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Tuesday, June 23, 2026

McKENZIE, TENNESSEE

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INSIDE

- Huntingdon to Hold Public Budget Hearing, Page 4
- McKenzie Schools to Have Budget Workshop, Page 4
- Sheriff Town Hall, Community Forum Next Week, Page 6

OBITUARIES

- Elmer Lee Maness, 81
- Jerry Nance, 81
- Linda L. Phillips, 69
- Carol Pinson, 79
- William 'Mr. Billy' Smith, 85
- Jerry D. Weatherford, 89
- Wesley Whistle, 64

Carroll County Juneteenth Celebration Focuses on Unity

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (June 20) — The Carroll County Juneteenth Celebration was Saturday at the Carroll County Civic Center Exhibit Building.

See JUNETEENTH on Page 2



(L to R) Undria King, Jobina Gordon, Tyasia Reed, Brenda Jones, Tamika Abdallah and Bridgette Session pose at the Carroll County Juneteenth Celebration. Gordon is chairperson of the committee, and Reed is a member. King, Jones, Abdallah and Session were vendors at this year's indoor celebration. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Area Fourth Of July Events

Carroll County Events

Friday, July 3 at dark — Terry Volunteer Fire Department Fireworks Show.

Friday and Saturday, July 3-4, gates open at 5:30 p.m. — Clayhill Motorsports Park Freedom and Fireworks Celebration Nights.

Saturday, July 4 at 5 p.m. — Freedom Festival at McKenzie Recreational Park.

Saturday, July 4 at 5:30 p.m. — McLemoresville Parade; Fireworks Show at dark.

Saturday, July 4 at 6 p.m.

See JULY 4 on Page 2

Carroll County To Approve 2026-27 Fiscal Year Budget

HUNTINGDON (June 22) — The Carroll County Commission meets June 29 at 7 p.m. Agenda items include:

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

See BUDGET on Page 3

HUNTINGDON

School Board Debuts New App, New Student Reps

BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS
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HUNTINGDON (June 17) — The Huntingdon Special School District Board of Education met Wednesday, June 17, for a regular board meeting.

Rising senior Katherine Meggs and rising junior Lila Reed made their debut as new student school board representatives during the meeting.

See APP on Page 3



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HABITAT FOR HUMANITY KIDS' DAY



Kids' Day volunteers are pictured with JayAnn Johnson (center) in front of her new home. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Young Volunteers Pitch In to Beautify New Habitat Home

BY LYNDSEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (June 19) — Habitat for Humanity of Carroll County invited children to put their gardening skills to the test during Kids' Day on Friday, June 19. Children

of various ages showed up at 871 Walnut Avenue West, McKenzie, helping landscape JayAnn Johnson's new home.

Habitat for Humanity provided flowers, dirt, flower pots and spades for all participating volunteers.

Young volunteers included Norah Milam, Skyler Milam, Reed Stewart, Lillie Atkinson and Kaiden Wallace.

Habitat for Humanity broke ground on Johnson's new home in

See HABITAT on Page 2

McKenzie Chamber of Commerce and Industry Hosts Annual Banquet

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (June 16) — The McKenzie Chamber of Commerce and Industry hosted its annual banquet Tuesday at Bethel University's Vera Low Center.

Chamber Executive Director Monica Heath served as emcee and welcomed guests.

She said, "Our community is strong because of the people who continue to show up. You open your businesses, employ our neighbors, serve on boards, sponsor events, support our schools, donate when there is a need and invest your time and energy into making our area a better place to live, work, shop and raise a family."

See CHAMBER on Page 3



CASA of Henderson and Carroll Counties was presented the Nonprofit of the Year Award. Matt Aird (right) presented the award to Kim Smith, Program Director for Carroll County. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner



INDEX News 2 | Opinion 4 | Obituaries 5
 Calendar 5 | Records 7 | Notices 6
 Marketplace 8 | People 11

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The WestStar Leadership Class of 2026 is pictured. Submitted photo

WestStar Graduates 36th Class

MARTIN (June 16) — Martin WestStar Leadership Program honored its 2026 class Tuesday, June 16, in the Boling University Center's Duncan Ballroom.

A 5:30 p.m. reception was followed by dinner at 6 p.m. and a keynote speech by Patrick Sheehan, director of the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency. The graduation ceremony con-

cluded the program.

WestStar was established in 1989 and welcomed 32 alumni following graduation of this year's 36th class.

Jake Bynum, UT Martin chief of staff and WestStar executive director, emceed the annual event.

Members of the 2026 class were Dr. Amanda Creasy, Decatur County; Dr. Tameka Lewis, Gibson

County; Carly Wheat, Henry County; Ashley Horn, Henderson County; Dr. Christie Hudnall, Lauderdale County; Paula Bell, Henry County; Rachael McKinney, Obion County; Caroline Partin, Obion County; Sarah Haig, Weakley County and UT Martin; Cody Bum-pus, Tipton County; Brian Smith, Weakley County; Robert Craig, Dyer County;

Mike Cary, Carroll County; Jayson Keel, Henderson County; George Chism, Shelby County; Randy Geiger, Henry County; Reggie Crenshaw, Shelby County; James Farmer, Haywood County; Mike Gill, Tipton County; Ryan White, Carroll County; Mark Barber, Chester County; Dr. Michael O'Neill, Weakley County and UT Martin; Josh Tid-

well, Hardin County; Norm Bauer, Haywood County; and Alan Hooper, Hardin County; Grayson Chandler, Gibson County; Justin Roach, Henderson County; Shane Paschall, Henry County; Henry Kilpatrick, Madison County; Zachary Marbrey, Gibson County; Justin Crice, Weakley County; and Daniel Richardson, Benton County.

July 4

...From Front Page

— Hollow Rock Fire Department Fireworks Show and Music at Central High School.

Saturday, July 4 at dark — Eastview Fireworks Show at the Carroll County Fairgrounds.

Events compiled by the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce. Times and dates are subject to change.

Gleason Happy Birthday America Celebration

A Happy Birthday America 250th Anniversary celebration is in downtown Gleason on Friday, July 3. A parade begins at 6 p.m. Local talent begins at 6:30 p.m. featuring Hadley Garrison and Jade Kowalewski. A classic car cruise-in is on Magnolia Avenue at 7 p.m. Fireworks are at 9 p.m.

The Backroad Truckers Play Nights On Broadway in Park Theatre



MCKENZIE (June 18) — The Backroad Truckers headlined the City of McKenzie's Nights on Broadway event Thursday, June 18. Due to an early-evening rain storm, the performance was moved from Banner Row to inside Park Theatre. A local, Henry County based band, the Backroad Truckers performed a wide array of music — from classic rock songs to some newer bluegrass tunes. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner



Kids enjoyed a petting zoo by A&B Minis, joined by members of the Hometown Health staff. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Hometown Health Hosts Back-to-School Blitz

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (June 17) — Hometown Health Clinic hosted a Back-to-School Blitz Wednesday at the pediatric office on Hospital Drive. The event, with the theme "Homer's Fun Day on the Farm," aimed to remind parents to schedule well visits for their school-age children as well as provide a fun day of activities during the summer break.

Kids enjoyed sno cones, games such as cornhole, temporary tattoos, giveaways, door prizes and a petting zoo by A&B Minis and Mobile Petting Zoo of McKenzie.

The petting zoo included goats, sheep, chickens, an alpaca, a donkey and a tortoise.

Parents were provided with a handy checklist for back-to-school preparedness:

- *Schedule your child's back-to-school check-up.
- *Buy school supplies. Communicate with your school to find out everything your child will need for the year.
- *Get back into a good sleeping habit. Elementary-aged kids should get 10-12 hours of sleep, and teens should aim for 8.5-9.5 hours of sleep.
- *Create a quiet area for reading and homework.



Above, Helping run the Back-to-School Blitz were (L to R) Hometown Health Front Office Director Amber Sullivan, counselor Skylar McFarlin, Marketing Director Ellen Pruitt (with son Mason, 8) and volunteer Jensen Sullivan. Below, Parker Cantrell, 9, tosses a cornhole bag as he plays against Kip Warmath, 8. Tate Warmath, 11, enjoys a sno cone as he spectates. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



- *Watch backpack weight. Heavy backpacks can strain a child's growing body, including their muscles and joints.
- *Calm back-to-school jitters. If your child is feeling anxious about going back to school, physical activity may help.
- *Keep meals healthy and interesting. Have fun creating menu items that your child likes.
- *Wash your hands. We should remember the importance of hand washing, both at school, at home and anywhere in public.



Left, Reed Stewart shovels dirt, looking at another volunteer for guidance. Right, Skyler Milam shovels dirt, making room for new flowers in front of JayAnn Johnson's new home. Photos by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner



Norah Milam collects potting soil to cushion a potted plant. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Habitat

...From Front Page

mid-March. Now, her home appears almost complete, with construction primarily taking place inside the house.

Johnson, a longtime McKenzie resident and four-year volunteer with Habitat for Humanity, has named her home "God's Glory."

"This is a blessing from the Lord," she said. "There is nothing I did to deserve this. This is all God who has done this."

Johnson said she visits the house nearly every day — sometimes driving by after work and sometimes stopping to walk around the property. As of Friday, Johnson was not sure when the home would be move-in ready.

"This is a dream come true," Johnson said. "Words cannot express it. I am truly thankful."



Chris Harris (left) and Dale Harris ride their horses in the Juneteenth Parade in downtown Huntingdon Saturday. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Juneteenth

...From Front Page

The all-day event began with a mid-morning parade through downtown and ended with a dance at the civic center. In between, there was great food, fun activities, vendors and plenty of fellowship.

The event, now in its sixth year, is organized by the Carroll County Juneteenth Committee, led by Chairperson Jobina Gordon.

Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day, is offi-

cially observed on June 19 to commemorate the end of slavery in the United States. On that day in 1865, the final enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation was ordered. Juneteenth was recognized as a federal holiday in 2021.

Gordon told The Banner the event was all about unity. "From where we have come until now, and we're still fighting for that in some instances. Some people still don't believe in unity."

"It's about our community coming together. We don't come together as much as we used to. I want to try to start that back."

She explained what she hopes people see from the county celebration. "That we can always still come together, no matter what. Everybody is waiting on everybody to do something, but somebody has to stand up to make it come together."

To that end, she credited Tiffany King for pushing her to make the event a reality and for being instrumental in organizing the parade.

King told The Banner, "I'm just glad we can still do it and be a part of Carroll County. Maybe next year we can grow it."

Neil Thompson Re-Elected to Serve on State District Attorneys Executive Board

TENNESSEE (June 17) — Neil Thompson, District Attorney General of the 24th Judicial District, has been re-elected to serve on the Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference (TNDAGC) Executive Committee.

Chosen by his fellow District Attorneys General across the state, Gen. Thompson — a Henry Countian — will continue to play a crucial role in guiding the overall administration of justice in Tennessee.

“It is an honor to be chosen to serve a third term on the Executive Committee,” Gen. Thompson said. “I look forward to representing my district and continuing the fight for justice for all Tennesseans.”

Gen. Thompson has served as District Attorney General for the 24th Judicial District — which includes Benton, Carroll, Decatur, Hardin and Hen-



District Attorney General Neil Thompson

ry counties — since 2022.

Prior to taking office, he built a successful private law practice in Henry County, representing clients in courts throughout the 24th Judicial District and arguing cases before the Tennessee Court of Criminal Appeals and the Tennessee Supreme Court.

While attending law school, Gen. Thompson

also served as a probation officer with the Tennessee Board of Probation and Parole, beginning a career dedicated to the administration of justice.

“The Executive Committee plays a critical role in the decisions we make to strengthen public safety, focused on effective administration of justice across this great state,” said TNDAGC Executive Director, Stephen Crump. “I am confident General Thompson will uphold this responsibility admirably and advance our important work.”

The Tennessee District Attorneys General Conference was created by the General Assembly in 1961 to provide for a more prompt and efficient administration of justice in the courts of the state. It is composed of the elected District Attorneys General from the state’s 32 judicial districts.



Lila Reed and Katherine Meggs made their debut as new student school board representatives during the June 17 meeting. Pictured (L to R): 2026-27 Huntingdon Special School District Board of Education members — Kennedy White, Dr. Lee Carter, Dr. Morgan Butler, Lila Reed, Katherine Meggs, Dr. Jonathan Kee and Clay Nolen. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

App

...From Front Page

Also introduced in the June 17 meeting was the Huntingdon Special School District’s new app, which Director of Schools Dr. Jonathan Kee said will become the district’s new communication platform.

“We are trying to be more connected,” Kee said. The district will officially roll out the app in July and August.

The new app can be found by searching “Huntingdon Special Schools” on the app store.

The school board approved the consent agenda in a sweeping vote — approving the balance sheets and minutes from the May meeting, summer programming for fiscal year 2026, CTE Perkins Basic for fiscal year 2027, consolidated funding for IDEA/ESEA grants for fiscal year 2027, budget amendments, the 2026-27 differentiated pay plan, the Artificial Intelligence Programs annual report

and the textbook adoption list.

The board also approved the 2026-27 district student/parent handbook and the 2024-25 district Finance Audit. They approved a request for the high school volleyball team to attend an overnight camp in Cape Girardeau, Mo.

The board approved third grade teacher Jamie Huss and sixth grade teacher Erica Sills for tenure.

Pending their July budget meeting, the board approved a request to operate on the 2025-26 school year budget.

Meggs and Reed then spoke to the school board about their summers. They each attended the HOBY Leadership Camp at Vanderbilt University — Meggs as a Junior Facilitator and Reed as an Ambassador. Meggs spoke about recent Mustang Mentor training sessions and a University of Tennessee at Martin training session.

School Board Chairman Dr. Lee Carter said he had applied for Hunting-

don High School’s Jobs for America’s Graduates (JAG) Program and the Mustang Mentors to be a topic at this year’s Tennessee School Board Association conference.

“I want folks to know all the good things we have going on in Huntingdon,” Carter said.

Dr. Kee informed the school board of an upcoming community luncheon on July 17 at 11:30 a.m. in the Huntingdon High School cafeteria. He said the luncheon was the district’s way of saying “thank you” to everyone who has shown their support in the past school year.

Paul Ward Stadium recently underwent minor renovations, with 15 concrete steps being repaired.

The school board’s next meeting is July 22. The board’s budget workshop begins at 4 p.m., and the regular meeting will follow.

The Huntingdon school board meets at the Huntingdon Board of Education, located at 585 High Street.



Top, Outgoing Industrial Development Board members (L to R) Joel Washburn, Ricky Price and Dennis Coleman were honored for their service. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner Above, The Silly Goose Children’s Shop was presented the Small Business of the Year Award. Shawna Fowler (left) presented the award to owners Kaitlyn and Zeke Henderson. Below Left, (L to R) McKenzie Chamber Executive Director Monica Heath and keynote speaker Patrick Smith. Below Right, Misty Aird (left) was presented the Chamber Champion Award by Jason Martin. Bottom Left, Baptist Memorial Hospital-Carroll County was presented the Large Business of the Year Award. Will Record (left) presented the award to Sarah Pitcher, Manager of Marketing and Physician Relations. Bottom Right, Dr. Jay Phipps (left) was presented the Business Person of the Year Award by Mark Anderson. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner



Chamber

...From Front Page

Heath recognized the banquet sponsors, Allegion, Centennial Bank, Carroll Bank and Trust and Hometown Health Clinic.

Mayor Ryan Griffin blessed the meal, which was provided by the Bethel cafeteria.

After dinner, Heath resumed the program with recognition of current board members.

Industrial Development Board members are Chairman John Wright, Vice-Chairman Chuck Sisson, Secretary-Treasurer Mark Anderson, Craig Hobson, Chris Nelson, Logan Drewry, Daniel Hollowell, John Hodgson and Letha Basford.

Chamber Board members are Chairman Myra Carlock, Co-Chairman Matt Aird, Secretary-Treasurer Shawna Fowler, Mark Anderson, Drew Beeler, Will Record, Caleb Orr, Jason Martin and Noah McEwen.

Special recognition was given to three retiring industrial board members for their years of service and commitment to McKenzie’s growth: Dennis Coleman (11 years), Ricky Price (seven years) and Joel Washburn (12 years).

Myra Carlock, the outgoing Chamber president, was also honored in absentia. Heath said, “Myra has served with kindness, dedication and a genuine

love for McKenzie.”

Jason Martin presented the Chamber Champion Award to Misty Aird, saying, “Thank you for believing in the Chamber, supporting our work and helping strengthen the relationships that make our business community successful.”

More Chamber Awards were presented next. Two finalists were announced for each award before the winner was presented a plaque.

Shawna Fowler presented the Small Business of the Year Award to The Silly Goose Children’s Shop, owned by Zeke and Kaitlyn Henderson. The other finalist was Bobby Gee’s Diner.

Will Record presented the Large Business of the Year Award to Baptist Memorial Hospital-Carroll County. Accepting the award was Sarah Pitcher, Manager of Marketing and Physician Relations. The other finalist was L.I. Smith and Associates, Inc.

Matt Aird presented the Nonprofit of the Year Award to CASA of Henderson and Carroll Counties. Accepting the award was Kim Smith, Program Director for Carroll County. The other finalist was The Rotary Club of McKenzie.

Mark Anderson presented the Business Person of the Year Award to Dr. Jay Phipps of Phipps Pharmacy. The other finalist was Gary Simmons.

Caleb Orr introduced the keynote speaker, Patrick Smith, PE, PLS, owner and

president of L.I. Smith and Associates, Inc.

Smith is a Henry County native and a licensed professional engineer and professional land surveyor.

In his address, Smith emphasized the importance of developing local talent to foster community growth. He said, “The communities that thrive aren’t necessarily the communities with the most resources. They’re the communities that do the best job developing people.”

Smith shared how L.I. Smith successfully retains employees by investing in benefits, professional development and flexible schedules, demonstrating that professional opportunities and a high quality of life are achievable outside major cities.

He highlighted Bethel University as a vital institution for nurturing local talent, citing several graduates who have built successful careers in the region.

Smith concluded by stressing that leadership involves a willingness to invest in people’s potential, even before certainty of success. He said, “The tree doesn’t bear fruit the first day it’s planted. Somebody has to plant it. Somebody has to water it. Somebody has to protect it. Somebody has to believe it’s worth the effort. Communities are no different.”

Heath closed the banquet by awarding door prizes, thanking everyone involved and congratulating award winners and nominees.

Budget

...From Front Page

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)

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

cy 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 WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

The Prayer Wall

I'm quite certain what I'm about to describe is not the way things really work, but in my imagination, it makes me feel warm and safe.

Suppose in heaven there is a massive wall, and on that wall there is a tiny light that represents every person on earth. It's The Prayer Wall.

Whenever someone prays for themselves, their light shines, and whenever they pray for someone else, a beam of light travels from their light to the spot on The Prayer Wall of the person they're praying for.

Legions of angels monitor The Prayer Wall day and night (actually, there is no night in heaven, but you get the point), and they report to the angel in

charge of the wall.

Got the picture?

Well, several years ago, one of our daughters was in the hospital, hovering between life and death, kept alive by machines. It was a dark and scary time.

Almost immediately, angels monitoring the wall noticed a number of lights traveling to the exact same spot—our daughter's place on the wall, as friends and family learned what was going on. However, as the hours and days passed, the number of light beams multiplied into the thousands, coming from all over the earth as word spread of the tragedy.

There were so many that the angel in charge was notified and after a quick look, spirit-

ed away to the throne of the Father.

"Father God, you must come see this."

Never doubting his messengers, God took a look at The Prayer Wall himself.

"Something big is happening, something very important and meaningful to many people," he said.

Then he knelt and looked down at our daughter.

"This is the work of Beelzebub, The Liar. Let the prayers sweep him away. Touch the hands and minds of those tending to her, for I will that she should live. We will give her another chance."

Two weeks later, our daughter was sitting up, talking and making conversation because prayers got God's attention.

Never underestimate the power of prayer.

Things In My Head with Charles Manfredi



HUNKER DOWN WITH KES
Hula Hoops Can Lead to Good Health

Life is so much fun. I don't care where you are on the journey. I was at the physical therapist getting adjusted to my new hip. As a warmup treatment the very nice 13-year-old board certified instructor had me rotating my hips in a circular motion. I was doing a terrible job of it.

Let me make a couple of observations early here. The young lady was undoubtedly a little older than 13. At my age everybody under 30 looks like a teenager. And there is a very understandable reason I was struggling getting both hips to cooperate.

My left hip was doing fine. But my brand-new right hip, well, it isn't very "hip" at the moment. It wasn't with me in 1960 when me and Mary Hadley Hayden were twisting the night away with Chubby Checker. My new hip has never done the Mash Potato, Loco-Motion, Watusi, or the Monster Mash.

Good gracious alive, I'd have to rock 'n' roll to 250 hours of Carl Perkins singing "Boppin' the Blues" to get any new body part up to speed! No wonder I was failing this hip rotation lesson. "You know," the young therapist was searching with all her might to help me visualize what she wanted me to do, "it's like twirling a hula hoop around you."

WHAT?

I couldn't believe this wonderful young lady, as serious and well-meaning as she was, would possibly know any more about hula hoops than she did about Carl Perkins. The hula hoop craze was certainly WAY before her time. It actually preceded Chubby Checker, Dee Dee Sharp, Little Eva, and Bobby "Boris" Pickett.

But she did strike a familiar chord. I was in the waning years of my elementary school career when Joe Gooch came gyrating down Stonewall Street with this round, plastic hoop orbiting his body. It was the first one I'd ever seen. We are talking summer of 1958, or maybe '59.

Every kid in town had two good hips back in those days. And our entire neighborhood gang was young, limber, and so eager for anything new and different; we were hula hooping fools in one afternoon of practice.

Me and Kong King would hula hoop all the way to town in the back of Mr. Roy Manley's pickup. I've seen Brenda Ellis with hoops twirling around her neck, waist, and knees at the same time. Emily Scarbrough, who was more talented than most, could "spin that hoop" while she was skipping rope.

We had contests to see who

could keep it going the longest. We'd also twirl it around our wrist, elbow, and upper arm. We could spin it to music, in the rain, when it was dark, or while we were eating a two pack of Hostess Twinkies. A hoop cost less than two dollars. Black was my favorite, but they had red, yellow, and orange. There were striped hoops. And neon ones. Some sparkled. Within a year or so, it was like Alice's Restaurant, "you could get anything you want."

The most fun we had with those things was when the novelty of just spinning it around your body wore off, and our internal entertainment mechanisms kicked in. We began to use them like the old wooden and metal hoops that kids rolled along beside them for centuries.

We'd run to town throwing them way out in front of us with reverse spin and let it "come back" to us. We raced forward to catch it before it fell, and sling it again! David Mark and I cut one in two. Then halved it once more. It was a cross between a limber tree limb and a light rubber rope. We'd back up a step armed with our "piece" and whip the ever-loving daylights out of each other.

Leon had it down to an art. He would tie used hay bailing strings together and fasten one end securely to a hula hoop. He'd make me and Dave "stampede" across the backyard where he would chase after us swinging that hula hoop over his head. I didn't mind being lassoed with the thing, but that sudden stop when the rope ran out would jerk you off your feet and bring you crashing to the ground.

We learned to live with it. What I couldn't stand was when he grabbed you before you could get up, rolled you over on your stomach, tied your hands behind your back with another string, jerked your pants down while lighting a match at the same time so he could burn his brand into your backside.

You know, as I think on this, all the 13-year-old therapist has to do is throw a hula hoop lasso over me and strike a match...I will show her some hip moves that Carl Perkins never even dreamed about....

Respectfully,
Kes
kesley45@aol.com

Huntingdon to Hold Public Budget Hearing

HUNTINGDON — The Huntingdon Mayor and Town Council meet Tuesday, June 23, in the meeting room of Huntingdon City Hall at 5:15 p.m. to hold a public hearing regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Year End Budget Amendment and the Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.

Read the agenda items:

1. Public Hearing relating to Fiscal Year 2026 Year End Budget Amendment and Fiscal Year 2026 Budget.
2. Ordinance No. 657, an ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 639 same being the General Fund, Drug Fund, Solid Waste Collection Fund, DCPA Special Projects Fund, and Utility Fund budgets of the Town of Huntingdon, Tennessee, for Fiscal Year 2026 (FY-026) (1 Jul 025 – 30 Jun 026) to provide for the routine fiscal year-end review and amendments, second and final reading.

3. Ordinance No. 658, an ordinance to adopt and approve the General Fund, Drug Fund, Solid Waste Collection Fund, DCPA Special Projects Fund, and Utility Fund budgets of the Town of Huntingdon, Tennessee, for Fiscal Year 2027 (FY-027) (1 Jul 026 – 30 Jun 027) and adopt property tax rate for 2026 Tax Year, second and final reading.
4. Ordinance No. 659, an ordinance to delete Title 7 of the Huntingdon Municipal Code relating to Fire Protection and Fireworks; and to create a new Title 7 relating to the same, first reading.
5. Resolution No. 026-07, a resolution of the Town of Huntingdon, Tennessee, authorizing the Town to opt out of a water utility rate increase.
6. Consider the appointment of Collin Pruett to Planning Commission for three year

term.

7. Consider the Police Department request for retirement of canine Kenzie from active duty and to transfer ownership of Kenzie to Captain Brad Allen.
8. Consider the Fire Department request for amendment of the department's policy and procedure manual for the addition of Chapter 33 Emergency Call-Outs Compensation.
9. Consider the Fiscal Year 2025 Audit report.
10. Consider entering into an agreement with ATA, PC for the Fiscal Year 2026 audit contract.
- Suspension of the rule on agenda items
1. Consider the approval of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Town of Huntingdon and The Friends of The Dixie, Inc. (a 501 (c)(3) Non-Profit Corporation).

McKenzie Schools to Have Budget Workshop

McKENZIE — The McKenzie Special School District (MSSD) Board of Education meets Tuesday, June 30, in the MSSD Central Office for a budget workshop followed by a regular board meeting.

Beginning at 5:30 p.m., the school board will have a preliminary discussion of MSSD's 2026-27 budget. The official budget approval meeting is Tuesday, July 7, at 5:30 p.m.

At approximately 6:30 p.m., the June 30 meeting will change course, becoming a regular board meeting.

The following new business items are listed on the regular meeting agenda:

- Consider for approval McKenzie SSD budget amendment(s) (25-26 year-end).

- Consider for approval General Fund Expense Accounts for MES, MMS and MHS.
- Consider for approval, on Second Reading, amendments to the McKenzie Special School District Board of Education Policy Manual: 1.804 Drug-Free Workplace, 2.400 Revenues, 5.114 Personnel Records, 5.200 Separation Practices for Tenured Teachers, 5.201 Separation Practices for Non-Tenured Teachers, 5.202 Separation Practices for Non-Certified Employees, 5.400 Personnel Health Examinations/Communicable Diseases, 5.403 Drug & Alcohol Testing for Employees, 5.606 Staff-Community Relations, 5.608 Tutoring for Pay, 5.800 Director of Schools.
- Consider for approval use

of Standards-based Progress Monitoring (report cards) for kindergarten at McKenzie Elementary School.

- Consider for approval McKenzie Elementary gym floor upgrades.
- Consider for approval bid request process for Back-Flow Preventors at McKenzie Middle, Maintenance Shop, and McKenzie High Outdoor Classroom.
- Consider for approval replacement of perimeter fence at MSSD football field/practice field(s).
- Consider for approval flooring option/bid for MMS restrooms update.
- MSSD AI Report.
- HR Report.
- Adjourn.

Carroll County in Need of Poll Workers

Poll workers are the backbone of Tennessee elections, and several counties across the state are in need of more poll workers before the August and November elections. According to the Tennessee Secretary of State, Carroll County is one of 35 counties in need.

During early voting and on Election Day, poll workers help polling sites in their community run smoothly by conducting a variety of tasks including greeting voters, answering questions, explaining how to cast a ballot and use the voting equipment, and counting votes. They play an essential role in

ensuring the security, accuracy and integrity of the electoral process.

Poll workers are compensated for working during early voting and on Election Day and for attending any required training sessions.

Tennesseans who are 16 years of age or older — regardless of political affiliation — are eligible to apply to be a poll worker. Those who are 18 or older must be a registered voter in the county.

Poll workers must be able to read and write in the English language, cannot be a candidate or a close relative

of a candidate, and cannot be supervised by a county or municipal elected official on the ballot.

The following government employees can serve as poll workers: all city, county and metro employees (unless working directly under the supervision of an elected official on the ballot) and all State of Tennessee employees. Federal employees should consult their Human Resources Department to ensure eligibility.

Apply to become a poll worker at GoVoteTN.gov.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

THE BANNER CLOSED JULY 3

The Banner office will be closed on Friday, July 3 in observance of Independence Day. The office will reopen on Monday, July 6 at 8:30 a.m.

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 COUNTY JULY 4 EVENTS

Friday, July 3 at dark – Terry Volunteer Fire Department Fireworks Show
Friday and Saturday, July 3-4, gates open at 5:30 p.m. – Clayhill Motorsports Park Freedom and Fireworks Celebration Nights
Saturday, July 4 at 5 p.m. – Freedom Festival at McKenzie Recreational Park
Saturday, July 4 at 5:30 p.m. – McMoresville Parade; Fireworks Show at dark
Saturday, July 4 at 6 p.m. – Hollow Rock Fire Department Fireworks Show and Music at Central High School
Saturday, July 4 at dark – Eastview Fireworks Show at the Carroll County Fairgrounds
Events compiled by the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce. Times and dates are subject to change.

GLEASON HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA CELEBRATION

A Happy Birthday America 250th Anniversary celebration is in downtown Gleason on Friday, July 3. A parade begins at 6 p.m. Local talent begins at 6:30 p.m. featuring Hadley Garrison and Jade Kowalewski. A classic car cruise-in is on Magnolia Avenue at 7 p.m. Fireworks are at 9 p.m.

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.

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, 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.

SHERIFF TOWN HALL COMING JUNE 30

The McKenzie Banner and The Carroll County Observer are organizing a Carroll County Sheriff's Town Hall and Community Forum on Tuesday, June 30, 2026 at 6 p.m. at the Carroll County Civic Center at 201 Mustang Drive in Huntingdon to meet the three candidates vying for the Sheriff's position: Eric Sawyers, Michael A. Smith and Ryan White.
The moderator will be retired Circuit Court Judge

Donald Parish. News media will be broadcasting the event. Early voting is July 17-August 1. Election day is August 6, 2026.

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.

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 amyrccarter58@gmail.com or Marsha Spain Smith at smithmarsha99@yahoo.com.

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!

McKENZIE TOPS MEETS WEEKLY

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

CARROLL COMMISSION MEETS MONTHLY

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

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 COUNTY REPUBLICAN PARTY MEETS THURSDAY

The Carroll County Republican Party meets Thursday, June 25 at 7 p.m. in the Huntingdon Municipal Courtroom located at 12740 Lexington Street, Huntingdon, Tenn. 38344.

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.

Obituaries

JERRY D. WEATHERFORD 1936 – 2026

McKENZIE — Funeral services for Jerry D. Weatherford are on Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 2 p.m. at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home. The family will receive friends on Wednesday, 12-2 p.m. Interment will follow at Mt Olivet Cemetery, McKenzie.

Mr. Weatherford, 89, died at Dogwood Pointe Senior Living on June 21, 2026. He was born in Trezevant on June 30, 1936, to Charlie and Odillion Bateman Weatherford. He was a shipping inspector at Milan Arsenal, a funeral assistant at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home and a member of McKenzie First United Methodist Church.

He is survived by his son, Kelly (Clara) Weatherford; three granddaughters, Julianne Weatherford (Garrett Maria), Anna Weatherford, and Charli Weatherford; and a brother, Joe Pat (Brenda) Weatherford.

He is preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Mary Highfill Weatherford; and a brother, Jimmy Weatherford.
Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home.

CAROL PINSON 1947 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Carol Pinson, 79, of Huntingdon, died Saturday, June 20, 2026, at Jackson Madison County General Hospital.

Funeral services were Monday, June 22, 2026, at Huntingdon Church of Christ. Interment was at Carroll Memorial Gardens in McKenzie. Dr. Walter Butler officiated.

Carol was born June 16, 1947, and was preceded in death by her parents, Houston Newsome and Nell Newsome.

She is survived by her husband, Jimmy Pinson of Huntingdon; two daughters, Cindy (Stacey) Cole of Huntingdon, and Pam (Mike) Pursley of Murfreesboro; one son, Chad (Edyee) Pinson of Huntingdon; three brothers, David (Cindy) Fuller of Maryville, Tenn., Dale Newsome of Huntingdon, and Larry (Diane) Newsome of Huntingdon; nine

grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

ELMER LEE MANESS 1944 – 2026

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

Funeral services are in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home on Saturday, June 27, 2026, at 1 p.m. Burial will follow in Mt. Comfort Cemetery in Westport.

The family will receive friends in the Cherrywood Room of Chase Funeral Home on Friday, 3-5 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. until the time of the service.

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.

WILLIAM 'MR. BILLY' SMITH 1940 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mr. William L. "Mr. Billy" Smith, 85, of Huntingdon, died Friday, June 19, 2026, at his residence surrounded by family.

Funeral services were Sunday, June 21, 2026, in the Chapel of Dilday-Carter Funeral Home. Interment was at Concord Cemetery in Westport, Tenn. Brother Mickey Lewis and Brother Bill Douglas officiated.

Billy was born July 7, 1940, to the late W.J. Smith and Edna "Helene" Jackson Smith. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by his brother, Daryce "Randell" Smith.

He is survived by his wife of 64 years, Wilma Floyd Smith of Huntingdon; two daughters, Cynthia-Denise (Tony) Taylor of Huntingdon, and Deion Smith of Nashville; one son, Lin (Lisa) Smith of Huntingdon; six grandchildren; fourteen great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and seven bonus god-children.
Dilday-Carter Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

JERRY NANCE 1944 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mr. Jerry Nance, 81, of Huntingdon, died Friday, June 19, 2026, at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Huntingdon.

Jerry was born July 13,

1944, in McMoresville to the late Felbert Nance and Jessie Nance. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by two brothers, Carman Nance and Freeman Nance; and three sisters, Thora Nance Morris, Flora Nance Willis and Mary Lois Nance Coleman.

He is survived by his wife, Joyce Nance; two sons, Tyrone Nance and Brian Gilbert; three daughters, Sherry Lewis, Jacqueline Rolls, and Jessica Lewis; two brothers, Cephus Nance and Virgil Nance; and nine grandchildren.
Dilday Funeral Home.

WESLEY WHISTLE 1960 – 2026

BRUCETON — Mr. Wesley Whistle, 64, of Bruceton, died on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at his home.

Memorial services are incomplete at this time.

Mr. Whistle was born on September 1, 1960, in Denver, Colo., and was brought into his family and raised by the late Lawrence Paul and Eddie (Metzger) Whistle. He was also preceded in death by a sister.

He is survived by Donita Curtis of Huntingdon; and three stepchildren, Joseph Padilla (Brittany), Joshua Howard and Tabitha Howard. He is also survived by six sisters and two brothers.
Chase Funeral Home.

LINDA PHILLIPS 1956 – 2026

GLEASON — The family of Linda L. Phillips, 69, announces her death on Saturday, June 13, 2026, in Gleason.

As requested by Linda, no funeral or memorial services will be held.

Born on August 19, 1956, in Bells, Tenn., to the late Elton and Georgia Phillips. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by one sister, Deborah Patterson; and six brothers, Larry Phillips, Melvin Phillips, Harold Phillips, Ronald Phillips, William Phillips, and James "Jimmy" Phillips.

She is survived by her son, Joseph W. (Kimberly) Tate Sr. of McKenzie; two grandchildren; three great-granddaughters; and one brother, Andrew Phillips of Dyersburg.
Dilday-Carter Funeral Home.

Yard Sale 2 Family

Saturday, June 27 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

15 Paw Paw Lane McKenzie

Boys' clothes, household items, toys, ladies' clothes and shoes, kids' Halloween costumes and more stuff!

YARD Sale RAIN OR SHINE

Friday & Saturday June 26 - 8 a.m.-5 p.m. June 27 - 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

225 Bell Store Rd McKENZIE

First blacktop road past D&D Service Center, off of Hwy 22

Men's clothes (2XL), girls' clothes (3T, 4T, 5T, some 6), some women's clothes (1XL-2XL), 2 full size top mattresses, car seat, stroller, too much to mention. Everyone welcomed. Come and see.

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

DISCLOSURE DAY (PG-13)

Tues. 4:25 • 7:25
Wed. 1:25 • 4:25 • 7:25
Thurs. 4:25 • 7:25

SCARY MOVIE (R)

Tues. 4:30 • 7:30
Wed. 1:30 • 4:30 • 7:30
Thurs. 4:30 • 7:30

MASTERS OF THE UNIVERSE (PG-13)

Tues. 4:25 • 7:25
Wed. 1:25 • 4:25 • 7:25
Thurs. 4:25 • 7:25

BACKROOMS (R)

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

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Property Transfers

Brandon Williams to Elizabeth D. Ellis in District 23.

Linda Ivey and others to Cary Lane Laman in District 23.

Michael T. and wife Stephanie I. Pruett to Michael K. and wife Brittany A. Butler in District 11.

Linda Ivey and others to Eldon Lynn Laman in District 23.

Kenneth H. Baskin to Erin and husband Lucas Lyons in District 22.

Linda Reeves and husband Doug Wallace to Kimberly Anne Lewelling and others in District 11.

Wallace and Samuel Coleman to Samuel and Wallace Coleman in District 21.

Lovina Mallo and others to Lovina Mallo and others in District 16.

Rebekah K. Draper to Rebekah K. Draper in District 2.

Bendell Bartholomew and others to Jeffrey Perry in District 13.

Edward Dwayne and wife Tiffany D. Hill to Blake and wife Haley Longmire in District 23.

Charles Vinson Foster to Jeffery Dean and wife Lorri Ann Monaghan Shippee in District 5.

Jeffrey L. and wife Meredith Fuller to Jack A. and Julie P. Torregrossa, co-trustees in District 46180.

Kathy Jean Hilliard to Kathy J. Hilliard, as trustee in District 16.

Kathy Jean Hilliard to Kathy J. Hilliard, as trustee in District 17.

Kathy Jean Hilliard to Kathy J. Hilliard, as trustee in District 16.

Robert C. Williams to Bil-ly C. Williams in District 22.

Marriage Licenses

Jerry Thomas McDaniel, 73, of Huntingdon, to

Melanie Porter White, 72, of Huntingdon.

Carroll County General Sessions Court Report

HUNTINGDON (June 17) — The following cases were heard in Carroll County General Sessions Court on June 17.

The following cases were bound over to a grand jury: Tatyana Dashay McClarkin, West Woodrow Street, Milan, bound over, Identity Theft.

The following cases resulted in a guilty plea or finding:

Billy Borum, Everett Street, McKenzie, guilty, Probation Violation – Booked, no fine, two months, supervised probation for balance.

Terrance T. Davis, Jr., Hastings Circle E, Memphis, guilty, Probation Violation – Booked, no fine, two months, supervised probation for balance, probation extended for two months.

Michael C. Haynes, Jr., Breezy Loop, Oakland, guilty, Probation Violation – Booked, no fine, five months, supervised probation for five months or until conditions met, probation extended for five months or until all conditions met, shall obtain a valid drivers license.

Timothy S. Hickey, Herd Law Road, Trenton, guilty, Probation Violation – Booked, no fine, 60 days.

Brenton C. Mann, Rochelle Road, McKenzie, guilty, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange, \$350 fine, 11/29, supervised probation for 11 months 29 days; guilty, Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia Uses & Activities, \$150 fine, 11/29,

Jacob Daniel and wife Kelly Lee Covey to Matthew Allen Peach and others in District 11.

Teresa A. Todd, as personal representative, to Teresa H. Todd and others in District 14.

Sheila and husband Danny Brawner to Jonathan R. and wife Breanna R. Coy in District 6.

Jason D. and wife Kelli C. Postlethwait to Brody N. Franks in District 11.

Sterling Shores LLC to Nathan and wife Victoria Galey Smith in District 7.

Marcus Kurt and wife Misty Kay Collins to Randall C. and wife Beth A. Tidwell in District 6.

Beaver Creek Management Group, LLC and others to Distinct Contracting, LLC in District 12.

Amarjeet Singh to Britain Realty Group, LLC in District 12.

Karle Randa Meggs, 24, of Huntingdon, to Nicholas Frederick Jones, 29, of Huntingdon.

McKenzie Police Reports

Theft of Merchandise — Jody Nicole Neisler, Main Street, McKenzie, was charged with Theft of Merchandise on June 19.

Officers Dillon and Rasberry responded to Dollar General, Highway 22, to a report of a shoplifter. The

officers spoke with Neisler in the store’s parking lot and discovered two items of merchandise in her purse. She was issued a citation to appear in Henry County General Sessions and also a ban notice from the store.

Vandalism — A resident

of Magnolia Avenue West reported his residence was illegally entered and vandalized on June 21.

Officer Jayden Rembert filed a report indicating the resident found the door was broken and the contents of the house were ‘trashed’. Nothing appeared to be stolen. The matter is under investigation.

Carroll County Sheriff’s Reports

Possession of Schedule II, Possession of Schedule VI — On June 11, Deputy Sherwood conducted a traffic stop on a motorcycle on Highway 190 after observing it operating without functioning rear tail lamps. A K-9 was deployed and gave a positive alert on the motorcycle, leading deputies to conduct a search.

The driver was identified as Jason Brasure, 49, of McKenzie. During the search, deputies located two small bags containing approximately two grams of a crystal-like substance believed to be methamphetamine. Deputies also found approximately one gram of a green leafy substance believed to be marijuana concealed inside a folded piece of foil.

Brasure was charged with possession of Schedule II methamphetamine and possession of Schedule VI marijuana.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Felony Evading, Possession Without Prescription, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia — On June 12, Deputy McClure observed a black Toyota Camry traveling in Trezevant with a license plate cover that obscured the registration information. Deputies also observed the vehicle fail to maintain its lane several times, crossing both the center line and fog line.

Deputy McClure initiated a traffic stop after observing the vehicle briefly stop in the roadway near a marked “Stop Ahead” area. Despite emergency lights and sirens being activated, the driver continued traveling through Trezevant and failed to stop. Deputies reported the vehicle continued for more than half a mile, yielding at intersections but ignoring repeated attempts to initiate the stop, including spotlight activation and multiple siren tones.

The driver was identified as Bobby Blaylock Jr., 53, of Trezevant. Deputies reported Blaylock abruptly slammed on his brakes during the pursuit, nearly causing a collision with the patrol vehicle, before turning into a residence and stopping. After being taken into custody, deputies searched the vehicle based on suspicious movements observed during the encounter.

During the search, deputies located prescription medication that did not belong to Blaylock, an addition-

al unidentified pill, two black containers containing white powdery residue and a metal container holding a pipe cleaner with residue inside. The items were collected and secured as evidence.

Blaylock was transported to the Carroll County Jail and charged with felony evading, unlawful possession without a prescription and possession of drug paraphernalia.

This incident occurred in Carroll County.

Felony Evading, DUI, Implied Consent Violation, Open Container — On June 10, Deputy Ezell attempted to initiate a traffic stop on a silver Chevrolet Malibu after observing a traffic violation. When emergency lights and sirens were activated, the vehicle fled and a pursuit began.

The pursuit continued for approximately 1.5 miles and reached speeds of nearly 115 mph before the vehicle turned into a residence on Rolling Mill Road and came to a stop. The driver, Shannon Ellis, 44, of Buena Vista, immediately exited the vehicle, yelling and acting aggressively toward deputies.

Deputies observed that Ellis had slurred speech, was unsteady on his feet and repeatedly leaned against a patrol vehicle for support. Deputies also reported that Ellis made several unsolicited statements indicating he had consumed alcoholic beverages. After being taken into custody, Ellis continued acting aggressively and approached a deputy in a threatening manner before being

CARROLL COUNTY BEER BOARD

NOTICE

The Carroll County Beer Commission has received an application for a beer permit for JLH Golf Group LLC DBA Carroll Lake Golf Club. Application is for on-premises consumption.

The business is located at 1305 Carroll Lake Road, McKenzie, TN 38201.

The business is bounded north by Michael Stafford, Bethel University, Joe Walker, east by Robbie Barker Life Estate, James A. Smith, James H Smith and Brenda Smith, Ryan Alan Frazier, William Chuck Gaskins and Cindy F. Gaskins, Matthew C. Aird Trust and Misty D. Aird Trust, south, by William J. Taylor, William J. Taylor and Melissa Taylor, Jonathan Moody and Jamie Moody, William Thomas Wilson and Stephanie Michelle Wilson, Clayton Nethaway and Christi L Nethaway, Katlin Renee Otis, Lea R Finley Revocable Trust and Tamara Alyse Cole, Tamara Alyse Cole, Scott Andrew Wilson, Carroll Lake Rd., west by the State of Tennessee (Carroll Lake). A hearing will be held July 8, 2026, at 8 a.m. at the Carroll County Office Complex Conference Room, Huntingdon, TN 38344.

All people who wish to be heard may be present at this time.

Carroll County Beer Board

A7617/25-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE CASE NO: 2026PA104

ESTATE OF: TIMOTHY RAY VOLNER, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Notice is hereby given that on the **11TH** day of **JUNE, 2026** Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of **TIMOTHY RAY VOLNER** deceased, who died **DECEMBER 10TH, 2025**, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk & Master of Carroll County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required by law to file the same with the Clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

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

This 11TH 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

MICHAEL WAYNE VOLNER, Executor/Administrator

STEPHEN H. BYRD, Attorney

KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master

A561/R27742/25-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE CASE NO: 2026PE108

ESTATE OF: ELAINE S. WILLIAMS, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Notice is hereby given that on the **12TH** day of **JUNE, 2026** Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of **ELAINE S. WILLIAMS** deceased, who died **MARCH 28TH, 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 12TH 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

MARY ELAINE BROWN, Executor/Administrator

W. KENT JONES, Attorney

KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master

A561/R27743/25-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE CASE NO: 2026PE101

ESTATE OF: CHARLES ANTHONY WILLIAMS, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Notice is hereby given that on the **5TH** day of **JUNE, 2026** Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of **CHARLES ANTHONY WILLIAMS** deceased, who died **JULY 13TH, 2025**, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk & Master of Carroll County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required by law to file the same with the Clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

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

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

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

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

This 5TH 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

GUY WILLIAMS & CHRIS WILLIAMS, Executor/Administrator

W. COLLINS BONDS, Attorney

KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master

A561/R27747/25-2

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Former Bethel Wildcat Leads Milan Bulldogs to State Baseball Championship

COURTESY BETHEL SID

MILAN — The Milan Bulldogs captured the 2026 TSSAA Class 2A Baseball State Championship on May 22, defeating White House Heritage 3-0 at Middle Tennessee Christian School. The victory ended a 22-year championship drought and secured Milan's first state title since 2004 under the leadership of former Bethel University standout Taylor Paterson.

The Bulldogs finished the season with an impressive 29-10-1 overall record and delivered Milan's eighth state championship appearance in program history. The Bulldogs had previously won the state title in 2004 and finished as state runner-up twice.

A Bethel Connection: Trading One Purple for Another

Paterson, a 2015 graduate of Bethel University and former Wildcat baseball player, has quickly established himself as one of the state's rising coaches. He was named Milan's head coach in 2024 after serving as an assistant in the program and is a proud graduate of Milan High School.

Bethel head baseball coach Rusty Thompson reflected on Paterson's success.

"Taylor was a fine player for us. He was solid defensively and had some pop in his bat. He always had a great attitude and was always game ready. I am really happy for him and his success."

Paterson and his wife, Rebecca (Jobst) Paterson, share strong Bethel ties. Rebecca was a four-year member of the Wildcat volleyball program and currently serves as head volleyball coach at Milan High School. She guided the Lady Bulldogs to a state tournament appearance in 2023.

The couple resides in Mi-



Milan Coach Taylor Paterson, a former Bethel Wildcat, led the Milan Bulldogs to a state championship.

lan with their two-year-old son, Andrew.

What Goes Around Comes Around

The championship victory carried added significance for the Paterson family.

Taylor's father, Scott Paterson, was an assistant coach under Donnie Joiner when Milan won the 2004 state championship. Today, Scott serves as an Associate Professor of Health and Human Performance at Bethel University.

Twenty-two years after helping bring a championship to Milan as a coach, Scott watched his son lead the Bulldogs back to the top of Tennessee high school baseball.

Winning for Milan

Following the championship victory, Paterson credited the entire Milan community for the Bulldogs' success.

"I think what I will remember the most, other

than this team and everything they accomplished, is the support from the town of Milan. The amount of support from our administration, superintendent, school board, athletic director, parents, and citizens of Milan we had all season leading up to the tournament, all the way through the postseason and to the crowd for the State Championship game. That meant a lot to our guys and our staff because we all have so much pride in Milan."

For Paterson, the championship represented more than a title—it was the culmination of years of hard work, family tradition, and community pride, bringing the state trophy back home to Milan for the first time since 2004.

The Bethel University Athletic Department congratulates Taylor and the Bulldogs on their state title.

McKENZIE MEMORIAL LIBRARY



Above, McKenzie Memorial Library summer readers make their own tie-dyed shirts during Thursday's "Triassic Tie-Dye" event. Photo courtesy McKenzie Memorial Library Below, Assistant Library Director Adora Carty (standing) helps summer readers Dakoda Cowan (left) and Rowan Conger make "tar" during Saturday's "What in Tarnation?" event. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner



Summer Readers Get Crafty

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (June 18, 20) — McKenzie Memorial Library's summer readers got crafty last week for two events, continuing the summer program's dinosaur-themed "Unearth a Story."

Thursday, the kids gathered in front of the library to make their own tie-dyed shirts during "Triassic Tie-Dye."

Saturday, youngsters convened upstairs for "What in Tarnation?," where they made their own "tar" (more commonly known as slime) and learned about how di-

nos would get stuck in tar and preserved for archeologists to later discover.

The library's summer events continue with "Prehistoric Pals" at 2 p.m. on Thursday, June 25 and the weekly "Tales at Ten" on Monday, June 29 at 10 a.m.

Additionally, McKenzie Memorial Library encourages its summer readers to attend the Storybook Stroll at Discovery Park in Union City on Saturday, June 27. The event is from 10 a.m. to noon, with admission ending at 11:45 a.m.

In partnership with the Obion River Regional Libraries, this event transforms Dinosaur Hall into

a vibrant hub of literacy-focused activities designed to spark curiosity and creativity.

Guests will explore booths hosted by libraries from across Northwest Tennessee, each offering hands-on activities that encourage children to engage with stories in new and exciting ways.

This event is free for children who participate in their local library's summer reading program. Tickets must be obtained through participating libraries and presented at the front ticket counter on the day of the event. Discovery Park does not distribute tickets.

WestStar Announces WestTeach Class of 2026

MARTIN — The University of Tennessee at Martin WestStar Leadership Program announced its WestTeach Class of 2026, the eighth cohort of the WestTeach program.

WestTeach is a function of the WestStar Leadership Program and was created to support the development of teachers and instructors in the 21 counties of West Tennessee. WestTeach was created as a class project by the 2017 WestStar Leadership class.

The WestTeach mission is to engage and equip West Tennessee teachers with tools and leadership skills for success in and outside the classroom.

A new class of elementary, middle and high school teachers and instructors is selected annually by the program's advisory council following open applications and approved by school superintendents and principals. West Tennessee teachers selected for the program learn about the region's economic needs and opportunities.

Applicants must be K-12 teachers who aspire to be leaders in their schools and communities. They should have approval by their director/superintendent of schools. Selection is also based on leadership and potential to contribute to the region's educational system.

There are 16 participants in the WestTeach Class of 2026, which includes:

- Kamala Armour, Ripley Primary School, Lauderdale County School District.
- Lynette Billington, Covington High School, Tipton County School System.
- Belinda Davis, W.G. Rhea Elementary School, Paris Special School District.
- Richard Dawson, Halls High School, Lauderdale County School District.
- Adrian Doaks, Stigall Primary School, Humboldt City School District.
- Gina Dycus, Bradford High School, Bradford Special School District.
- Bentley Gordon Irby, Fifth Consolidated Elementary School, Dyer County Schools.
- Erin Lewis, West Carroll Junior/Senior High School, West Carroll Special School District.
- Justin McElroy, Henry School, Henry County Schools.
- Porsha Milan, Rutherford Elementary School, Gibson County Special School District.
- Stephanie Pate, Bradford High School, Bradford Special School District.
- Kyle Rogers, Westview High School, Weakley County Schools.
- Whitney Sanders, Dyersburg Middle School, Dyersburg City School District.
- Abby Smithson, Greenfield School, Weakley County Schools.
- Mindy Thomas, Westview High School, Weakley County Schools.
- Kizzy Young, Covington

High School, Tipton County School System.

Over the previous seven classes, 140 area teachers and administrators have graduated from the WestTeach program.

The Class of 2026 will meet five times during the fall semester, starting with the opening session and orientation August 27-28 at UT Martin. The cohort will have classes Wednesday, September 23, in Jackson; Wednesday, October 28, in Dyersburg; and Wednesday, November 18, in Tipton County. The graduation banquet will be held Tuesday, December 15, at UT Martin.

The Virginia Grimes WestTeach Leadership Award is voted on by classmates at the end of the program's term for the most outstanding class member. The award was begun with the Class of 2024 following Grimes' retirement from the program.

Dr. Jamie Mantooth, the university's executive director for strategic leadership, serves as the WestTeach coordinator. UT Martin Chief of Staff Jake Bynum serves as the WestStar executive director, and Jennifer Smiley is the WestStar assistant director.

For more information about the WestTeach program, visit www.utm.edu/westteach. For information about the WestStar Leadership Program, visit www.utm.edu/weststar.

Alivia Hudgins: A Familiar Face Joins the Pharmacy Counter

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS
lsummers@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE — After four years of intensive study and clinical training across West Tennessee, McKenzie native Alivia Hudgins is bringing her new expertise back to her hometown.

A 2019 McKenzie High School graduate, Hudgins earned her Doctor of Pharmacy from Union University on May 2. She began an internship with Walgreens in early 2026, and she is now only one exam away from being a full-time, licensed pharmacist for the chain.

Growing up, Hudgins knew she wanted to work in the medical field.

"Throughout my life, my dad was always pushing me to be a doctor," Hudgins said. "And I knew I wanted a lifelong career."

Along the way, Hudgins realized she felt most drawn to pharmacy.

"I just feel like it plays such a big role that people don't understand," Hudgins said. She acknowledged the vast duties pharmacists are responsible for in community pharmacies and hospitals — from recognizing the potential risk factors of specific prescriptions to verifying medication orders and making IV bags for patients.

Hudgins obtained a bach-



elor's degree in Pre-Professional Health from Bethel University in 2022, paving the way for her to later attend Union University's pharmacy school.

While at Union University, Hudgins spent about a year and a half training in different pharmacy environments. Each month, she would train in a different place — from the pharmacy at Jackson General Hospital to smaller pharmacies in Martin or Alamo.

Hudgins recognized her husband, Andrew Hudgins, her parents, Adrian and Regina Green, and her brother, Logan Green, for their unending support while she was in school. She also recognized her mentor, Dr. Andrew Martin.

At Union University, Hudgins received the Douglas R. Duncan Com-

munity Practice Award and the Lee & Martha Brewer Scholarship. She also served as class president all four years of school. She is a member of the Tennessee Pharmacist Association, the American Pharmacist Association and the National Community Pharmacist Association.

Upon receiving her PharmD, Hudgins acknowledged she could have practiced anywhere, but she ultimately decided to come back home.

Hudgins passed the NAPLEX exam in May of this year. Now, she's facing the MPJE — the final exam before becoming a licensed pharmacist.

Once she obtains her license, Hudgins expects to serve the McKenzie and Paris communities at Walgreens.

Freed-Hardeman University Announce Spring 2026 President's, Dean's List

HENDERSON (June 22) — Freed-Hardeman University released the names of the students who have made the President's and Dean's list for the Spring 2026 semester. To be on the President's List, a student must be full-time and have a 4.0 grade point average. Students on the Dean's List

have earned a minimum 3.4 grade point average for the semester.

The following students from the coverage area have been named to the lists:

Amelia Vestal of Huntingdon, a junior, is on the Dean's list. Vestal is a Studio Art major.

Angelina Barr of Martin, a

senior, is on the Dean's list. Barr is a Criminal Justice major.

Elizabeth Edwards of Martin, a junior, is on the Dean's list. Edwards is a Psychology major.

Ellie Culbreath of Huntingdon, a senior, is on the Dean's list. Culbreath is a Nursing major.

Grace King of Huntingdon, a sophomore, is on the President's list. King is an Accounting major.

Harlie Walker of Gleason, a junior, is on the President's list. Walker is an Accounting major.

J.T. Moore of Westport, a senior, is on the Dean's list. Moore is a Computer

Science: Software Development major.

Jon Williams of Westport, a senior, is on the President's list. Williams is an Interactive Digital Design major.

Lilly Kee of Huntingdon, a junior, is on the President's list. Kee is a Nursing major.

Michael Moon of Martin, a senior, is on the Dean's list. Moon is a Bible: Youth & Family Ministry major.

Nathan King of Huntingdon, a senior, is on the President's list. King is a Bible: Christian Apologetics major.

Tucker Melton of Martin, a sophomore, is on the Dean's list. Melton is a Bible: Youth & Family Ministry major.



Three generations of the Crossno family celebrate the 50th anniversary of Huntingdon Carpet Center. The family-owned business has served Huntingdon and surrounding communities since 1976. Pictured (L to R) are Zac Douglas, Kensley Douglas, Kelby Crossno, Vicki Crossno, Kane Crossno, Kevin Crossno, Kiley Crossno, Manuel Crossno and Lula Crossno. Submitted photo

Huntingdon Carpet Center Celebrates 50 Years of Serving West Tennessee

COURTESY KENSLEY CROSSNO DOUGLAS

Huntingdon Carpet Center is proud to celebrate 50 years of serving Huntingdon, Carroll County and the surrounding communities.

The business began on July 1, 1976, in McMoresville, Tenn., under the name Crossno Carpet. In April 1977, the business relocated to Huntingdon as Huntingdon Carpet Center, where it has continued to serve customers for nearly five decades.

For 41 years, Huntingdon Carpet Center was owned and operated by Manuel and Lula Crossno. Through their commitment to quality products, honest service and strong customer relationships, they built a business that became a trusted part of the community.

Manuel and Lula retired on April 1, 2017, and sold the business and building to their son,

Kevin Crossno, a lifelong resident of Huntingdon. Having worked alongside his parents for 25 years before becoming owner, Kevin has now dedicated 34 years of his life to the family business.

As Huntingdon Carpet Center celebrates this milestone anniversary, the Crossno family reflects on the support they have received throughout the years.

“We cannot thank the people of Carroll County and the surrounding counties enough for their business and support over the past 50 years,” the Crossno family said in a joint statement. “This business has truly been a blessing to our family, and we take great pride in serving our community. Every customer, referral and friendship has helped make this milestone possible.”

The legacy continues into a third generation as Kevin’s daughter, Kensley Crossno Douglas, works

part-time alongside her father — carrying forward the family’s tradition of quality materials, dependable service and dedication to customer satisfaction.

Huntingdon Carpet Center is located at 19719 East Main Street in Huntingdon, Tenn. The Crossno family welcomes customers, friends and community members to stop by and celebrate this special anniversary year with them.

As they look toward the future, the family remains committed to the same values that have guided the business for the past 50 years: quality products, honest service and appreciation for the community that has supported them every step of the way.

The Crossno family extends its sincere thanks to everyone who has been a part of this journey and looks forward to serving the area for many years to come.



The CoBank team of (L to R) Terry Hilliard, Barrett Shepherd, Morgan Hilliard, Taylor Hilliard and Peyton Hilliard await their turn at a station. The latter three are members of the McKenzie Shooting Sports Team. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Shooting Hunger Draws Over 200

BY BRAD SAM

brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (June 19) — Shooting Hunger hosted its annual West Tennessee event, a Sporting Clays Fun Shoot, Friday at the Carroll County Shooting Sports Park. The event drew over 200 participants.

Friday’s event was the second leg of a three-stage annual campaign. East Tennessee’s event was earlier this month in Kodak, and Middle Tennessee’s event is in Nashville in September.

When the smoke clears from the last shotgun blast, funds from the three events will be combined and distributed equally among the state’s 95 counties. Local representatives of Shooting Hunger sponsors will then work with civic organizations and churches to distribute food, primarily through backpacks at schools. Backpacks will be distributed on Fridays and will contain food for a Friday dinner and three meals each on Saturday and Sunday.

Now in its twelfth year (tenth in Carroll County), Shooting Hunger has provided over three million meals to hungry Tennesseans. Last year, efforts yielded \$285,000.

The annual event is made possible through a partnership between Tennessee Farm Bureau, Tennessee Farmers Cooperative, Farm Credit Mid-America and Rural 1st.

Five-person teams competed at multiple stations along the course. Prizes were awarded to the top three teams and the top individual shooter in each flight



Taylor Hilliard, a member of the McKenzie Shooting Sports Team representing the CoBank team in the Shooting Hunger event, blasts a sporting clay. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

(morning and afternoon). The top youth shooter in each flight was awarded a \$500 scholarship by Farm Credit Mid-America and Rural 1st.

Case Knives sold commemorative knives, including a one-of-a-kind piece which was auctioned, to contribute to the funds raised.

Other major sponsors included Tosh Farms (a founding sponsor), Tyson Foods (who provided lunch), Enterprise, Coleman Tractor Co., H&R Agri-Power, United Co-Op, GreenPoint AG, Tennessee Pork Producers Association, Helena and Nutra Blend.

Bryan Wright, executive vice president of Tennessee Farm Bureau, told The Banner, “The reason that these events are important, it casts the industry of agriculture in a positive light, because at the end of the day, our job is to feed hungry folks, and

that’s what we do.

“But the big thing is, we’re here to feed hungry kids, and if we get a little bit of credit for that, that’s great, but if we don’t, we’ve still done something good for our fellow man. And at the end of the day, it doesn’t get any more basic than hunger. A friend of mine says if you have a lot of problems in life, but you’re hungry, you’ve only got one problem. You need something to eat.

“We just believe it’s the right thing to do, because kids can’t learn if they’re hungry. So that’s what we’re here for. We’re doing this all across the state, we’re going to finish up the year strong, and we’re going to feed a bunch of hungry kids because of it.”

Jody Wade, senior financial officer for Farm Credit Mid-America, told The Banner, “I’ve been a part of Shooting Hunger since we began here in Carroll County ten years ago. It doesn’t seem like it’s been ten years since we started this benefit. It’s been a really successful event, being able to help feed hungry Tennesseans.

“It’s actually something that became pretty personal for me. Obviously, I work in the field of agriculture, so we’re helping farmers to feed the world. This is kind of narrowly focused on Tennessee.

“I got into the sport of sporting clays because of one of these events. It became a lot of fun and something I do most every single weekend. So, it’s a really good event where the people of Ag come together for a common goal: feed hungry Tennesseans.”



Librarian Grace Hawkins and some of Carroll County Library’s summer reading program participants are pictured with Smokey Bear. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Special Guests Visit Carroll County Library

BY LYNDSLEY SUMMERS

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HUNTINGDON (June 16-22) — Several special guests paid the Carroll County Library a visit over the week, speaking with children as part of the library’s educational summer program.

Tuesday, Smokey Bear visited patrons of the library, continuing a long-standing tradition between the library and the State of Tennessee Forestry Division. Children’s Librarian Grace Hawkins began the morning with storytime, reading about Smokey Bear’s backstory.

Hawkins taught students about Smokey Bear’s three important rules to prevent forest fires:

1. Only you can prevent wildfires.
2. Always be careful with fire.
3. Never play with matches or lighters.

Smokey Bear then joined the children in the library, accepting their many bear hugs and high-fives.

On Wednesday, Carroll County Mayor Joseph Butler took over storytime, reading two books that aptly fit the library’s dinosaur-themed summer reading program: ‘Thesaurus Rex’ and ‘Ten Minutes to



Lisa Costello outfit Robin Nance in a beekeeper’s uniform. Photo by Lyndsey Summers/The Banner

Bed, Little Dinosaur.’

Lisa Costello, of Camp Costello Farms Honey, visited the library on Thursday, June 18, to teach summer reading program participants about bees and beekeeping.

The library also hosted Runaway Puppet Theater Monday, June 22.

Carroll County Library’s

summer reading program continues this week with the following events: Terry Hedges Magic (June 23, 10:30 a.m.), Tot Time/Second Harvest (June 24, 10:30 a.m.) and Storybook Stroll at the Discovery Park of America (June 27, 10 a.m.). The Carroll County Library is located at 625 High Street, Huntingdon, Tenn.

51ST ANNUAL

COTTAGE GROVE
Freedom Festival

SATURDAY, JULY 4TH, 2026

FIREWORKS DISPLAY

★ ★ ★

★ FREE ADMISSION ★

★ ★ ★

9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Turkey/Trap Shoot*
Corner of 140 & Hays Road
Sounding the Tornado Siren will signal the start of the Parade. This will suffice for the July Test.

10:00 AM

Parade – Grand Marshal Leon Bumpus
\$100 First Place for Most Patriotic Float.
\$50.00 2nd Place, \$25.00 3rd Place

10:30 AM – 12:30 PM

Game Booths Open

- Outside Concessions Open
- Hay Rides Begin
- Cake Walk Begins
- Vendor Booths Open

10:30 AM

Country Store Opens
A dollar a spin for homemade, homegrown and canned farm goods

1:00 PM

Auction

2:00 PM

Fire Boot Throwing Contest,
Watermelon Eating Contest, &
Cornhole Tournament
Contests are contingent on participation

3:00 PM

Bingo

4:00 PM

DJ / Music

7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

The Walker Hill Band LIVE

8:45 PM

50/50 Drawing
(\$1 per ticket, \$50 Minimum prize)

9:00 PM

Fireworks Display





NO COOLERS PLEASE
THIS EVENT IS A FUNDRAISER.
Proceeds benefit Cottage Grove Volunteer Fire Department



Like us on Facebook!
Go to the Cottage Grove Fire Department Facebook page for updates & info.

★ FREE ADMISSION ★

★ FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT ★

John Weiher @ 731-782-3657 • Michael Stewart @ 731-336-7420

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USA, USA, USA

THE FIRST AMENDMENT



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.

Its principles apply consistently regardless of party, religion, race, identity, or who holds power.

The Supreme Court's duty is not to serve a political movement, a president, or a party.

Its duty is to uphold the Constitution equally for all Americans.

OUR CONSTITUTION IS OF, BY, AND FOR THE PEOPLE
