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Tuesday, September 15, 2026

McKENZIE, TENNESSEE

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McKENZIE WEATHER			
SEPT. 15-21 • NWS FORECAST			
TUE SEPT 15		99°/76°	0%
WED SEPT 16		99°/73°	0%
THU SEPT 17		98°/72°	0%
FRI SEPT 18		98°/71°	0%
SAT SEPT 19		97°/72°	0%
SUN SEPT 20		93°/69°	30%
MON SEPT 21		88°/66°	40%

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QUOTE

"Go as far as you can see; when you get there you'll be able to see farther."

— Thomas Carlyle

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Rachel Sawyers Charged with Theft, Credit Card Fraud

Booked into Carroll County Jail on Monday

HUNTINGDON (September 14) — Rachel Sawyers, 38, of Huntingdon was booked into Carroll County Jail on Monday afternoon. Sawyers is charged with Theft of Property over \$1,000 and Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card. Her bond was set at \$2,000. Additional information was unavailable at press time.

(L to R) Harrison Hoke (Baptist AEMT), Hayley Hughes (Baptist EMT), Chris Wheat (Baptist CC Paramedic), Lt. Justin Brister (MPD), Lt. Robert Ross (MFD), Monica Harrison (Cash Express Manager), Ptl. Timothy Dillon (MPD), Sgt. Tanner Jackson (MPD), Inv. Matthew Cunningham (MPD), Lacey Lane (MFD/EMT), Chief Ryan White (MPD), Kandy Rhoads (Cash Express Assistant Manager), Sgt. Kyle Beauchamp (MPD), and Assistant Chief Trey Boucher (MPD). Photo by Brittany Washburn Martin/The Banner

Cash Express Honors First Responders

McKENZIE (September 11) — On Friday, Cash Express honored McKenzie Police (MPD), McKenzie Fire & Rescue (MFD), and Baptist-Carroll County Ambulance first responders with cakes

decorated with the American flag and cards signed by McKenzie businesses thanking them for their dedication to the communities they serve. For over 20 years, Cash Express

in McKenzie has honored McKenzie's first responders on the anniversary of the September 11 terrorist attacks on the World Trade

See CASH on Page 3

A VISION COMES TO LIFE

Billy Hollowell, Parks & Recreation Director, cuts the ribbon officially marking the opening of the Mulberry Park Soccer Complex. Photo by Jason R. Martin/The Banner

Ribbon Cutting Held for Mulberry Park Soccer Complex

BY JASON R. MARTIN
jmartin@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (September 12) — The City of McKenzie held a ribbon cutting on Saturday, September

12 for the new soccer complex at Mulberry Park in McKenzie. Early morning saw several soccer matches on the new fields. The ribbon cutting ceremony took place at noon with several city officials and

community members present. Mayor Ryan Griffin called the opening one of the highlights of his time as mayor.

See SOCCER on Page 2

Silicon Ranch, Carroll County Electric Host 'Flip the Switch'

TREZEVANT — Renewable energy and community development converged in Carroll County as local officials, industry leaders, and residents gathered at the site of the new Trezevant Solar Farm, owned and operated by Silicon Ranch. The facility marks a major milestone in expanding the region's clean

See SWITCH on Page 3

Select students from the county's five special school districts had the opportunity to tour the solar array in Trezevant. The solar farm supplies electricity to the local Carroll County Electric grid. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

McKENZIE COUNCIL Fire Receives \$64,000 Grant

BY JASON R. MARTIN
jmartin@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (September 10) — The McKenzie City Council met Thursday, September 10, with consideration of a Tennessee Volunteer Firefighter Equipment and Training Grant and two appointments to the McKenzie Planning Commission among the items on the agenda.

Under new business, the council approved the acceptance of a \$64,000 Tennessee Volunteer Firefighter Equipment and Training Grant. The grant would fund the purchase of a fill station compressor from Arctic Compressor at a cost of \$57,916.77.

Fill station compressors are heavy-duty, blast-resistant containment units

See FIRE on Page 3

Heritage Festival is September 19

The Huntingdon Heritage Festival returns to downtown Huntingdon on Saturday, September 19, 2026, bringing a full day of free family entertainment, local shopping, food, arts and activities, and live music to the

See FESTIVAL on Page 3

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Whiteside, Meggs Named Mr., Miss Huntingdon

HUNTINGDON (September 11) — Bryson Whiteside (right) and Katherine Meggs (left) were named Mr. and Miss Huntingdon during the homecoming pep rally on the Carroll County courthouse square in downtown Huntingdon on Friday, September 11. Mr. and Miss Huntingdon are selected by a vote of the student body. Photo by Russell Bush/The Banner



Larry Joe, Tiffany Smith Are Grand Marshals

MCKENZIE — Career-long educators at McKenzie Special School District are the grand marshals of the McKenzie High School Homecoming Parade on Friday, September 25.

Larry Joe Smith, a retired high school teacher and coach of basketball, baseball, and golf. His wife, Tiffany taught at the McKenzie Elementary School. Both were selected to acknowledge their contribution to the McKenzie Special School District.

The parade begins at 12:30 p.m. in downtown McKenzie and proceeds along Cedar, Stonewall, and then loops past the McKenzie Elemen-



Tiffany and Larry Joe Smith

tary School.

The annual crowning of the homecoming queen is at 6:30 p.m. with kickoff for the McKenzie Rebels at 7 p.m.

A multi-decade informal

school reunion is also held at Rebel Stadium just ahead of the football game. It is sponsored by the McKenzie High School Alumni Association.

Three Killed in Henry County Crash

BUCHANAN (September 13) — Three people, including an 11-year-old child, were killed Sunday afternoon in a two-vehicle crash on Highway 79 North at Bull Durham Road in Henry County.

According to a preliminary report from the Tennessee Highway Patrol, the crash occurred at approximately 3:35 p.m. Sunday, September 13.

Killed in the crash were

Stephen R. Parker, 69, the driver of a 2019 Ram 1500; Susan J. Parker, 64, a passenger in the vehicle; and an 11-year-old passenger.

A second passenger in the Parker vehicle, a 10-year-old, was injured.

The other vehicle involved was a 2015 Ram 1500 driven by Terry M. Roberts, 26. According to the preliminary report, Roberts was wearing a seat belt and was not injured.

The Henry County Sheriff's Office reported Sunday that Highway 79 North at Bull Durham Road was closed for an extended period following the crash and advised motorists to avoid the area.

The Tennessee Highway Patrol is investigating the crash. THP has indicated that information is limited while the investigation remains ongoing.



West Carroll students had the opportunity to be part of an exciting moment for our local community this week as they attended the Trezevant Solar Farm “Flip the Switch” event!

West Carroll Students Attend ‘Flip the Switch’ at Solar Farm

TREZEVANT — A ceremonial event hosted by the Carroll County Electric Department and Silicon Ranch, marked the official opening of the Trezevant Solar Farm.

Students were able to visit an operating solar energy facility and get a firsthand look at an industry that connects energy,

technology, agriculture, business, and skilled careers right here in our district. Students were given a chance to see how what they learn in the classroom connects to real businesses, careers, and developments happening in their own communities.

Thank you to Carroll County Electric Depart-

ment and Silicon Ranch for including our students in this special event and giving them another opportunity to learn beyond the classroom.

A limited number of students from each of the county's school systems was invited to be part of the celebration.



Above, Children of various age groups took to the field to mark the opening of the Mulberry Park Soccer Complex. Photos by Jason R. Martin/The Banner Below, Drone footage of the new complex. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner



Soccer

...From Front Page

“Saturday ranks among the finest days I have had the privilege of experiencing as Mayor. Seeing our Youth Soccer League take the field for the first time at Mulberry Park, with families gathered along every sideline, is exactly the picture I carried when we began this work. I am deeply grateful to the people of McKenzie for believing in this vision and standing behind it. Because of them, these fields will be full for generations to come.”

The soccer complex is the result of a long-term project approved by the McKenzie City Council. In March 2025, the Council agreed

to finance \$206,000 of the \$306,000 cost of Phase I. The remaining \$100,000 had been allocated from American Rescue Plan Act funds during the administration of former Mayor Jill Holland.

Phase I included the relocation and rerouting of Locust Street, construction of a sodded soccer field with irrigation, gravel parking areas and resurfacing of the basketball court. The overall project was estimated at \$1.8 million over more than 11 years.

In August 2025, the Council approved a \$72,400 bid from Tri-Turf Sod of Paris for irrigation and sod work at the complex. The bid included higher-grade Bermuda sod designed to remain greener longer.

The Council also approved a resolution allow-

ing the city to apply for a Local Park and Recreation Fund grant for lighting and improvements to the walking track at Mulberry Park. The proposed grant funding included \$300,000 through the Local Park and Recreation Fund, with additional funding and a local match included in the proposal.

Future phases of the project are planned to include lighting, restroom and concession facilities, improvements to the walking trail and additional parking improvements. A possible fourth phase could include a playground expansion and four pickleball courts.

While additional improvements are planned, Saturday marked an important milestone for the project as local youth took the field for the first time at the new complex.

McKenzie Rotary Visits New Bethel Golf Facility

MCKENZIE (September 8) — Members of the McKenzie Rotary Club visited Bethel University's new golf facility, getting a firsthand look at a project that is bringing a longtime vision for Bethel golfers closer to reality.

Bethel golf coaches Larry Joe Smith and Lynn Watkins presented the project to the club, highlighting its role in providing additional opportunities for practice, training and player development.

Located off Highway 22, just north of the Dr. Deb Thompson Tennis Complex, the 60-by-40-foot facility is taking shape. The facility includes an indoor putting green, players' lounge and study area, coaches' offices, a simulator and indoor hitting bays opening onto a 300-yard outdoor range. A two-tier



Rotary President Armand Herbert and Vice President Jason Martin test out the new lounge area with Bethel University's Women's Golf Coach Larry Joe Smith.

outdoor hitting area with a sprinkler system is also planned.

The facility honors the vision of Coach Jerry Wilcoxson, who served Bethel as athletic director, coach and professor. Following his death in 2015, Bethel's

annual homecoming golf tournament was named in his memory in recognition of his contributions to Bethel golf and athletics.

The project is supported by Bethel contributors, including the Rosenjack and Flanagan families.

Weakley County Has a New Ambulance Service

DRESDEN — Starting September 1, emergency medical care across Weakley County will transition to a new provider without breaking stride, as American Medical Response (AMR) officially steps in to deliver 24-hour ambulance coverage.

Under a new contract awarded by the Weakley County Commission, AMR will operate three advanced life support ambulances around the clock out of bases in Martin, Dresden, and Greenfield. To ensure a smooth transition and maintain familiarity on local roads, many of the paramedics and EMTs who currently serve the area are joining the AMR team. County officials emphasize that residents facing an emergency should notice no disruption in service and should continue dialing 911 as usual.

The decision to bring in AMR, a division of Global Medical Response (GMR),

followed a competitive procurement process that weighed factors such as local staffing, response readiness, and fiscal responsibility. Spanning roughly 580 square miles, Weakley County relies heavily on robust emergency transport to connect residents to critical care—whether at local facilities like West Tennessee Healthcare or regional hubs like Jackson-Madison County General Hospital, located 45 miles away in Jackson.

“We recognize the strong foundation built by the clinicians who have served Weakley County for decades, and our priority is to provide a seamless transition for patients, healthcare partners and the community,” said Kent Martin, senior program director for Global Medical Response.

Martin noted that in rural areas, emergency medical crews play a crucial role long before reaching a hospital bed. “EMS cli-

nicians begin treatment before a patient reaches the hospital and help coordinate the next step in care. Our responsibility is to make that connection as safely and effectively as possible,” he said.

In addition to standard 911 dispatch and non-emergency interfacility transfers, the new contract adds an advanced life support quick-response vehicle to the county's fleet. The local ground crews will also integrate with GMR's broader regional network, which includes Air Evac Lifeteam 31—an air ambulance service stationed in Martin since 2003. Because both agencies share a parent company, local ground and air teams anticipate seamless coordination during critical incidents.

To ensure accountability, AMR will present quarterly operational reports to the Weakley County Public Safety Committee as part of its contract.



Left, The speakers included representatives of Carroll County Electric, Silicon Ranch, Carroll County Chamber of Commerce, and the family of the late Chance Carlton. The event in Trezevant was to acknowledge the value of renewable solar power, which makes the local electrical distribution system more sustainable while providing a portion of the needed electricity for the residences and businesses in the county. Right, Carroll County Electric lineman with the family of Chance Carlton stand for a photo. The linemen were praised for their service along with honoring the family of the late Chance Carlton, who lost his life while working as a lineman in a storm.
Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner

Switch

...From Front Page

energy infrastructure while offering a powerful new incentive to attract future business investments to Carroll County.

In the ceremonial “Flip the Switch” event, the speakers noted the importance of the project for economic development and sustainability of the local electrical system. The solar array helps provide clean, low-cost electrical generation and provides tax income for both the county and Town of Trezevant.

“This is an exciting economic development,” said Brad Hurley, President of the Carroll County Chamber of Commerce. “I know a number of communities successfully use solar panels to show companies looking to move forward-thinking projects that they’ve got an asset that can help them meet sustainability goals or low-cost energy goals. You’ll see this added to the economic development toolkit as just another tool for the local community.”

Representatives from Silicon Ranch—including Vice President of Business Development Matt Brown and Chairman of the Board Matt Kisber—joined local power authorities to celebrate the operational launch. Attendees watched as the modern panel array actively tracked the sun across the West Tennessee landscape, producing clean power directly for the local grid.

The power generated by the solar facility will be managed in partnership with the Carroll County Electric Department (CCED). General Manager Ryan Drewry and CCED

Board Chairman Lori Nolen emphasized the collaborative effort required to bring a modern utility-scale project to fruition while keeping local power delivery reliable and cost-effective.

Ryan Drewry, General Manager of the Carroll County Electric Department said, “This long-term partnership agreement opened the door for us years down the road for some flexibility options with our power purchase contract. With that, we were able to purchase 5% of our power needs through certain energy sources, one of those being solar.”

Drewry credited his predecessor, Danny Brawner, with signing the initial agreement with Silicon Ranch, a company based in downtown Nashville.

“Mr. Danny Brawner and the board of directors signed a power purchase agreement with Silicon Ranch. CCED agreed to offtake the energy generated from the solar site and secured this power at lower cost than we could buy through TVA. The site you see behind us is a result of that power purchase contract or agreement. The power here flows directly into our distribution substation. I know you can’t see it, but beyond this hill, our substation sits on the back end of this property ... TVA developed two different flexibility paths. The first one was Flexibility 1.0. We realized, or quickly realized, there were some restraints within that program, and they opened up a second iteration called Flexibility 2.0.”

Flexibility 2.0 allows the local distributor to sell any excess electrical production from the solar array back to TVA.

Matt Kisber, Chairman of the Board fo Silicon Ranch

praised the partnership between his company and CCED. Kisber, a native of Jackson, Tenn., former state representative for 20 years, former Tennessee Commissioner of Economic Development, and now chairman of Silicon Ranch, praised the gathering of officials, CCED associates, and students from the local high schools who gathered at the site of the solar array.

“Before I say more about the project, I’d like to recognize the family of Chance Carlton, including his wife Samantha Carlton and their daughters...Chance dedicated his career to serving this community as a lineman. And lost his life while restoring power during severe storms last year. His service, sacrifice, and commitment to his neighbors represent the very best of the people who work every day to keep communities safe and lights on. We’re honored to remember him today.”

“Silicon Ranch began discussing this opportunity with CCED and Danny Brawner in 2021. We signed our power purchase agreement in March 2022, and the facility began delivering energy in July 2025. That history reflects years of vision, collaboration, and determination. True partners. Ryan and the CCED team understand that their responsibility extends beyond providing electricity. It includes planning for the future, supporting economic development, strengthening the local grid, and protecting value for the more than sixteen thousand customers they serve across fourteen hundred miles of distribution lines. We’re also grateful to TVA for their innovation.

Innovative generation

flexibility program, which, as Ryan mentioned, gives local power companies the flexibility to purchase or generate a portion of their power from local resources. That flexibility made this partnership possible. It allows CCED to bring generation closer to the customers it serves, while supporting clean energy, rate stability, and greater resiliency across its system. The Trezevant Solar Farm is a 6.5 megawatt facility with enough generation capacity to help power nearly a thousand homes. But this project is more than about megawatts. Silicon Ranch has made a significant capital investment here in Carroll County. That investment adds to the local tax base and will produce new tax revenue that can support schools, infrastructure, public services, and other priorities identified.

“The facility also provides CCED with local-generated electricity at a predictable fixed rate over the next 30 years. That long-term certainty helps promote rate stability while diversifying CCED’s energy supply and strengthening the resiliency of the local grid. At Silicon Ranch, we take great pride in our Tennessee roots. Since our founding in Nashville, 2011. We have grown into one of the nation’s largest independent power producers, but our purpose has remained the same: to help communities become stronger, healthier, and more resilient. That is why Silicon Ranch owns and operates every project in our portfolio. We do not build a facility and then move on. We put down roots as a long-term landowner, taxpayer, operator, and neighbor, and that’s what we’re doing right here.

“We also take our responsibility to the land seriously. Through our regenerative energy platform, we manage land in ways that combine renewable energy production with agricultural use and responsible land stewardship. Here in Trezevant, we look forward to working with Farm 40 West to incorporate managed sheep grazing at this facility. The sheep will help maintain vegetation naturally. While keeping the land in agricultural production and supporting healthier soil, this is a practical example of how solar energy and agriculture can complement one another on the same land. Something that long ago was called dual use, and I think we still benefit from it today. It’s also exciting to see students from local STEM programs here today. I hope that their tour of this facility gives them a closer look.”

Following the speeches, the ceremonial “Flip the Switch” occurred with Chance Carlton’s two girls serving to flip the switch.

Beyond the technological specs and economic impact, the gathering carried a profound sense of community remembrance. Among those present was Samantha Carlton, widow of Chance Carlton, a dedicated CCED lineman who tragically lost his life in the line of duty in April 2025. Her presence served as a poignant reminder of the frontline utility workers whose daily dedication powers the region. Carlton said her husband was a dedicated CCED lineman, family man, and devout Christian. She successfully spearheaded a political campaign to get state legislation to recognize lineman as first responders. In such,

the families can receive compensation of \$50,000 for up to five years following a work-related death. Samantha said the emphasis was to better serve lineman who work to serve the public and their communities.

With the panels officially active since July 2025, local officials remain optimistic that the Trezevant facility will serve as a beacon for both sustainable land stewardship and future industrial growth across Carroll County.

Timeline for the Trezevant Project:

February 2022 — A letter of intent was approved to enter into a contract with a division of Silicon Ranch to construct a 6.25-megawatt solar array in Trezevant. The Board of Directors of the Carroll County Electric Department provided the letter as one of the early steps in the development of the solar farm.

Danny Brawner, then-general manager of Carroll County Electric and Robert Keeton, Jr., the attorney for the system, said the document indicates the board approves of the ‘concept’ of the solar farm. SR Trezevant, LLC, a proposed Delaware Corporation, would be the principal entity with Silicon Ranch as a major investor.

In January, 2022, Brawner said the proposed solar farm installation would be an 118-acre solar farm near the CCED’s power substation on Power Station Road in Trezevant.

In July, 2025 — the first month of operation, the solar array delivered impressive savings for Carroll County Electric. At that time, Drewry noted that July 2025 was exceptionally hot, leading to the highest electricity usage in the company’s history.

Festival

...From Front Page

community.

Designed as a celebration of the people, businesses, organizations and traditions that make Huntingdon and Carroll County special, the annual festival offers something for all ages, with activities beginning early Saturday morning and continuing throughout the day.

The day kicks off with the Heritage Hustle 5K, with registration at 7 a.m. and the race beginning at 8 a.m. from the City Hall parking lot. Other morning activities include St. Jude’s Car Show registration from 8-10 a.m. and mini pottery workshops at Mudslingers Pottery Studio.

Beginning at 1 p.m., the festival comes to life throughout downtown with vendors opening for shopping, a variety of family activities and attractions, and numerous events taking place at businesses and community venues throughout Huntingdon. The Kids Zone at the Police Department parking lot will offer face painting, two magic shows and balloon animals, while visitors can also enjoy ISTEA train rides, the Andy Griffith Show Marathon, Carroll Arts Storytellers, the Huntingdon Historical Museum, Practical Magic 2 and more. The Dixie Carter PAC Ballroom Gallery will also host the Summer Sessions Student Artwork Exhibit and an artist reception from 2-3 p.m.

The festival’s CB&T Main Stage will take over the afternoon and evening with a lineup of live music, and lawn chairs are welcome. The afternoon will begin with an Opening Ceremony from 4-4:30 p.m., featuring recognition of Citizen of the Year Ronnie Breeden and the Pioneer Family, the Bennett Family.

Live music will follow at 4:45 p.m. with Mayce Mitchell, followed by Grace Gunn at 5:30 p.m. and 24 Seven at 6:30 p.m. Headlining the evening, The SteelDrivers will take the stage at 8 p.m. for a bluegrass performance running through 9:30 p.m.

In addition to the music and activities, the festival will feature an impressive collection of local businesses, makers, nonprofits, community organizations and food vendors, including Bubba’s Hot Dogs, PopLab TN LLC, Top Tier Boutique, VFKs Sweets & Eats, Taylor’s Kitchen, CASA of Henderson & Carroll Counties, S&K Tallows & More, New Moon Creations, Page to Petal, Phoenix Christian Church, UCC, Child Evangelism Fellowship of Northwest TN, CashSaver, One Moore Bite, KingFish BBQ, Spiderette Design/Itsy Bitsy Sips, Perry’s BBQ & Catering, VC Embroidery, Groovy Glazed Doughnuts, Northwest Tennessee Adult Education, LFG Design LLC, Hand Woven Baskets, Imperfectly Perfect Cottage Bakery, Ramonia’s Petite Boutique, Huntingdon Small Business Association, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Going Gaga (Parked and Pretty), Nana’s Southern Sweets, VP Racing Fuels, Mack’s Ranch, Everything Creative In Tennessee, Elevate, A&D’s Unique Creations, Small Hands Project, Craftsbynornav, “It’s All Good,” Huntingdon Elks Lodge #2152, Nolan & Courtney Turner Memorial Fund, D&D Trailers, Sweet Southern Snow, Bricks 97404, Wells 1918 Homestead, Kentucky Lake Aviation, Tommy’s Artisan Bread and Dessert, Dry Hollow Farm, Twilight Designs by RM, Always in Bloom, Paparazzi Jewelry, Smoochies Lemonades/Limeades/Teas, Here and There Gifts, Rogers3D, BBB Creations, Jeff’s Lemonade Stand, Chapter One Books, Small Town Friendz, Porch Swing Place, FD, Breathe Easy, 412

Creative Designz, American Legion Auxiliary, Luv fur Lucky, Polly Sugar Scrubs, Lakeview Poly Furniture, Bitz N Pieces Craft House, BB’s Beads & More, MidSouth Medicare Advisors, WRAP Carroll & Henderson Co., Clear View Farms, Jackson Hewitt Tax Services, Novelties by JR, The Quilted Cottage, TN, RyRo’s Fresh Squeezed Lemonade, Ida Johnson, LMDI, Carroll County Library, Olan Borntrager, Slight of Harvest LLC, American Legion #47 and Cheyenne Hudgins.

Festival organizers also remind visitors that road closures will begin at 6 a.m. Saturday morning around Court Square and surrounding side streets. Attendees are encouraged to plan accordingly and allow extra time when traveling into downtown. A golf cart will be available to assist guests who need transportation from the parking area to the event. Once parked, please call 731-986-5310 for assistance.

The 2026 Huntingdon Heritage Festival is made possible through the generous support of community sponsors who help make the community celebration possible: CB&T (Platinum), Friends of The Dixie, and Dynamix Casting Fluxes (Gold), Barsto Construction Inc, Hydro-Gear, Huntingdon Insurance, Republic Services, HTP Inc, McLemore Farms (Silver), Hex Pol, H&R Block, West TN PUD, Watson Lumber, Restore Rite Restoration, Huntingdon Animal Clinic, Taylor Real Estate & Auction, Carroll County Electric Department (Bronze), and CupKate’s, Espey Oil Co., Court Theatre, and Baptist Memorial Hospital (Copper).

For the latest festival information, schedule updates and announcements, follow the Huntingdon Heritage Festival on Facebook at Facebook.com/HuntingdonHeritageFestival.

Fire

...From Front Page

designed to safely refill SCBA and SCUBA breathing air cylinders. The Tennessee Department of Commerce and Insurance informed the McKenzie Fire Department that it could use the remaining grant funds for other department needs, but the state would need to be notified of how the remaining funds were spent.

The council also approved the appointment of Al Everett, replacing Sandi Roditis, and Brennan Smith, replacing AJ Maxwell, to three-year terms on the McKenzie Planning Commission.

The council approved two applications for businesses to lease space within theDepot, McKenzie’s downtown retail incubator.

Addison Dunn was approved to open a men’s and children’s boutique. The business is expected to open around the first of November.

Jill Taylor was approved to

open an eatery offering sandwiches and soups in a grab-and-go atmosphere, with seating available for approximately 15 customers. The business is expected to open around the first of October.

Fire Chief Brian Tucker and Police Chief Ryan White also informed the council about a joint effort between their departments to purchase a refurbished Zoll X Series Defibrillator. The equipment cost \$19,526.60 and was purchased at no expense to McKenzie taxpayers.

The city used funds from its Safe Streets account, which is funded by revenue generated through traffic cameras, to purchase the defibrillator.

More information about the Zoll X Series Defibrillator is available in the September 8, 2026, edition of The McKenzie Banner. The next meeting of the McKenzie City Council is scheduled for October 8 at 6 p.m. at McKenzie City Hall.

Cash

...From Front Page

Center in New York and the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia.

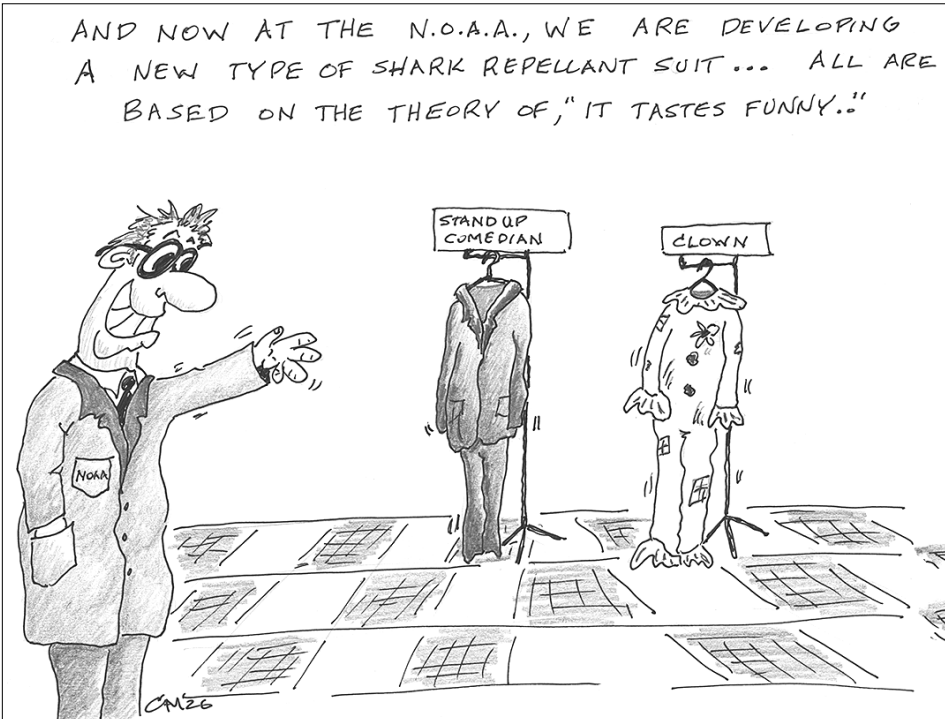
McKenzie Cash Express manager Monica Harrison said, all Cash Express locations pay tribute to their area’s first responders on September 11. It has been

the tradition for as long as Harrison has been with the company.

Thank you to McKenzie’s Cash Express for including other businesses in this heartfelt gesture by inviting them to sign the cards. Thank you to McKenzie and Carroll County’s first responders for risking your lives and sacrificing so much for the wellbeing of every citizen. We are very fortunate to live where you serve.

Thank you for your continued support of this newspaper.

Things In My Head with Charles Manfredi



THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

School Sports and Small Towns

School sports in small towns are experienced differently than in large cities. In a small town (less than 5,000 people) the whole town gets excited when one of its sports teams reaches the finals of the state tournament, like our girls' basketball team did one time. School let out early, people took off work, and businesses closed just so people could travel 3+ hours to where the tournament was held. Buses were chartered and friends carpooled, with plenty of snacks, laughter, and cheers as they made the journey and made

memories. Our local newspaper (The McKenzie Banner), which is always front and center of every school event (and has been for three generations), posted photos and videos on Facebook to make those who didn't make the trip feel connected to the excitement. For instance, when the team drove back into town with police and state trooper escorts, The Banner made a video of the procession that ended up being watched by three thousand people within just a few hours. Three thousand! The story of McKenzie

Girls winning the state championship will be told for generations, with expected exaggerations, which will be forgiven by those who remember it differently. Lying to someone's face in an effort to be deceitful is one thing but stretching the truth about what your daughter/granddaughter/sister/cousin/friend did in the tournament is accepted with enthusiasm. That's what community is, and it feels pretty good. *Taken from The Wit and Wisdom of David Johnson, Volume I: I Didn't Know Donkeys Could Laugh

Russell Bush Joins The Banner Team

Russell Bush, who has covered sports across Carroll County for more than 25 years, has joined The Banner team to provide coverage of Huntingdon athletics. Russell joined The Banner on September 9, bringing with him more than two decades of experience covering local sports. He began covering Huntingdon football in 2000 for another local newspaper, where he spent the next 25 years covering the Mustangs. Russell recalls writing his first article on notebook paper and, during his first few years, serving as the beat writer for Huntingdon Friday night football.



years on the Carroll County Sports Hall of Fame board, including the last five years as board chair. He hosts two podcasts. The "Beating Around the Bush" podcast has been running for five years, while "Guys Talking Football with Russell Bush and Eric Swenson," featuring Huntingdon head football coach Eric Swenson, is in its second year. Both podcasts are available through The Banner website, Spotify and Apple Podcasts. Russell also spent 10 years as a member of the broadcast team for Huntingdon football on the former 100.9 The Farm radio station. During his final three years with the station, he served as the voice of the Mustangs and also broadcast numerous basketball, softball and baseball games. He serves as the public address announcer for

Huntingdon High School basketball and baseball, as well as Huntingdon Middle School football. Russell also operates the Huntingdon Sports Pics Facebook page, where he shares photographs from the games he covers. The Banner will work in partnership with Huntingdon Sports Pics to expand and enhance the page for local sports fans. "I am excited for this opportunity to work with people who have always treated me well over the years. While I have worked [alongside] The Banner in different capacities over the years, we have always had a great relationship, and now I can call them my family. Although I am a Huntingdon guy, I also love Carroll County and look forward to this partnership. I can't wait to get started," said Russell.

HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

News Not As Good As Doc Proclaimed

Here is a story that tickles me, and saddens me a bit at the same time. If you are a mature reader, you may relate to it more than you care to admit... It started with a bad hip. Mine, of course. I spent the summer recuperating from replacement surgery. Thankfully, it all went well. I am doing great and walking around pain free. My three-month checkup was this past week. The orthopedic surgeon was pleased with the progress. As a matter of fact, he told me I didn't need to come back. "Kesley, you can do everything you want to do." It was good news for sure. I shook his hand, hugged his neck, and thanked him for changing my life for the better. But on the way home I got to seriously pondering on that "everything you want to do" part. And I began to swell up with ideas! What I "want to do" is stand on that high ridge beside George Sexton's house just one more time, get a running start like we did when we were kids, and sprint the 40 yards down to the big ditch at the bottom, and take a flying leap that will carry me safely to the other side. I never did make it as a kid. My legs were too short and the ditch was soooo wide. None of us did. I've seen Buddy Wiggleton crash face-first into the far bank, and slide hopelessly to the bottom. Yogi, who was pretty quick and light enough to fly, never came close. It was seemingly impossible. But I'm older now. And I've got a new, bionic hip. And I have the assurance that I can do "everything I want to." Wow! And I am

going back there at the end of the month for my high school Homecoming. I won't have to practice. I have been cleared by a doctor! And while I am back home, I'm going to look up Vicki Fields. She used to outrun me every day at recess in elementary school. I am about to demand a do-over! Y'all have no idea how much my older brother used to push me around. He'd make me mow the yard. I had to milk "my" cows, and his, too. He'd practiced rabbit hunting by making me run across the backyard while he fired BBs at my blue jeans. Of course, Leon turned out to be the greatest big brother in the whole world. I have documented that over and over. But just one time, even if it's only in my mind, I "want to" be the one holding the BB gun. Years ago, I near 'bout got killed trying to ride a bull at a small rodeo between Georgiana and Andalusia, Alabama. I was in college and fairly fit back in those days. But the bull's first move was sideways, into the chute, crushing my leg immediately. I leaned over to check the damage, and he left the chute without me! I have been embarrassed by that humiliating episode for years. Well, guess what? I've got a new hip and I can now do "everything I want to." I am trying to get a hold of my friend in Georgiana to find out when that rodeo starts. I'm fixing to show them I'm not the cardboard cowboy they laughed at five decades ago. I am also buying a guitar and planning a road tour. I "want to" sing like a combination of George

Jones, Chuck Berry, Marty Robbins, and Jerry Lee Lewis. I figure to be putting out records in the next few weeks. I will be on the Grand Ole Opry. American Bandstand. The Oprah Winfrey Show. Keep an eye out for me coming soon to a town near you. I have never "wanted to" climb Mount Everest. But you know, they make little mountains, too. I could go on about flying to the moon, riding the big waves off the North Shore of O'ahu, jumping the Snake River on a motorcycle.... But you get the idea. The possibilities are endless. For a guy who can "do everything he wants to." The rub is, of course, the well-meaning Doc maybe overestimated my wellness, or perhaps underestimated my age. Or more than likely, he did both. A nominal dose of stark reality tells us age, ability, ambition, opportunity, health, and plain common sense are all relative. Our intelligent "want to" is found amidst the mix of all of them. And for sure your spouse (at least, mine does) will have a say in the matter. It brings most of us back to earth. And that is not a bad thing. We need to live according to where we are in life, and understand that each stage has its limitations. I am happy and absolutely fine doing just that. But I do have a heads up to the people living on Garrison Avenue, 10th Street, and along the walking path through town. You might not recognize me speeding by, but don't be alarmed, I'm just training for the Boston Marathon... Respectfully, Kes kesley45@aol.com



Indoor Practice

One of the greatest things to happen at Huntingdon High School over the last several years is the growing number of sports student-athletes can compete in. With the growing number of sports also comes issues that are unavoidable. Football has always been at the top of the list when it comes to the amount of revenue that the school brings in through gate receipts and such. Basketball might be at the top, but I am not privy to that info but in all fairness, basketball plays a lot more games. The rest of the sports are funded in part by what football and basketball accumulate and through sponsors and donations. It creates a busy life for this old sportswriter, but he is also loving the fact that kids who in the past didn't have a sport to participate in do now. Tennis courts are on the way, and none too soon. Huntingdon has been playing its home games at Bethel, which is 11 or 12 miles away. I understand that money

that is being spent on that project could be directed towards upgrading ballparks around town; it is still a needed project. I think it is also time for the Huntingdon Mustangs football team to have an indoor practice facility. Just the brutal heat that has swept our area over the last month should be reason enough to start building today. There have been too many instances of kids wilting under the heat and even the loss of life. Paul Ward Stadium and Eric Swenson Field are getting used the way it was intended when the magic carpet was laid down. However, only one athletic team at a time can be on the field. This past week, there was a soccer match for the Fillies and because of the heat, the football team practiced on the practice field which is without light. The football team went late because of the heat and was virtually practicing in the dark to escape the heat. The first question will be from where will the

financial help come from to fund this project? That is the question that I do not have an answer for, but I also know that football is important for Huntingdon High School. If there is a will, then there is a way. Huntingdon is known for Mustang football, and the Mustangs are currently in a seven-team region and are only one of two schools that do not have an indoor facility. With the deep tradition and how important football is to our community, you might think we would be the first school to have it. I remember a playoff game at Union City years ago in which it was cold, raining, the wind was blowing, and the Mustangs warmed up in extreme conditions while the Tornadoes warmed up in their cozy indoor practice facility. The Mustangs went on to lose 36-0, and the fact that Union City had an advantage beforehand made a difference. I could argue either way for yes and no. I do know it will help our football team moving forward into the future, and I know somebody has some money somewhere just lying around. Beating Around the Bush is a regular column by Russell Bush discussing sports and other musings.

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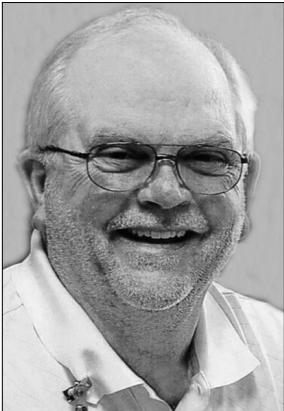
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Obituaries



THOMAS A. DEES, JR.
1952 – 2026

TREZEVANT — Thomas A. Dees, Jr., 74, died September 9, 2026, at Jackson Madison County General Hospital.

He was born in Jackson, Tenn., on August 26, 1952, son of the late Thomas Arvin, Sr. and Vivian Gaynell Cleek Dees. Thomas graduated from Chester County High School in 1970. He was named Football Player of the Year in 1969. Thomas graduated with his master's in Educational Administration from UT Martin in 1974.

In 1983, Thomas met Sandra McMinn. One phone call and the rest was history. They married on June 30, 1984, and have been married for 42 lovely years.

Thomas started the West Carroll Football program at West Carroll with help from Coach Homer Hanbro, Travis Carter, Jr., board members who served at the time, and the Tenn. National Guard.

Thomas loved his family and friends, especially his grandchildren. He enjoyed football, NASCAR races, and teaching. He and Sandra loved traveling.

He is survived by his wife, Sandra Dees; two sons, David Dees (Bryce) of Covington, Tenn., and Charles "Chuck" McLemore of Jackson, Tenn.; daughter-in-law, Katie Wyatt Dees; sister, Norma Tulley (Bob) of Deanburg, Tenn.; and three grandchildren, Colt and Lily Kate Dees and Brylee Dunavant.

He was preceded in death by his parents.

Funeral services were 3 p.m. on Sunday at Shackelford Funeral Directors – Crook Avenue Chapel, with Jeremy Arnold and Jason Tilley officiating, and Melinda Webb singing. Burial followed at Pleasant Springs Cemetery. Pallbearers were Will Rogers, Daniel Rogers, Freddie Smith, J.C. Hefner, Cory Tulley and John Gannaway.

The family receives friends at Crook Avenue on Sunday from 1-3 p.m. service time.

Shackelford Funeral Directors.

WILLIAM KORTVELY, JR.
1960 – 2026

BRUCETON — Mr. William Charles Kortvely Jr, 66, of Bruceton died Monday, September 7, 2026, at his home.

Funeral services were Friday, September 11, in the Chapel of Bruceton Funeral Home. Burial was at Shiloh Cemetery near Mansfield.

William was born March 22, 1960, in Bruceton, Tenn., to the late William Charles Kortvely, Sr. and Maxine Elizabeth Kee Kortvely. Other than his parents he was preceded in death by two sisters, Judy Kortvely and Karen Morello.

He is survived by his wife, Penny Kortvely; a daughter, April Searatt; two step-daughters, Paula Holmes and Paige Mattison (Cory); a sister, Joan Walter (Brian); three grandchildren; and two great grandchildren.

CELIA DINNING
1941 – 2026

Celia Ann Dinning, 85, was born on July 14, 1941, to parents Tillman and Elizabeth Smith. She was preceded in death by her father, mother, and older brother, Danny Smith. She died peacefully on September 10, 2026.

Funeral services for Celia Dinning were Sunday, September 13, 2026, at Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home. Interment was at Hopewell Cemetery, Gleason, Tenn.

Celia married Roland Dinning on December 16, and he survives her.

She is survived by her three children, Van Dinning and his wife, Jill; Danita Bradberry and her husband, John; and Andrea Dinning.

She is also survived by her six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

HELEN ELAINE PEARSON
1949 – 2026

Helen Elaine Pearson, 76, died September 8, 2026. She was born on November 29, 1949, in Carroll County, Tenn., to the late Clara and Miles Pearson.

Funeral services were Sunday, September 20, 2026, in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home. In-

terment was in Mt. Olive Cemetery in Atwood.

Helen attended Webb School in McKenzie, Tenn., and later studied cosmetology in Louisville, Kentucky.

She leaves to cherish her memory and continue her legacy: her brother, Larry C. Pearson; and her sister, Linda Pearl Pearson.

PATRICIA SEYMORE
1941 – 2026

MCKENZIE — Funeral Services for Patricia Ann Seymore were on Saturday, September 12, 2026. Interment was at Mt. Olivet Cemetery, McKenzie.

Mrs. Seymore, 84, died Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at Cherrywood Post Acute. She was born in McKenzie on September 24, 1941, to Charles Elton Edwards and Mable Shell Edwards.

She is survived by her children, Genise Seymore and Joshua (Stacy) Mann all of McKenzie; two sisters, Susan Jones of Henderson and Pam LaCourse of McKenzie; two brothers, George Edwards and Eddie Wayne Edwards both of McKenzie; six grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, Lloyd Andrew Seymore; a granddaughter, Katelin Mann; two sisters, Linda Edwards and Paula Edwards; and three brothers, Charles Edwards, Ralph "Butch" Edwards and Robert Edwards.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home.

RAY McDANIEL
1937 – 2026

HUNTINGDON — Mr. Ray McDaniel, 88, of Huntingdon, Tenn., passed away Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at Cherrywood Post Acute in McKenzie.

Funeral Services were Saturday, September 12, 2026, at Concord Missionary Baptist Church. Interment was at Concord Cemetery in Huntingdon, Tenn.

Ray was born September 24, 1937, to the late Zelmer McDaniel and Hattie McDaniel. In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by four sisters, Willie Powers, Juanita Frantz, Pearl Davis, and Edna Faye Blankenship; and one brother, Ted McDaniel.

He is survived by his wife of 68 years, Patsy McDaniel; one daughter, Teresa (Russell) Tucker; one son, Stanley (Dione) McDaniel; four grandchildren; and seven great-grandchildren.

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SONIC SPIRIT NIGHT

Mark your calendars for Wednesday, September 16 from 5-8 p.m.! It's Sonic Spirit Night in McKenzie and 15 percent of sales benefit McKenzie's Shop with a First Responder Christmas program. DoorDash, UberEats, app orders, etc. count towards the money raised. The participating Sonic is located at 15755 Highland Drive, McKenzie, TN 38201. All proceeds go towards providing local children with presents for Christmas from McKenzie Police and Fire. Come show your support!

VFW FISH DINNER

VFW Post 4939 in McKenzie is hosting a fish dinner on Tuesday, September 15, 4-8 p.m. for \$15 per person. Pick up at 9750 Cherrywood, McKenzie.

SPECIAL SERVICES AT UNION PRIMITIVE BAPTIST CHURCH

Union Primitive Baptist Church, located at 2020 Ross Road, McKenzie, is having its annual meeting on September 25 and 26. Elder Daniel Wood, pastor of Knoxville Primitive Baptist Church, is the invited speaker.

Services are scheduled for September 25 at 7 p.m. with supper at 5:30 p.m. On September 26, services start at 10:30 a.m. with lunch immediately following. Afternoon services begin at 1:30 p.m.

BRUCETON SENIOR CLASS HOSTS BLACKTOP SHOWDOWN

Gearheads, custom vehicle enthusiasts, and community supporters will gather at the Carroll County Civic Center on Saturday, September 26, for the "Blacktop Showdown" car show. The event directly benefits the Bruceton Senior Class of 2027, with all proceeds going toward Project Graduation.

The open-entry show welcomes all types of vehicles—including classics, imports, lifted or slammed trucks, side-by-sides (SXS), and custom builds.

Audio Demos and Vendors: Live sound system displays and local business booths.

Food and Prizes: On-site food trucks, event raffles, and competitive awards presentations.

Admission is free for all spectators. Gates open rain or shine from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. at 201 Mustang Drive, Huntingdon, TN 38344. Vehicle registration is available for \$20 in advance or \$25 on the day of the event.

For more information, contact event organizer Ryan Crouch at (731) 415-0827 or via email at ther-mancrouch@gmail.com.

IRIS FESTIVAL HARVEST DAY

Dresden Iris Festival's Harvest Day is October 24, 4-8 p.m. on the Courthouse Lawn in Dresden. The event includes pumpkin decorating, music, food trucks, and a dunking booth.

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.

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.

MONTHLY GENEALOGY GROUP AT GORDON BROWNING MUSEUM

A Genealogy Group meets at the Gordon Browning Museum, 640 North Main Street, McKenzie, the first Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m.

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.

CARROLL COMMISSION MEETS MONTHLY

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

CARROLL COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEETS MONTHLY

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

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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COYOTE VS. ACME (PG)
Tues. 7:25
Wed. 7:25
Thurs. 7:25

BY ANY MEANS (R)
Tues. 7:30
Wed. 7:30
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SPIDER-MAN: BRAND NEW DAY (PG-13)
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(L to R) Lauren Runions, School Counselor – Hollow Rock Bruceton Central High School; Ashley Lowe, School Counselor – McKenzie High School; Tracy Connell, School Counselor – Huntingdon High School; Joe Norval, Principal/CTE Director – Carroll County Technical Center; Tyler Ford, tnAchieves; Joseph Butler, Carroll County Mayor; Shaun Williams, Carroll Bank & Trust; and Piper Jenkins, School Counselor – West Carroll High School.

tnAchieves Prosperity Tour Visits Carroll County

MCKENZIE — The tnAchieves Prosperity Tour visited Carroll County this morning as it continues its statewide tour celebrating communities across Tennessee that are making a meaningful difference in the lives and futures of students. A special thank-you goes to TCAT Henry-Carroll for graciously hosting this morning's event and bringing together school leaders, business partners, and local government officials to celebrate the accomplishments of Carroll County students.

During the event, Tyler Ford, Vice President of

Workforce for tnAchieves, presented Carroll County Mayor Joseph Butler with an award recognizing "the mentors and communities that go above and beyond to ensure Tennessee students have a pathway to economic prosperity." Mr. Ford highlighted the impressive growth in Carroll County's three-year graduation rate, noting the positive progress demonstrated by students across each of the county's high schools. He also recognized that high schools throughout Carroll County have exceeded Tennessee's statewide FAFSA completion

rate, further demonstrating the commitment of schools and community partners to helping students prepare for success beyond high school. For two decades, tnAchieves has helped Tennessee students navigate the journey from high school to college, career and technical education, and ultimately into the workforce. Today's recognition is a wonderful reminder of what can happen when students, educators, families, businesses, and community leaders work together toward a shared vision of student success.

McKenzie Rotary Club Announces Community Partnership with Second Harvest Food Bank

The McKenzie Rotary Club is proud to announce that Second Harvest Food Bank has accepted the club as a Community Partner, marking an important milestone in the club's ongoing commitment to serving the community and addressing hunger.

The partnership reflects a shared commitment to fighting hunger and supporting families throughout the area. McKenzie Rotary is especially proud to be the first Rotary Club in Tennessee to achieve Community Partner status with Second Harvest.

"This is a meaningful step forward for our club and our community," said Club President Armand Hebert. "We invite everyone to join us in working together to help eradicate hunger right here at home. Community involvement can make a real difference in strengthening local food resources and helping those in need."

This week, Second Harvest notified the McKenzie



Boxes of food and other non-perishable items picked up from a recent visit to the Second Harvest facility in Camden, Tennessee.

Rotary Club that it is the recipient of a \$540-valued goods grant from the State of Tennessee. The grant includes canned hams, chunked tuna and chicken, pasta sauce, peanut butter, a variety of juices and other nonperishable food items. In addition, the McKenzie Rotary Club is expected to receive a \$7,000 matching grant from Rotary International to support the development of its food pantry project. The grant will be

used to make improvements to the space provided by the City of McKenzie, as well as purchase supplies, equipment and food for the pantry. The McKenzie Rotary Club meets every Tuesday at noon in the Vera Low Student Center on the Bethel University campus. Community members interested in learning more about the club or its food pantry efforts are encouraged to attend.



Various groups of winners pictured following the event. Photos Courtesy of the Carroll County Shooting Park

First Responders Raise Funds For Christmas Program

HUNTINGDON (September 12) — McKenzie firefighters and police officers joined forces Saturday to raise money for local children through the annual McKenzie Shop with a First Responder Shoot.

The fundraising event was held Saturday at the Carroll County Shooting Sports Park in Huntingdon. The event was organized by McKenzie Fire/Rescue and the McKenzie Police Department, with proceeds benefiting the department's Shop with a First Responder Christmas program.

The shooting event featured two flights, at 9 a.m.

and 1 p.m., with individual shooters participating for a \$60 entry fee.

Money raised through the event will help provide Christmas gifts for children who might otherwise have a difficult holiday season. The Shop with a First Responder program pairs children with local first responders for a Christmas shopping experience in December.

The program has previously served children from the surrounding area. In 2025, organizers said more than 80 children received assistance through the program, with children identified through local schools,

the city and community members who recognize a need. Organizers said children of all school ages are eligible, and younger siblings may also be included. The September fundraiser is one of several efforts supporting this year's Christmas program. A Sonic Spirit Night is also scheduled for September 16, with 15 percent of participating sales benefiting McKenzie's Shop with a First Responder Christmas program. Organizers continue to accept donations to help provide Christmas gifts for local children.

Carroll County, Bethel Team Up to Host Glow Walk

MCKENZIE — The Carroll County Health Council, in partnership with Bethel University, will host a Suicide Prevention Glow Walk on Tuesday, September 22, at 7 p.m. at Bethel University Vera Low Center Park-

ing Lot, 101 Wildcat Lane, McKenzie, to raise awareness and bring community members together in support of suicide prevention.

The evening event will feature tabling resources provided by local organi-

zations, free glow gear for participants, and refreshments available from Rolling Snow. Members of the community, students, and local families are invited to attend to light up the night, access valuable mental health resources, and show support for suicide prevention initiatives across Carroll County.

Inglenook Book Club Elects 2027 Officers

MCKENZIE — The Inglenook Book Club gathered for its monthly meeting on September 9 at Lakeside in McKenzie. President Gail Mack called the meeting to order, leading members in the Pledge of Allegiance, the Club Aim, and the Club Motto. Fourteen members responded to the roll call.

During the opening proceedings, the club celebrated monthly birthdays for Peggy Chappell, Mary Newman, and Carolyn Potts, with members joining in song. Following the reading and approval of the August minutes and Treasurer Donna Ward's financial report, attendees enjoyed refreshments served by hostesses Jean McKinnie and Genia Sherwood. The treat included pineapple upside-down cake, an assorted nut medley, chocolates, and beverages.

Committee Reports and 2027 Officer Elections

Committee chairs presented updates across several areas: Sunshine cards were sent to members, Telephone chairs were thanked

for reminders regarding meeting details and school donations, and the Membership committee noted openings for individuals who enjoy reading.

A central focus of the business session was the election of officers for the 2027 term. The nominations committee—comprising Jean McKinnie, Mary Newman, and Genia Sherwood—presented a slate of officers that was formally approved by motion:

- **President:** Gail Mack
- **Vice President:** Victoria Ard
- **Recording Secretary:** Beverly Mueller
- **Book Secretary:** Debby Simon
- **Treasurer:** Donna Ward
- **Membership Chair:** Sherri Priestley
- **Publicity Chair:** Beverly Mueller
- **Sunshine Chair:** Genia Sherwood
- **Telephone Chair:** Jean Hollomon

Program and Literary Discussions

Donna Ward presented an informative educational

program on author Christina Baker Kline, highlighting her bestselling novels Orphan Train and The Exiles. Ward noted that Kline published her first novel in her mid-twenties.

Members also carried out the regular book passing schedule, setting the next exchange date for September 23.

Upcoming Events and Announcements

Plans were discussed for the upcoming annual Christmas party. Following a motion made by Jean McKinnie and seconded by Pedie Pedersen, the club voted on caterer selection for the event. Members were informed that signup sheets for party attendance, hostess and program duties, updating 2027 directory booklet information, and submitting 2027 book titles will be available at the next gathering.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 14 at 3 p.m. at Lakeside. Hostesses will be Jean McKinnie and Carolyn Moore, with Moore also delivering the program. Attendees are reminded to bring small trinket items for school donations.

The meeting concluded with all members reciting the Benediction before adjournment.

Attendance

Members present included Peggy Chappell, Jean Hollomon, Suzanne Howell, Jean McKinnie, Gail Mack, Carolyn Moore, Beverly Mueller, Mary Newman, Pedie Pedersen, Sherri Priestley, Suzanne Russell, Genia Sherwood, Debby Simon and Donna Ward.

the West Carroll 3-2-1 Update

Three Highlights • Two Quotes • One Challenge

The school year is off to a strong start with new programs, new opportunities, and new experiences across WCSSD. We also welcomed four new school board seats for the next terms.

3-Highlights from Across the District

- **A Season of Firsts:** Cross country returned after five years, with senior Brody Baker representing West Carroll well in competition. Our esports teams are set and competition begins soon. The Roost, our student-run coffee shop and mercantile, is preparing to open.
- **\$78,060 Tutoring Grant Awarded:** Special Education Director Crystal Polinski applied for and received a \$78,060 Tennessee Tutoring Grant, bringing additional support to West Carroll students.
- **College & Career Readiness:** Eighth graders explored careers in Jackson, seniors will visit UT Martin, and ACT preparation continues with Alex Beene. Through Bethel University, students are planning a spring trip to Costa Rica with volunteer work and visits to local coffee farms.

2 Quotes from Our Leaders

"Last year we set a goal for our students to read or be read to one hundred books, and thanks to their hard work, we met it. We are looking forward to meeting that challenge again."
– Jackie Wester, WCPS Principal

"Our theme this year is WCS Students Can, and our focus for September is lead. We are recognizing students who show leadership in the small moments as much as the big ones."
– Dr. Jessica Williams, WCES Principal

1 Challenge for Our Community

Meet Us at Homecoming
Join us **October 2 for Homecoming**. This year, we will retire a jersey in honor of a former West Carroll student who represented our school with excellence. Watch our social media for the announcement, then bring your family and cheer on the War Eagles.

Our next board meeting is October 1. Thank you for supporting our students, schools, and community.

Preston Caldwell
wcssd.com/321



Download Our West Carroll App

A315037-1

McKenzie FunZone

Family Fun for All Ages!

LASER TAG
High-tech fun in our arena.

NERF BATTLES
Bring your team. Bring your game.

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Saturday & Sunday 4-8PM

Birthday Parties • Group Events • Field Trips
12915 Hwy 79, McKenzie, TN Facebook: McKenzieFunZone

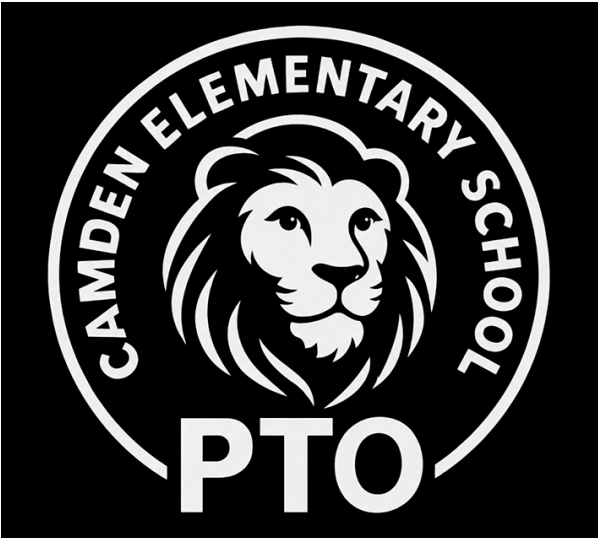
Former Camden Elementary School Employee Misused More Than \$31K in Book Fair Proceeds

An investigation by the Tennessee Comptroller’s Office has found that a former Camden Elementary School media specialist misappropriated at least \$31,404.68 in proceeds earned through the school’s Scholastic Book Fairs.

Camden Elementary School’s Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) operates two Scholastic Book Fairs each year. Instead of receiving its share of book fair proceeds in cash, the PTO chose to receive Scholastic Dollars. These are credits earned from book fair sales that can be used through Scholastic to purchase books, furniture, learning activities, supplies, and other items for the school.

The Comptroller’s Office began its investigation after school officials reported the possible misuse of Scholastic Dollars by the former media specialist, who also served as the PTO’s bookkeeper.

Investigators determined that between March 2020 and March 2026, the former media specialist used \$31,404.68 in Scholastic Dollars to make at least 15 purchases for her personal benefit. The purchases included adult clothing, home décor, lighting, electronics, audiovisual equipment, and thousands of dollars in furniture. The items



were delivered to her home without the knowledge of PTO board members or school administrators.

After school administrators told the former media specialist she could no longer run the book fair, she used the remaining Scholastic Dollars to place a \$9,710.10 order in March 2026. She told investigators that she had all the items from that order and a large number of items from previous orders at her home.

Investigators also determined the former media specialist improperly used the school’s tax exempt status for each of the Scholastic orders. She was removed from the school’s Scholastic account on March 12, 2026, suspended without pay on March 26, 2026, and re-

signed from Benton County Schools effective June 30, 2026.

The results of this investigation were communicated with the Office of the District Attorney General of the 24th Judicial District.

“Money and other benefits generated by school support organizations must be protected and used to support the school and its students,” said Comptroller Jason Mumpower.

“The Model Financial Policy requires PTO officers to maintain responsibility for their organization’s financial records. A school employee should not serve as the PTO bookkeeper.” To view the investigative report, go to tncot.cc/doireports

Dyer County Armed Career Criminal Sentenced to 15 Years in Prison for Illegal Possession, Discharge of a Firearm

JACKSON — A federal judge has sentenced Timothy Adams, 55, of Dyersburg, Tennessee, to 15 years in federal prison for unlawful possession of a firearm as a convicted felon. United States Attorney D. Michael Dunavant, of the Western District of Tennessee, announced the sentence today.

According to information presented in court, on February 2, 2024, Dyer County deputies responded to a 9-1-1 hang up call. Upon arrival, they encountered Adams hiding behind a shed. It was determined through the investigation that Adams picked up a .38 revolver from the house and fired one round into the headboard near another occupant of the residence during a domestic violence incident. Officers confirmed the bullet hole in the

headboard and recovered one spent shell casing from the .38 revolver.

On January 22, 2025, Adams pled guilty to being a felon in possession of a firearm. Due to his extensive prior criminal conviction history which includes prior violent and serious drug offenses, the Court determined that Adams qualified as an Armed Career Criminal (ACC) and was prohibited from possessing a firearm or ammunition under the Armed Career Criminal Act (ACCA), resulting in enhanced mandatory minimum sentencing penalties.

On August 19, 2026, United States District Judge J. Daniel Breen sentenced Adams to 180 months in prison to be followed by five years of supervised release. There is no parole in the federal system.

U.S. Attorney D. Michael

Dunavant said, “Adams’ prior conviction history demonstrates his disrespect for the law, and his lifestyle of lawlessness has finally caught up with him. He has devoted most of his life to repeated criminal conduct, and now the federal system will do what should have been done a long time ago – impose a real consequence that will prevent him from victimizing anyone else for years to come.”

United States Attorney Dunavant thanked Assistant United States Attorney Hillary Parham, who prosecuted this case in conjunction with Assistant District Attorney General Andrew Hays, of the Tennessee District Attorney’s Office for the 29th Judicial District, as well as the law enforcement partners who investigated the case.

Gasoline Prices Increase 11 Cents During Week

TENNESSEE (September 14) — Average gasoline prices in Tennessee increased 11.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$3.91/g today, according to GasBuddy’s survey of 3,821 stations in Tennessee. Prices in Tennessee are 25.4 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand \$1.17/g higher than a year ago. The national average price of diesel has increased 31.6 cents compared to a week ago and stands at \$6.183 per gallon.

According to GasBuddy price reports, the cheapest station in Tennessee was priced at \$3.39/g yesterday while the most expensive was \$4.99/g, a difference of \$1.60/g. The lowest price in the state yesterday was \$3.39/g while the highest was \$4.99/g, a difference of \$1.60/g.

The national average price of gasoline has risen 17.2 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$4.25/g today. The national average is up 19.0 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands \$1.14/g higher than a year ago, according to GasBuddy data compiled from more than 11 million weekly price reports covering over 150,000 gas stations across the country.

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

September 14, 2025: \$2.74/g (U.S. Average: \$3.12/g)

September 14, 2024: \$2.70/g (U.S. Average: \$3.16/g)

September 14, 2023: \$3.43/g (U.S. Average: \$3.84/g)

September 14, 2022: \$3.21/g (U.S. Average: \$3.69/g)

September 14, 2021: \$2.85/g (U.S. Average: \$3.18/g)

“Average gasoline and diesel prices rose in every state over the last week as geopolitical tensions escalated on multiple fronts, with friction between the U.S. and Iran, new hostilities in the Red Sea, and the shutdown of Saudi Arabia’s East-West pipeline all combining to jolt prices sharply higher,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis at GasBuddy. “New weekend attacks also knocked two additional Russian refineries offline, further straining global refined product supplies and likely offsetting any seasonal relief. Diesel prices could climb even faster in the wake of the new refinery attacks. While most of the country transitions to cheaper winter-blend gasoline this week, the scale of ongoing geopolitical escalations makes meaningful price relief unlikely in the near term. Motorists should brace for continued

volatility ahead.”

SOURCE GasBuddy

McKenzie Police Reports

Pepper Spray Incident at Convenience Store Leads to Domestic Assault and Child Abuse Charges

— A confrontation at a local convenience store on Magnolia Avenue resulted in multiple criminal charges on September 13.

According to police reports, Patrolman Dillon and Sgt. Kyle Beauchamp charged Nastassia C. Williams, of Florida Court, with Domestic Assault and Child Abuse and Neglect. Investigators reported that Williams was a passenger in a vehicle driven by Jaylean D’Aquan McClerkin, of Walnut Circle, when the pair pulled in front of a victim’s vehicle at the Little General store in an attempt to block it. Williams allegedly retrieved a can of pepper spray from her vehicle, approached the victim’s car, and discharged the chemical spray through the window, striking both the adult driver and a juvenile passenger.

In an attempt to flee the scene following the pepper spray attack, the victim put his vehicle in reverse and then drove forward, striking Williams with his front bumper. Responding officers reviewed store surveillance footage to confirm the sequence of events.

Williams was arrested and transported to the Carroll County Jail. McClerkin was cited into Carroll County General Sessions Court for failure to carry required liability insurance, expired vehicle registration

and a suspended driver’s license.

Man Charged in Connection with Domestic Assault at Business — Randle D. Arnold, of Walnut Circle, was arrested and charged with Domestic Assault following an incident on September 8.

Officer Kyle Beauchamp responded to a report of a disturbance at a local McKenzie business. According to law enforcement, Arnold became involved in a verbal argument with a female acquaintance inside the establishment. The altercations escalated as the two moved outside, where the victim was allegedly assaulted, causing her to fall to the ground and sustain a head injury.

Police Arrest Local Man Over Written Death Threats — David M. Gonzales, of Cole Street, was taken into custody on September 8 and charged with Misdemeanor Simple Assault following threats made against a local resident.

The incident came to light after the victim walked into the McKenzie Police Department to report ongoing verbal and written threats against his life from a relative of his best friend. Among the evidence submitted to police was a written threat stating the victim would be killed on October 20. MPD officials took custody of the document and placed Gonzales under arrest after confirming the victim feared for his per-

sonal safety.

Registry Violation and Vandalism Charges Filed Against Jackson Resident — Christian Tyler Milam, of Riverport Drive, Jackson, was arrested on September 11 on charges of violating the Sex Offender Registry and Vandalism.

Milam originally arrived at the McKenzie Police Department requesting police assistance to retrieve personal belongings from a local residence. Officers instructed Milam to remain at the station while they investigated the location.

Upon arrival at the residence, officers spoke with a female resident who reported that Milam, classified as homeless, had been residing at the home for four days and had broken a window on the property. The resident requested to press charges, leading officers to arrest Milam for the registry violation and vandalism.

Traffic Stop for Active Warrant — An August 28 traffic stop on Magnolia Avenue led to the arrest of Eric J. Robinson, Jr., of Field Street, on an outstanding warrant.

Sgt. Kyle Beauchamp observed Robinson operating a vehicle and initiated the stop. A warrant check confirmed an active Henry County warrant for Contempt of Court. Robinson was arrested without incident and transferred to the custody of Henry County officers at the county line.

Carroll County General Sessions Court

The following cases were heard on September 9 in Carroll County General Sessions Court.

Mario M. Anderson, McKnight St., Humboldt, guilty, Public Intoxication; guilty, Disorderly Conduct; dismissed, Resist Stop, Arrest, Search.

Justin D. Bryan, Melrose Street, Greenfield, guilty, Aid/Abet/Assist with Removing/Vandalizing Device, 30 days jail, probation.

Tom Collins, Jr., Junior Avenue, Fulton, Kentucky, guilty, DUI-First Offense, \$350 fine, 11/29 probation, cognitive behavior training, alcohol/drug evaluation, not to drive for one year, DUI School, interlock device; dismissed, Leaving Scene of Accident; dismissed, Driving While License Suspended; dismissed, Meth-Possess or Casual Exchange.

Brett Curtis, 950th Rd, Tonica, Illinois, dismissed, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia; dismissed, Public Intoxication.

Michael William Gagnon, Fletcher Circle, Camden, guilty, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange, \$750 fine, probation, cognitive behavioral training, alcohol drug evaluation; dismissed, Tampering With Evidence.

Kiowa Patrick Geans, Spring Street, Huntingdon, guilty, Probation Violation, 20 days jail, probation extended.

Michael Glenn, Lowe Lane, McKenzie, guilty, Simple Possession/Casual Exchange, \$250 fine, probation.

Christopher McCaslin, Gardner Road, Cedar Grove, guilty, Probation Violation, probation extended.

Mack Caige Napier, Highway 77, Huntingdon, guilty, Unlawful Photographing in Violation of Privacy, supervised probation, sentence concurrent with circuit court case; dismissed, Especially Exploitation of a Minor; dismissed, Probation Violation.

Howard E. Plunkett, Jr., May Street, McKenzie,

guilty, Probation Violation.

Celonza Rudolph, 10th Street, Graysville, Ala., guilty, Driver’s License Must Be Carried and Exhibited; dismissed, Violation of Financial Responsibility Law.

Amanda Gayle Townsend, Friendship Road, Medina, guilty, Driver’s License to Be Carried; dismissed, Possession of Unlawful Drug Paraphernalia.

Brittany Marie Ward, Highway 190, McKenzie, guilty, Probation Violation, 120 days jail.

Torey Lee Watson, Forney Road, Huntingdon, guilty, Resist Stop, Arrest, Search, 180 days jail, supervised probation; dismissed, Harassment.

Ricky Lynn Webb, Humboldt-Gibson Road, Hollow Rock, guilty, Public Intoxication; dismissed, Evading Arrest.

Judy Grace Yancy, Cherry Blossom Dr., Huntingdon, dismissed, Theft of Property.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE CASE NO: 2026PE157

ESTATE OF: JOHNNY WALLS, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Notice is hereby given that on the **28TH** day of **AUGUST, 2026** Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of **JOHNNY WALLS** deceased, who died **JANUARY 1ST, 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 **28TH** day of **AUGUST, 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

SANDRA KAY GLOVER, Executor/Administrator
W. KENT JONES, Attorney
KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master

A561/R28121/36-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE CASE NO: 2026PE161

ESTATE OF: DON HUGHES RENFROE, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Notice is hereby given that on the **1ST** day of **SEPTEMBER, 2026** Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of **DON HUGHES RENFROE** deceased, who died **JULY 13TH, 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.

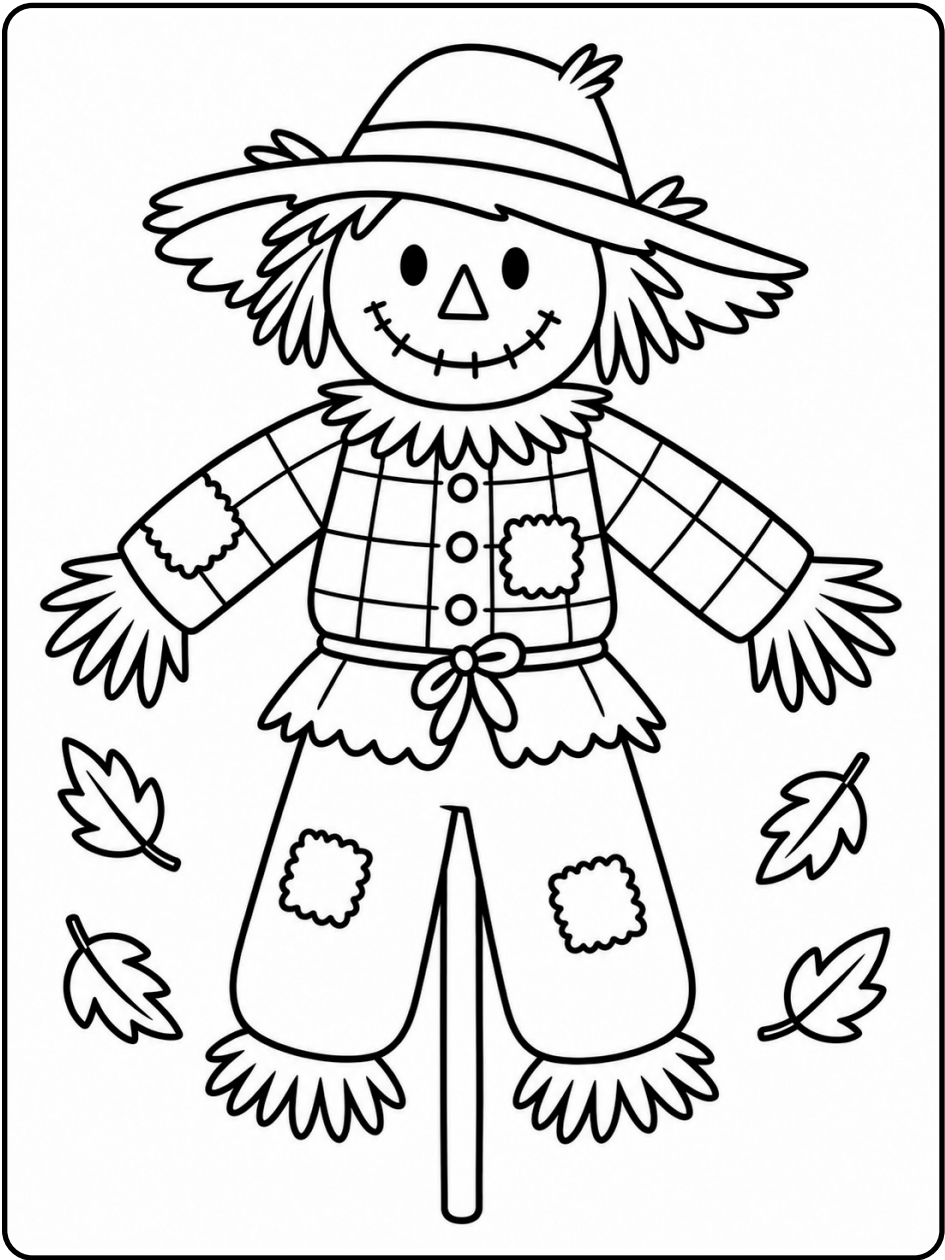
This **1ST** day of **SEPTEMBER, 2026**.
THIS NOTICE WILL RUN TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

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

LESLIE LEEANN ELLIS, Executor/Administrator
JOSEPH E. TUBBS, Attorney
KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master

A561/R28165/36-2

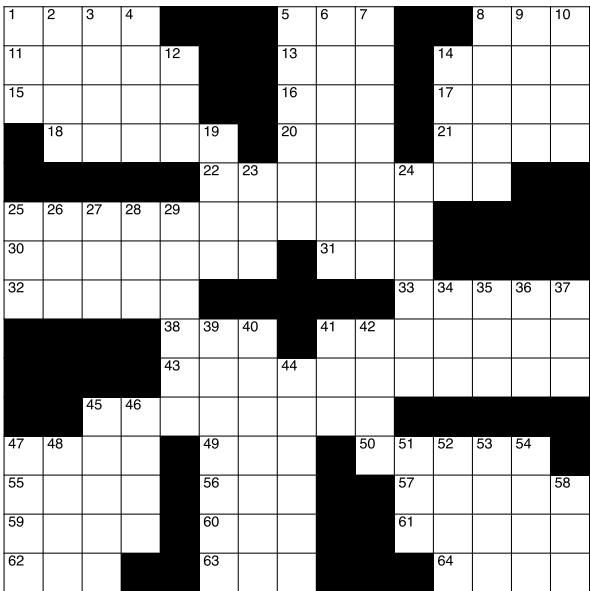
Color A Masterpiece



Weekly Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Egyptian bull god
- 5. A young canine
- 8. North Carolina university
- 11. "Oddbod" actor Tom
- 13. Midway between northeast and east
- 14. A place to shop
- 15. Mysterious "Severance" family
- 16. Single Lens Reflex
- 17. Malaria
- 18. Informal loan organizations
- 20. Twitching
- 21. Holm oak
- 22. Willing to consent
- 25. In an early way
- 30. Stuck it out
- 31. Language in Ghana
- 32. Obtain
- 33. Ancient Greek currency
- 38. One point east (clockwise) of due north
- 41. Popular baseball movie
- 43. Group of islands
- 45. Church building
- 47. Ancient kingdom near Dead Sea
- 49. Late AC/DC frontman Scott
- 50. Spiritual leader of a Jewish congregation
- 55. Thick piece of something
- 56. Breakfast food
- 57. One mole of solute per kilogram of solvent
- 59. Ancient Greek City
- 60. Bitterly regret
- 61. Don't forget it
- 62. Dishonorable man
- 63. Affirmative



64. " __ and flows"

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Bridge-building degree
- 2. Expression of sorrow or pity
- 3. Lizard species
- 4. Turkish leader title
- 5. A way to bother
- 6. Blank
- 7. A fine, closely woven cotton fabric
- 8. Sports broadcaster lan
- 9. Popular whodunit board game
- 10. Alkali flats mineral
- 12. Large African antelope
- 14. It's delivered most days
- 19. Satisfy
- 23. Water soaked soil
- 24. Of a past era
- 25. Chest muscle (slang)
- 26. Ribonucleic acid
- 27. Doctor of Education
- 28. Coffee receptacle
- 29. Where rockstars work
- 34. International airport in Connecticut
- 35. Russian river
- 36. It's used to make cabins
- 37. OJ trial judge Lance
- 39. A means to persuade
- 40. Short poem
- 41. A way to begin hostilities with
- 42. Multi-function radar (abbr.)
- 44. Joints
- 46. Blatted
- 46. Swedish rock group
- 47. Millisecond
- 48. __ podrida: Spanish stew
- 51. Doctors' group
- 52. Trunk of a tree
- 53. Tattle
- 54. Metrical foot
- 58. __ Angeles

Week 37

See solution in next week's edition.

Safe Sports Word Search

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

Athlete
Brace
Cleats
Concussion
Conditioning
Contusion

Cool Down
Ergonomics
Goggles
Helmet
Hydration
Impact

Inflammation
Mouth Guard
Padding
Referee
Rehabilitation
Sportsmanship

Sprain
Stamina
Strain
Supervision
Teamwork
Warm-Up

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



1778: The Treaty of Fort Pitt is signed between the United States and a Native American tribe.

1961: The world's first retractable roof stadium, the Civic Arena, opens in Pittsburgh.

1983: Vanessa Williams becomes the first Black Miss America.

SUDOKU

WEEK 37

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

See solution in next week's edition.



Solve the code to discover words related to sports safety. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 22 = E)

A. 2 22 17 19 22 10

Clue: Protects head

B. 23 22 15 6

Clue: Equipment

C. 6 25 17 22 13

Clue: Govern play

D. 21 22 5 15 17 10 26

Clue: Punishment

Answers: A. helmet B. gear C. rules D. penalty

LETTER MIX-UP

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

SPORTSMANSHIP

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

Riddle Me This

What do you call a basketball game with no ball?

Answer: A basket game!

WORD SCRAMBLE

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

IEFDL

Answer: Field

GUESS WHO ?

I am an athlete born in Texas on September 17, 1995. I played football, basketball and baseball while in high school. But football is where I eventually gravitated, despite my father playing professional baseball. I have led the Kansas City Chiefs to several Super Bowl victories.

Answer: Patrick Mahomes

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PUZZLE SOLUTION

Week 36 Crossword Puzzle Solution

			A	N	N	A		S	E	N	O	R			
	O	G	L	I	N	G		A	R	I	G	H	T		
	B	O	I	L	E	R	P	L	A	T	E		U	P	
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Huntingdon Sweeps Riverside in District Volleyball

HUNTINGDON — The Huntingdon Mustangs continued their strong start to the 2026 volleyball season Tuesday, September 8, sweeping Decatur County Riverside 3-0 in a district matchup.

Huntingdon controlled the match from the opening set, taking the first 25-12. The Mustangs continued their momentum in the second set, winning 25-13, before closing out the match with a 25-11 victory in the third set.

The win extended Huntingdon's winning streak to seven matches and improved the Mustangs to 8-1 on the season. Riverside entered the match unbeaten but fell to 3-1 with the loss.



Jodie Beecham dives for a serve in Volleyball action as Huntingdon defeated Decatur County. *Photo by Russell Bush/The Banner*

The two teams are scheduled to meet again September 29 at Riverside in Decaturville.



Eighth Grader football players and cheerleaders were honored in pre-game festivities. *Cheerleaders included: Khloe Foster, Kinsley Newsome, Makinley Mills. Football players included Jeremiah Holley, Jonah McGowan, Caleb Sylvester, Owen Nelson, Cooper Latch, Karson Polinski, Brayden Newman, Hunter Seiber, Isaac Green, Nate Davenport and Isaiah Lott.* *Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner*

West Carroll Junior High School Homecoming, Eighth Grade Night

West Carroll Junior High held its 2026 Homecoming and Eighth Grade night on September 10, 2026, at the Atwood campus. Pictured Right, Homecoming Court (L to R): Homecoming Queen was Kinsley Newsome, an eighth grader. The Homecoming court consisted of Khloe Foster (eighth grade), Norah Reynolds (seventh grade) and Lexie Medlin (sixth grade). *Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner*



Dr. Delecia Parker Named Dean of Health Sciences

MCKENZIE (September 10) — Bethel University has named Dr. Delecia Parker dean of the College of Health Sciences. Parker, who has served the University for 15 years as a nursing faculty member, department director and interim dean, now provides permanent leadership for Bethel's growing health care programs.

As dean, Parker oversees academic quality, accreditation and strategic planning across the college, with a focus on interprofessional collaboration and preparing practice-ready graduates for the health care workforce. The college is in a period of growth. It recently launched two new nursing pathways, Direct-Entry and LPN-to-BSN, and secured a \$225,000 state grant supporting the Physician Assistant Program's rural clinical training.

"Dr. Parker has spent her career at the intersection of patient care and teaching, and Bethel has been the beneficiary of that for 15 years," said Dr. Joseph R. Hames, university provost. "She knows our students, our programs and the health care needs of our region as well as anyone. Her leadership as interim dean made this decision an easy one."

Parker joined the Bethel faculty in 2011 after transitioning to nursing education from nearly two decades of clinical practice. A native of Pensacola, Florida, she began her nursing career in 1993 in pediatric acute care at Sacred Heart Children's Hospital, later serving in the Department of Pulmonology at Nemours Children's Clinic, where she managed the cystic fibrosis patient registry and supported the newborn screening database for north-west Florida.

At Bethel, she taught



Dr. Delecia Parker

across the undergraduate nursing curriculum and served as course coordinator for multiple foundational and leadership courses before being named director of the Department of Nursing in 2022. In that role, she led faculty development, curriculum oversight, student success initiatives and program quality outcomes. She was appointed interim dean of the College of Health Sciences in May 2025.

Parker holds a Doctor of Nursing Practice in executive leadership from Union University and a Master of Science in Nursing Education from Florida State University, where she also earned her Bachelor of Science in Nursing with honors and was inducted into Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing. Her scholarly work focuses on nursing education, informatics integration and student-centered instructional design, and she is co-author of an article on preparing nursing leaders published in the Journal of Nursing Education. She is an active member of the American Nurses Association, the Tennessee Nurses Association and Sigma Theta Tau International.

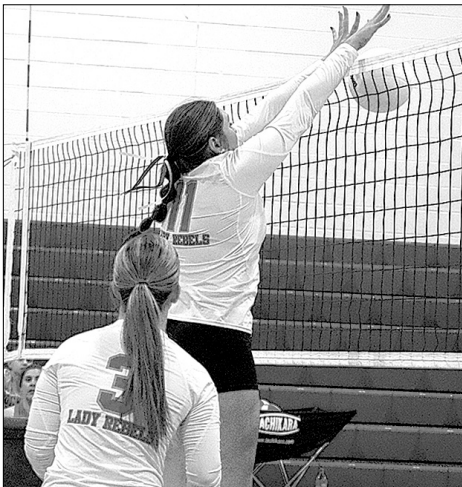
"Nursing was not the profession I first envisioned for

myself, but it became my calling, and teaching the next generation of health care providers has been the great privilege of my career," Parker said. "Bethel's mission is to serve, and there is no better way to do that than by preparing nurses, physician assistants and health professionals who will care for people in need. I am honored to lead this college and excited about what our faculty and students will accomplish together."

Parker and her husband have two grown sons and two grandsons. Outside of her professional life, she enjoys gardening, reading, sewing and traveling, and she remains especially fond of the beaches of northwest Florida. Having grown up in a Navy town, she and her family are avid Blue Angels supporters.

For more information about the College of Health Sciences at Bethel University, visit bethelu.edu.

About Bethel University
Founded in 1842, Bethel University has spent nearly 185 years helping students turn their talents into purpose. Located in McKenzie, Tennessee, within two hours of both Nashville and Memphis, Bethel is a Christian community of nearly 3,000 students from 33 states and 41 countries. The University's mission is to equip individuals for a life of service through academic, spiritual, social and experiential learning to go forth and transform the world. With 52 undergraduate programs and nine graduate programs, Bethel aims to be a leader in student-centered education through innovative academics, character formation and life skills development. For more information, visit bethelu.edu.



Left, Lady Rebel Braylin Auvenshine with a block. Right, Lady Rebel Charlie Cassidy serves. *Photos by Mark Bowlin/The Banner*

McKenzie Volleyball Sweeps Clarksburg

CLARKSBURG (September 7) — McKenzie picked up a district volleyball victory Monday, sweeping the Clarksburg Rockets in three sets to improve to 6-4 overall and 5-1 in district play.

The Lady Rebels dominated the opening two sets, winning 25-8 and 25-7. Clarksburg put up a stronger fight in the third, but McKenzie closed out the match with a 25-15 victory for the 3-0 sweep.

Madilyn Milam led McKenzie at the service line with nine aces while adding five kills, one dig, one assist and a team-high three blocks. Jaycee Stafford followed with eight aces, two digs, two

kills and an assist.

Braylin Auvenshine recorded six aces, five kills, two assists and two blocks. Charlie Cassidy contributed four aces, six kills, one dig and one block.

Kynadie Brown directed the McKenzie offense with a team-high 16 assists. She also finished with five kills, one ace and one dig.

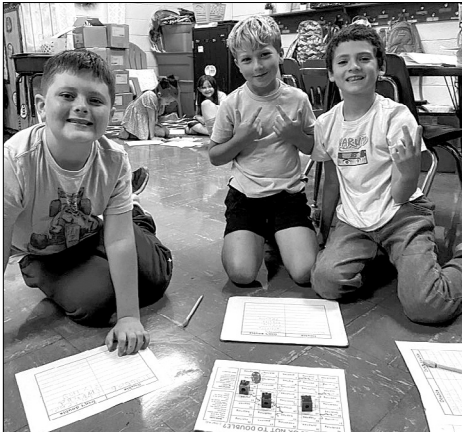
Addison Milam led the Lady Rebels with seven kills and added three aces and one block. Maggie Hall recorded one dig.

McKenzie's junior varsity squad also earned a sweep over Clarksburg, winning 25-13 and 25-9 to improve to 6-4.

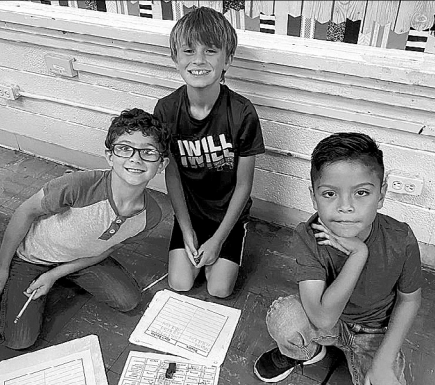
Kynlee Barden led the JV squad with nine aces while adding two kills, one dig and one assist. Madilyn Milam led the offense with eight kills and contributed two assists and one ace.

Willow Stenberg finished with five kills and one ace, while Abby Carroll recorded a team-high five assists and two aces. Aubrey Hoffman added three assists.

Serenity Bobo contributed four aces, two kills, one assist and one block. Cassidy had two aces, two kills and one block, while Natalia Taylor recorded two digs



Above Left, Dawson William, Chance Jewell and Maverick Biddix. Above Right, Raegan Howard, Christopher Kilburn and Aldair Martin. Below Left, Jesse Coffman, Cole Gray and Mrs. Krystle McCall. Below Right, Russell Woodall, Christopher Kilburn and Aldair Castanada.



West Carroll Students Combine Spelling, Friendly Competition

ATWOOD — Students in Ms. Krystle McCall's second-grade class at West Carroll Primary School recently combined spelling instruction with friendly competition during a classroom game of Snakes and Ladders.

The activity provided students with an interactive way to practice words that follow the doubling rule when suffixes are

added. As students moved across the game board, they read words aloud, applied spelling rules and worked with classmates to reinforce the concept.

The hands-on lesson encouraged participation while helping students build confidence with an important spelling skill. Each roll of the dice provided another opportunity for students to think criti-

cally, practice correct word forms and cheer on their classmates.

"These types of games motivate and encourage the students to have fun while learning," McCall said.

Through the classroom activity, students demonstrated that learning spelling rules can be both educational and enjoyable.

Review of Homecoming '86, 2006 Baseball Championship to Be Held at Park Theatre

COURTESY OF THE MCKENZIE HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The historic Park Theatre in downtown McKenzie is the venue for two events during the McKenzie High School Alumni Association's Decades Reunion weekend, September 25 and 26, 2026.

In coordination with the Gordon Browning Museum, a commemorative video of McKenzie's "Homecoming '86" celebration will be shown at 2 p.m. on Friday, September 25, after McKenzie High's homecoming parade. The video was produced locally during the festivities and is being shown on the 40th anniversary of the historic event.

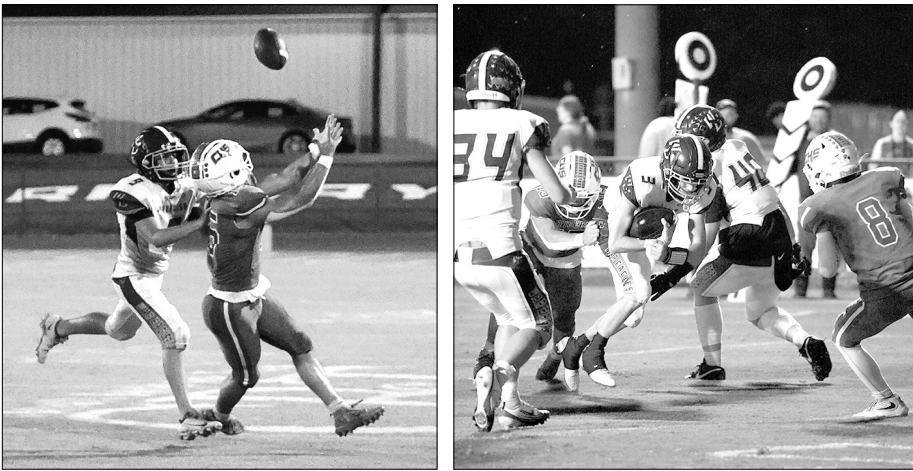
"Homecoming '86" was a statewide celebration in Tennessee in 1986, with the local edition in McKenzie taking place on Labor Day weekend. Events included a special parade, recognition of former McKenzie Rebel football captains and homecoming royalties at Rebel Stadium, MHS class reunions for all past graduating classes, the Webb Alumni Reunion, and many other activities. The City of McKenzie converted an old barn into the McKenzie City Park's present day pavilion in preparation for "Homecoming '86".

Admission to the showing is free, but donations to the Carroll County Historical Society at the theatre are greatly

appreciated.

On Saturday, September 26 at 2:30 p.m., the theatre will host a roundtable discussion of the 2006 McKenzie Rebel State Championship baseball season. Moderated by local sports journalist Jim Steele (MHS Class of 1979), the conversation will include coaches, players, and administrators who will reminisce and celebrate the 20th anniversary of the school's state championship run in Murfreesboro.

Please note the roundtable's time change to 2:30 p.m. on Saturday as it was previously scheduled and announced for 3 p.m. The public is cordially invited to attend, and admission is free.



Left, Central’s Kaydince Banks (#5) reaches out for the pass. Right, Park Newman (#3) of West Carroll drives forward for positive yardage. Photos by Davarion Gilbert/The Banner

West Carroll Falls to Hollow-Rock Bruceton, 37-12

BY DAVARION GILBERT
banner@mckenziebanner.com

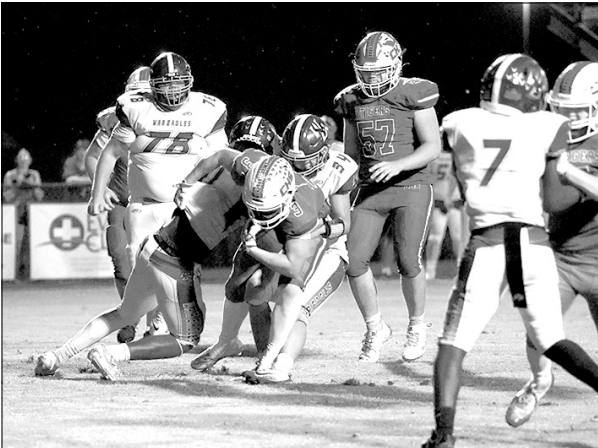
BRUCETON (September 11) — The West Carroll War Eagles traveled to Bruceton on Friday night. The War Eagles kept the game close in the first half, but the Tigers pulled away for a 37-12 final score.

Bruceton won the toss and elected to defer the opening kick to West Carroll. The War Eagles started their first drive at their own 35-yard line. Parker Newman kept the ball three times to pick up two first downs. Tiger Trent Brickman made the third-down stop, forcing West Carroll to punt.

Bruceton started its first drive at the West Carroll 24-yard line. Tiger Easton Bullington completed a pass to Carter Lowe for three yards. War Eagle Cole Mueller made the tackle to force fourth down, but the Tigers picked up the first down and moved the ball to the 11-yard line. Bullington then completed an 11-yard touchdown pass to Daegan Collins. The two-point conversion was good, making it Bruceton 8, West Carroll 0.

Bruceton kicked the ball to the War Eagles to start their second drive at their own 24-yard line as the first quarter ended. West Carroll fumbled, with Bruceton recovering at the 49-yard line. The Tigers marched down to the 12-yard line, where Korbin Brown ran for a 12-yard touchdown. The two-point conversion was good, making the score Bruceton 16, West Carroll 0.

Bruceton kicked the ball back to West Carroll, which



Daegan Collins (#3) for Central is brought down by a host of War Eagles. Photo by Davarion Gilbert/The Banner

started its third drive at the 20-yard line. War Eagle Timothy Haggard ran for 19 yards. The War Eagles eventually reached the 1-yard line, where No. 34 ran up the middle for a 1-yard touchdown. The two-point conversion was no good, making the score Bruceton 16, West Carroll 6 before the end of the first half.

West Carroll kicked the ball to the Tigers to start the second half, with Bruceton beginning its drive at the West Carroll 35-yard line. Collins ran for gains of 16 and eight yards before scoring on a 10-yard touchdown run three plays later. The extra point was good, making the score Bruceton 23, West Carroll 6.

Bruceton kicked the ball to West Carroll, which started its next drive at the 27-yard line. The Bruceton defense forced the Eagles to punt, but the Tigers soon fumbled, with War Eagle No. 7 recovering. The Eagles moved the ball to midfield but turned it over on downs.

Bruceton then turned the ball over to West Carroll on the 26-yard line.

War Eagle No. 0 ran around the outside for a 14-yard touchdown. The extra point was good, cutting the score to Bruceton 23, West Carroll 12.

The War Eagles kicked the ball to Bruceton, which returned it all the way to the 50-yard line. Bullington then connected with Lowe for a 30-yard touchdown pass. The extra point was good, making the score Bruceton 30, West Carroll 12.

Bruceton kicked the ball to West Carroll to start its next drive. The War Eagles fumbled, and Bruceton recovered at the West Carroll 32-yard line. Bullington then completed a pass to Lowe for a 32-yard touchdown. The extra point was good, giving Bruceton a 37-12 victory.

West Carroll returns home Friday, September 18, to host Humboldt. Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central travels to Wayne County.



Left, Cohen Gray sprints for the end zone as McKenzie’s Hayden Nolen pursues. Right, McKenzie’s Navadius Owens attempts to tackle Huntingdon’s Cohen Gray as Bryce Maddox blocks. Photos by Russell Bush/The Banner

Huntingdon Middle Tops McKenzie, 36-6

BY RUSSELL BUSH
sports@mckenziebanner.com

The Huntingdon Middle School Mustangs took advantage of early McKenzie mistakes and defeated the Rebels 36-6 in McKenzie on Thursday.

The Mustangs led 22-0 despite running only two offensive plays in the first quarter. Huntingdon kicked off to start the game and had the Rebels pinned back at their own four-yard line. The Rebels punted from their own three, and Makhyn Gilbert’s punt was almost blocked by Miller Holmes. The ball landed at the three and bounded into the hands of Holmes in the end zone for a touchdown. Cohen Gray ran in the two-point conversion for an 8-0 Huntingdon lead.

Banks Butler then intercepted a Cord Wall pass at the Rebel 38 and sprinted to the end zone for the touchdown. Gray again converted the two-point run, and the Mustangs led 16-0 with 5:01 left in the first quarter.

The Mustangs took over at the Rebel 48 following a punt for their first offensive possession of the game. Two plays later, Gray dashed 50 yards for the touchdown with



McKenzie’s Cord Wall passes as Huntingdon’s Tres Villalobos closes in. Photo by Russell Bush/The Banner

1:47 left in the first. After a failed conversion, the Mustangs led 22-0.

The Mustangs scored again with three minutes left in the half as Bryce Maddox completed a 19-yard pass to Draylin Carter for a touchdown. The conversion failed, and the Mustangs grabbed a 28-0 lead.

The Mustangs’ final score of the night came with 6:19 left in the third quarter when Maddox scored on an eight-yard run to complete a three-play, 31-yard drive. Butler scored on the conversion, and the Mustangs led 36-0.

McKenzie scored its only points of the night on its last possession of the game as the Rebels drove 34 yards in five plays to score on a three-yard run by Navadius Owens with 34 seconds left in the game. The conversion failed, leaving the final score 36-6.

Huntingdon rushed for 181 yards in the game and completed 3 of 4 passes for 41 yards. Gray ran for 91 yards on three carries, while Maddox ran 10 times for 63 yards. McKenzie ran for 30 yards in the game and completed 1 of 5 passes for 18 yards.



Local law enforcement, firefighters and other first responders of Dresden and Gleason came together for a special flag presentation remembering the lives lost on September 11. Photo by Mark Bowlin/The Banner

Dresden Defeats Gleason in Storm-Shortened Game, 21-0

DRESDEN (September 11) — On the 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the Dresden Lions and Gleason Bulldogs held a special flag demonstration to honor and remember the lives that were lost 25 years ago. The football game was cut short due to storms in the area. The Lions defeated the Bulldogs 21-0.

The flag was presented by WoodmenLife insurance and local law enforcement, firefighters and other first responders of the two communities.

Dresden’s Ayden Flora was easily the star of the game with 2 catches and 75 yards with 2 touchdowns. Dresden’s Caden Mount led all rushers with 5 carries, 33 yards and a touchdown.



Gleason’s Conner Ballew drops to pass with Kaylor Pineda ready to block. Photo by Mark Bowlin/The Banner

McKenzie Soccer Goes Unbeaten At Henry County Tournament

PARIS — The McKenzie High School Lady Rebels went unbeaten in three matches during the Henry County tournament Friday and Saturday, earning two wins and a tie.

McKenzie opened tournament play Friday night against Crockett County, battling to a 1-1 tie. Ellie Doede scored the Lady Rebels’ lone goal with an assist from Stephanie Padilla. Goalkeeper Alleigh Britt recorded four saves.

The Lady Rebels returned

to the field Saturday morning and earned a 1-0 victory over McNairy County. Sophie Dameron provided the game-winning goal with an assist from Millie Brigham, while Alleigh Britt recorded three saves to help McKenzie secure the shutout.

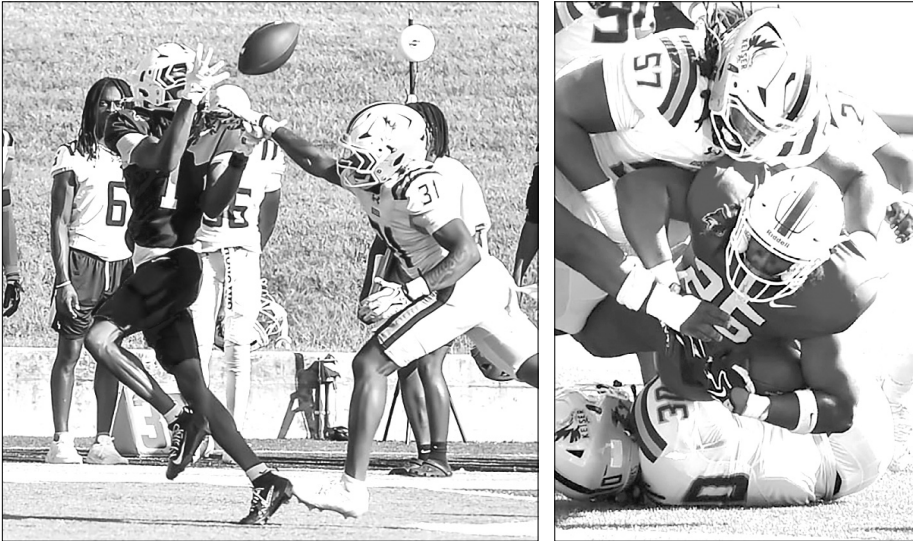
McKenzie closed the tournament Saturday afternoon with its strongest offensive performance of the weekend, defeating West Creek 5-0.

Sophie Dameron led the Lady Rebels with two

goals. Kaydynce Barksdale, Ava Hastings and Millie Brigham each added a goal. Brigham also recorded an assist, while Stephanie Padilla added an assist.

McKenzie finished the tournament with a 2-0-1 record and outscored its opponents 7-1 over the three matches.

The Lady Rebels return home Thursday, September 17, to host Westview. The match begins at 5 p.m. at McKenzie High School.



Left, #1 Micah Jones catches a 90 touchdown pass for a touchdown. Right, #25 Diezal Ward, a from Henry County, is tackled by #30 Donovan Adras and #57 Andre Tarrance after a short gain. Photos by Gary Owens/The McKenzie Banner

No. 2 Keiser Tops Wildcats in McKenzie

COURTESY BETHEL SID

MCKENZIE (September 12) — The No. 2-ranked Keiser University Seahawks used a powerful rushing attack and controlled the football for more than 38 minutes to defeat the Bethel Wildcats 48-7 Saturday afternoon at Walter Butler Stadium.

The loss dropped Bethel to 1-1, while Keiser improved to 1-1.

Keiser finished with 495 yards of total offense, including 349 yards on the ground. The Seahawks recorded 31 first downs and converted all six of their fourth-down opportunities.

Raphael Ekechi opened the scoring with a 20-yard touchdown run at the 9:19 mark of the first quarter.

Keiser added 17 points during the second period. Dorian Hall connected on a 38-yard field goal before JT Tabora found Julian Garcia for a three-yard touchdown. Ekechi scored from

one yard out on the final play of the half, giving the Seahawks a 24-0 advantage.

Bethel broke through with a big play midway through the third quarter. Silas Teat connected with Micah Jones for a 90-yard touchdown with 7:51 remaining in the period. Zachary Clutch added the extra point to pull the Wildcats within 24-7.

Keiser responded just over two minutes later when Jontay Hais scored on an eight-yard run. The Seahawks added 17 points in the fourth quarter to close out the victory.

Bethel finished with 232 yards of total offense, with 193 coming through the air. Teat completed 5-of-15 passes for 168 yards and a touchdown. Jaylan Brown completed his only pass for 25 yards.

Jones led the Wildcats with two receptions for 104 yards and the 90-yard touchdown. Zion Bryan caught three passes for 86

yards, including a 63-yard reception.

Ryan Kirk paced the Bethel rushing attack with 53 yards on 13 carries. The Wildcats were limited to 39 net rushing yards after Keiser recorded five sacks for 36 yards.

Scottie Roddy Jr. led the Bethel defense with 14 tackles, including 10 solo stops. Detarius Douglas and Tatum Oliver recorded nine tackles apiece, while Bren-ton Hall added seven. De-shawn Love finished with five tackles and two tackles for loss.

Keiser’s Ekechi rushed for 113 yards and three touchdowns on 21 carries. Hais added 85 yards and a score on 12 attempts. Tabora completed 15-of-26 passes for 110 yards and one touchdown.

The Wildcats return to action Saturday when they travel to Babson Park, Florida, to face Webber International University.

HUNTINGDON HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Above Left, Hayes Eubanks drags a Halls defender. Above Right, Kenton Smith runs as Hayes Eubanks blocks. Below Left, K'Shun Carter runs over a Halls defender in Mustangs win. Below Right, Garvin Kee catches a touchdown pass. Photos by Javier Castro/The Banner



Mustangs Turn Up the Heat on Halls

BY RUSSELL BUSH
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HUNTINGDON (September 11, 12) — It took a day longer than expected, but the Mustangs earned their second region win of the year and their fourth overall with no losses, as they defeated Halls 62-30 on a sunny and humid Saturday at Paul Ward Stadium and Eric Swenson Field. The game, originally scheduled for Friday night, got pushed to Saturday as lightning and rain postponed the contest. It was the second time this season the Mustang offense has reached the 60-point mark, as they defeated Camden 63-18 earlier in the season.

The Saturday afternoon heat seemed to have an effect on the defenses as the game turned into somewhat of a track meet. Kenton Smith accounted for six touchdowns in the game as he ran for three scores and threw for three more. Smith rushed for 166 yards and completed six of seven passes for 131 yards. The Mustangs rushed for 380 yards, and Zayden Connelly accounted for 109 yards on the ground, while Hayes Eubanks ran for 86 yards and two touchdowns. Halls ran for 131 yards and passed for 175 in the loss. Jeri Driver led Halls with 88 yards, and Jackson Booker completed 10 of 18 passes.

Halls won the toss and took the football but punted, and the kick was downed at the Tiger 26. The Mustangs struck quickly as Smith completed a 26-yard pass for a touchdown to Maddox Holmes, and the Mustangs led 7-0 after Greyson Anderson's PAT.

The Mustangs scored again on their next possession after a Tiger punt that was returned to the Tiger 27. It took the Mustangs five plays to score, and Smith hooked up with Bryson Whiteside for a 15-yard pass play for the TD. Anderson was good on the point after, and the Mustangs led 14-0.

Driver returned the kickoff to midfield, and the Tigers took to the air. Booker completed passes for 25 yards and 27 yards, with the latter going for a touchdown to Clyce Tetleton. The Tigers went for two and failed, leaving the score at 14-6.

The Mustangs answered in three plays from the Tiger 49, and the touchdown came on a 13-yard run by Hayes Eubanks. Anderson kicked the point-after, and the score grew to 21-6.

The Tigers answered with the first play of the second quarter to cap a 71-yard, five-play drive. Booker connected with Easton Apperson for 14 yards for the TD. The two-point conversion failed, and the score stayed at 21-12.

Halls continued to give the Mustangs great field position as they kicked short on every kickoff. This time, the Mustangs started at their 46 and scored in three plays on a 32-yard run by Eubanks. The point-after was good by Anderson, and the score went to 28-12.

The Tigers answered the score with an 11-play, 65-yard drive that ended in a 14-yard run by Apperson with three minutes and change left in the half. The conversion attempt was unsuccessful, and the score stood at 28-18.

It took one play for the Mustangs to respond. After the kickoff was downed at the Mustang 48, Smith found Garvin Kee behind the Tiger defense for a 52-yard pass play. Anderson made the score 35-18 with the point after.

The gritty Tigers started their next possession at the Mustang 45, and five plays later found the end zone with a two-yard run by Sawyer Tetleton with 1:10 left in the half. The conversion failed, and the score was left at 35-24.

The lack of time left in the first half did not deter the Mustangs as they moved from their 49 to the end zone in six plays and scored on a five-yard run by Smith with seven seconds left in the half. Anderson kicked the point after, and the halftime score was 42-24.

The Mustangs started the second half with possession and moved 57 yards in ten plays to expand their lead when Smith scored on a three-yard run. The point-after was missed, leaving the score 48-24.

Halls scored again with 9:56 left in the game as Driver scampered 55 yards to cap a 92-yard drive. The conversion was no good, and the Mustangs held a 48-30 lead.

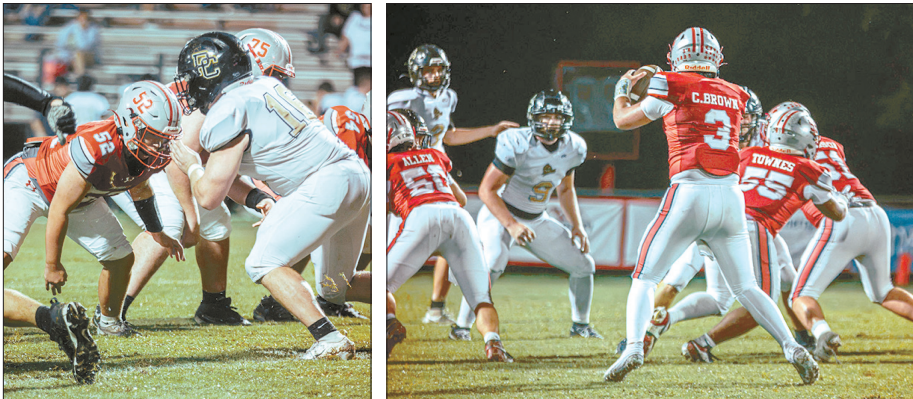
The Mustangs then scored 14 unanswered points to finish off the win. The first score came on a 28-yard run by Smith, and an Ethan Raffield point after. The second score came on a 42-yard run by Connelly and a Raffield extra point to make the final score 62-30.

The Mustangs take to the road for the first time this season as they travel to Jackson to face JCM in a key region contest, with a kickoff scheduled for 7 p.m.

McKENZIE HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Above Left, Kason Brown catches a 38-yard pass. Above Right, Cayden Gordon with Dawson Reeder and a host of other Rebels bring down a Perry County runner. Below Left, Rebel linemen, Brayden Mort (#52) and Brenton Hickerson (#75), work to manhandle Perry County's line. Below Right, Cole Brown receives the snap as his line provides quality blocking. Photos Courtesy of Jace Willis



McKenzie Brings the Lightning on Perry County

BY JASON R. MARTIN
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McKENZIE (September 11) — Lightning may have interrupted the action Friday night, but nothing could slow down the McKenzie Rebels.

Playing at home, McKenzie jumped on Perry County early and never looked back, rolling to a convincing 56-0 victory over the Vikings in a game that was effectively decided before halftime.

The Rebels wasted little time getting on the scoreboard. Cole Brown broke loose from the backfield for a 36-yard touchdown run, and Jony Hernandez added the extra point to give McKenzie a 7-0 lead.

Perry County's first possession ended when Jadyen Callis intercepted a pass on third-and-12, giving the Rebels an early opportunity to add to their advantage.

McKenzie cashed in on the turnover with a big play through the air. C. Brown connected with A. Brown for a 50-yard touchdown pass, and Hernandez's PAT extended the lead to 14-0 with 8:40 remaining in the opening quarter.

The Vikings turned the ball over again on third down, but McKenzie couldn't capitalize on the ensuing possession. After the Rebels punted, however, Perry County fumbled, putting McKenzie at the Vikings' 4-yard line.

Callis needed only one play to find the end zone, powering through for his first touchdown of the night. Hernandez's extra point made it 21-0.

The second quarter began with just one Perry County play before lightning forced the first delay of the night. After approximately an hour and 20 minutes, the teams returned to the field, but the Vikings managed only three plays before another lightning delay halted the game.

When play finally resumed, Callis continued his big night, crossing the goal line for his second touchdown. The PAT was good, pushing McKenzie's advantage to 35-0.

The Rebels added one more touchdown before halftime when C. Brown and A. Brown connected again, this time on a 39-yard touchdown pass, giving McKenzie a commanding 42-0 lead at the break.

Halftime lasted just five minutes, and the second half began with a running clock.

Perry County's offense took the field to start the third quarter, but the drive ended with Callis recording his second interception of the game. Six plays later, C. Brown scored on a 3-yard touchdown run. Hernandez added the PAT, making it 49-0.

With the outcome firmly in hand, McKenzie opened the fourth quarter with a series of substitutions. Seth Stafford and Parker Ross took over the Rebels' offense, and Ross capped the scoring with an 8-yard touchdown run on first-and-goal.

Hernandez's eighth successful PAT of the night completed the scoring at

56-0.

While McKenzie's offense generated plenty of fireworks, the Rebels' defense was just as dominant, allowing the Vikings little opportunity to establish any momentum.

Perry County managed just eight rushing yards and 31 yards through the air. McKenzie's relentless pressure in the backfield kept the Vikings from finding an offensive rhythm throughout the night.

The Rebels finished with 419 yards on 46 plays and recorded 18 first downs, compared with five for Perry County.

C. Brown completed 13 of 15 passes for 209 yards and four touchdowns while adding 92 yards and two touchdowns on six carries. A. Brown hauled in four receptions for 110 yards and three touchdowns. Callis carried 10 times for 68 yards and two touchdowns, while Ross added three carries for 27 yards and a touchdown.

Defensively, Adien Essary led the Rebels with six tackles, including three tackles for loss. C. Brown and Maddox Shiell each recorded four tackles, with two tackles for loss apiece. Cayden Gordon added four tackles, including one for loss including one fumble recovery. Callis was credited with two interceptions.

With the victory, McKenzie improves to 2-2 in the regular season.

The Rebels will take their momentum on the road next Friday night when they travel to Camden to face the 1-3 Lions.

Brown Claims Third Straight Carroll Lake Club Championship

McKENZIE (September 13) — Ace Brown captured his third consecutive Carroll Lake Golf Club men's club championship, continuing a remarkable run at the McKenzie course.

Brown, who first won the championship in 2024 and successfully defended his title in 2025, added the 2026 championship to his list of accomplishments. The latest victory makes Brown a three-time consecutive men's club champion.

Carroll Lake Golf Club also recognized Tammy Cole as the 2026 women's club champion and Micky Joe Stafford as the senior club champion.

The three champions



Pictured (L to R): Tammy Cole, Ace Brown and Micky Stafford.

were identified in a recent post by Carroll Lake Golf Club following the 2026 club championship.

Additional tournament

information, including the final scores and runner-up finishers in each division, was not available from the sources reviewed.

Hodge, Cary Medal for Huntingdon At USJ Meet

Huntingdon's Derek Hodge (left) and Kaylen Cary (right) both earned medals at the USJ meet on September 10.



Correction

In the September 8, 2026 edition of The McKenzie Banner, in the story Christian County Adds 20 Fourth-Quarter Points to Defeat McKenzie Rebels, 47-28, the photo description incorrectly listed #2 McKenzie High School Rebel Lelan Gordon as Aiden Legends. The description should have read, "Lelan Gordon hunts down a Christian County ball carrier." The Banner regrets the error.



Lelan Gordon hunts down a Christian County ball carrier. Photo by Mark Bowlin/The Banner