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Tuesday, July 7, 2026

McKENZIE, TENNESSEE

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Patrick Willis. Courtesy of TSSAA

Patrick Willis Inducted into NFHS National High School Hall of Fame

COURTESY JOHN BRICE, TSSAA

SALT LAKE CITY (June 29) — Before ever playing an organized sport, Patrick Willis recalls seeing highlight tapes — yes, the old VHS variety in his elementary classroom — of former Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School players who

starred for the Tigers before him. “I remember that day like yesterday,” Willis recalls of a moment in science class. “I remember saying to myself, ‘Academics is tough. What am I gonna do? I want to

See WILLIS on Page 3

PAID ANNOUNCEMENT



Tommy Davis

Tommy Davis Candidate Announcement

My name is Tommy Davis. I am running for Carroll County Road Supervisor. I will be a write-in candidate on the August 6 ballot.

I am a lifelong resident of Carroll County. My wife, Stacy, and I have been married 30 years. We have two sons, Alex (Kasey) and Dalton (Shelby), and two granddaughters, Sterling and Millie.

I have been employed with the Carroll County Highway

See DAVIS on Page 3

Carroll County Approves 2026-27 Fiscal Year Budget

Tax Rate Unchanged

BY JASON R. MARTIN
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HUNTINGDON (June 27) — The Carroll County Commission met June 29 with a budget-based agenda. The following items are approved:

Resolution 6-06-2026 fixes the Tax Levy in Carroll County for the Fiscal Year 2026-27. The combined property tax rate for Carroll County for a year shall be \$0.88 on each \$1000 of taxable property, which is to provide revenue for each of the following funds and otherwise conforms to the following levies: General (\$0.6782); Solid Waste (\$0.0526); Highway (\$0.0772); School Transportation (\$0.047); General Debt Service (\$0.025).

Resolution 6-07-2026 makes appropriations to the Various Funds, Departments, Institutions, Offices, and Agencies of Carroll County, Tennessee, for the

See BUDGET on Page 3

250 YEARS OF AMERICA

McKenzie Freedom Festival Lights Up the Night Sky

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS

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McKENZIE (July 4) — The City of McKenzie’s Freedom Festival lit up the night sky Saturday, to the delight of many residents. The annual Fourth of July event, hosted at the McKenzie City Park, persevered despite severe storms looming ahead.

While waiting for the fireworks show to start, attendees enjoyed food and drinks from various food trucks including Sweet Heifers, Burkes, Italian Ice, Elevate, Groovy Glazed Donuts, Bubba’s Hot Dogs and Ryro’s Lemonade.

The city’s Freedom Train shuttled attendees to and from their vehicles as the park became increasingly crowded. McKenzie police officers and firefighters maintained a strong presence to ensure safety.

The fireworks display was handled by Pyro Shows, the LaFollette, Tenn.-based company also responsible for Nashville’s largest-ever fireworks show on Saturday night.

JT Williams and Milan firefighters Mark Chartrand and Grant Singleton prepared the fireworks for McKenzie’s show.

The fireworks show began at 9 p.m. and lasted approximately 10 minutes.

See FREEDOM on Page 10



Fireworks illuminated the night sky during the City of McKenzie’s Freedom Festival Saturday night. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

Sheriff Candidates Address Community Questions in Town Hall

Patrol Zoning, Deputy Retention Among Topics Discussed

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS

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HUNTINGDON (June 30) — The three candidates for Carroll County Sheriff faced off Tuesday night for a town hall and community forum, hosted by The McKenzie Banner and the Carroll County Observer, at the Carroll County Civic Center.

Moderated by Retired Judge Donald Parish, the three candidates —

See SHERIFF on Page 3



Retired Judge Donald Parish was the moderator during Tuesday night’s town hall and community forum. Carroll County Sheriff candidates are seated in a row beside Judge Parish — (L to R) Eric Sawyers, Ryan White and Michael A. Smith. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner



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Left, Ashley Smith proudly displays the bouquet she caught at Taylor and Travis' wedding. Photo courtesy of Ashley Smith Right, Ashley Smith poses with her younger brother, Trey Smith, dressed and ready for Taylor and Travis' wedding. Photo by Jordie Rose/Courtesy of Ashley Smith

Jackson Native Catches Bouquet at Taylor Swift, Travis Kelce Wedding

BY BRITTANY MARTIN
brittany@mckenziebanner.com

NEW YORK (July 3) — New York City streets around Madison Square Garden were bathed in an enchanting pink glow on Friday as talk of nuptials and a star-studded 1000+ guest list filled the news outlets. Pop superstar Taylor Swift and Kansas City Chiefs tight end Travis Kelce tied the knot at approximately 5 p.m., and one lucky Jackson, Tenn. native caught the bouquet.

Ashley Smith announced on Instagram over the weekend that she was the lucky recipient of Swift's bouquet: "Celebrated an Enchanting Love S(T&T)ory. And somehow...I ended up catching Tay Tay's bouquet. So here's to believing it's bringing a lifetime of love, luck, and

laughter my way. Congratulations, Taylor & Travis! Cheers to forever T&T!"

Ashley is the manager of player engagement at the National Football League (NFL) and the sister of Kansas City Chiefs offensive lineman and two-time Super Bowl champion Trey Smith. Ashley, 35, and Trey, 27, attended the wedding together dressed in complementing black attire.

The brother and sister duo are University School of Jackson (USJ) alumni; Ashley graduated in 2009 and Trey in 2017. From there, they graduated from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, Ashley in 2013 and Trey in 2020.

Trey was drafted by the Kansas City Chiefs as a sixth-round pick (226th overall) in the 2021 NFL Draft. Ash-

ley has had an impressive career as well, working in various administrative roles for University of Tennessee at Knoxville, NCAA, Kansas City Chiefs and NFL.

According to a CBS News story from November 2025, "While Trey helps his teammates run plays on the field, Ashley runs the NFL's player engagement program, which supports athletes in their personal and professional growth. She helps provide players and their families with resources to guide them through their NFL career and beyond, supporting their physical and mental health as well as their financial wellness."

Ashley and Trey were born to Henry Smith, Jr. and the late Dorsetta Smith of Three Way, Tenn., located north of Jackson.

TBI Agents Investigating I-40, Madison County Officer-Involved Shooting Death

At the request of 26th Judicial District Attorney General Jody Pickens, TBI special agents continue to investigate the circumstances of a deadly officer-involved shooting on Friday afternoon involving the Tennessee Highway Patrol and the Madison County Sheriff's Office.

Preliminary information indicates the incident occurred on Interstate 40 near Exit 87. THP troopers had been pursuing a vehicle heading westbound, believing it to be driven by a kidnapping suspect, 37-year-old Jason Michael Trevino, with a young child in the vehicle. Law enforcement used spike maneuvers to stop the

vehicle on I-40 just west of Exit 87, leading to a hours-long standoff, during which the male subject released the child from the vehicle. A short time later, the man exited the vehicle and began walking westbound along the shoulder. Law enforcement officers attempted to use less lethal means to take him into custody but were unsuccessful. The situation escalated when the man brandished a weapon, resulting in law enforcement firing upon him, striking and killing him. No law enforcement officers sustained injury in the incident.

TBI agents are working to independently determine the series of events leading to the shooting, including collect-

ing evidence and conducting interviews. Throughout the process, investigative findings will be shared with the District Attorney General for his further review and consideration. The TBI acts solely as fact-finders in its cases and does not determine whether the actions of an officer were justified in these types of matters. That decision rests with the District Attorney General requesting TBI's involvement.

The TBI does not identify the officers involved in these types of incidents and instead refers questions of that nature to the respective department to answer as it sees fit.

TWRA: Black Bear Confirmed at Carroll, Henderson County Line

JACKSON (July 5) — The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency (TWRA) confirmed a sighting of a black bear near the borders of Carroll and Henderson counties. A citizen's photo of the bear in a cornfield is making its way around social media.

Such sightings are not uncommon during the summer, as the agency typically receives an increase in calls regarding black bears at this time of year. These animals have a wide natural range and are known to travel great distances throughout the state. Last year, black bears were spotted in several locations while searching for food, water, and shelter. As the black bear population recovers from the low numbers observed 75 years ago, their range is expected to expand beyond East Tennessee, where it is most abundant. This resurgence represents a conservation success story, as black bears return to their historic territories.

When we receive reports of a bear, our officers and biologists monitor the situation to assess whether the bear is behaving naturally or causing any nuisance. Unfortunately, when bears appear in areas

where they are typically not found, such as West Tennessee, media coverage and public sharing of the bear's location can encourage people to seek it out. If people refrain from approaching the bear, it will likely move on naturally.

Humans often unintentionally attract and provide food for wild animals, including black bears, near their homes. Common attractants include bird feeders, trash cans, birdbaths, and pet food bowls with leftover food. These items can attract bears and other unwanted wildlife into residential areas. By following a few simple guidelines from BearWise, you can reduce negative interactions with these animals and help deter bears from approaching. Here are some BearWise tips:

Never follow a black bear. Give wildlife plenty of space to leave the area. Attempting to follow an animal for photos can inadvertently put both wildlife and humans in danger.

Never intentionally feed bears and be mindful of unintentional food sources around your home. Items like trash, bird feeders, unpicked

garden vegetables, greasy grills, and outdoor pet food can attract bears.

Secure food, garbage, recycling, and grills in locations that are inaccessible to bears and other wildlife.

Inform your neighbors about any bear activity and make noise when leaving your home to alert wildlife to your presence.

It's important to remember that the presence of a bear does not automatically put humans in immediate danger. Bears often flee when they hear loud noises or see people waving their arms. By keeping a safe distance and avoiding any actions that could be perceived as threatening, residents can significantly reduce the risk of confrontation.

Visit bearwise.org to unlock insights and practical solutions from BearWise. This program helps homeowners, businesses, and communities live in harmony with bears, ensuring a peaceful coexistence.

The Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency is responsible for protecting, managing, and conserving fish and wildlife species for the benefit of Tennesseans and visitors. The Agency also maintains public safety through law enforcement and safety education on waterways.



Holiday Storms Flood Streets

CARROLL COUNTY (July 5) — AGAIN! South Main Street in McKenzie area of Carroll County on Sunday. North Main, US 79 at the railroad overpass, and other city streets sustained temporary flooding.

Much of the heavy rains were concentrated in the McKenzie area of Carroll County on Sunday. North Main, US 79 at the railroad overpass, and other city streets sustained temporary flooding.

On Saturday, high winds downed trees in and around

the city. Carroll County Emergency Management Agency said they had no reports of significant damage during the holiday weekend storms. However, the area sustained rains on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday along with temperatures in the 90s each day.

McKenzie School Board Approves Multiple Projects Amid Optimistic Budget Talks

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (June 30) — The McKenzie Special School District Board of Education met Tuesday evening for a budget workshop followed by a regular meeting. Despite several challenging factors, the overall financial outlook for the district is optimistic, allowing board members to take action on several much-needed projects.

Finance Director Brad Davis presented a budget proposal for 2026-27 and reported on the final status of the 2025-26 budget.

The proposed new budget features a balanced General Purpose Fund and a slight surplus in the Debt Service Fund. The total budget is \$15.7 million with an unchanged tax rate of .7438.

Included are state-mandated salary schedule increases as well as a three-percent across-the-board raise and \$1,000 bonus for all district employees.

Davis noted that educational assistants in McKenzie schools are "underpaid as compared to some others in the county" and included an additional increase to those salaries. He called 2025-26 an "extraordinary year financially... one of those years where everything went right."

A "significant" amount was added to the General Purpose Fund balance, due to higher-than-expected sales tax receipts, savings from personnel departures and other costs coming in under budget. Davis pointed to one "bright spot" in particular—that the Cafeteria Fund was projected to end the year with a sizable deficit but instead produced a slight surplus. He noted that cafeteria staff would receive additional raises as well.

The finance director did acknowledge some challenges in the present and near-future. Health insurance rates increased by 8.73 percent after several years of average increases of around six percent. Utility costs continue to rise. Some grants are ending or expiring.

The elementary school roof needs to be replaced at a projected cost of \$1.2-1.5 million. Beginning next year, Carroll County will receive no more state funding. MSSD has been gradually increasing its contribution during the last several years in anticipation of

this change. The budget workshop lasted one hour.

The board began the regular meeting by approving year-end budget amendments to reallocate funds and finalize the 2025-26 year.

Bids were approved for the elementary school gymnasium floor replacement.

For the full asbestos abatement, the board approved the low bid of \$19,875 from SEG, Inc.

To resurface the floor with a rubber base mat covered by a poured urethane topcoat, a bid of \$39,803 was accepted from Covington Flooring Company.

MSSD received three bids to replace the perimeter fence at the football and practice fields at McKenzie Middle School. The low bid of \$27,900 by AllStar Fence was approved.

A lone bid of \$37,812 by Fuller Industries was approved to update the bathroom floors at MMS.

The board approved a bid request process for back-flow preventors at several district facilities. A service estimate provided by S.M. Lawrence amounted to \$33,678.

Several board policies were amended on second and final reading.

Two of the updates amend policies regarding drugs and alcohol. One adds language allowing for drug and alcohol testing triggered by reasonable suspicion, while the other establishes procedures surrounding the testing process.

The policy on revenues was revised to allow approved district staff to collect funds through electronic payment methods, but the Director of Schools or designee must determine when this type of transaction may be used. At the individual school level, the principal will oversee the collection of funds. Another revision establishes rounding procedures for cash transactions due to the discontinuance of the penny. Cash transactions will be rounded to the nearest \$0.05.

The Personnel Records policy was updated to mandate that the public may not obtain the results of individual teacher evaluations. This revision follows Tennessee law.

Updates were approved to separation practices for three categories of district employees: tenured, non-tenured and non-certified. In each case, language was added to allow for temporary removal from duty not to

be considered disciplinary "but rather a precautionary measure until a determination can be made" about further actions.

Another update clarifies language prohibiting employees with a contagious or communicable disease from performing duties in a location that might endanger the health of students. The amendment allows the Director of Schools to reassign the employee to alternate duties, place the employee on administrative leave with pay or temporarily remove the employee from the school setting.

The policy on political activities was updated to reiterate that district-owned property may not be used for political promotion or solicitation and that employees shall not use audio or video messages to engage in such activity during school hours.

A policy was updated to state that teachers who engage in private tutoring do so as independent actors and that the district shall not be liable for any claims or damages arising from such services. No private teaching or tutoring should happen during regular school day hours. Finally, a policy was amended to clarify that the director of schools is the only position directly employed by the board of education and that all others are employed, supervised and managed under the authority of the director.

A field trip to Austin Peay State University was approved for the high school volleyball team.

Director of Schools Dr. Justin Barden provided a report of personnel changes in the district.

Retirements include Veda Haney and Kathy Barcroft.

Resignations include Jennifer Allen, Tara Sharp, Molly Hannah Wilson, Christy Hampton, Hannah Whitworth, Tyler Holt, Lindsey Holt and Audra Atkins.

New hires are Amy Reed, Stacy Sullivan, Victoria Ashley, Jay Taylor, Sydney Luker, Brooke Rodriguez, Valerie Dillon, Adalyn Furr (non-faculty), Amberleigh Cooper, Colby Akin, Courtney Cooley and Jake Cassidy (non-faculty).

Non-renewals include Emily Bolin, Betsy Flynt and Alec Meddings.

The regular meeting adjourned after 45 minutes.

Board member Bobby Young was absent.

The board meets next on Tuesday, July 7 at 5:30 p.m.

Willis

...From Front Page

be a doctor or maybe a lawyer.' I loved Columbo and Matlock, but the more I thought about it, I said 'Wait, I heard that if you can be really good at sports—it's very hard to accomplish—they will also pay you to do it as well.'

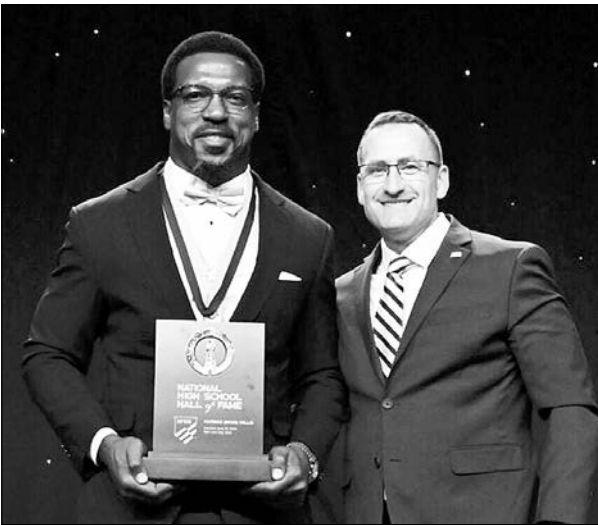
"So that day I said I'm gonna give it everything I've got and become a professional athlete and by 30 years old, I'll be able to retire."

Having watched his grandfather work into his 80s before retiring, the young Willis set himself on a different path that day in Mr. Neal's classroom – one that would require extraordinary sacrifice and determination, but one that has led to countless accolades, including his College Football Hall of Fame induction in 2019, Pro Football Hall of Fame enshrinement in 2024, and now his 2026 induction into the NFHS National High School Hall of Fame. Willis and 11 others were honored in a Monday ceremony at the Hyatt Regency in Salt Lake City.

Growing up in a trailer park in rural Bruce-ton, Tenn., Willis faced childhood difficulties that would have crushed most spirits. By age 10, he was working cotton fields to help support his family while simultaneously serving as caretaker to three younger siblings in an abusive household. Through the hardship, something deep within Willis was beginning to take shape – a resilience and mental fortitude that his future coaches would marvel at and a quiet determination that refused to let circumstances define destiny.

In football, Willis compiled staggering career numbers at Hollow Rock-Bruce-ton Central: 465 tackles, 258 solo tackles, 20 sacks, 42 tackles for loss, and 13 interceptions – all school records. He remains the only player in Tennessee history to be named as a finalist for both back and lineman Mr. Football Awards in the same season, winning the Lineman Award outright in 2002.

In basketball, he scored 1,609 career points for the Tigers while helping transform a program that had gone 0-68 in the three years before his arrival into District Champions by



Patrick Willis (left) was inducted into the NFHS National High School Hall of Fame on Monday, June 29 in Salt Lake City. Photo courtesy TSSAA

2003. He earned All-District honors in baseball as well, cementing his status as a true three-sport star for the small Carroll County school.

Willis now is the state of Tennessee's 16th NFHS Hall of Fame inductee.

He credits just about everyone but himself.

"It was like a village," says Willis, winner of SEC Defensive Player of the Year, Butkus and Lambert awards in his 2006 farewell campaign at Ole Miss. "My grandmother lived up on the hill, my cousins and uncles who I grew up playing all the sports with lived just around the corner.

"Truthfully, I would like to give a shoutout to my cousin, Jonte Willis. He was the one that always pushed me to compete even harder. He was always that one who said, 'We got to go work, got to go lift; if we want to be good, we got to be stronger than all those other guys.' I'd just follow his lead.

"I'm just grateful for my coaches and teammates and teachers and family. All of the above. They did this."

Willis does, however, remember a singular performance on the high school gridiron after his dream collegiate program, Philip Fulmer's University of Tennessee, had informed him that the Vols would not recruit him. In the Central stands that day was then-Ole Miss defensive assistant coach Mike MacIntyre.

"Coach [Rod] Sturdivant comes and tells me, 'Ole Miss is in the stands,'" says Willis, who would eventually become both a College Football and Pro Football Hall of Famer and a No. 11 overall NFL draft pick in 2007. "I just remember being like 'focus on ball and school.' Don't do what

people do in the movies and mess up, just go out there and play my game and be me.

"I went out and set a record for the first three touches scoring a touchdown and had 17 tackles on defense and one interception."

Sturdivant remembers Willis for bringing the entire community along with him – and reminisces on what he might have been on the baseball diamond.

"He just made everybody feel like they were a part of his life and what he accomplished, everybody felt a part of that," says Sturdivant.

His selection as "Mr. CHS" by his peers spoke to his character beyond the field, while his involvement in FCA, Math Club, Spanish Club, and other organizations made him a visible leader across campus. For the communities of Hollow Rock and Bruce-ton, he wasn't just their star athlete – he was their son, their neighbor, their proof that hard work and character could overcome any obstacle.

His 2019 induction into the Carroll County Sports Hall of Fame cemented his status as a local legend, forever woven into the fabric of West Tennessee sports history.

That childhood daydream in Mr. Neal's science class – the prayer of a boy who dared to imagine a different future – manifested into a career worthy of his growing stack of hall of fame accolades. Patrick Willis proved that with passion, perseverance, and supporting those around him, even the most audacious dreams whispered in elementary school classrooms can become reality. And he did it all by age 30, just as he promised himself he would.



Central Refrigeration technician Michael Thomas sprays down coils as part of the maintenance of a residential HVAC unit. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Central Refrigeration Owner Offers Tips for AC Efficiency

BY BRAD SAM
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MCKENZIE (July 2) — On Thursday, the fourth consecutive day of extreme heat and humidity in northwest Tennessee, Central Refrigeration owner Zack Cox spoke to The Banner and shared some tips to maximize the efficiency of residential central air conditioning.

The heat wave continued into Friday, but rain and thunderstorms dominated the holiday weekend, pushing temperatures down. Precipitation chances remain moderate throughout the coming week, and temps are expected to hover in the high 80s. Another period of heat is forecast to begin next week. The predicted high for Tuesday, July 14 is 94 degrees.

Cox led with the two most effective things one can do to increase the lifespan of a central air system: change the filter and have units maintained by a professional.

He also recommended rinsing the unit's coils with a hose and warned against using a pressure washer, which he said can hinder air flow. In addition, a high-pressure spray can cause a coil to be impacted, which further reduces efficiency and can cause compressors and capacitors to fail.

Cox said, "A dirty outdoor coil can lead to a 30-plus percent reduction of energy efficiency."

He warned that dirty filters allow blower wheels to become matted with debris and dirt. "One-eighth of an inch of debris can reduce efficiency by 20 percent."

The HVAC professional offered a plethora of small household habits that can add up to a real impact on the thermostat. Keep blinds closed and use drapes. Grill outdoors instead of heating up appliances in the kitchen. Dry clothes at night or hang them to air dry. Make sure ceiling fans are turning

counter-clockwise.

"Basically," he said, "anything that puts off heat, refrain from using it if you can."

Humidity levels are a big culprit in heat leading to misery around the clock. Humidity increases at night, and Cox noted that when your AC unit isn't running at night, outside humidity infiltrates the home. He recommended utilizing a dehumidifier to combat this effect.

Cox said that many companies will be bombarded with service calls this time of year, as much as tripling when the temperature reaches 95 degrees.

But he says he's been able to keep that under control with his customers thanks to Central's maintenance program, which offers routine servicing of units for a small monthly fee.

Central Refrigeration is located at 47 E. Bruce Street in McKenzie. The phone number is 731-352-7900.



Left, Sheriff Candidate Eric Sawyers responds to a question posed by attendees during the town hall event. Center, Sheriff Candidate Ryan White responds to a question during the community forum. Right, Sheriff Candidate Michael A. Smith responds to a community-member's question during the community forum. Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Sheriff

...From Front Page

Eric Sawyers (R), Michael A. Smith (I) and Ryan White (I) — answered questions submitted by Carroll County residents about their priorities once assuming office. Over 100 individuals attended the event, with more tuning in via livestream, to hear the candidates' responses.

The town hall and community forum was split into two parts. In the first half, candidates answered questions submitted prior to the event. In the second, candidates answered questions submitted during the event. Candidates answered questions in an order determined by a game card draw before each half.

Questions varied, with some being about the department's budget and others about deputy recruitment and retention. The candidates answered questions about the Carroll County Jail, inmate rehabilitation and work programs, and emergency response times. The three candidates each ranked aggressive drug enforcement as their top priority once gaining office.

Eric Sawyers, a fifth-generation Carroll County resident and the sheriff race's Republican candidate, has 25 years of experience in the Carroll County Sheriff's Office (CCSO). In his responses, Sawyers promoted a leadership approach that is visi-

ble, engaged and accessible to both citizens and CCSO employees.

Sawyers said that the current sheriff, Andy Dickson, will leave the department in good shape. He didn't see a current need for developing a special warrant task force, nor for implementing deputy patrol zoning. However, he did propose new community programs such as senior outreach, summer youth camps, church security assessments and inmate work programs.

Michael A. Smith, a lifelong Carroll Countian, has 18 years of experience working in law enforcement and 15 years of experience as a Carroll County First Responder. In the forum, Smith prioritized protecting vulnerable populations — especially the elderly and children — and supported the start of a countywide neighborhood watch program.

Smith, a current CCSO shift sergeant, concurred with Sawyers' opinions on zoning, saying previous patrol zoning attempts failed due to manpower limits. To recruit and retain deputies, Smith suggested having school resource officers (SROs) engage with students early, encouraging them to enter a career in law enforcement. In a conversation about jail programs, Smith favored ministry, GED and second-chance work programs.

Ryan White has over 25 years of law enforcement experience, currently serving as the City of McKenzie's police

chief. During the forum, he listed his priorities as implementing county-wide zoning to reduce response times, requiring body cameras for transparency, intensifying drug enforcement and expanding rehabilitation programs to reduce repeat offenses.

To recruit and retain well-qualified deputies, White said he planned to give officers buy-in on departmental decisions. He also emphasized the importance of mentorship and extensive training. White said community engagement is vital to ensure trust between the department and the people it serves. He said he wants to expand his "Shop with a First Responder" event county-wide and that he supports community watches where they are wanted.

The town hall event is available to watch on The McKenzie Banner's Facebook and YouTube pages, or at live. mckenziebanner.com.

The three candidates' campaigns come to an end in August, when one will be elected the next leader of the Carroll County Sheriff's Department. The early voting period for this election is July 17–August 1. Election day is August 6, 2026.

Other county-level positions on the August 6 ballot are Circuit Court Clerk, County Mayor, Assessor of Property, County Clerk, Trustee, Register of Deeds, Road Supervisor and County Commission Districts 1–9.

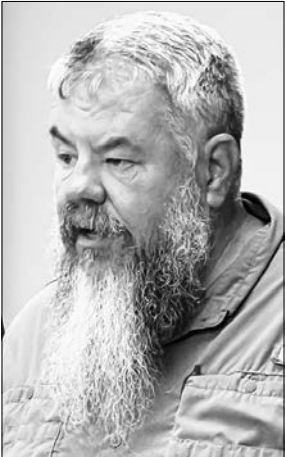
Budget

...From Front Page

Fiscal Year beginning July 1, 2026, and ending June 30, 2027. The amounts appropriated for the operating expenses, capital outlays, transfers, and for payment of principal and interest on the County's debt are set according to the following schedule: General Fund (\$16,585,876); Solid Waste/Sanitation Fund (\$2,523,789); Grant Fund (\$2,144,763); Drug Control Fund (\$121,802); American Rescue Plan Fund (\$2,495,699); Highway Fund (\$4,630,935); General Purpose School Fund (\$4,166,095); School Transportation (\$973,040); General Debt (\$439,314).

Concerns were expressed about the budget's approval due to the Carroll County School Board's million-dollar dip into reserves. The ongoing deficit spending is something that will be addressed by the Commission in the near future. This made the third year in a row the school board pulled from reserves. Commissioner Barry Mac Murphy expressed his concerns and was the sole no vote on approving the budget.

Resolution 6-05-2026 makes appropriations to Non-Profit Organizations of Carroll County for the Fiscal Year 2026-27. The



Sheriff Andy Dickson

nonprofit organizations in Carroll County receiving funding are reflected below: Carroll County Rescue Squad (\$8,000); Gordon Browning Museum (\$5,000); McKenzie Memorial Library (\$6,000); Carl Perkins Center (\$25,000); TN Rehab Center (\$1,500); Carroll County Shooting Sports Park (\$10,000); WRAP Organization (\$3,823); CASA of Carroll County (\$2,000). Total contribution to non-profit organizations is \$61,323.

Resolution 4-07-2026 (amended) - updates Payroll Policy and Transition to Biweekly Pay for Days Worked Structure. The amended proposed policy follows a new biweekly payroll schedule (26 pay periods per year), while ensuring compensation is based solely on actual days worked, approved leave, and recognized holidays,

and further establishes that all holidays will be paid in the pay period in which they occur and will no longer be banked or carried forward for any department in Carroll County Government.

Resolution 6-01-2026 adopts the Carroll County Fire Department Standard Operating Manual, Standard Operating Guidelines, and Standard Operating Procedures.

Resolution 6-02-2026 amends the General Fund Budget for End of Year.

Resolution 6-03-2026 amends the Solid Waste Fund Budget for End of Year.

Resolution 6-04-2026 amends the Drug Fund Budget for End of Year.

The following were elected notaries: Lisa Brewer, Katie Gergar, Lalonnie Gillespie, Karen Moore and Sheri Singleton.

During the citizens forum, Sheriff Andy Dickson informed the Commission that a resolution to establish a hazardous duty supplemental benefit would be on the agenda during the August meeting. The resolution was recommended by the Finance, Ways and Means Committee but failed to pass through the Resolutions Committee. A possible agreement was reached by both Committees to place it on the next agenda.

The next meeting of the Carroll County Commission is August 10 at 7 p.m.

Davis

...From Front Page

Department for 30 years. I have held the position of foreman for the past eight

years.

Our roads connect our families, businesses, farms, schools and emergency services. My priority is to work hard to maintain safe roads, spend taxpayer dollars wisely and respond to road concerns in a timely manner.

Your vote will be greatly appreciated. Please remember—you will need to write in my name and mark the box next to it for your vote to count.

Tommy Davis
Candidate for Road Supervisor

Things In My Head with Charles Manfredi



THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

Embrace Your Fear and Anxiety

Kerry stares numbly at the notice on the bulletin board announcing the permanent closing of his plant. It's the only job he's had for twenty-five years.

What am I going to do?

Wiping her sweating palms on her jeans, Diane feels like she's having a heart attack. Her final exam this semester involves making a class presentation.

I can't do this! I'm going to freak out!

Tobias looks at the clock behind the desk where he's checking in for surgery. In a matter of hours he's supposed to be operated on for cancer.

What if I don't make it through the surgery? What if they can't get all the cancer? What if it's worse than what they expect?

Tara lies awake. It's 3:00 a.m. She has an interview today for a new job.

What will I do if I don't get this job? It's my third try in the last four months. My unemployment is running out.

Does some of this sound familiar?

I don't know anyone who hasn't been afraid or felt anxious, including myself.

Fear and anxiety can paralyze us. Worse than that, either of them can make us retreat, crawl into a hole, and give up.

For years I worked with people to help them not feel afraid or anxious. Let me tell you: that's hard work, from either the client's chair or the therapist's chair!

In recent years I've had a shift in my attitude toward these twin killers, and because of the shift, my focus with clients has changed as well.

The trigger for these changes was my becoming more aware of my own internal dialogue during moments of fear and anxiety. Here's how my self-talk used to sound:

"This is too much for me."

"I can't face this."

"I don't know what I'm going to do!"

"What if I don't (make it, survive it, endure it, overcome it)?"

"I can't move forward."

"I don't know what I'll do if....."

What I noticed about this one-way dialogue was the repeated use of the personal pronouns: "I" and "me."

Suddenly, a number of realizations came tumbling in. (Isn't it interesting how once we open our mind to viewing things differently, new insights can come flooding in?)

Realization number one: I was making each situation all about me, as if I was all alone in facing them.

Realization number two came fast on the heels of number one: All the statements I was making to myself were true. I didn't know what I was going to do. I couldn't face it. I didn't know what I'd do if....

All the statements were true because of realization number three: I had carved God completely out of the equation. He was nowhere in my conceptualization of my situation.

Realization number four said to me: "I have to put God in front me in all these situations. If I will let God lead, I can follow Him anywhere and survive anything."

That last realization was the one that allowed me to breathe easier, to relax, and to smile.

However, I was left with trying to understand where fear and anxiety come from.

Neuroscientists, who believe man has evolved over millions of years from a brute caveman, answer that these emotions come from our primitive brain, the one that kept us from being eaten by dinosaurs.

But because I don't share those scientists' basic premise, I had to consider other possible explanations.

I know Satan's desire is to make man miserable and, in that misery, to destroy him. Satan knows that when man is miserable, he will resort to most anything, especially ungodly things, to escape.

That's when it occurred to me that fear and anxiety are tools of Satan. He's the one who whispers in our ear, "You can't..." and "What if..." and "You'll never..."

Once I realized this, I almost laughed out loud because the answer was so simple.

Now when I feel anxiety or fear in my heart, I turn Satan's tools on their head. I put my arms around them and embrace them.

I speak to them and say, "Thank you for coming by and reminding me that I need to be sure I have God in front of me. I really appreciate you dropping by."

So, the next time you feel anxious or fearful, don't run or cower. Pull your anxiety and fear closer to you. Be happy they stopped by.

Feel your feelings. Listen closely and discover what you can learn from them.

HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

An Unsuspected Fourth of July Postscript

It came out of nowhere. And good golly, I was not prepared.

I had fixed an old Coca-Cola clock movement that had a loose clutch on the center arbor. I got it back together and was letting it run a little before putting it back in the case.

The morning had passed quickly. I noted it was a beautiful Fourth of July day as I made the short walk from the clock room to the house. But honestly, my mind was more on clocks this morning than the storied history of our country's first 250 years.

Cathy and I had enjoyed a busy week before with grandchildren visiting. We were both looking forward to a quiet and peaceful Independence Day. I moseyed down the hall to the back bedroom where Cathy was putting on clean sheets. She looked up and smiled....

I started crying. And couldn't stop.

The Fourth of July was Daddy's favorite holiday. By far! He was OK with Christmas. He sure paid for a lot of presents over the years. Thanksgiving meant family. And, in his eyes, there was nothing wrong with that. He thought Halloween was silly. And he worked right through Labor Day.

Cathy somehow knew immediately. She had been listening to the stories for 52 years. She stood quietly beside me, understood completely...that my soul had taken flight.

Daddy wasn't like any other normal human on Independence Day. He cherished being an American. He loved our small town, but he loved the big cities, too. "They got every right to enjoy their lives, just like we do, son."

He didn't talk about the rich history of our country.

He didn't talk about carrying on old family traditions. He didn't debate you on living in the South versus the North. He didn't talk sitting around the pot belly stove up at the service station about all the things that were wrong with America. Like so many were inclined to do....

He felt that he was doghouse lucky to live here. In this nation. And he said so!

Daddy also didn't talk about folks that were different, strange, or down and out in our little community. He just went and helped them. And believe me, those early years when we first lived out at the end of Stonewall Street, it was sometimes hard to find someone further down and out than we were!

He felt it was a hallmark of America. We were all neighbors...the absolute very least we could do was act like it. He was so quiet you'd have to follow him around a mite before you realized how much he cared.

He was no pushover. By any stretch of the imagination! He did what was right. And he expected others to do the same. But he gave folks in all walks of life lots of rope before he'd give up on them.

He bled red, white, and blue every day of the year.

But he stepped up for the Fourth of July. I believe it was more than the barbeque, baked beans, and watermelon. And you've never seen anyone in your life stand more still, or with more respect, when an American flag was presented.

Me, Leon, and David Mark knew from our (same) cradle the Star-Spangled Banner was the most important song in his life. We listened to it every Fourth of July up on the town square.

The high school band would hit the first note, and the Colbert family would be lined up like stepping stones, with our hands over our hearts. We were so ramrod straight if someone had touched us, we might have broken half in two.

It was only a few years after World War II. A bunch of the men would wear their uniforms as they celebrated our Independence, which I thought was so neat. Dad didn't. It just wasn't his way. He spent two and a half years in the South Pacific. He fought in eight major invasions beginning in New Guinea as his unit "island hopped" its way to the Philippines.

Daddy for sure had an understanding of what it cost for us to eat the barbeque and share the joys of the day as "one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all" better than most. But he never said much about that either.

He simply loved this country with all his heart. He was proud to be here. To work here. To raise a family here. And you'd better believe it rubbed off on his three sons....

The tears were for him. Oh, if I could just one more time stand in my place between Leon and David on that wonderful town square. I would break every National Anthem rule in the book and let my eyes wander from the flag...to my Father's determined image as he honored HIS country!

It would be the memory of a lifetime that I missed the first time around.

You know, I never one time thanked him for any of it.

But I sure got the message....

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Tennessee 4-H teen leaders are pictured. Submitted photo

Tennessee 4-H Teen Leaders Show The Best of Youth Summer Leadership

COURTESY DAVID KELLETT HOCHREITER

When many people think of 4-H, they may picture raising chickens, poster contests and public speaking. However, those activities are only the beginning of what 4-H offers young people across Tennessee.

Throughout the summer, some of the best examples of Tennessee 4-H youth leadership development have been on display at 4-H camps across the state, including Camp Lone Oaks in Middleton, Camp Ridley in Columbia, Camp Clyde M. York in Crossville and Camp Clyde Austin in Greeneville, Tenn.

Across the Volunteer State, hundreds of teenagers have volunteered thousands of combined hours to serve as teen leaders. These young people act much like big brothers and big sisters for thousands of junior 4-H campers as they learn, grow and experience the excitement of 4-H camp.

Teen leaders play a critical role in helping create a successful, safe and enjoyable camp experience. They take on leadership responsibilities, assist county 4-H agents and camp staff, help ensure cabins are cleaned each morning, comfort campers who may be homesick and encourage younger campers to step outside their comfort zones and try new things.

Tennessee 4-H is blessed with an outstanding group of teen leaders. These are the same teenagers who attend our local high schools, play sports, participate in our churches, work their first jobs and serve in communities across the state; teens such as Trevor Davis from Huntingdon High School, Hunter Malm from West Carroll Jr./Sr. High and Allie Paschall, Asa Gonzales, Gavin Case and Cadence Guinn from Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central High School.

While many teens spend the summer planning beach trips or checking items off their summer bucket lists, these young people are choosing to give back. By pledging their heads, hearts, hands and health, they help ensure that every junior 4-H camper has the opportunity to enjoy a meaningful and memorable summer camp experience.

It is easy in today's world to be critical of young people. However, after seeing the dedication, maturity and compassion of Tennessee 4-H teen leaders, it is clear that the future of the Volunteer State is in good hands.

These teen leaders will one day become our next generation of teachers, doctors, farmers, engineers, military members, policymakers and community leaders. More importantly, they are already demonstrating the character, service and leadership needed to make a positive difference.

For more information about how to become a teen leader with UT/TSU Extension 4-H, please contact your local county Extension agent.

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Obituaries



RUBY SANDERS ALLEN
1936 – 2026

MCKENZIE — Ruby Sanders Allen, a devoted wife, mother, and pillar of the McKenzie community, died on July 1, 2026, at The Waters. She was 89 years old.

Born on October 30, 1936, in the Westport community to the late William and Opal Quillin Sanders, Mrs. Allen spent the majority of her life in McKenzie. She was known by family and friends alike for her generous spirit and her unwavering dedication to caring for those in need, whether they were family, friends, or neighbors.

Mrs. Allen led a life of service, deeply rooted in her faith and her commitment to the area. For many years, she was an active member of the First Baptist Church in McKenzie, where she taught Sunday School and served on numerous boards. Her professional life was defined by her long tenure at the McKenzie Banking Company, where she served as vice president with a deep commitment to serving her customers.

Beyond her church and career, Mrs. Allen was a dedicated community leader. She served as chairman of the board of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, was a long-time board member for the McKenzie Memorial Library, an active member of the McKenzie Business and Professional Women's Club, and a volunteer usher at The Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center.

A lover of travel, she also led groups on trips across the United States and around the world. Above all, she loved books, flowers, and the people she cherished so well.

She is survived by her son Wayne (Glenda) Allen and their children and grandchildren – Harold (Trang) and their children Ari and Lucas; Carrie Beth (Sathya) Anathawany and their children Charlie Glen and Clayton; Wendy (John) Nardinger and their children William and Brynn, and Kayla (Jon) Pipes and their daughter, Naomi. She is also survived by her son-in-law, Ron Roof and his sons, Hunter and Trevor, she is also survived by her sister, Brooke (Charles)

Hodges, numerous nieces and nephews, and her precious friend, Brenda Gibbons.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Charles; her daughter, Sandra Roof (died April 17, 2026); her parents, William and Opal Sanders; and her brother, Bernice (Imogene) Sanders. at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home Interment were at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, McKenzie. +

JAN COZART
1950 – 2206

GLEASON — Memorial services for Jan Cozart were Thursday, July 2, 2026, at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home. Mr. David Johnson officiated and her remains will be buried at another time.

Mrs. Cozart, 75, died at her home on Monday, June 29, 2026. She was born on November 4, 1950, in Milan to Harbert and Pauline Tucker Smith.

She is survived by her husband, Rick Cozart; her children, Mitzie (Eric) Berner and Todd (Andrea) Scarbrough; step-children Chris (Amanda) Cozart and Karen (Randy) Daily; three sisters, Gale Akins, Ella Ray Coleman and Judy Parish; and two grandchildren and thirteen step-grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her sisters, Madlyn Bolen and Ellen Wooley; and brothers, Merle Smith and Phillip Smith.

JOAN WILLIAMS
1939 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Joan Williams, 87, of Huntingdon, died Sunday, June 28, 2026, at The Waters of McKenzie.

Funeral services were Thursday, July 2, 2026, in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home. Interment was in Bethlehem Cemetery.

Mrs. Williams was born May 27, 1939, in Nashville.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ernest Vickers, Sr. and Ovie Elizabeth Dill Vickers; her husband, Thomas Dewey Williams; a son, Jeffrey Brian Williams; a sister Aline Moody; and a brother, Ernest "Pug" Vickers Jr.

She is survived by two daughters, Suzanne Cunningham (Mark) of Huntingdon, and Lezlie Burden (David), of Paris; a son, Dan Williams, of Bucksnot, and four grandchildren.

MARGARET HAWKINS
1930 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Margaret Rose Hawkins, 95, of Huntingdon, died Sunday, June 28, 2026, at her home.

Funeral services were Wednesday, July 1, 2026, in the Chapel of Dilday-Carter Funeral Home. Interment

was at Carroll Memorial Gardens.

Margaret was born September 7, 1930, to the late Emmett Gale Morrison and Olive Curry Morrison. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by her husband, Jesse Lee Hawkins; one son, David Hawkins; and two sisters, Leona Ambrose and Marianna Mink.

She is survived by two sons, Johnny (Nelda) Hawkins of Huntingdon, and Charles (Carol) Hawkins of Bells, Tenn.; one brother, Emmett Gale (Yvonne) Morrison of Scottsdale, Ariz.; nine grandchildren and thirty-five great-grandchildren.

Dilday-Carter Funeral Home is in charge.

BRENT FRANKLIN SMITH
1971 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Brent Franklin Smith, 55, of Huntingdon, died Tuesday, June 30, 2026, at Baptist Hospital Huntingdon.

Funeral services were at Carter's Chapel Church on Friday, July 3, 2026, with Mike Foster officiating.

Brent was born May 12, 1971, in Huntingdon, to the late Dallas Franklin Smith and Judith Elaine Thomsen Smith. He was preceded in death by a son, Justin Allen Taylor.

Along with his mother, Judith (stepfather Clyman), he is survived by his wife of 35 years, Loretta Smith; a daughter, Kelly Sutton, of Huntingdon; and two sisters, Shan Newsome (Kevin) of McLemoresville, and Keisha Smith, of Hermitage. He also leaves two grandchildren.

Chase Funeral Home, Huntingdon.

MAE JEAN HOLLAND
1956 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mae Jean Holland, 69, formerly of Huntingdon, died on July 1, 2026. Jean was born on July 2, 1956, to Bill and Mae Evelyn Campbell. She was a 1974 graduate of Central High School in Bruceton. She married Edward Holland in 1978. They had two sons, Tim and Josh, and a granddaughter.

Funeral services were Sunday, July 5, 2026, in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home, with Rev. Billie Allen officiating the service.

The family received friends Sunday from 1 p.m. until time of the service. Interment followed in Hampton Cemetery.

Jean was preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Ed, to whom she was married for 34 years; her sons, Tim and Josh; her sister, Joyce Place; and her brother, Stanley Morgan. She is survived by her granddaughter; her daughter-in-law, Gwen (Jarid) Warren; and her sister-in-law, Virginia (Jimmy) Davis. Chase Funeral Home.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

BAPTIST MEMORIAL HOSPITAL WELCOMES KEVIN REDD

Join Baptist Memorial Hospital – Carroll County Thursday, July 9 for a Grab & Go Hot Dog Box Lunch event, welcoming new Chief Administrative Officer Kevin Redd and his family to Carroll County. The event is in the hospital cafeteria from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Baptist Memorial Hospital – Carroll County is located at 631 R.B. Wilson Drive, Huntingdon.

CARROLL COUNTY E911 BUDGET MEETING

The Carroll County Emergency Communication District Budget Committee meets in a regular scheduled meeting Tuesday, June 23 at 5:30 p.m. at 20405 East Main Street, Huntingdon. Citizens desiring to publicly comment at the meeting on an agenda item must register with the district at 731-986-8911. A copy of the Public Comment Policy may be obtained at the district office, temporarily located at 20405 East Main Street, Huntingdon.

FREE BACK-TO-SCHOOL CLOTHES, HAIRCUTS

Back to School Event is July 25 from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. for K-8 grade 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 IN 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.

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.

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 amycarter58@gmail.com or Marsha Spain Smith at smithmarsha99@yahoo.com.

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.

THE BREAKFAST CLUB AT HOMETOWN HEALTH

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!

CARROLL COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEETS MONTHLY

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

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

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

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YOUNG WASHINGTON (PG-13)

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

SUPERGIRL (PG-13)

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

JACKASS: BEST AND LAST (R)

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
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Carroll County Library Summer Readers Enjoy Interactive Science Program

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (July 1) — Professor Graybeard of Mr. Bond’s Science Guys visited Carroll County Library Wednesday afternoon for a fun and educational program about dinosaurs, part of the library’s “Unearth a Story” summer reading program.

Kids learned about the origins, biology and behavior of dinos, and the professor ended the hour with a volcanic eruption.

He demonstrated how electromagnets work and how Earth’s electromagnetic field enabled life to develop.

Graybeard explained the natural processes of erosion and deposition and their roles in leaving behind the fossils that we discover today. He demonstrated the strength of hollow dinosaur bones by stacking books on a model.

He spoke about the features and behaviors of several species and explained how paleontologists arrived at their theories.

The professor got the summer readers involved every step of the way, except for the volcanic finale to his program, which delighted the kids from a safe distance.

Mr. Bond’s Science Guys began in Nashville 27 years ago and provides interactive and informative science programs at schools, camps and more across the country.

Carroll County Library’s summer reading program continues this week with a program by guests from Natchez Trace State Park on Tuesday, July 7 at 10:30 a.m. and a “Tea-Rex Party” Saturday, July 11 at 2 p.m.



Above, Professor Graybeard of Mr. Bond’s Science Guys leads summer readers in giving a dinosaur “roar” with help from Howland Morris. Below, Summer readers Kambrea Winchester (left) and Madeline Trent help Professor Graybeard demonstrate how a Triceratops’ horns make it a tough fight for a Tyrannosaurus Rex. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



Esch Home Wins Gleason ‘Yard of the Month’

The City of Gleason awarded the coveted “Yard of the Month” title to Shey and Janet Esch in July.

The Esch home, located at 207 Mill Street, was awarded for its “patriotic splendor” for the Fourth of July and the America 250 celebration.

“They maintain their property immaculately year-round and decorate appropriately for seasonal holidays,” the City of Gleason said of the Esches. “We appreciate their efforts to keep Gleason looking great.”

Bethel University Welcomes 150 New Students During Summer Orientation

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (June 3–11) — Bethel University welcomed 150 new admits and their families to campus in early June for Summer Orientation. The university will accommodate new students who were unable to attend the summer sessions during Welcome Week in August.

Summer Orientation days were June 3, June 4, June 10 and June 11.

During these all-day orientation events, students and their families began in the Dickey Fine Arts Building, learning about different facets of student life. As the day continued, students took tours of the campus that they will soon call home. Students also received their class schedules.

Bethel University’s orientation usually looks a bit different, happening over a week in August after move-in. Bethel administration decided to begin earlier this year, preparing students and their families for college life well before move-in day.

“College is an important first step into adulthood for any student,” said Lougan



Bethel University staff members Blake Bernier, Brantly Jent and Cody Greene welcomed new students and their families inside the Dickey Fine Arts Building for the start of Summer Orientation. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Bishop, Bethel University’s Vice President of Enrollment and Advancement, “and it can be daunting, especially for first-generation students. We believe orientation is a meaningful part of the high school to college transition for both students and their families.”

Summer Orientation is one of many changes Bethel University is implementing this year, with the start of its “Vision 2030” strategic plan.

Once all students arrive back to campus in August, Bethel University administration plans to build upon what students learned. Students will also have a chance to

meet with their faculty advisors to answer any questions they may have about their schedules before classes start.

Students who were unable to attend Summer Orientation will receive all of the information they missed along with their class schedules during Welcome Week.

Bethel University saw an uptick in applications for the Fall 2026 semester compared to last year, according to Bishop. While many of those applicants were from West Tennessee, Bethel University received applications from approximately 30 states and from every continent except Antarctica.

West Carroll Awarded \$50K Perkins Reserve Grant to Launch ‘The Roost Mercantile’

BY LYNDSY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

ATWOOD (July 1) — West Carroll Special School District (WCSSD) is one of 58 school districts across the state to be awarded Perkins Reserve Grant (PRG) funds for the 2026-27 school year, the Tennessee Department of Education announced on Wednesday. WCSSD received a grant totalling \$50,000.

PRG funds are meant to support Career and Technical Education (CTE) statewide.

The West Carroll Special School District will use the awarded \$50,000 to fund its upcoming CTE project, “The

Roost Mercantile.”

The Roost Mercantile, West Carroll Jr./Sr. High School’s new storefront and coffee shop, is a student-led project that will directly benefit the school district’s CTE Programs of Study.

Work-based learning students will produce goods including apparel, school spirit merchandise, 3D-printed and laser-engraved items, wooden craft projects, artistic renderings and ceramics, food products and coffee. Students will manage every aspect of the store — from creating the products to advertising, pricing and selling goods.

“This will create a business atmosphere where students

can learn social skills, work with industry partners and foster an entrepreneurial spirit,” said CTE Director Kristin Lindsey.

Lindsey plans to have the store operational around fall break this year. It will be open from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. on school days.

The PRG is a competitive grant opportunity made possible by the federal Strengthening Career and Technical Education for the 21st Century Act (Perkins V), passed in 2018, which provides annual federal funding to support CTE programs nationwide.

Weakley County Schools also received PRG funds in the amount of \$50,000.

MHS Hosts Youth Football Camp July 20

Head Coach Keith Hodge and the McKenzie High School Rebels host the 2026 Youth Football Camp on Monday, July 20 at the MHS Indoor Practice Facility from 6-8 p.m.

Attendees will learn from the MHS coaching staff and players while developing football fundamentals in a fun and positive environment.

Attendance is open to area youth from all counties.

Admission to the camp is \$20 per child.

Registration and payment will be at the door the evening of the camp.

This is the third year of the event.

Mustang Football Coaches to Speak at Historical Society

HUNTINGDON (July 6) — Huntingdon coaches Jimmy Pritchard and Eric Swenson are this month’s featured speakers with the Huntingdon Historical Society. At 9 a.m. on July 15, the two will visit the conference room of Huntingdon City Hall to discuss the history of Huntingdon Mustang Football.

Coach Jimmy Pritchard attended Huntingdon High School and played football for the Huntingdon Mustangs before attending the

University of Tennessee at Martin. Pritchard coached at McKenzie for five years before returning to Huntingdon to coach and teach. Pritchard stayed in the Huntingdon school system for 32 years. Pritchard and his wife, Betty, have been married for 56 years. Together they share two children and four grandchildren.

Coach Eric Swenson served as an offensive coordinator for the Mustangs from 1996 to 2004, and he be-

came the head coach in 2008. In Swenson’s first season as head coach, the Mustangs finished third in their district. Under Swenson’s coaching, the Huntingdon Mustangs won their second-ever state championship in 2025. The HHS Field was named in his honor the same year.

The Huntingdon Mustang Football Team was founded in the early 20th century. The Mustangs won their first State Championship in 2003 when they defeated David Lipscomb.

All are invited to attend the Huntingdon Historical Society’s July 15 meeting.

THE BEST THINGS ABOUT SUMMER...

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A532/TF

McKenzie Police Reports

Traffic Stop Leads to Arrest — Brian Keith Fair, Humboldt, was arrested on an outstanding warrant during a traffic stop on July 5. Officer Timothy Dillon initiated a traffic stop on Fair's car. A check of Fair's driver's license revealed he had an outstanding warrant for his arrest on a Violation of Probation charge. Fair was transported to Carroll County Jail for custody by Madison County authorities.

Missing iPad — A David

Street resident reported a missing iPad on July 5. Officer Kyle Beauchamp filed a report that a child placed his \$400 iPad on the family's automobile as he was playing basketball. The forgotten iPad went missing after the car drove away. A "Find My" app indicated the iPad was along David Street, however, it was not located, possibly because it was washed away by heavy rains or otherwise damaged. The iPad was erased remotely

with a message displayed on the screen that, if found, return it to McKenzie Police.

Possible Assault — A Linden Street resident was discovered in his backyard shop on July 3. Officers Dalton Raspberry and Lt. Brister reported the man was lying on his back with a face full of blood. The man's family member stated he had been drinking most of the day, and the victim could not remember what had happened. The subject was transported via EMS to Baptist Hospital for treatment.

Carroll County Sheriff's Reports

Domestic Assault — On June 30, Deputy Steven Scott made contact with a complainant at the Carroll County Sheriff's Office regarding an assault that had occurred at a residence on Holmes Mill Road. The complainant reported being assaulted by David Pleasant, 42, of Huntingdon.

The complainant stated Pleasant struck her on the side of the head and spat in her face several times during the altercation. Deputy Scott observed bruising behind the complainant's ear that was consistent with her account of the incident.

Pleasant was arrested and charged with domestic assault.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Vandalism — On June 28, Deputy Dillon Crowe responded to a vandalism complaint at a residence on Ephesus Church Road in Hollow Rock. Upon arrival, deputies found toilet paper strewn throughout the trees, around several vehicles and across the property.

The complainant reported that chairs, toilet paper, and a gas can containing gasoline had been thrown into the swimming pool. The gasoline had spilled into the water, and toilet paper had clogged the pool pump, causing it to stop working. The complainant advised the pool would likely need to be drained and refilled with new chemicals, which previously cost approximately \$600. The condition of the

pool pump was unknown, as the complainant had turned it off after reading that allowing it to sit might prevent further damage.

The complainant told deputies he believed his son was responsible after checking the Live360 app and seeing his location near the residence around 12:51 a.m. Deputies responded to the area indicated by the app and located a roll of toilet paper nearby. During the investigation, deputies also developed information indicating a female may have been with the complainant's son at the time. Both individuals were asked to come to the Sheriff's Office for questioning.

The investigation remains ongoing.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Huntingdon Police Reports

Driving Under the Influence, Resisting Arrest, Implied Consent Violation — According to a report made on June 20, Officer Daniel Inman responded after Sgt. Brad Gavrack with the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency reported a white pickup truck whose driver appeared to be intoxicated. Officer Inman located the vehicle and observed it failing to maintain its lane before conducting a traffic stop.

Upon making contact with the driver, Michael Lee Sharp, Officer Inman observed slurred speech, glossy eyes and detected the odor of an alcoholic beverage. Sharp refused to perform standardized field sobriety tests and repeatedly refused lawful commands to exit the vehicle. While refusing officers' commands, Sharp repeatedly stated, "I need you to call Andy Dickson out here," and at one point acted as though he was calling Dickson on the phone himself while remaining inside the vehicle. Officers made multiple attempts to gain Sharp's voluntary compliance before deploying OC spray, removing him from the vehicle and placing him into custody. EMS responded to evaluate Sharp before he was transported.

Officer Jacob Dearman transported Sharp to the Carroll County Jail, where Sharp refused to provide a blood or breath sample after being advised of the Tennessee Implied Consent Law. Officer Inman later obtained a search warrant for a blood sample, which was executed at Baptist Memorial Hospital.

Sharp was charged with driving under the influence, resisting arrest, and violation of the implied consent law.

Public Intoxication — According to a report made on June 22, Officer Brad Allen responded to Walmart after receiving a report of a white male with brown hair, a camo shirt, shorts and boots walking through the parking lot attempting to open several vehicle doors.

Upon arrival, Officer Allen made contact with Robert Wesley Prebeck, who stated he was trying to locate his vehicle. When asked what kind of vehicle he drove, Prebeck replied that he did not know because he was drunk.

Officers later located his truck in the Huck's parking lot.

Prebeck was taken into custody and charged with public intoxication.

Criminal Trespass — According to a report made on June 19, Sgt. Kristen Lee responded to Huck's

after receiving a report of two men allegedly making threatening statements in the parking lot.

Upon arrival, Sgt. Lee made contact with James R. Hinson and another male. Hinson advised they were attempting to jump-start a vehicle that had broken down. During the investigation, Sgt. Lee confirmed Hinson had previously been banned from Huck's and had been advised of the ban on two separate occasions in 2024. Hinson acknowledged he knew he had been banned but believed the ban was no longer active.

Although neither store employees nor witnesses confirmed any threatening statements had been made, Hinson was arrested for returning to the property after being banned. A female on scene took possession of the disabled vehicle to remove it from the property.

Hinson was transported to the Carroll County Jail and charged with criminal trespass.

Driving on Suspended License, Financial Responsibility Violation — According to a report made on June 17, Sgt. Kristen Lee observed a vehicle traveling on Main Street East without its headlights illuminated and conducted a traffic stop.

The driver was identified as Rodney E. Wright Jr. A records check revealed Wright's driver's license was suspended by the State of Tennessee for failure to maintain future proof of financial responsibility. Wright was also unable to provide proof of insurance for the vehicle.

Wright received a verbal warning for the light law violation and was cited for driving on a suspended license and failure to provide proof of financial responsibility.

Driving Under the Influence, Simple Possession — According to a report made on June 2, Patrolman Steven Snow observed a Ford Explorer pull from a residential driveway onto Paris Street, forcing another vehicle to brake abruptly to avoid a collision. Patrolman Snow conducted a traffic stop and identified the driver as Herbert M. Depriest.

Officer Snow observed Depriest had glassy, blood-shot eyes and detected the odor of an alcoholic beverage coming from the vehicle. An open Busch Light beer and an open Bud Light beer were also observed inside. Depriest consented to standardized field sobriety tests and displayed multiple indicators of impairment. Based on the investigation, he was placed under arrest for driv-

ing under the influence.

During a search incident to arrest, officers located a metal container in Depriest's pocket containing a crystal-like substance that field-tested positive for methamphetamine. A subsequent search of the vehicle located additional suspected methamphetamine within reach of both occupants. Passenger Glen Goodrum was also arrested after officers discovered he had outstanding felony warrants from Humphreys County.

Depriest was charged with driving under the influence, first offense and simple possession of methamphetamine.

Multiple Drug Charges Following Traffic Stop — According to a report made on May 28, Officer Daniel Inman conducted a traffic stop on a Hyundai Elantra on Veterans Drive North after determining the vehicle's registration had expired.

The driver, Thomas Schultz, appeared extremely nervous throughout the stop. A records check revealed his driver's license was suspended through Madison County General Sessions Court, and he was unable to provide proof of financial responsibility. Schultz was taken into custody and transported to the Carroll County Jail.

Prior to towing the vehicle, officers conducted an inventory search and located approximately 7 grams of suspected methamphetamine, one loaded syringe, about 1.03 grams of marijuana, approximately 40 Gabapentin pills, a magnetic container commonly used to conceal controlled substances, drug paraphernalia and numerous identification cards, Social Security cards, credit and debit cards belonging to other individuals, along with multiple laptop computers and other electronic devices.

Schultz was charged with possession of a Schedule II controlled substance with intent, possession of a Schedule VI controlled substance, possession of a Schedule V controlled substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, driving on a suspended license, violation of registration law and violation of the financial responsibility law.

Property Transfers

Tammi Marie Bollenback and others to Ethan Thomas and wife Kaylee Peevyhouse in District 21.

Marie Davidson Winstead to Marie Davidson and husband Freddie Lee Winstead in District 2.

Larry Cox to Richard Clay Wilson in District 4.

Paula Marie Leach and Thomas Eugene Eskew to Taylor Rental, LLC in District 11.

Janet Boyd to Lawson D. Boyd in District 16.

Janet Boyd to Lawson D. Boyd in District 16.

Roger Dale Nelson to Daniel Reibsane. No district listed.

Steven Eugene Squires to Steven Robert Squires and

others in District 12.

Jonathan Licht to Clint and wife Molly Vaughn in District 4.

Geoffrey S. Carter to Michelle Ferguson in District 16.

Jesaia and wife Ida Yoder to Carl W. and wife Kimberly Renfroe Johnson in District 11.

Geoffrey S. Carter to Marvin Parsons in District 22.

Harrison Blake and wife Laura L. Fawcett to Retha Anderson in District 22.

James Martin and wife Tina Bateman Kelly to Joseph Latch in District 2.

John and wife Hilary Ward to Steven Nicholas Cotter in District 6.

Barry and wife Lisa Crum

to Sandra Crum Tucker in District 13.

Thomas R. and Deborah A. Negrette, as co-trustees to Frederick and wife Kathryn Snyder. No district listed.

Ronald Watson to Brian Scott Watson in District 22.

Rena Mae Hodge to Chast-in Hodge in District 16.

Sharon Brandon and husband Art Mulwitz to Brandon Heritage, LLC in District 13.

John Christopher and wife Amanda Jo Ward to Timothy P. and wife Emily T. Dillon in District 4.

Sharon Brandon Mulwitz to Brandon Heritage, LLC in District 13.

Sharon Brandon Mulwitz to Brandon Heritage, LLC in District 13.

Pedro and wife Giselle Garcia to William D. Tegethoff and others in District 11.

Carroll County General Sessions Court Report

HUNTINGDON (July 1) — The following cases were heard in Carroll County General Sessions Court on July 1.

The following case was bound over to a grand jury:

Dale William Foga, Ferguson Cemetery Road, Cedar Grove, bound over, Schedule IV Drugs: Mfg, Deliver, Sell, Possess; bound over, Possession of Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia Uses and Activities; bound over, Possession of a Firearm Intent to Go Armed – Dangerous Felony – Sol.; bound over, Schedule VI Drugs: Mfg, Deliver, Sell, Possess.

The following cases resulted in a guilty plea or finding:

Shelby Bennett, State Route 114, Buena Vista, guilty – lesser charge, Drivers License to be Carried and Exhibited, \$100 fine, 30 days, payment arrangements through clerk's office.

Cody Allen Bradley, Price Road, Huntingdon, guilty, Probation Violation – Booked, no fine, 11/29, shall be allowed to serve this sentence in long-term inpatient treatment, inpatient treatment can consist of residential transitional living IOP and aftercare as recommended by treatment facility.

Marlena Flores, Everett Street, McKenzie, guilty – lesser charge, Driving Without License, no fine, 30 days, unsupervised probation for 30 days, payment arrangements through clerk's office.

Alexander Neal Gilliam, Cotton Creek Road, Bruce-ton, guilty – lesser charge, Resist Stop, Arrest, Search (Inv. Weapon); guilty – lesser charge, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange, \$250, 11/29 supervised probation until all conditions met, unsupervised probation for balance; dismissed, Tampering With Evidence; dismissed, Evading Arrest.

Rachel Johnsonius, Union Church Road, McKenzie, guilty, Probation Violation – Booked, no fine, two months, supervised probation for balance, report to jail on July 10.

Christopher Maitland, Terry Road, Cedar Grove, guilty – lesser charge, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange, \$250 fine, 11/29, supervised probation for all conditions met, unsupervised probation for balance.

Ryan Tyler Mileski, Saint Paul Church Road, Huntingdon, guilty – lesser charge, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange, \$1,000 fine, 11/29, supervised probation for balance, forfeit Taurus .38 and Diamond Back AR-15 to the 24th Judicial District Drug

Task Force; guilty – lesser charge, Possession of Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia Uses and Activities, \$1,000 fine, 11/29, supervised probation for balance; dismissed, Possess Firearm Intent to Go Armed; dismissed, Meth – Possession or Casual Exchange.

Coteshia Lavay Pearson, Ash Street, Bruce-ton, guilty – lesser charge, Child Abuse/Neglect/Endangerment 8 Years or Less – Attempt, pre-trial diversion review date June 23, 2027, supervised probation for 11/29 or until conditions met, then unsupervised probation for balance, if defendant successfully completes care will be dismissed; dismissed, Calls in Non-Emergency Situations Prohibited.

Toni Gail Pearson, Highway 219, Huntingdon, guilty – lesser charge, Drivers License to be Carried and Exhibited, no fine, 30 days, payment arrangements through clerk's office, unsupervised probation.

Theotis Statin, Walnut Circle, McKenzie, guilty, Driving While License Suspended, \$50 fine, six days, supervised probation until conditions complete, defendant shall be transferred to unsupervised probation upon payment of fines and costs; dismissed, Light Law – Motor Vehicle.

Darryl Walker, Bledso Road, Humboldt, guilty – lesser charge, Theft of Merchandise – Up to \$1,000, no fine, 11/29, \$871 to Walmart Huntingdon, report to jail on July 10, serve consecutive weekends, will pay minimum \$50 towards restitution per month after 90 days, if all conditions satisfied defendant can be transferred to unsupervised probation.

Matthew Trent Weathers, St. Paul Church Road, Huntingdon, guilty – lesser charge, Child Abuse/Neglect/Endangerment – Attempt, pre-trial diversion

11/29 review date June 23, 2027, no fine, supervised probation until all conditions met, then unsupervised probation for balance, defendant to follow all directives of DCS in juvenile case, if diversion successfully completed it will be dismissed expunged, defendant to obey all state, federal and local laws.

The following case resulted in pre-trial diversion:

Kathryn E. Moon, Industrial Drive, Huntingdon, pre-trial diversion, Theft of Merchandise – Up to \$1,000, litigation taxes only, review date January 6, 2027, \$260.59 to Walmart, supervised probation until paid in full, no contact with Walmart, cognitive behavioral training course.

The following cases were dismissed:

Robert Lee Bunce III, Gann Road, Milan, dismissed, Driving While License Revoked; dismissed, Registration Expired.

Charles M. Coffman, Highway 104 North, Cedar Grove, dismissed, Probation Violation – Booked.

James Rowland Hinson, Bright Road, Huntingdon, dismissed, Criminal Trespass.

Mario Flores Mendoza, Sparks Hill, Sparta, dismissed, Driving Without License.

Brandon Tyler Smith, Jr., Springhill Church Road, Huntingdon, dismissed, Registration Law; dismissed, Driving While License Revoked; dismissed, Offense of Littering.

James Derrick Warbritton, Ledsinger Road, Huntingdon, dismissed, Probation Violation – Booked.

James Derrick Warbritton, Little Beaver Creek Lane, Huntingdon, dismissed, Interference with Emergency Calls; dismissed, False Imprisonment; dismissed, Aggravated Assault; dismissed, Domestic Assault.

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 TRIPLICATE 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

NORTHWEST TENNESSEE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL
PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Board of Directors of Northwest Tennessee Economic Development Council will hold a Board meeting on **Friday, July 17, 2026, beginning at 10 a.m.** The meeting will be physically held at the Northwest TN Head Start/Early Head Start Central Office located at 938C Walnut Avenue W., McKenzie, TN 38201 in person only.

A4070/27-1

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

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McKenzie Housing Authority

JOB OPPORTUNITY

McKenzie Housing Authority is currently accepting applications for the position of Groundskeeper. In this position, you will be responsible for performing a wide range of tasks to ensure the cleanliness, safety, and attractiveness of our community. Experience in groundskeeping is preferred. McKenzie Housing Authority offers a generous benefit package. Applications may be picked up at McKenzie Housing Authority, 22 McDonald Avenue, McKenzie, TN 38201, Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. until 4 p.m.

All applications must be submitted by July 31, 2026.

A473/27-1

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Freedom ...From Front Page



Above Left, The McKenzie Police Department’s K9 officer, Toby, greets Freedom Festival attendees. Above Center, Brookelyn and Joe Ruprich stop for a photo while waiting in line for food. Above Right, Lindsay, Zack and Zane Reeder dressed for the occasion, with Zack wearing the American flag as a cape. Below, Pyro Shows’ Mark Chartrand and JT Williams are pictured on the baseball field in front of many fireworks yet to be lit. Right, Mike and Shana Ryg are pictured in front of the American flag, displayed by the McKenzie Fire Department. Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner



McLemoresville Hosts July 4th Celebration

McLEMORESVILLE (July 4) — McLemoresville hosted its traditional annual July 4 celebration with a parade, cakewalk, street dance, live music by Back Road Truckers, food, and fireworks. Mayor Phil Williams led the parade, which attracts many children’s entries. This political year also attracted local political candidates. The McLemoresville community gathered on July 4th, 2026, for an annual celebra-

tion that brought neighbors together for a festive parade full of spirit and hometown pride. The event featured a wide array of participants, from young cyclists to vintage vehicle enthusiasts, all enjoying the parade. **WALKERS** 1st — #54 Arya Stembridge 2nd — #13 Kathryn and Liam Wunderlick **YOUTH BATTERY** 1st — #16 and #17 The Cobbs 2nd — #31 Russell Woodall 3rd — #51 Karlie Kail **GIRLS BICYCLES** 1st — #49 Camilla Jenkins 2nd — #22 Kensley Martin 3rd — #29 Izabella Sellers **BOYS BICYCLES** 1st — #30 Izaiah Sellers **SCOOTER** 1st — #42 Fender Foster 2nd — #24 Jack Martin **GOLF CARTS - Group I**



Left, Mayor Phil Williams leads the parade. Right, Lex Suite served as emcee for the downtown events. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner

1st — #48 Carolina Campbell 2nd — #32 Marlowe and Myles Temple 3rd — #41 Alex Caviness **GOLF CARTS - Group II** 1st — #38 Kim, David, Derrick, Clementine, Will and Caden 2nd — #40 Kason, Cooper, Sawyer and Gunner 3rd — #39 The Cliftons

4-WHEELERS - Girls 1st — #52 Annaka Townsend 2nd — #44 MaKenna Hollowell **4-WHEELERS - Boys** 1st — #23 Kaleb Martin and JoJo 2nd — #43 Ty Hollowell 3rd — #33 Easton Miller **GO-CARTS**

1st — #27 Dawson and Laney Williams **MINI-BIKES** 1st — #34 Samuel Everett 2nd — #35 Ellie Jo Everett **DIRT BIKES** 1st — #25 Gunner Brown 2nd — #26 Ayden Taylor 3rd — #28 Ellie Williams **MOTORCYCLES** 1st — #55 Madison Myles **ATVs** 1st — #53 “Pat’s Restaurant” 2nd — #10, #11 and #15 Reedy Creek Baptist Church Youth — Natalie, Annie, Natasha, Psyana, Larry, Lexy, Jelason, Richard, Kennedy, Kameron, Larry, LeAnna, Lennox, Mason, and Ezra **SIDE-BY-SIDE** 1st — #12 Ryan and Hadley Brockman 2nd — #57 Maddie Martin and Jessie Martin 3rd — #21 Kensley Newsome

JEEPS 1st — #20 Kinley and Shelby by Adams **ANTIQUE TRACTOR** 1st — #20 Matthew Langley – 1950 JD Model A **AUTO** 1st — #46 Randy Powers – 1977 Chevy Truck 2nd — #47 Jacob Powers – 1979 Chevy Truck 3rd — #37 Larry Sharp The event also saw participation from local political figures, including Ryan White, Michael King, Eric Sawyers, and Tommy Davis. Organizers expressed deep gratitude to the judges for their work, and extended special thanks to the local fire departments and the Rescue Squad for their ongoing support. It was a day of community success, marked by the participation and enthusiasm of everyone who helped make the McLemoresville July 4th parade a memorable celebration.

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Gleason ‘Happy Birthday America’ Celebration Hampered by Storms

GLEASON (July 3) — A “Happy Birthday America” celebration Friday night in downtown Gleason was disrupted by heavy rain and wind. The storm moved in just minutes before a planned parade, which was canceled, along with some of the live

entertainment and fireworks. Spirits weren’t dampened, though. After the worst of the weather passed, some vendors and food trucks reopened, and Weakley County-based band Magnolia Avenue performed an eclectic set of classic rock and country.



Magnolia Avenue performs live in downtown Gleason Friday night. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner