.

Nancy was born Octo-ber 10, 1965, to the late Thomas Moore and Fannie Moore. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her brother, Jimmy Webb.

She is survived by Tim (Meredith) Weath-ers of Huntingdon; two sisters, Rose Montgom-ery of Huntingdon, and Shirley (Wallace) Cun-ningham of Milan; three brothers, Mark Moore of Huntingdon, James Moore of Huntingdon, and Tyler (Debbie) Moore of McKenzie; and three grandchildren.

SUSANA MARIA
REYNOLDS
1946 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Susana Barrientoz Maria Reynolds, 80, of Hunting-don, died Tuesday, July 7, 2026, at her home.

Funeral services were Saturday, July 11, 2026, at 11 a.m. in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home with Bro. James Moore offici-ating. Burial followed in Liberty Cemetery.

She was born May 24, 1946, in Harlingen, Texas, to the late Fabian Barri-entoz and Juliana Rivera Barrientoz. She was also preceded in death by her husband, Leon Reynolds; a son, Victor Flores; two daughters, Josefina Rivera

and Vickie Galvan; and two grandchildren, Al-exander Flores and baby Santana.

She is survived by three daughters, Cathy Cun-ningham of Huntingdon, Gracie Newbill (Ricky) of Wingo, Tenn., and Debbie Lynn Reynolds of Lexing-ton; a son-in-law, Paul Ri-vera; three sisters, Maggie Barrientoz, of Arcadia, Fla., Maria Barrientoz, of Zolfo Springs, Fla., and Beatriz Gillian, of St. Cloud, Fla.; two broth-ers, Vincent Barrientoz, of Albertsville, Ala., and Fabian Barrientoz Jr., of Alamo Gordo, N.M. She also leaves seven grand-children and twelve great-grandchildren.

DOROTHY MAY
RUSHING
1945 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Dorothy May Rushing, 81, of Huntingdon, died Sat-urday, July 4, 2026, at her home.

Funeral services were Wednesday, July 8, 2026, in the Chapel of Dilday-Car-ter Funeral Home. Inter-ment was at Carroll Me-morial Gardens.

Dorothy was born March 30, 1945, to the late Charles Wyatt and Callie Ellison Wyatt. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by one grandchild, Jeremy Hill; three brothers, Freeman Wyatt, Maurice Wyatt and Jack Wyatt; and two sisters, Inez Haynes and Louise Broach.

She leaves behind her husband, Joe How-ard Rushing; two sons, Martin Joe Rushing of Huntingdon, and John Randall (Genetta) Rush-ing of Huntingdon; five grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Dilday-Carter Funeral Home is in charge of ar-rangements, 731-986-8281.

JEFF BARKER, JR.
1949 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mr. Jeff "Bud" Barker Jr., 76, of Huntingdon, died Fri-day, July 10, 2026, at NHC Healthcare.

Mr. Barker was born July 30, 1949, to the late Jeff Barker and Cecil Newbill Barker.

He is survived by one daughter, Miranda Hat-field of Milan; three sis-ters, Jane (Bill) Hollow-ell of Bruceton, Delois Smothers of Bruceton, and Nancy Roberts of Three Way, Tenn.; one brother, Jim (Judy) Bark-er of Huntingdon; two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Dilday-Carter Funeral Home is in charge of ar-rangements, 731-986-8281.

Community to Honor Life of Carter Allison at Thursday Memorial Service

PARIS — The Henry County community is in mourning following the tragic loss of 17-year-old Carter Brookes Allison, who died in a two-vehicle acci-dent on Monday, July 6. A service celebrating his life is Thursday, July 16, at the Henry County Fairgrounds.

The memorial, held from 5–7 p.m., invites family, friends and the many com-munity members touched by Carter's kindness to gather and honor a young man described as a "beacon of light and joy."

A rising senior at Henry County High School, Carter was a familiar face in the local community through both his school spirit and his dedicated work ethic. He was a committed mem-ber of the Henry County High School Bass Team and the Tennessee Valley Bass Team, reflecting a life-long love for the outdoors. During the school year, he worked as a farm hand at Wilson Farms, and he spent his summers working at Paris BPU.

Those close to Carter re-member him not just for his skills on the water or his hard work on the farm, but for a wisdom that exceeded his years and a smile that could brighten any room. An avid fisherman who never met a stranger, Carter was often found in a duck blind or on the water with his brothers and friends.

Carter is survived by his parents, Jake and Katelynne Allison; his brothers, Mad-den, Knox, and Wade; and his grandparents, Jerry and Sheri Carter and Tracey Al-lison. He was a member of the Tennessee Valley Com-munity Church.

OBITUARY FOR CARTER
BROOKES ALLISON

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Carter Brookes Allison, who died on July 6, 2026, at the tender age of 17. Born on October 22, 2008, in Paris, Tenn., Carter was a beacon of light and joy to everyone who had the privilege to know him.

Carter was the son of Jake and Katelynne Allison; brother to Madden, Knox, and Wade Allison; grand-parents Jerry and Sheri Car-ter and Tracey Allison. He was preparing to embark on his senior year at Henry County High School. His love for the outdoors was evident in his commitment to the Henry County High School Bass team, where he showcased his skills as an avid fisherman, a pas-sion he also pursued with the Tennessee Valley Bass Team.

Carter's work ethic was remarkable for someone so young. He spent his school days working as a farm hand at Wilson Farms,



Carter Brookes Allison

and during the summer, he took on a part-time role with BPU. Whether on the farm, on the water, Carter's smile was always ready to brighten the day of those around him.

Those who knew Carter will remember him for his quick wit and contagious smile. He had a unique gift for making everyone feel welcome and valued, and his wisdom was far beyond his years. Carter never met a stranger, and his kindness and friendship touched countless lives. When he wasn't working, he found solace on the water, fishing, or in the duck blind with his brother and friends. Above all, he loved spending time with his family and friends.

Carter also attended Ten-nessee Valley Communi-

ty Church, where his faith and love for others were nurtured.

A service celebrating Carter's life will be held on July 16, 2026, 5–7 p.m. at the Henry County Fair-grounds. His family, friends and all who had the joy of knowing him are invited to gather and honor the extraordinary young man who brought so much joy to the world.

As we mourn the pro-found loss of Carter, we find solace in knowing that Car-ter is in peace in Heaven. Carter's legacy of kindness, laughter and love will for-ever remain in our hearts, and his spirit will continue to inspire us all.

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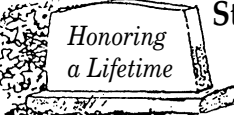
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Gasoline Prices Increase During Week

TENNESSEE (July 13) — Average gasoline prices in Tennessee increased 13.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.47/g today, according to Gas-Buddy's survey of 3,821 stations in Tennessee. Prices in Tennessee are 12.9 cents per gallon lower than a month ago and stand 69.6 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased 9.6 cents compared to a week ago and stands at \$4.854 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Tennessee was priced at \$2.89/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$4.39/g, a difference of \$1.50/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$2.89/g while the highest was \$4.39/g, a difference of \$1.50/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 10.3 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.82/g today. The national average is down 21.2 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 71.0 cents per gallon higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

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

July 13, 2025: \$2.77/g (U.S. Average: \$3.11/g)
July 13, 2024: \$3.09/g (U.S. Average: \$3.51/g)
July 13, 2023: \$3.08/g (U.S. Average: \$3.53/g)
July 13, 2022: \$4.21/g (U.S. Average: \$4.61/g)
July 13, 2021: \$2.85/g

(U.S. Average: \$3.14/g)

"The national average price of gasoline has seen its first weekly increase since May 11, snapping a streak of eight straight weekly declines, with prices climbing in nearly four out of five states," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. "The turnaround comes as oil prices have surged following the collapse of the ceasefire between the U.S. and Iran and the start of new attacks, with oil jumping another 4% in Sunday evening trading, an ominous sign that could bring additional gas and diesel price increases in the week ahead. While the pace of increases doesn't yet appear likely to match what motorists experienced in March and April, fresh Ukrainian attacks on ad-

ditional Russian refineries will only add to the pressure, keeping supplies of refined products tight even as the situation remains fluid."

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MOANA (PG)

Tues. 4:25 (3D) • 7:25
Wed. 1:25 • 4:25 (3D) • 7:25
Thurs. 4:25 (3D) • 7:25

EVIL DEAD BURN (R)

Tues. 4:35 • 7:35
Wed. 1:35 • 4:35 • 7:35
Thurs. 4:35 • 7:35

MINIONS AND MONSTERS (PG)

Tues. 4:25 (3D) • 7:25
Wed. 1:25 • 4:25 (3D) • 7:25
Thurs. 4:25 (3D) • 7:25

YOUNG WASHINGTON (PG-13)

Tues. 4:35 • 7:35
Wed. 1:35 • 4:35 • 7:35
Thurs. 4:35 • 7:35

TOY STORY 5 (PG)

Tues. 4:30 (3D) • 7:30
Wed. 1:30 • 4:30 (3D) • 7:30
Thurs. 4:30 (3D) • 7:30

SUPERGIRL (PG-13)

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

25

4

17

1

FREE BACK-TO-SCHOOL CLOTHES, HAIRCUTS

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

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL AT MCKENZIE

Students at McKenzie Special School District have their first day on Tuesday, August 4, 2026.

MCKENZIE ALUMNI ASSOCIATION DECADES REUNION

Plans are underway for the third annual MHSAA Decades Reunion weekend on September 25-26. All MHS alumni are invited to return to McKenzie to reconnect with friends, classmates, and former teachers through many reunions and other planned

events. Updates on the upcoming weekend will be on the alumni association's Facebook site and in The McKenzie Banner. For more information, email mckenziehsalumni.tn@gmail.com.

CARROLL COUNTY AMERICA'S 250TH CELEBRATION

Saturday, July 18, at the Carroll County Courthouse, 9 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.; Children's Parade - 9 a.m.; Homemade Apple Pie Contest, Patriotic Program at 9:30; plus hot dog eating contest along with fun and games.

HUNTINGDON BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

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

ALA UNIT 47 FAMILY DANCE NIGHT

The American Legion Auxiliary Unit 47 hosts a Family Dance Night every Thursday night from 7-9 p.m. at the Carroll County Civic Center, 201 Fairgrounds Rd, Huntingdon. A different band is featured

each week. All are welcome - singles and/or partners. Admission is \$8. Limited snacks and refreshments available for purchase. For the band schedule, check out our Facebook page: American Legion Auxiliary, Huntingdon, TN Unit 47.

MCKENZIE FARMER'S MARKET

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

THE BREAKFAST CLUB AT HOMETOWN HEALTH CLINIC

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

MCKENZIE TOPS MEETS WEEKLY

Win over weight with support and encouragement by meeting with the

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

CARROLL COMMISSION MEETS MONTHLY

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

CARROLL COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEETS MONTHLY

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

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.

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 amyricher58@gmail.com or Marsha Spain Smith at smithmarsha99@yahoo.com. Deadline for registration is August 31.

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.

Carroll County to Host America 250 Celebration on July 18

CARROLL COUNTY — Residents are invited to mark their calendars for a special America 250 celebration, is Saturday, July 18, 2026, at the Carroll County Courthouse.

The event begins at 9 a.m. with a short patriotic program, followed immediately by a children's parade. The festivities continue throughout the morning with a variety of family-friendly games

and activities, wrapping up at 11:30 a.m.

Organizers have announced two key contests highlighting American traditions:

• **Homemade Apple Pie Contest:** Participants should drop off their entries by 8:45 a.m. in front of the Mudslingers. Entries must feature 100 percent apple filling; tarts, cheesecakes, and fried pies will not be

accepted. Judging will evaluate the pie's overall appearance, crust, and filling.

• **Hot Dog Eating Contest:** Kicking off shortly after the opening program, this contest challenges participants to be the fastest to finish 10 hot dogs. Pre-registration is required; those interested can register by contacting the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce at 731-986-4664.

Tennessee Sales Tax Holiday is July 31-August 2

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

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

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

Items sold online are also eligible.

CLOTHING

Exempt: General apparel that costs \$100 or less per

item, such as shirts, pants, socks, shoes, dresses, etc.

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

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

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

Not exempt: School and art supplies individually priced at more than \$100 (items that are normally sold together cannot be split up to stay beneath the \$100 maximum).

COMPUTERS

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

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

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

Clarksburg School Welcomes Renee Maynard as New Elementary Principal

CLARKSBURG (July 7) — Renee Maynard is the new Clarksburg Elementary principal, the South Carroll Special School District announced Tuesday.

Maynard brings 32 years of experience in education and a proven record of leading a successful PK-8 school, according to the school district.

"It is both an honor and a privilege to join the Clarksburg School family as the new Elementary Principal," Maynard said. "I firmly believe that a quality education opens doors and provides the foundation for lifelong success. When students know they are loved, supported and believed in, they are empowered to achieve great things."

Maynard expressed her excitement to partner with parents and the Clarksburg community while celebrating student success-



Renee Maynard. Courtesy Clarksburg School

es, overcoming challenges and building a school culture where everyone feels welcomed, respected and valued.

Clarksburg School enters

a new chapter this school year with the creation of two distinct academic communities: a PK-8 division and a high school division. This new structure is designed to provide a unified, focused learning environment that supports the unique needs of students at every stage of their educational journey.

"I am excited to welcome Mrs. Maynard to our leadership team," said South Carroll Special School District Director of Schools Dr. Lisa Norris. "Her experience, dedication to instructional excellence, and commitment to students, teachers, and families make her an outstanding addition to Clarksburg School. We look forward to the positive impact she will have as we continue building on the strong traditions of 'The 'Burg' while preparing every student for a bright and successful future."

THANK YOU

We appreciate your support.

the

West Carroll 3-2-1 Update

Three Highlights • Two Quotes • One Challenge

Summer is moving quickly, and June brought some good news worth passing along.

3-Highlights from Across the District

- **Erin Lewis Selected for WestTeach Class of 2026:** WCHS teacher, Ms. Erin Lewis, has been selected for the WestTeach Class of 2026 through UT Martin's WestStar Leadership Program. Ms. Lewis is one of 16 teachers chosen this year. The cohort meets throughout the fall and graduates in December. Congratulations, Ms. Lewis.
- **Beta District of Distinction:** WCSSD has been named a 2026 National Beta District of Distinction. Nationally, only 96 districts earned this distinction, out of thousands across the country.
- **\$750,000 Renovation Underway at WCES:** Safety updates, including updated windows, doors, and an entry vestibule are being installed at West Carroll Elementary as part of a \$750,000 district-funded project, expected to finish in the first semester of 2026-27. We will share updates as work moves forward.

2 Quotes from Our Leaders

"When one of our teachers is selected for WestTeach, the whole district benefits. Ms. Lewis is an outstanding educator, and I could not be more proud to have her representing West Carroll on that stage." – **Dr. Adam Douglas**, Principal, WCHS

"Our schools are the heart of this community. The improvements at West Carroll Elementary are about making sure every child arrives at a school that is safe and ready for the future." – **William Robinson**, WCSSD BoE Chairman

1 Challenge for Our Community

If you or someone you know is still weighing school options for this year, now is a good time to take a closer look. Small classes. Personal attention. A wide range of programs. **Call 731-662-4200 to learn more.**

At WCSSD, every child deserves to be known, supported, and prepared for life after graduation. Thank you for your continued partnership. Our next board meeting is **August 4th**. I hope to see you there.

Preston Caldwell
wcssd.com/321

July 2026



A3150228-1

Phipps Pharmacy Acquires Suzanne’s Pharmacy in Martin

MARTIN (June 30) — Suzanne’s Pharmacy in Martin has joined the Phipps Pharmacy family, the West Tennessee-based chain announced on June 30. Despite a change in name, Suzanne’s will continue its strong tradition of hometown service while expanding access to the clinical care, convenience and patient-focused programs Phipps Pharmacy is known for across Tennessee.

McKenzie’s Dr. Jay Phipps, president and CEO of Phipps Pharmacy, said the acquisition represents an exciting opportunity to serve the Martin community while honoring the legacy Suzanne’s Pharmacy has built with its patients.

“Phipps Pharmacy is excited to welcome the patients and the entire team of Suzanne’s Pharmacy into the Phipps Pharmacy family,” said Dr. Phipps. “We have tremendous respect for the relationships this pharma-



cy has built in Martin, and our goal is to continue that trusted hometown care while bringing additional services, support and innovation to the community.”

Phipps Pharmacy has served West Tennessee for

more than 25 years and is known for combining traditional community pharmacy values with expanded healthcare services. In addition to prescription services, Phipps Pharmacy offers programs such as medication synchro-

nization, compliance packaging through PhippsPack, immunizations, clinical testing, medication consultations, wellness services and personalized patient care.

Patients of Suzanne’s Pharmacy can expect a smooth

transition with continued commitment to personal service, trusted pharmacy care and convenient access to medications, Phipps Pharmacy assured.

“We believe independent pharmacy is about more

than filling prescriptions,” said Dr. Phipps. “It is about relationships, trust, accessibility and being there for people when they need care. That is exactly what we plan to continue in Martin.”

Phipps Pharmacy serves patients throughout Middle and West Tennessee and remains committed to strengthening access to locally owned, community-based healthcare.

Phipps Pharmacy is an independently-owned community pharmacy group with locations in Huntingdon, Jackson, Martin, McKenzie and Waverly, Tenn. Founded on a commitment to personal service, clinical care and community involvement, Phipps Pharmacy provides prescription services, medication packaging, delivery options, immunizations, clinical testing, wellness services and patient-centered pharmacy care.



Twenty-four children from Carroll County completed Creativity Camp this year. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Creativity Camp Concludes with Showcase

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (July 10) — Carroll Arts concluded Creativity Camp on Friday at First Cumberland Presbyterian Church with a final showcase for students to present their week’s creations to their loved ones. Twenty-four students received “Creativity Diplomas” for their completion of the camp.

Each day throughout the week of July 6-10, students separated into their respective age groups and rotated between four different classrooms to learn about art, music, drama and creative writing.

This year’s camp instructors were McKenzie Elementary music teacher Joanna Turner, Clarksburg art teacher Leann Edwards, and retired teachers Marlene Kreuter, Denise Sam and Glynda Rich.

Leann Edwards taught art by challenging students to design their own “win-

dow panes.” Students created four-panel windows out of construction paper and drew their favorite things in each of the panels.

Glynda Rich and Denise Sam taught each age group different elements of theatrical acting.

Pre-K through second-grade students learned to act using body language. In the final performance, these students mirrored each other’s body language, in a practice Sam said was inspired by an episode of “I Love Lucy.”

Third- and fourth-grade students wrote and performed their own play, “The Princess and the Crown.” The final group (middle school students) performed a scene from “The Wizard of Oz.”

Marlene Kreuter taught creative writing to each group. She gave students different writing prompts throughout the week. The youngest group was a challenge, she said, since they were only learning to read

and write. She taught them how to tell stories through drawings.

“You learn a lot about these kids,” Kreuter said, while prompting the students to read their stories to the audience.

Joanna Turner, music teacher at McKenzie Elementary School, led the students in a musical presentation of rain-themed songs. Using instruments borrowed from McKenzie Elementary School, the students played ukuleles, rainsticks, rhythm sticks, drums and more. Turner combined all of the age groups for the final presentation because she said, “Music is much more fun when played together.”

Following the conclusion of the presentations, each child received a “Creativity Diploma.”

Carroll Arts has hosted Creativity Camp for over two decades, instilling a love for art and creativity in the hearts of local children.

MHS Hosts Volleyball Camp

The McKenzie High School Volleyball Team is hosting a summer volleyball camp for female students in third to eighth grade during the 2026-27 school year. The three-year camp is July 20 to July 22,

9 a.m. to noon. The cost is \$50, which includes a camp t-shirt.

The camp is hosted by the MHS Volleyball coaching staff and the members of the ‘26-’27 MHS team. Fundamentals will be

taught including passing, setting, hitting, serving, footwork, agility, communication and teamwork.

For more information, contact Coach Jordan Jowers at 731-352-2133 or jowersj@mckenziebanners.org.



Bethel Expands Access to Nursing with Two New Paths

COURTESY BETHEL UNIVERSITY

MCKENZIE — Bethel University is opening two new doors into its Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) program: Direct Entry admission for first-year and transfer students, and a dedicated LPN to BSN pathway for working nurses.

The expansion comes as Tennessee faces a serious nursing shortage, with the Tennessee Hospital Association projecting a statewide shortfall of more than 8,500 registered nurses by 2035.

Together, the two programs remove barriers to a nursing degree at both ends of the pipeline, letting incoming students start nursing coursework on day one and letting licensed practical nurses build on the experience they already have, without pausing their careers to do it.

“Tennessee needs nurses, and Bethel is answering that call from both directions,” said Bethel University President Dr. Perry Moulds. “We are welcoming students into the profession earlier and helping the nurses already serving our communities go further. That is what it means to equip individuals for a life of service.”

Direct Entry: A Clear Path from Day One

Traditional nursing admissions require students to gain general university acceptance, complete prerequisite coursework and then apply for a seat in the nursing program itself, often with no guarantee of admission. That uncertainty pushes some qualified students out of nursing entirely.

Bethel’s Direct Entry pathway removes that second gate. Students who meet the published entry criteria are admitted straight into the nursing program their first semester, with no

separate application, no prerequisite coursework and no competitive seat allocation. The new pathway places Bethel among a small number of Tennessee universities offering direct entry to nursing.

Students admitted through Direct Entry are also eligible for Bethel’s academic merit scholarships.

“Direct Entry means we are telling students something powerful the moment they choose Bethel: we believe in you,” said Interim Provost Joe Hames. “You do not have to prove yourself twice. We are ready to walk this journey with you from the very first day of class.”

LPN to BSN: A Path Built Around Working Nurses

For LPNs already in the field, Bethel offers a different kind of direct route to the BSN, and what sets it apart is where students can start. While many LPN to BSN pathways require an associate degree or transferred college credits before enrollment, Bethel students can begin with only their LPN license and no prior college coursework, completing general education, prerequisites and the nursing major in one continuous path to a four-year degree.

The program is hybrid: coursework is mostly online, with on-campus intensives for hands-on learning, and clinical hours completed in the student’s own community, so LPNs don’t need to relocate. Tuition is \$400 per credit hour, and the program admits one cohort per year, starting each fall. Full admission requirements are available on the LPN to BSN website.

“This pathway allows students to continue progressing professionally while developing the knowledge, leadership and clinical judgment necessary to provide excellent patient care.

LPNs bring something to the classroom you cannot teach,” said Ashley Johnson, interim director of the nursing program. Johnson added, “Real experience caring for real patients.”

Proven Outcomes, One Standard

Both pathways lead to the same degree from the same program. Bethel’s BSN is accredited by the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) and maintains a 7:1 student-to-faculty ratio, an 89 percent first-time NCLEX-RN pass rate in 2025 with a five-year average of 92 percent, and a 100 percent employment rate among graduates seeking employment. Students train in a dedicated nursing building with a simulation lab open 24/7, and clinical placements include partners such as Le Bonheur Children’s Hospital and St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

“In our nursing program, you are not a number; you are known,” said Delecia Parker, interim dean of the College of Health Sciences. “Our faculty walk alongside students through every challenge, every clinical rotation, every breakthrough. That kind of relationship changes how students learn and who they become as nurses.”

Whether students arrive as incoming freshmen through Direct Entry or as working LPNs, both routes open the same opportunities beyond the BSN, including advanced practice roles like nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist and nurse educator. Nursing remains one of the most in-demand careers in the country, and Bethel is positioning itself to meet that need from both directions: fewer gates, clearer paths and a nursing education that meets students exactly where they are.

Unemployment Rate Holds Steady in May

NASHVILLE — New data from the Tennessee Department of Labor and Workforce Development (TDLWD) shows strong job market performance across the state in May, with 94 of Tennessee’s 95 counties reporting unemployment rates below 5%.

In 69 counties, unemployment rates decreased from April to May. Rates remained the same in 18 counties and increased in eight counties.

Williamson County reported the state’s lowest unemployment rate for May at 2.4%, down three-tenths of a percentage point from the previous month.

Three counties — Cheatham, Dickson, and

Knox — followed with rates of 2.5%.

Sevier, Wilson, Rutherford, Sumner, Macon, and Blount counties rounded out the list of the lowest unemployment rates for the month. All had rates of 2.6%.

Perry County was the only county whose unemployment rate was above 5% in May. At 5.3%, the rate was the same as last month.

In the tri-counties of Carroll, Henry and Weakley, Carroll reported an unemployment rate of 3.8 percent in May, compared to 3.9 percent one month and one year earlier. From a labor force of 12,243, there were 11,782 employed and 461 unemployed.

Henry County recorded an unemployment rate of 3.8 percent, compared to 4.0 one month earlier, and 3.9 percent one year earlier. From a labor force of 12,877, there were 12,389 employed and 488 unemployed.

Weakley County recorded an unemployment rate of 3.8 percent, compared to 3.8 one month earlier and 3.9 one year earlier. From a labor force of 13,841, there were 13,312 employed and 529 unemployed.

For the fourth month in a row, Tennessee’s statewide unemployment rate was 3.6% in May. Unlike the statewide rate, county rates are not adjusted to account for seasonal impacts on employment.

McKenzie Police Reports

Vandalism — A North Stonewall resident reported vandalism to her kitchen sink and cabinets on June 29.

Officer Daniel Pollard filed a report stating that the resident reported someone entered her home, smashed the kitchen sink and cabinets and poured some kind of white powder down the sink. The victim stated her kitchen pipes are now crooked and loose. The house alarm sounded after a two-minute delay and the person escaped.

Shoplifting — E.W. James and Sons Supermarket reported a shoplifting incident on July 8.

Sergeant Kyle Beauchamp and Patrolman Timothy Dillon responded to the supermarket, where two store associates reported the theft of merchandise.

According to the report, a man and woman entered the store, walked through the store with a shopping cart, and exited without paying for the merchandise. Surveillance cameras captured images of some of the stolen items, but not all. The subjects departed in a black Kia Sorento.

Child Abuse and Neglect — A Oak Street resident was charged with Child Neglect and Abuse on July 9.

Officers Rembert and Beauchamp responded to a situation in which three children under the age of 12 were concerned for their safety after being chased by Autum Curtright of Oak Street, McKenzie. The children left the house and went to a relative's house. The report indicated that Curtright chased the children and she was possibly intoxicated.

Autum Curtright was charged with three counts of Child Neglect/Abuse.

Criminal Trespass — Jannie Leone, no address listed, was charged with Criminal Trespass on July 8.

Officer Michael Cunningham responded to E.W. James Supermarket, where a female had been in the store in violation of an active ban for her to stay off the property. The subject refused to leave and stated she wanted to purchase some milk. The report stated Leone caused a disturbance.

Theft — A 5-foot by 8-foot utility trailer was stolen from a North Main Street address. Matthew Quinn of Puryear stated the lock was cut from the tongue.

Officer Timothy Dillon filed the report.

Leaving the Scene with Damage — Marvin Gaston, Highway 423, McKenzie, was charged with Leaving the Scene with Damage and Driving on a Revoked License on July 8.

A parked car at the Dollar Tree was hit by a driver who then drove away without reporting the incident. Surveillance cameras at the store showed the vehicle and two men entered the vehicle and hit the parked vehicle.

Gaston was identified as the driver. He was cited into General Sessions Court for Leaving the Scene, Driving on a Suspended License, and Violation of Financial Responsibility.

BID NOTICE

McKenzie Special School District

BACK-FLOW PREVENTORS

McKenzie Special School District is seeking bids for Back-Flow Preventors to be installed at McKenzie Middle School, Maintenance Shop, and McKenzie High School Outdoor Classroom. The bid should include associated cost for needed back-flow preventors of appropriate sizes, all needed connections and other materials, all labor for site preparation and back-flow preventor installation, and any other related expenses for the successful completion of the project.

All prospective bidders should contact Bobby Osborn, Maintenance Supervisor, 731-358-9789 or osbornb@mckenziebannerschools.org, for specific project details. All prospective bidders should schedule a visit to each site to review the project and ensure the appropriate back-flow preventors, associated materials, and labor needs (including needed equipment) are included in the submitted bid. Visits can be scheduled through Mr. Osborn.

All bid packages must be submitted to McKenzie Special School District Board of Education office at 114 Bell Ave., McKenzie, TN 38201 by no later than 12 p.m. on Wednesday, July 29, 2026.

McKenzie Special School District is a governmental entity and in such exempt from sales tax. Appropriate documentation can be provided to the successful bidder.

A460/28-1

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IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE CASE NO: 2026PE119

ESTATE OF: IDA JANE THOMAS CHANDLER, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Notice is hereby given that on the 26TH day of JUNE, 2026 Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of IDA JANE THOMAS CHANDLER deceased, who died JUNE 2ND, 2026, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk & Master of Carroll County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required by law to file the same with the Clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

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

This 26TH day of JUNE, 2026.

THIS NOTICE WILL RUN TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

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

VICKIE SUMMERS & THOMAS K. CHANDLER, Executor/Administrator
DWAYNE D. MADDOX III, Attorney
KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master

A561/R27776/27-2

NOTICE OF EARLY VOTING

FEDERAL/STATE PRIMARY AND COUNTY GENERAL ELECTIONS

The Carroll County Election Commission announces EARLY VOTING for the Federal and State Primary and County General Elections with Election Day being August 6, 2026. Any registered voter, in Carroll County, may cast a ballot early by personal appearance at the Election Commission office, 625 High Street, Suite 113, Huntingdon, TN 38344.

State law requires voters to present a Federal or State government issued photo ID to vote, unless an exception applies. College student IDs will not be accepted. This photo ID requirement includes Early Voting and Election Day at your assigned polling place.

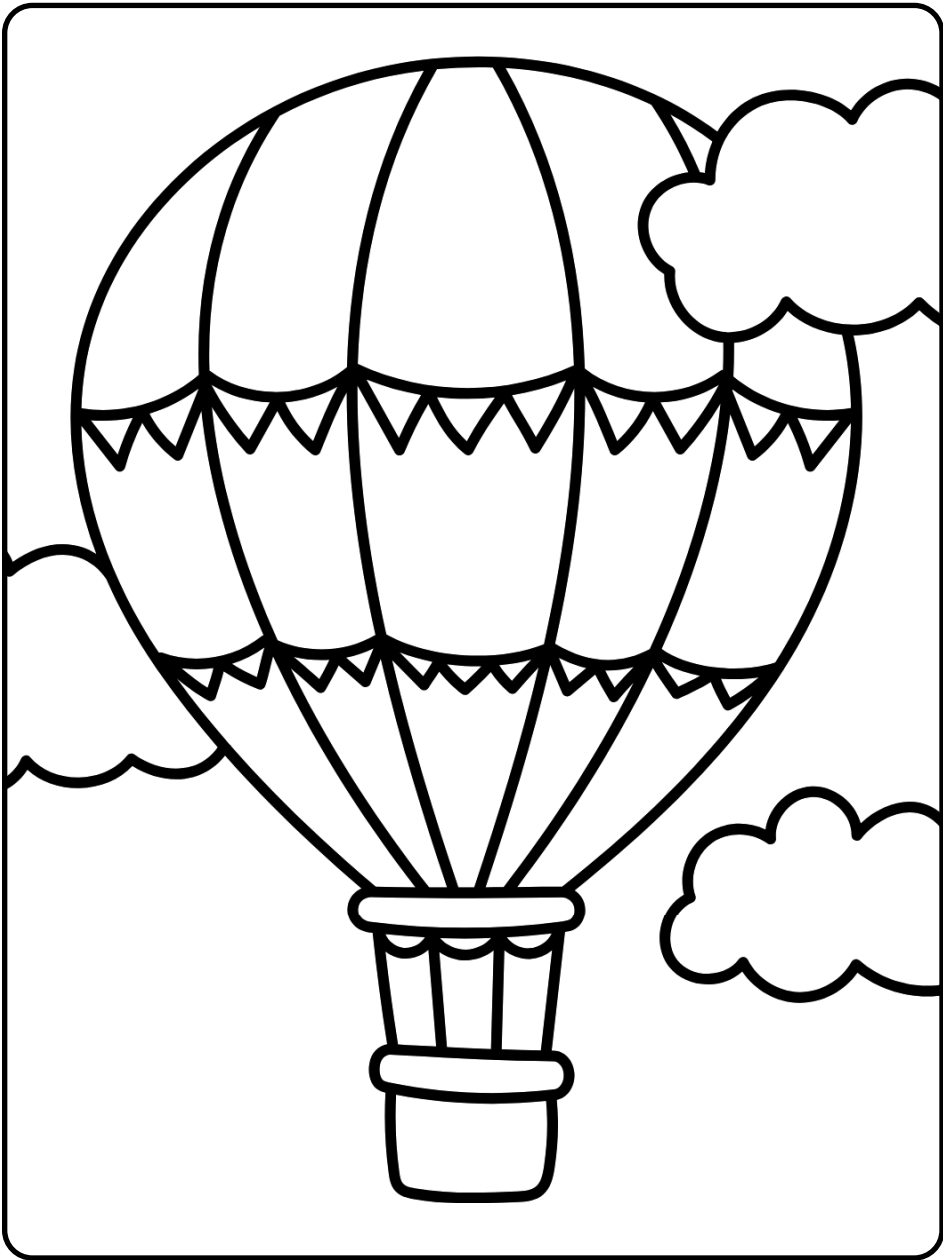
EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE FOR THE AUGUST 6, 2026 ELECTIONS will be July 17 through August 1. Weekday voting will be 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday voting will be 9 a.m.-12 NOON.

The last day for the Election Commission to receive an Absentee Application for Ballot is July 27, 2026. You can find more information about absentee voting on the website: carrollcountytnelections.com or by calling 731-986-1968.

OFFICIAL BALLOT FOR CARROLL COUNTY STATE PRIMARY AND STATE AND COUNTY GENERAL ELECTION HELD ON August 6, 2026			Precinct <i>NEWSPAPER</i>
Please use a black or blue ink pen to mark your ballot. To vote for your choice in each contest, completely fill in the box next to your choice. Carroll County Election Commission Ronald R. Reiter, Chairman Michael Corrado, Secretary Linda Wallace, Member Michael K. Tate, Member Judy D. Alexander, Member Peggy J. Hamlett, Administrator of Elections	COUNTY COMMISSION District 1 Vote for Three (3) ☐ Darrell Ridgely Republican Party Nominee ☐ Jimmy Halford Independent Candidate ☐ Randy Long Independent Candidate Write-in COUNTY COMMISSION District 2 Vote for Two (2) ☐ Daniel Lee Willman Republican Party Nominee ☐ Lana Y. Suite Independent Candidate Write-in COUNTY COMMISSION District 3 Vote for Two (2) ☐ Brandy Boyd Republican Party Nominee ☐ Will McMackin Independent Candidate ☐ Amon Miller Independent Candidate ☐ Dwayne Tordsen Independent Candidate Write-in COUNTY COMMISSION District 4 Vote for Two (2) ☐ Morris L. Rogers Republican Party Nominee Write-in COUNTY COMMISSION District 5 Vote for Three (3) ☐ Jimmy Crossett Republican Party Nominee ☐ Cyril Ostiguy Republican Party Nominee ☐ Paul D. Huguely Independent Candidate ☐ Rakaya Humphreys Independent Candidate ☐ Barry Mac Murphy Independent Candidate ☐ Curt Taylor Independent Candidate ☐ Anna Wheat Independent Candidate Write-in COUNTY COMMISSION District 6 Vote for Two (2) ☐ Madison Boyd Endres Republican Party Nominee ☐ Kurt Hunley Independent Candidate ☐ Jimmy D. McClure Independent Candidate ☐ Philip E Moore Independent Candidate Write-in COUNTY COMMISSION District 7 Vote for Two (2) ☐ Lori Dillahunt Republican Party Nominee ☐ Jimmie Sue Staten Democratic Party Nominee ☐ Lynn Grice Independent Candidate ☐ Walter Smothers Independent Candidate Write-in COUNTY COMMISSION District 8 Vote for Two (2) ☐ Jay Phipps Republican Party Nominee ☐ Willie Huffman Independent Candidate Write-in COUNTY COMMISSION District 9 Vote for Three (3) ☐ Jason R. Martin Independent Candidate ☐ Ricky Price Independent Candidate ☐ Spiridon L. Roditis Independent Candidate Write-in ASSESSOR of PROPERTY Vote for One (1) ☐ John Austin Republican Party Nominee Write-in	COUNTY TRUSTEE Vote for One (1) ☐ Paula Bolen Independent Candidate Write-in SHERIFF Vote for One (1) ☐ Eric W. Sawyers Republican Party Nominee ☐ Michael A. Smith Independent Candidate ☐ Ryan White Independent Candidate Write-in CIRCUIT COURT CLERK Vote for One (1) ☐ Sarah Bradberry Republican Party Nominee Write-in COUNTY CLERK Vote for One (1) ☐ Darlene Kirk Independent Candidate Write-in REGISTER of DEEDS Vote for One (1) ☐ Natalie McCullough Porter Democratic Party Nominee Write-in ROAD SUPERVISOR Vote for One (1) ☐ Ronnie Wade Independent Candidate Write-in CARROLL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD District 1 Vote for One (1) ☐ Mike Foster Independent Candidate Write-in CARROLL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD District 2 Vote for One (1) ☐ Deborah Broadbent Independent Candidate Write-in CARROLL COUNTY SCHOOL BOARD District 3 Vote for One (1) ☐ Charlotte Tucker Independent Candidate Write-in HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 15th District Vote for One (1) ☐ Michael Graves Independent Candidate Write-in HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District Town of Bruceton Vote for One (1) ☐ Brandy Boyd Republican Party Nominee Write-in HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District, At-Large Vote for One (1) ☐ Eric Daniel Gonzalez Republican Party Nominee ☐ April Hampton Independent Candidate Write-in HOLLOW ROCK-BRUCETON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER 16th District Town of Hollow Rock Unexpired Term Vote for One (1) ☐ Johnathan Tedford Independent Candidate Write-in HUNTINGDON SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER At-Large Vote for Two (2) ☐ Morgan Butler Independent Candidate ☐ Shawna Smith Independent Candidate Write-in McKENZIE SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER At-Large Vote for Four (4) ☐ Renee Hobson Independent Candidate ☐ Matthew Lane Independent Candidate ☐ Spiridon L. Roditis Independent Candidate ☐ Brian Keith Stafford Independent Candidate ☐ Brian Winston Independent Candidate Write-in ☐ Write-in ☐ Write-in ☐ Write-in	SOUTH CARROLL SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER At-Large Vote for Two (2) ☐ Keith E. Hollowell Republican Party Nominee ☐ Brian Crum Independent Candidate ☐ Sam Melton Independent Candidate Write-in Write-in WEST CARROLL SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER Old Atwood District Vote for One (1) No Candidate Qualified Write-in WEST CARROLL SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER Old County District Vote for One (1) ☐ Linda Black Independent Candidate Write-in WEST CARROLL SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER Old Trezevant District Vote for One (1) ☐ Kelly M Weaver Independent Candidate Write-in WEST CARROLL SPECIAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBER Old Trezevant District Unexpired Term Vote for One (1) ☐ Paul Mueller Independent Candidate Write-in MUNICIPAL ELECTION City of Clarksburg MAYOR City of Clarksburg Vote for One (1) ☐ Jeff Reed ☐ Howell Wayne Todd Write-in ALDERMAN City of Clarksburg Vote for Two (2) ☐ Barbara A. McClure ☐ Judy Grant Smith Write-in JUDICIAL RETENTION QUESTIONS Supreme Court - At Large Kyle A. Hixson Vote for One (1) Shall Kyle A. Hixson be retained in office as a Judge of the Supreme Court, At Large, or be replaced? ☐ Retain ☐ Replace Supreme Court - At Large Mary L. Wagner Vote for One (1) Shall Mary L. Wagner be retained in office as a Judge of the Supreme Court, At Large, or be replaced? ☐ Retain ☐ Replace Court of Appeals - Eastern Division William E. Phillips II Vote for One (1) Shall William E. Phillips II be retained in office as a Judge of the Court of Appeals, Eastern Division, or be replaced? ☐ Retain ☐ Replace Court of Appeals - Western Division Steve Maroney Vote for One (1) Shall Steve Maroney be retained in office as a Judge of the Court of Appeals, Western Division, or be replaced? ☐ Retain ☐ Replace Court of Appeals - Western Division Valerie L. Smith Vote for One (1) Shall Valerie L. Smith be retained in office as a Judge of the Court of Appeals, Western Division, or be replaced? ☐ Retain ☐ Replace Court of Criminal Appeals - Eastern Division Stacy L. Street Vote for One (1) Shall Stacy L. Street be retained in office as a Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals, Eastern Division, or be replaced? ☐ Retain ☐ Replace Court of Criminal Appeals - Eastern Division Steven W. Sword Vote for One (1) Shall Steven W. Sword be retained in office as a Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals, Eastern Division, or be replaced? ☐ Retain ☐ Replace

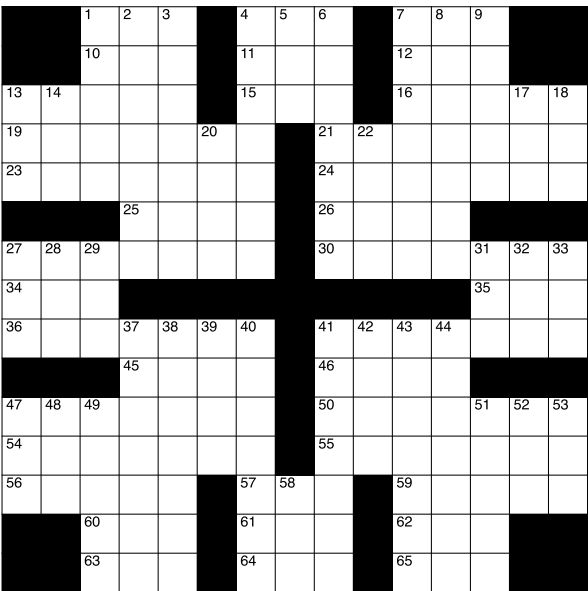
Thank you for your continued support of this newspaper.

Color A Masterpiece



Weekly Crossword

- CLUES ACROSS**
- 1. Tire pressure measurement
 - 4. Request
 - 7. Clairvoyance
 - 10. 007's creator
 - 11. Adult male
 - 12. God of battle (Scandinavian)
 - 13. Cloths spread over a coffin
 - 15. Breeze through
 - 16. Ladyfish genus
 - 19. We all take them
 - 21. Earl's jurisdiction
 - 23. Members of U.S. Navy
 - 24. Rummy-like card game
 - 25. Affected by injury
 - 26. Member of a Semitic people
 - 27. Withdrew from a union
 - 30. Woman's cloak
 - 34. Spanish river
 - 35. Prohibit
 - 36. Something you can take
 - 41. Dish soap brand
 - 45. Ottoman military commanders
 - 46. Ancient Italian-Greek colony
 - 47. Makes somber
 - 50. Discuss again
 - 54. A tool to inject
 - 55. Support
 - 56. Informal term for money
 - 57. Catch doing something wrong
 - 59. Prehistoric people
 - 60. Large African antelope
 - 61. Vehicle
 - 62. Georgia rockers
 - 63. High resolution microscope
 - 64. Pitching statistic



65. Attempt
- CLUES DOWN**
- 1. Indoor plant
 - 2. Marketable
 - 3. Rather
 - 4. Collected
 - 5. A bag-like structure in a plant or animal
 - 6. Irish hip-hop trio
 - 7. Ageless
 - 8. Course requirements
 - 9. Pokes at
 - 13. TV channel
 - 14. They ____
 - 17. Cooking material
 - 18. Investment account
 - 20. Iron-containing compound
 - 22. Swiss river
 - 27. Small coin (French)
 - 28. Electronic countermeasures
 - 29. Taxi
 - 31. Helps little firms
 - 32. Unhappy
 - 33. Midway between northeast and east
 - 37. Glowing
 - 38. Item to be addressed
 - 39. An informal body of friends
 - 40. Intrinsic nature of something
 - 41. Neural structures
 - 42. Brews
 - 43. A place for ships
 - 44. One who sings holiday songs
 - 47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
 - 48. Scottish town
 - 49. The most worthless parts
 - 51. Sticky
 - 52. Put to work
 - 53. Precursor to the EU
 - 58. Retrospective analysis (abbr.)

Week 28

See solution in next week's edition.

At The Grill Word Search

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

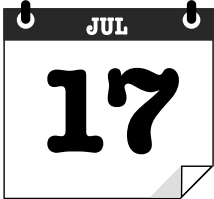
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Burger
Charcoal
Chicken
Delicious

Flame
Flareup
Grate
Heat
Marinade
Propane

Sausages
Sear
Seasoning
Sizzle
Skewers
Smoke

Spatula
Steak
Summer
Temperature
Tongs
Vegetables

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1850: Vega becomes the first star (other than the Sun) to be photographed.

1902: Willis Carrier creates the first air conditioner in Buffalo, NY.

1955: Disneyland is dedicated and opened by Walt Disney in California.

SUDOKU

WEEK 28

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

Level: Intermediate

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 grilling. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 20 = o)

A. 16 14 17 21 2 17 15

Clue: Popular grill food

B. 3 26 23 25 2

Clue: Fire

C. 7 6 23 17 7 20 23 26

Clue: Grill fuel

D. 20 14 22 10 20 20 17 15

Clue: Not in the house

Answers: A. burgers B. flame C. charcoal D. outdoors

LETTER MIX-UP

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

VEGETABLES

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

Riddle Me This

Why did the skeleton go to the barbecue?

Answer: To get some spare - ribs.

WORD SCRAMBLE

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

SBNU

Answer: Burns

GUESS WHO ?

I am an actor born in California on July 18, 1940. I have a son who also is a prominent Hollywood actor. I have been in hit movies and won a Golden Globe and Emmy Award for my role on a TV show about a doctor.

Answer: James Brolin

Peace of Mind.

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PUZZLE SOLUTION

Week 27 Crossword Puzzle Solution

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

SUDOKU SOLUTION WEEK 27

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

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Brody Berryhill Awarded Volunteer Auxiliary Scholarship

MCKENZIE (July 9) — McKenzie High School graduate Brody Berryhill has been awarded a scholarship from the Volunteer Auxiliary at West Tennessee Healthcare Henry County Hospital. The Volunteer Auxiliary raises funds for its annual scholarship program through sales at the hospital's gift shop. Scholarships are awarded to graduating seniors who plan to pursue careers in the healthcare field, supporting the next generation of compassionate medical professionals. Berryhill, the valedictorian of McKenzie High School's class of 2026, will attend the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga this fall, where he plans to major in Biochemistry. His decision to pursue a career in healthcare is deeply personal. After witnessing his father's health decline over an extended period, Berryhill found a calling to make a difference in the lives of others facing medical challenges. That experience inspired him to dedicate his future to caring for those who need it most.

"I realized that healthcare



Brody Berryhill. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

is where I am meant to be," Berryhill said. "Seeing what my family experienced gave me a greater appreciation for the people who care for patients and their families. I want to be able to provide that same level of compassion and support to others." The Volunteer Auxiliary's scholarship program reflects

its ongoing commitment to investing in students who demonstrate academic excellence and a passion for serving others. Through the continued support of the hospital gift shop, the Auxiliary helps deserving students pursue their educational goals and prepare for meaningful careers in healthcare.

Mike Cary Awarded C. P. Boyd Leadership Award



MARTIN (July 7) — Mike Cary (middle) of Carroll County, president and CEO of Carroll Bank & Trust and branch manager of Raymond Jones Financial Services in Huntingdon, received the C. P. Boyd Leadership Award at the WestStar Leadership Program graduation ceremony held June 16. Cary was voted by his WestStar classmates to receive the award because his compassion, leadership and love of West Tennessee exemplified the qualities of Dr. C. P. Boyd, the late Haywood County educator for whom the award is named. Also pictured with Cary is Jake Bynum (left), UT Martin's chief of staff and executive director of the WestStar Leadership Program, and Jennifer Smiley (right), assistant director of the program. Submitted photo



First grade students made colorful crabs, turtles and butterflies while learning about bugs and insects. Submitted photo

WCP Students Stay Engaged With Summer Learning Camp

COURTESY CINDY SMITH, WEST CARROLL SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

McLEMORESVILLE — While many students are enjoying summer break, learning is still going strong at West Carroll Primary School (WCP). Students are staying engaged through hands-on activities that make learning both meaningful and fun. Kindergarten students have been exploring different types of weather. As part of their studies, they created "tornadoes in a bottle" to observe how tornadoes form and designed weather charts that will be used daily to track and discuss changing weather conditions. First grade students have been learning about bugs and insects. They combined creativity with science by making colorful crabs, turtles and butterflies while discussing the characteristics and habitats of various animals and insects. Second grade students



Kindergarten students created "tornadoes in a bottle" to observe how tornadoes form during WCP's Summer Learning Camp. Submitted photo

have been busy studying clocks, plants and dairy animals. Following a unit on dairy farms and how dairy products make their way to our tables, students participated in a hands-on butter-making activity. Using heavy whipping cream, they shook jars until the buttermilk separated from the but-

ter, giving them a firsthand look at a process used in food production. Students also enjoy daily recess, where they build social skills, teamwork and friendships through play. At WCP, summer learning proves that education can be interactive, engaging and most importantly—FUN!

West Carroll FBLA Earns National Silver Champion Chapter Recognition

COURTESY WEST CARROLL SPECIAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (June 29–July 2) — West Carroll High School's Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter recently represented Tennessee at the FBLA National Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Representing West Carroll were Jack Robinson and Caleb Vermillion, who joined thousands of FBLA members from across the country in attending leadership workshops, networking with students and business professionals, and participating in conference activities designed to prepare students for future careers. During the conference, the West Carroll High School FBLA chapter received national recognition as a Silver Level Champion Chapter. The Champion Chapter program recognizes chapters that demonstrate excellence in leadership development, service, membership growth and chapter engagement throughout the school year. "This recognition is the result of a full year's worth of hard work from our entire chapter," said FBLA adviser Erin Lewis. "While Jack and Caleb represented us in San Antonio, this achievement belongs to every West Carroll FBLA member, along



Caleb Vermillion and Jack Robinson represented West Carroll High School at the 2026 FBLA National Leadership Conference in San Antonio, Texas. Submitted photo

with the many people who support our program. From our administration, school board, CTE director, bookkeepers, teachers and parents to our local businesses and community partners, we are grateful for the encouragement and support that made this achievement possible, and I am so proud of this group of students." The Silver Champion Chapter recognition highlights the commitment of West Carroll FBLA members to leadership, service and

career readiness. Throughout the year, members participated in community service projects, leadership conferences, competitive events and chapter activities that helped earn the chapter this national distinction. West Carroll High School congratulates Jack Robinson, Caleb Vermillion and the entire 2025-2026 FBLA chapter on this outstanding achievement and looks forward to another successful year of developing future business leaders.

Spanish Student's US Adventure: From Madrid's Private School to McKenzie

MCKENZIE — For Alejandra Vargas Barragan, a 19-year-old Business Administration major from Madrid, Spain, her journey to Bethel University in McKenzie has been a significant chapter in her life. It's a journey filled with international experiences and a strong commitment to doing her best.

Madrid, a vibrant city of 7 million, is a place Alejandra describes with pride. She paints a picture of a city full of life, with famous landmarks like the Plaza Mayor and Puerta del Sol, and known for its amazing food scene. It's a city she knows well, having lived there her whole life before starting her American adventure. Her childhood was shaped by the pace of a major European capital, very different from the quieter McKenzie. Her decision to study in the U.S. was a long-time dream, driven by a desire for new experiences and academic growth. "I've always wanted to study in the US since I was pretty young," she shares, admitting to a mix of excitement and nervousness as she arrived. Leaving her family and the comfort zone was a big step. "I didn't know anybody here and I didn't know how it was going to be," she admits, feeling a concern about making new connections.

Upon arriving at Bethel, Alejandra found friendships with international students, especially those who spoke her native Spanish. While her English skills, developed through a French-speaking international school and extensive travel, allowed her to communicate, the shared language and culture provided a vital anchor. "It does feel more like home," she explains. Even though the campus itself is not huge, it presented its own initial challenges in navigating, a small obstacle in the larger picture of her adjustment. The cultural differences were noticeable, even though not extreme. The university's religious background added a new aspect to campus life. Dormitories were separated by gender, and specific dress codes, like not being allowed to wear sleeveless shirts in the cafeteria, were initially surprising. However, the biggest change for Alejandra was the different meal



Alejandra Barragan from Madrid is an International Student at Bethel University.

times. She was used to late dinners in Spain, often between 9:30 p.m. and 11 p.m., so the earlier meal schedule in McKenzie, with dinner no later than 7 p.m., was a significant adjustment. Alejandra's journey is closely tied to her passion for tennis. She started playing at age of 7 in Madrid, a sport that demanded significant commitment along with her education. Her schooling was at a private French international school, where subjects like math and history were taught in French. This multilingual environment, combined with her natural ability to learn languages, has undoubtedly helped her settle in. "It's the easiest language to learn," she says of English, a testament to her skills in multiple languages. Being a student-athlete in Spain was demanding. Her school day ran from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., followed by an hour and a half of tennis practice and then studying. This packed schedule left little time for anything else. "They didn't help me at all back then compared to here, where they do help you," she notes, highlighting the big difference in support for student-athletes. Here at Bethel, her schedule feels more manageable. With just one practice session each afternoon and classes conveniently located near her dorm, she can manage her time better. "Teachers understand that you're an athlete and they're more understanding if you're traveling," she notes, appreciating the flexibility for student-athletes. But, the way college tennis works here is quite different from her experience in Spain. Back home, tournaments happened all year round, with lots of in-

dividual matches. Here, the season-based schedule and focus on team play, including doubles, was a surprise. "It's more individual back home, and here it's more about team spirit," she explains, finding real value in the close bonds and support within a team. She especially remembers a winning match she secured for her team during spring break in Alabama. Beyond school and tennis, Alejandra is also a working student, which is new for her. "Did you work during your high school in Spain? No," she says, comparing her past to her current job at the campus cafeteria. It definitely adds to her busy life, but she likes the new independence and being able to help pay for things. Everyday life in McKenzie also took some getting used to. "Here you need a car for everything," she points out, a big change from her walkable life in Madrid. She relies on friends, her coach, and university transport, but the need for her own car is a notable difference. Looking back, Alejandra's view of the world has definitely grown. "You meet so many people from different parts of the world, in different situations. And from that, you learn a lot," she reflects. Living on her own has helped her grow a lot as a person, a change from the more protected life she had with her family in Spain. She believes her ability to speak multiple languages gives her a special way of understanding and connecting with the world. In the end, Alejandra sees herself back in Madrid, showing her strong ties to her home country. While she's open to living and working in the U.S. for a while, her main goal is to contribute to Spain's business world, possibly in marketing or starting her own business. Her advice to her younger self, about to embark on this American adventure, is to be brave and connect with others: "Don't be scared and talk to everyone, don't be afraid. And just try to do everything you can, like go everywhere and just have fun." Her Bethel experience, in her own words, has been "challenging, social, exciting, memorable and rewarding" - a fitting way to describe a journey that's still unfolding!

Wildcats to Open 2026 Football Schedule Against West Tennessee Neighbor

MCKENZIE (July 14) — The 2026 college football season will be here before you know it. The Bethel University Wildcats open their season in 46 days.

The ten-game slate includes five home games with the season opener at home against close neighbor Lane College on August 29. Kick-off in Walter Butler Stadium is at 6 p.m.

An attractive home schedule includes, along with Lane, games against powerhouse Keiser University, old foe Faulkner University, Cumberlands (Ky.) and Campbellsville University.

Three road games find the Wildcats traveling to Georgetown College, Lindsey Wilson University and long-time opponent Cumberland University. Two non-conference road games await the Cats as they travel to Webber University on September 19 and Pikeville on September 26.

Homecoming is October 17 when the Cats host the University of the Cumberlands. Senior Day is October 31 as the Cats play Campbellsville University.

Coach Chris Springer said, “We’re excited about the 2026 season and the opportunities this schedule brings. Our focus is on getting better one day at a time on and off the field. If we stay consistent in our preparation and development, we’ll put ourselves in a great position this fall.”

2026 Schedule

8/29 — Lane College at Walter Butler Stadium at 6 p.m.

9/5 — Bye Week

9/12 — Keiser University at Walter Butler Stadium at 3 p.m.

9/19 — Webber University at Babson Park, Fla. at 12:30 p.m.

9/26 — University of Pikeville at Pikeville, Ky. at 2 p.m.

10/3 — Bye Week

10/10 — Faulkner University at Walter Butler Stadium at 1:30 p.m.

10/17 — Cumberlands (Ky.) at Walter Butler Stadium at 1:30 p.m. (Homecoming)

10/24 — Georgetown College at Georgetown, Ky. at 12:30 p.m.

10/31 — Campbellsville University at Walter Butler Stadium at 1:30 p.m. (Senior Day)

11/7 — Lindsey Wilson University at Columbia, Ky. at 1:30 p.m.

11/14 — Cumberland University at Lebanon, Tenn. at 1:30 p.m.

All times — CST

Watch for season and game previews later at www.bethelathletics.com



Vol State runners enjoyed the hospitality at the aid station at McKenzie’s Farmer’s Market. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Ultramarathon Runners Pass Through Weakley, Carroll County

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (July 9-11) — From Thursday to Saturday, scores of ultramarathon runners crossed through Weakley and Carroll counties as part of an incredible but grueling trek across the Volunteer State.

The Last Annual Vol State Road Race is a 500k (314 mile) trek from Dorena Landing, Missouri to Castle Rock, Georgia. The race begins on Thursday morning each year (despite the “last” in the name) with a ferry trip across the Mississippi. When the ferry docks, the runners are off, and they have ten days to complete the course. This year, 136 stepped off of the ferry.

Along the way, “road angels” make the trip more tolerable, whether it’s a cooler of ice cold water on the side of the road or a veritable oasis such as what McKenzie has offered for the last decade.

For the last 11 years, McKenzie’s Farmer’s Market has become an aid station for weary travelers, stocked with some essentials and temporary comforts such as water, Gatorade, light snacks and cots for sleeping.

Contributing to this year’s effort were Al Everett, Chris and Jennifer Nelson, Richard Ozment, Todd Walker and Jay Camp.

Delayed by periods of intense rain and wind on

Thursday, the first of the runners began arriving in McKenzie late Thursday night. The bulk of runners passed through on Friday, and stragglers (at risk of being paced out of the race) trickled in early Saturday.

Many maintain somewhat normal hours, sleeping at night, but many choose to run more in the cooler nights and sleep and rest during the hottest part of the day.

Although the ranks of the runners include people from all over the world and of all ages (this year ranging from 17 to 86), you’d never know from the scene at the McKenzie aid station. Any combination gathered at a given moment seems like a group of old friends. The same is true for the road angels and other curious locals posted at the Farmer’s Market when runners stop to take a break.

Late Friday morning, The Banner spoke to Jonathan Garrett, a 40-year-old

teacher from East Tennessee running the Vol State for the second time. Last year, he finished in eight days and 21 hours.

Garrett has been running ultramarathons for about six years, but the Vol State is the only race on his resume longer than 100 miles.

The Bradley Central High School math and psychology teacher says when his students learn of his hobby, they either think it’s “pretty cool” or that he’s making it up.

Garrett says he runs because he likes the challenge, and he likes the camaraderie, calling everyone involved “a great group of people.”

He added, “The road angels show off how awesome the people of Tennessee are.”

As of Monday morning, lead runner Addison Hendricks was just 12 miles from the finish, Garrett was just beyond the halfway point, and 30 runners had called it quits.



Vol State runner Jonathan Garrett (center), a teacher from East Tennessee, visits the McKenzie Farmer’s Market aid station and “road angels” Chris Nelson (left) and Al Everett. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Townes Receives McLean-Pedersen Scholarship

PARIS (July 10) — McKenzie High School graduate Carlton Townes is the recipient of the 2026 McLean-Pedersen Endowment Scholarship, the Paris and Henry County Healthcare Foundation recently announced.

The McLean-Pedersen Endowment Scholarship was created to support McKenzie High School graduates who pursue careers in the healthcare field. The scholarship totals \$6,000, distributed over four years at \$1,500 per year. Eligible fields of study include nursing, radiology, paramedic training, physical therapy technology and respiratory technology.

Townes will attend the University of Tennessee at Martin in the fall, where he plans to obtain a degree in Nursing. His long-term goal is to become a Certified Nurse Midwife.

Townes was selected based on his academic excellence, strong character and desire to make a difference through a career in healthcare. His dedication to helping others and his commitment to his future goals made him an ideal recipient of this award, according to the Paris and Henry County Healthcare Foundation.

To remain eligible for the scholarship, recipients must maintain a minimum GPA of 2.75 throughout their college career, ensuring continued focus and academic success.

Jennifer Culpepper, president of Paris and Henry Healthcare Foundation, said, “We are happy to be able to continue the



Carlton Townes is pictured with Jamie Emerson and Jennifer Culpepper of Paris and Henry County Healthcare Foundation. Submitted photo

tradition of providing scholarships to students who are pursuing careers in the medical field. We hope to see these bright young minds bring their skills back home to care for patients in our community in the future.”



Left, Summer Reading Program participants touch animal pelts brought in by Ranger Jeffrey Johnson. Right, Ranger Jeffrey Johnson kneels to give attendees a better look at Checkers the corn snake. Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner



Summer Readers Get Wild, Then Sophisticated

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS & BRAD SAM
banner@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (July 7-11) — Carroll County Library’s summer reading program continued last week with two very different events: a wild program by Natchez Trace State Park and a sophisticated Tea(-Rex) Party.

Park Ranger Jeffrey Johnson of Natchez Trace State Park visited Carroll County Library Tuesday morning for what promised to be an interesting educational program. Using pelts of various animals native or somewhat common to the northwest region of Tennessee, Ranger Johnson taught attendees about the personalities and quirks of possums, skunks, raccoons, river otters, beavers, red foxes, gray foxes, white tail deer, cougars and black bears.

Ranger Johnson then introduced attendees to Checkers — a live corn snake who, unfortunately, had a smelly accident in her cage before her big reveal. Although attendees were unable to touch Checkers, Ranger Johnson allowed them to take a peek into her cage. He held her out for everyone to see while he taught attendees the differences between constrictors and venomous snakes. At the end of his presentation, Ranger Johnson invited attendees to get a closer look at Checkers, and he allowed



(L to R) Guest presenters Christy Hodge and Dana Wyatt, Carroll County Library Director Erin Crockett, clerk Denise Coleman, children’s librarian Grace Hawkins and clerk Bianca Juarez hosted the Tea-Rex Party on Saturday. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

them to touch the many animal pelts he brought for display.

On Saturday, the library hosted a “Tea-Rex Party.” Library staff were dressed as dinosaurs and paleontologists, but two special guests came dressed for a sophisticated tea party.

Dana Wyatt, art teacher at Huntingdon High School, and Christy Hodge, a local farmer, presented an informative program about tea and tea party etiquette.

They spoke about some different kinds of teas and tea parties, place settings and proper use of each item. They shared stories and showed photographs from experiences abroad, including in England. Hodge brought a family heirloom teacup and saucer

and some exotic tea from Israel for the summer readers to see (and smell).

Wyatt and Hodge also conducted a simple experiment to show why you can put lemon or milk in your tea, but never both. A lemon squeezed into a cup of milk resulted in immediate curdling.

After the program, summer readers and other guests enjoyed a dino-themed tea party spread, complete with finger foods, tea and desserts.

The Carroll County Library summer reading program concludes this week with two events. A “Fossil Dig” is Tuesday, July 14 at 10:30 a.m., and the summer reading finale celebration is Friday, July 17 at 10:30 a.m.

McKenzie Library Contributes to Storybook Stroll

UNION CITY (June 27) — McKenzie Memorial Library participated in the Storybook Stroll on Saturday at Discovery Park of America. The event, hosted in partnership with the Obion River Regional Libraries, transformed Dinosaur Hall into a vibrant hub of literacy-focused activities following the theme of summer reading programs at regional libraries, “Unearth a Story.” Pictured are McKenzie Memorial Library Director Ceil Pomphrey (left) as a T-Rex and Assistant Director Adora Carty as an asteroid.

*Photo courtesy McKenzie Memorial Library



VEGETABLE CORN MEDLEY

1 (8 oz.) can whole kernel corn, drained

2/3 cup milk

2 cups broccoli florets

2 cup cauliflower florets

1 cup shredded cheddar cheese

Heat corn and milk in large saucepan over medium heat to boiling and stir often. Stir in broccoli and cauliflower florets and return to boiling. Reduce heat to low and cover. Cook for 20 minutes or until veg-

etables are tender and stir occasionally. Stir in cheese and heat until cheese melts. Serves 8.

EASY CORN AND OKRA GUMBO

1/4 pound bacon

1 pound fresh okra, sliced

2 onions, chopped

1 (15 oz.) can stewed tomatoes

1 (15 oz.) can whole kernel corn, drained

Rice, cooked

Fry bacon in large skillet until crisp, drain and set aside. In same skillet with bacon drippings, saute okra and onions but do not brown. Add tomatoes and corn and bring to a boil. Simmer for about 5 to 10 minutes. Serve over hot rice. Sprinkle bacon over top of

each serving. Serves 6 to 8.

BEEFY RICE CASSEROLE

1 pound lean ground beef

3/4 cup white rice

1 (10 oz.) package frozen corn, thawed

1 (10 oz.) can French onion soup

1 (2.8 oz.) can french-fried onions

Preheat oven to 325 degrees. Brown ground beef, drain and place in sprayed 3-quart baking dish. Stir in rice, corn, onion soup and 1/2 cup water. Cover and bake for 30 minutes. Uncover and sprinkle fried onions over top of casserole and return to oven for 15 minutes. Serves 5 to 6.



Left, Rebel quarterback Cole Brown fires a pass during a 7-on-7 against Greenfield. Right, Rebel receiver Avery Brown makes a catch in the end zone during a 7-on-7 against Greenfield. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner

McKenzie High School Hosts 7-on-7

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (July 9) — High school football teams resumed activity this week following the TSSAA-mandated “dead period.” McKenzie High School hosted Obion County Central, Greenfield and Southside Thursday morning for 7-on-7 scrimmages and strength and skill competitions.

On the practice field, squads of seven competed round-robin style against each of the others, with each offense facing each defense for just over ten minutes using “touch” football rules.

Inside the MHS indoor practice facility, linemen competed in strength and skill competitions such as weightlifting, pushing sleds, pulling tires, tug of war and more.

McKenzie Head Coach Keith Hodge told The Banner, “This is the time of the year where you want to start wrapping up 7-on-7 and start getting into a lit-

tle bit more of a grind with the O-line and run game. We thought it would be a good opportunity to get linemen involved. Linemen like to do stuff too, and everything they do in the summer kind of gets monotonous. So, we’ve got them in the indoor [facility], which is fantastic. Gives them plenty of space to get things done. To get in there and compete. That’s the main thing you want this time of the year. Which kids are gonna compete, which are not? You want to stay on top of that.”

Hodge said of his Rebels, “I feel good about where we are mentally right now. I feel like we are mentally where we need to be. We’ve got a lot of experience that’s back. Especially in our skilled positions. That’s always a good thing. “We’re still building depth. I think depth is always the key going forward. How do we build depth? How do we get other kids ready that might not quite be ready to step

up and start? That’s our job, to get that done.

“So, I like where we are mentally. Physically, we’ve hit the weight room really hard since January. So those two things are really good for us right now.”

He reiterated the focus of his coaching staff during the home stretch of the preseason. “Building depth. How are we going to get better? How are we going to build and increase our competition and practice to get our kids ready to play?”

The Rebels and the other teams in the area will continue to move closer to “full-on” football as the preseason winds down.

McKenzie hosts scrimmages at Bethel University’s Wildcat Stadium on Friday, July 31 and Friday, August 7.

The Rebels will participate in the Henry County High School jamboree on Friday, August 14 and begin the regular season at Huntingdon on Friday, August 21.



JayAnn Johnson (center) in front of her new home in June, when young volunteers helped with landscaping ahead of the completion of the build. File photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Habitat for Humanity Dedication is July 19

MCKENZIE — Habitat for Humanity of Carroll County recently announced the completion and upcoming dedication ceremony for the nonprofit’s 24th home. JayAnn Johnson will receive the keys to her new home at 817 Walnut Avenue West in McKenzie on Sunday, July 19 at 2 p.m.

Ground was broken in March on the home for Johnson, a longtime McKenzie resident and four-

year Habitat volunteer. Habitat for Humanity invites everyone who helped with the project to attend and join in the celebration. For more information, call 731-986-5900 or 731-693-2212.

Edlins Win Gold at Tennessee Senior Olympics

BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS
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WILLIAMSON COUNTY, Tenn. (June 19–22) — Building on their 2025 national appearance, Chris and Charleace Edlin continued their athletic success at the 2026 Tennessee Senior Olympics this June, collectively earning seven gold medals.

Over the weekend of June 19–22, the couple traveled to Williamson County where they would compete against hundreds of fellow senior athletes. Their competitions took place at Franklin and Fairview high schools.

Chris, 64, won gold in the Power Walk, Softball Distance Throw, Basketball Free Throw Competition and Powerlifting. He won silver in the 800-meter run. He was scheduled to take part in five additional events, but a hamstring injury prevented him from competing.

Charleace, 71, won gold in the Javelin Throw, the Discus Throw and Powerlifting. She won silver in the Shot Put contest and bronze in the Softball Throw.

The couple plans to compete in their second-ever National Senior Olympics in 2027. There, Chris plans to compete in the Power Walk, Basketball Free Throw Competition and Powerlifting. Charleace plans to compete in Powerlifting and, possibly, the Power Walk.

Chris won silver in the Power Walk during last year’s national competition.

But the Senior Olympics are about more than just the medals and the accolades for the Edlins. For Chris, it’s about setting and achieving personal goals. For Charleace, it’s about the community.

“Physical exercise is so good for you,” Chris said, “and the Senior Olympics gives you something to work towards and plan for. It’s a good motivator... I’m a goal-oriented person. I love to set goals and work for them.”

Still, Chris did admit to be-



Charleace and Chris Edlin brought home a collective seven gold medals from the 2026 Tennessee Senior Olympics. Charleace is seen holding a javelin while Chris holds a discus and a softball. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

ing competitive at event time.

“It’s not like any competition you ever see,” Charleace said of the Senior Olympics. “Everybody’s rooting for each other. Even if you are competing against each other, you’re still rooting for each other. That’s what I love, that connection you make with everyone.”

Charleace spoke of the many people she has met since joining the Senior Olympics community, many of whom compete while facing unimaginable adversities. She spoke of one 90-year-old woman who, despite a 25-year battle with multiple sclerosis, competes in running events year after year.

Chris joined the Senior Olympics scene in 2012 at the encouragement of David Duncan. In his first competition, he recalled being surprised at how many great senior athletes there were in Tennessee. Since then, he has competed in 13 district and state competitions.

“There are people who have been elite athletes all their lives,” he said, “and they’re still doing it at a level like a college kid could.”

Charleace joined in 2023 and has since competed in three district and state competitions. She has won every state competition she has participated in, according to Chris.

“It’s a package deal with us,” Chris said. “It’s just not about me anymore. I’m as concerned about her doing it as I am... I love to have her with me as we’re training.”

Two other McKenzians competed in the Tennessee Senior Olympics this year. Tommy Putman, 85, finished silver in Golf with a score of 93. David Wood, in his second year competing, finished fourth in the 400-meter and 1500-meter runs in the 70-74 age division. Wood also competed in the 100-meter, 200-meter, 50-meter and 800-meter runs.

BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT

Hosted by Webb Alumni Association, Inc. & First Baptist Church

JULY 25, 2026 | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM

LOCATION: Webb School
938 Walnut Ave W, McKenzie, Tennessee 38201

In partnership with Community Volunteers and Organizations

For more information: 731-697-5468

FREE ITEMS

- ★ Clothes/ Shoes
- ★ Food
- ★ School supplies
- ★ Haircuts, hairstyles
- ★ Hygiene products
- ★ Underclothes

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PLEDGE

As your Sheriff, I will modernize the department with body cameras, utilize zoning to reduce response time county-wide, reduce recidivism by implementing second chance life skills programs for inmates, prioritize mental health resources, and lean on my narcotics background for aggressive drug enforcement. I will implement these programs while saving taxpayers money by utilizing grant programs. The citizens of Carroll County deserve a Sheriff with the proven leadership experience to be ready on day one.

A SHERIFF FOR ALL OF CARROLL COUNTY

RYAN WHITE

FOR CARROLL COUNTY SHERIFF

I HUMBLY ASK FOR YOUR VOTE FOR SHERIFF ON AUGUST 6, 2026

THE EXPERIENCE TO LEAD

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

LEADERSHIP TRAINING

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

FULL CIRCLE

In April 2001, I fell in love with law enforcement right here in Carroll County. I started my journey as a Reserve Deputy with the Carroll County Sheriff's Department, driven by a simple desire to serve. Now, after 25 years and numerous hours of leadership training, I am coming back to finish where I started — bringing the experience of a Chief back to the Department that first gave me a badge.

GENERAL ELECTION AUGUST 6, 2026

EARLY VOTING FRIDAY, JULY 17 – SATURDAY, AUGUST 1

TOP PRIORITIES

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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

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