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Tuesday, April 14, 2020

McKENZIE, TENNESSEE

Vol. 150 / No. 16 / 7

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QUOTE

"One travels more
usefully when alone,
because he reflects more."

— Thomas Jefferson

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Adam Hames spearheaded a project to construct a new home for Bruce Bailey, whose home was destroyed during a March tornado. Hames of Cedar Grove volunteers with Eight Days of Hope, a Christian non-profit organization.

Eight Days of Hope Gifts Huntingdon Man a New Home

BY JOEL WASHBURN

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HUNTINGDON (April 10) — On Good Friday, Bruce Bailey's fortunes changed as he was presented a brand new, one-bedroom house as a gift from his friends and neighbors and a Christian group known as Eight Days of Hope. Good Friday, a Christian celebration of the death and eventual resurrection of Jesus Christ, was marked with a ceremony of praise in Jesus's

name when the keys to the home and a new Bible were presented to Bailey.

Adam Hames of Cedar Grove volunteers with Eight Days of Hope and arranged for a crew of craftsmen to build Bailey a new one-bedroom home on the existing lot. Eight days from the start of construction, Bailey took ownership of the home and moved in.

The mobile home of Bruce Bailey, 69, of the Mixie Community in Carroll

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DRIVE-THRU SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE



From left, Baptist-Carroll County employees Jessica Painter, LPN; Rob Eldredge, ATC; Cindy Cole, RN; Sheilla Deaton, PTA; and Tina Simpson, CST help run the site, organizing procedures, directing patients and supervising and ensuring safety protocols. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

BMH-Carroll County Offers COVID-19 Testing at Office Complex

BY BRAD SAM

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HUNTINGDON (April 8) — Baptist Memorial Hospital — Carroll County opened a drive-thru COVID-19 testing site Wednesday at the Carroll County Office Complex at 625 High Street.

The testing site is open from 8 a.m. until noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday

until at least Friday, April 17, at which point officials will assess the need going forward.

Testing is available to anyone who thinks they are experiencing symptoms or has been exposed to someone who has tested positive.

No insurance is required, and there is no restriction based on residence. Photo identification is required.

Those seeking to be tested must make an appointment by calling 866-941-4785.

According to Cindy Cole, RN, who works

at the site, the appointment requirement is necessary to confirm contact information so that results can be relayed to the patients.

As patients arrive at their appointment time, they will remain in their vehicles and be directed to the testing station, where nurses administer the nasal swap and store the sample.

See TESTING on Page 2

Easter 2020, A New Experience

EASTER SUNDAY — Area churches were creative in their way of celebrating Easter, the resurrection of Jesus Christ. With "social distancing" and "better at home" requirements issued by Governor Bill Lee to slow the spread of COVID-19 (a viral pandemic), churches either planned "drive-in" style church services or held services by electronic means, such as Facebook Live.

The pews were empty at all the churches, so the leadership at most churches were innovative in their approach to delivering the Easter message.

Blooming Grove United Methodist Church in Weakley County outside of McKenzie held drive-

in services. Reverend James Smith and song leader Aaron Robertson stood underneath a canopy to escape the pouring rain as parishoners sat in their cars in the parking lot and listened. The use of an amplified public address system was used to help deliver the message.

Brother Kenny Carr of Long Heights Baptist Church in McKenzie used Facebook Live to deliver the message of a risen Savior on Easter morning.

Gleason First United Methodist Church used Facebook to deliver the service. Reverend Alan Trull delivered the service to

See EASTER on Page 3



Reverend James Smith of Blooming Grove United Methodist Church delivers the Easter message to his "drive-in" congregants.

McKenzie Declares State Of Emergency

BY JASON MARTIN

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McKENZIE (April 9) — During the regular monthly meeting (conducted on a digital platform), the City of McKenzie Board of Mayor and Council declared a State of Emergency of the City of McKenzie. Following Governor Bill Lee's issuance of a declaration of emergency, Tennessee Municipal Technical Advisory Service (MTAS) advised cities to issue a declaration of emergency. Mayor Jill Holland said, "This is just a back-up in case we might need it for FEMA or some other emergency measures."

See EMERGENCY on Page 3

Son Pushes Father, Breaks Neck

Aggravated Assault — Isiah Germail Willis, 25, of 525 Cheatham Street, Bruceton, was charged with aggravated assault and domestic assault after allegedly severely injuring his father during an April 5 incident at their mutual residence.

According to the report by Carroll County Sheriff's Deputy Eric Sawyers, he went to Willis' residence after receiving a call that an assault had taken place. Upon arrival, Sawyers was informed that Willis had gotten into a verbal argument with his father, Homer Willis, and had pushed his

See NECK on Page 3

Governor Lee Extends 'Safer At Home' Order Until April 30

COVID-19 Cases:
Carroll County
12, Weakley Six,
Henry Eight

NASHVILLE (April 13, 2020) — Governor Bill Lee announced Monday the "Safer at Home" mandate imposed April 2, effective until April 14 at midnight, has been extended to April 30. The Governor said that until a treatment is available, possibly a year or more in the future, social or physical distancing will be part of Tennesseans daily lives. In the coming weeks, Governor Lee said the newly assembled economic recovery group will develop a plan for businesses to move forward in the world where the virus is present.

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Doster Announces Candidacy for State Representative

DRESDEN (April 13) — Weakley County Commissioner Dennis Doster announces his candidacy for State Representative in House District 76. Doster is a candidate for the position held by five-term Representative Andy Holt, who is not seeking reelection.

Doster is seeking the Republican nomination for the seat that includes all of Weakley County, the northern part of Carroll County, and the South Fulton and Union City portions of Obion County.

Doster is a lifelong farmer and grew up on a small farm growing corn and raising pigs and cattle. Doster produces cattle on a 300-acre farm. Doster chairs the Public Works Committee on the Weakley County Commission and has served as pastor of Beulah Missionary

Baptist Church for 21 years. He owns Carroll County Auction in McKenzie.

"I have a unique set of experiences that will help me serve my community in the state legislature," said Doster. "As a county commissioner, you learn the issues. As a farmer, you face adversity. As a small business owner, one learns the burden of government regulations. As a pastor, you learn how to listen to people. I want to take these skills to Nashville and help our community recover from the economic damages created by the coronavirus," remarked Doster.

"People have lost their jobs. Small businesses, schools, and hospitals are hurting due to the economic impact of COVID-19. I want to be part of the recovery effort that gets our economy

going again," said Doster. "Tennessee is blessed with a history of sound financial management and low taxes. We benefit from a business-friendly climate. I'll work to protect our financial stability while helping people, small businesses, schools, hospitals, and local governments recover economically," Doster stated.

Doster is a lifelong resident of Weakley County and 1977 graduate of Dresden High School. He previously served on the Republican State Executive Committee representing Senate District 26. He is the father of three children and grandfather of four. Doster supports President Trump's Keep America Great agenda. He is pro-life and pro-Second Amendment.

Weakley County Director Frazier Responds To State Board of Education Actions

Last Thursday's online meeting of the State Board of Education (SBE) addressed many questions regarding graduating seniors, grading, and student teachers but shied away from a definitive guideline on what happens next regarding school closures.

The SBE convened a special called electronic meeting to enact emergency rules in response to the ongoing COVID-19 public health crisis.

The already passed House Bill 2818 waived the 180-day attendance requirement for K-12 public school students and removed required state testing including a civics test requirement for high school seniors.

The emergency rules were left to address other details. Passed unanimously, they were developed by SBE staff in consultation with the Tennessee Department of Education with feedback from organizations such as the Tennessee Organization of School Superintendents, Tennessee School Boards Association, and Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

Among the actions, which were effective immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State's office and will remain in effect for 180 days:

The state kept core requirements for the senior class of 2020 in English, math and science but reduced the credit requirements in other areas. They went from 22 required to 20 credits: 4 English, 4 math, 3 science, 2 social studies and 7 additional electives. They removed a social studies and an elective requirement.

They waived the requirement that students taking Early Postsecondary Opportunities (EPSO) such as AP or dual credit must participate in the associated assessment for that course in order to obtain

additional GPA weighting, if the assessment was to occur in Spring 2020.

Seniors do not have to take the ACT to graduate this year, and while juniors do not have to take the exam now, school administrators say planning is underway to ensure they have two free opportunities to take the exam the next school year.

Current educator preparation rules require student teachers obtain 15 weeks of classroom teaching time. However, school closures across the state may prohibit teacher candidates from completing these requirements. The rules approved these prospective educators who were unable to complete required licensure exams due to COVID-19 will receive a provisional practitioner license with the requirement that scores on licensure exams be submitted by Aug. 31, 2021.

The new rules also allow educators whose practitioner license is set to expire August 2020 to have the license validity period extended one year to allow the educator to complete requirements for renewal or advancement.

Teacher observations that were not able to be completed in the school year will not be required. Teacher's Level of Overall Effectiveness scores will not be generated for the school year.

The new rules also extends the time period by which a school must complete a special needs student's initial evaluation from 60 to 90 days after receipt of parental consent.

While some direction on grading was offered, several questions remain. Already determined was that no student taking a high school class this spring will receive a grade lower than what they had on March 20, which is the date by which

Gov. Bill Lee first asked that all schools close. But how to calculate those grades is still up in the air. And what is fair, when, in cases such as Weakley County where an estimated quarter of the student population has no to low internet access, and, therefore can't access materials which might help to improve a grade?

"We did not receive much guidance on how we calculate grades," noted Randy Frazier, director of Weakley County Schools after a second hearing of the recorded SBE proceedings. "We had completed a half of a semester. Do you count the first half more than the second? They talked about uniform grading and weighting but not calculating."

He said that Tuesday afternoon a joint conference call between TOSS and the SBE leadership would allow for further conversations on such matters.

"It may be a local decision," he said. "And if so, we want to be ready for that."

While no senior was to experience a negative impact in grades, the student who was floundering and might have raised his/her score is a concern. Allowing for some students with internet access to receive graded assignments raises questions of equity.

"You can do one of two things," explained Frazier. "Allow students to improve or recover a credit. In our case, due to limited online access, it's not equitable if we allow students to do additional work to improve a grade. So, we are focused on the students who were not on track to graduate. We are going to reach out to students who are not on track to graduate to help them recover the credits."

Equity was the basis of another action by the SBE. According to the new rules, districts may take attendance during distance learning but not issue absences or report truancy for failure to participate.

"This rule does not apply to Weakley County," explained Fraizer. "From the beginning, we suspected and now - due to the diligence of our teachers reaching out to our students via weekly phone calls - know that much of our student population would not be able to access distant learning options. We also know that many do not receive the local PBS option for daily classes. So, we have remained focused on providing suggestions for engagement but not formal lessons or class time online."

Another issue which will require additional input relates to students who receive dual credits through a post-secondary institution such as the University of Tennessee at Martin, Bethel University, or Jackson State. The state is leaving it up to postsecondary schools to determine how to score.

Frazier estimates that Weakley has more than 100 students in such courses and that the county offers more than 100 dual credit courses.

Currently Tennessee schools are scheduled to remain closed through April 24 and Weakley will remain closed until April 30.

The question of whether schools will close for the year remains unanswered.

"This week we anticipate hearing more from Governor Lee," said Frazier. "Our board has discussed the implications that not returning will have on graduation ceremonies and sports activities but so much is still unknown at this time. When we see how the safety measures have helped, we will have more information and be prepared to act."

"If we go back," he added, "The focus will be on working with students who are borderline on meeting requirements to be promoted or to graduate."

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Easter Bunny Makes Visit

CARROLL COUNTY (April 10 and 11) — The Easter Bunny made her way through Carroll County last Friday and Saturday, thanks to the support of the Carroll County Sheriff's Department.

Corporal Mike Mulligan was the driver for the bunny as she visited children throughout the county. Rebecca Dyal of McKenzie was the one who was suited as the Easter Bunny. She was driven about 100 miles and saw

about 50 to 75 children.

Officer Mulligan said the response was tremendous and very supportive of the kind efforts. He said Sheriff Andy Dickson and Chief David Bunn were very supportive of the effort.

Henry County, Paris Mayors Declare States of Emergency

PARIS (April 8) — According to a joint press release Wednesday, Henry County Mayor Brent Greer and Paris Mayor Carlton Gerrell issued Local State of Emergency Declarations for Henry County and the City of Paris effective Thursday, April 9, 2020 in response to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The release states that the declarations empower the county and city governments to take "whatever action is prudent and necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community." The State of Emergency remains in effect for seven days and can be renewed as needed to protect the community.

Citing Henry County's six confirmed COVID-19 cases at the time, the mayors implore citizens to continue to follow Tennessee Governor Bill Lee's Executive Orders and the Center for Disease Control guidelines to minimize the spread of COVID-19.

County Mayor Greer and Mayor Gerrell emphasize the seriousness of the COVID-19 pandemic, which healthcare officials are calling "a serious situation."

Henry County Medical Center has reported an increase in patients needing treatment for COVID-19 and has urged local governments to take additional action to mitigate the spread in Henry County. COVID-19 testing continues to be available locally through local clinics, Henry County Medical Center, and the Henry County Health Dept. The health department is closed on Friday, however, the Assessment and Testing Services will be available from 9 a.m. until noon. Citizens are encouraged to continue to give blood when donations services are available.

The state of emergency declarations order Paris and Henry County residents to "Shelter at Home" and require residents to follow

Governor Bill Lee's Executive Orders pertaining to COVID-19. Violations may be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. In short, Henry Countians are required to stay home unless they are engaged in an Essential Activity or Essential Service. When away from home, Henry Countians should follow social distancing and CDC guidelines to protect themselves and each other.

Henry County and the City of Paris are taking steps to limit staff and public from COVID-19 exposure while continuing essential government business. Citizens are encouraged to call government offices for instructions on how to receive services.

Public access to Paris City Hall is limited to phone access during the regular business hours of 7:30-4:30 Monday through Friday. Any business that requires in-person assistance will be by appointment only. Any non-essential services may be limited or suspended during this time. Emergency services will not be limited.

Phone numbers of interest and assistance are:

Paris City Hall — 641-1402
Police Department non-emergency — 642-2424

Public Works — 642-0473
Paris-Henry County Landfill — 644-1737

Paris-Henry County Animal Shelter — 642-5024
WG Rhea Public Library — 642-1702

The Courthouse and Courthouse Annex will operate on an abbreviated schedule during the State of Emergency; public access to those buildings will be limited to 8-10 a.m. Monday through Friday. Other county services will be available by appointment only. Other county facilities will also limit public access, and some services may be reduced during this time. The Henry County Recycling

Center will be open from 7-11 a.m. each day, and the drop-off area will remain open after hours.

Circuit Court Clerk Mike Wilson and Chancery Court Clerk Mary Burns jointly announced the court clerks' offices will operate on the same abbreviated schedule as the Courthouse. By prior order of the Tennessee Supreme Court, most in-person court proceedings have been postponed through the end of April.

Wilson explained, "This simply means we will continue to operate our court clerk business offices as we have but with less open hours per day. If you have any questions about an upcoming court date, please follow up with your attorney or call the appropriate court clerk's office. We will be glad to assist you. Each court clerk will continue to maintain open office hours even if abbreviated for as long as we are able. If the situation should change, we will make those changes known through our local media and other outlets available to us."

Any questions regarding county- or court-related matters may be directed to the appropriate office listed below:

County Mayor — 642-5212
Chancery Court — 642-4234
Circuit Court — 642-0461
General Sessions — 642-0461
Juvenile Court — 642-5271
County Clerk — 642-2412
Central Building — 642-3758
Election Commission — 642-0411
Highway Department — 642-3162
Property Assessor — 642-0162
Register of Deeds — 642-4081
County Trustee — 642-6633
Office On Aging — 642-2619
Recycling Center — 642-5170
Sheriff's Department — 642-1672
Veterans Services — 642-5055

Testing

...From Front Page



Above, Heather Martin, RN (left) and Stacey Goostree, RN of BMH-Carroll County administer and store the nasal swab tests at the drive-thru site. Below, BMH-Carroll County is providing COVID-19 testing at the Carroll County Office Complex. Photos by Brad Sam/The Banner



A7769/BE/15-2

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2. HUNTINGDON POLICE DEPARTMENT
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4. WALGREENS - MCKENZIE

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625 High Street, Office 111
P.O. Box 589
Huntingdon, TN 38344
ccpc38344@gmail.com
731-358-7004

TN REDLINE
1-800-889-9798

NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION LIFELINE
1-800-273-TALK (8255)

TN QUILINE
1-800-784-8669

TN Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse Services

This project is funded under a grant contract with the State of Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.



Above, A cross was cut from a felled oak tree in the front yard of Bruce Bailey’s new home that was gifted to him by Eight Days of Hope and many local businesses and individuals. Below, Volunteers with Eight Days of Hope gather in a circle to pray on Good Friday. They prayed for the blessings of their lunch, their completion of a new home, and the death and resurrection of Jesus.



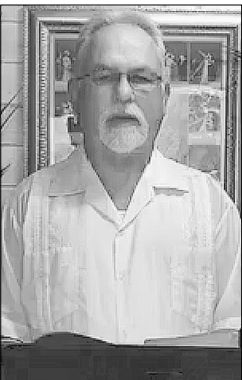
Home

...From Front Page

County was heavily damaged during a tornado in April. A tree fell across one end of the home, rendering it uninhabitable. He had no electricity, no running water and no homeowner’s insurance. Despite what seemed desperate conditions, Bailey continued to live in the mobile home by using a kerosene heater and water brought to him by friends, neighbors and family members. The soft-spoken Bailey said of his new home, “I couldn’t be happier. It is a beautiful job.” He said he had lots of support through his whole ordeal. The man of few words concluded, “There are lots of nice people.” Kim Renfroe Johnson, who

works at nearby Renfroe Farms, contacted Hames and asked if his group could help Bailey. Hames was in Nashville at the time helping rebuild homes destroyed by a tornado. While in Nashville, Hames asked fellow volunteers with Eight Days of Hope for their assistance. He soon had a page filled with names of volunteers. A second situation developed with the pandemic and the government’s order to “social distance” and “shelter in place”. Several of the volunteers were concerned for their health and chose not to volunteer on the local project. Hames said it was like Gideon’s Army in the Bible, a smaller army of volunteers were able to accomplish the mission of building a house in just eight days. Hames said it was also a blessing to work with so many local businesses and individuals who

donated to the cause. Carroll County Lumber, Watson Lumber, BR Supply, suppliers in Murray and an individual in Paris helped with supplies. The volunteer laborers came from Biloxi, Buffalo, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Mayfield and Jackson. Eddie Weatherford’s drywall company finished the drywall and David Taylor provided painting services. Family members donated appliances for the all-new 660 square-foot house. Eights Days of Hope is a well-organized, well-funded group of Christians, who travel throughout the states helping others, said Hames. Eight Days of Hope is based in Tupelo, Mississippi. The organization can be reached at PO Box 3208, Tupelo MS 38803, phone 662-844-6934, or by visiting the website eightdaysofhope.com.



Left, Reverend Kevin Wood delivers the message via Facebook from the pulpit of First Cumberland Presbyterian Church in McKenzie. Center, Brother Kenny Carr delivers the Easter message via Facebook from Long Heights Baptist Church. Right, Reverend Alan Trull of First United Methodist Church-Gleason delivers a message via Facebook.

Easter

...From Front Page

parishoners through Facebook. McKenzie First Cumberland

Presbyterian Church used a live video and pre-recorded messages to deliver the message on Sunday. Dresden First Baptist Church held Sunday School through a message by Tommy Moore.

Brother Don McCulley provided the morning’s Worship Service message. A planned parking lot “drive-in” service was canceled because of the pouring rain. FBC uses Facebook Live for its messages.

Safer

...From Front Page

Carroll County now has 12 (up from seven one week earlier) confirmed cases of the COVID-19 virus. Weakley County has six (five one week earlier) cases and Henry County has eight (four one week earlier). Tennessee now has 5,610 (3,633 one week earlier) persons who have tested positive for the Coronavirus (COVID-19) as of 2 p.m. on Monday, April 13, 2020. There are 109 (44 one week earlier) deaths and 579 hospitalized (328 one week earlier) from the virus. 76,195 have been tested in the state. That’s up from 41,667

one week earlier. Every Tennessee county has at least one positive case except Crockett. Shelby has the most at 1,331 and Davidson is at 1,207. Carroll County had 225 to test negative, while Henry County had 173 and Weakley County had 253. Former State Trooper Adam Killion of Paris is hospitalized with a diagnosis of COVID-19 and is recovering at Vanderbilt Hospital. He was removed from a ventilator and is breathing on his own. Nationwide, there are a total of 554,849 (330,891 last week) cases with 21,942 (8,910 last week) deaths. Among other west Tennessee counties, Tipton has the most cases with 50, followed by Fayette with 36, Madison 68, Gibson

20, Dyer 22, Chester 5, Harde-man 7, Benton 4, Haywood 12 (3 last week), McNairy 9 (3 last week), Hardin 2, Lauderdale 9 (2 last week), Henderson 21. Lake 4. Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) is a respiratory illness that can spread from person to person. The virus that causes COVID-19 is a novel coronavirus that was first identified during an investigation into an outbreak in Wuhan, China. Additional cases have been identified in a growing number of other international locations, including the United States. Patients with COVID-19 have had mild to severe respiratory illness with symptoms of: fever, cough, and shortness of breath. It is ten times more deadly than influenza.

Emergency

...From Front Page

Under the Mutual Aid and Emergency and Disaster Assistance Agreement Act of 2004, the mayor is authorized to declare a local state of emergency affecting such official’s jurisdiction by executive order. In Mayor Holland’s order states: Section 1. In order to protect public health, the City of McKenzie finds it is necessary to request assistance from the President, Governor, and the Tennessee Department of Health to address this public health emergency. Section 2. All procedures and formalities otherwise required under the McKenzie Municipal Code or Tennessee law pertaining to the following are hereby waived: Performance of public work and taking whatever prudent action is necessary to ensure the health, safety, and welfare of the community; entering into contracts; incurring obligations; employment of permanent and temporary workers; utilization of volunteer workers; rental of equipment; acquisition and distribution, with or without compensation, of supplies, materials, and facilities; and appropriation and

expenditure of public funds. Section 3. The City shall, to the extent possible and provided by law, follow CDC guidance as it relates to COVID-19. City approved events through the month of April are hereby cancelled or postponed. Section 4. All residents, businesses, and organizations should, to the extent possible and practicable, follow CDC guidance as it relates to COVID-19 and social distancing. Section 5. All residents, businesses, and organizations shall adhere to the provisions included in Executive Orders No. 17, 21, and 22, attached hereto, issued by Governor Bill Lee. Section 6. Notice of this Declaration will be promptly communicated to the City Council, and the Order will be filed with the Office of the City Recorder. Section 7. This Declaration is valid and effective immediately for a period not to exceed seven days and may be incrementally extended for additional seven-day periods as deemed necessary. In other business, the council agreed to lease agreement with Cellular Lease Consultants (CLC) for the cellular tower located at 608 Como Street in McKenzie. The gross offer was \$279,000 for tower lease rights over 99 years. CLC will receive 8% of the total sale proceeds (4% from the buyer and 4% from the seller. The city will receive \$257,000.) The buyer pays a one-time lump sum to the city instead of future lease payments. The land is not being sold; the City of McKenzie is granting the buyer a 99-year easement in the same area currently under easement to American Tower. If the tower ceases to be used or is abandoned, the buyer will remove it from the park and terminate the easement. The council was made aware of the recent purchase of three police vehicles. Chief Craig Moates purchased a pair of Ford Explorers, 2016 and 2017 models, along with a 2016 Chevy Tahoe. The approximate amount spent was \$64,000. The majority of the expense was paid through the drug fund with \$10,000 expensed through the Law Enforcement Purpose Only (LEPO) funds. The next meeting of the Board of Mayor and Council is May 14 at 6 p.m.

Neck

...From Front Page

father off the front porch. It was initially believed that Homer Willis suffered from a possible broken leg, but after he was transported from the scene by ambulance, Sawyers was later advised that he had sustained a broken neck and was being flown to Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville. Isaiah Willis fled the residence before deputies arrived, but he returned later and started arguing with family members. Willis fled again before authorities returned, but he was apprehended by deputies shortly thereafter while running across a field near Roundhouse Road.

USDA-FARM SERVICE AGENCY NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY Construction of 2 Wean to Finish Hog Barns Draft Environmental Assessment

U.S. Department of Agriculture, Farm Service Agency (FSA) announces they will be completing an Environmental Assessment for the proposed construction of 2 Wean to Finish hog barns located at Map 061 Parcel 001.00. The primary objective of the activity is to provide FSA farm loan assistance for the construction of 2 – 100’ x 200’ wean to finish hog barns with the maximum capacity of 2,600 hogs per barn, in Carroll County, TN. FSA is accepting comments on the potential effects of the proposed project on protected resources and the human environment through May 7, 2020. Information regarding this project can be reviewed in person at Carroll County FSA, 630 High St., Huntingdon, TN 38344. Comments should be submitted to Anita W. Mullins, FLO at the above address or by email to anita.mullins@usda.gov.

15-2

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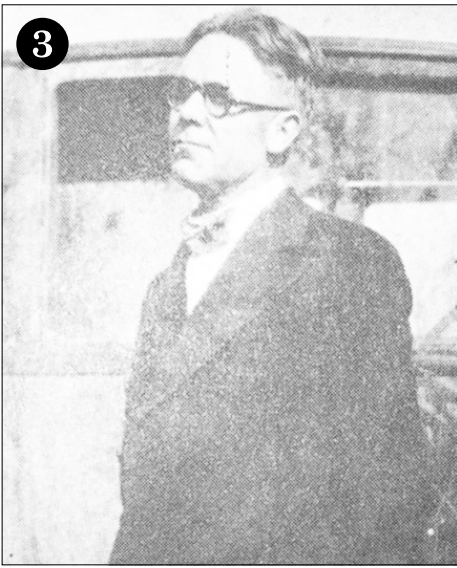
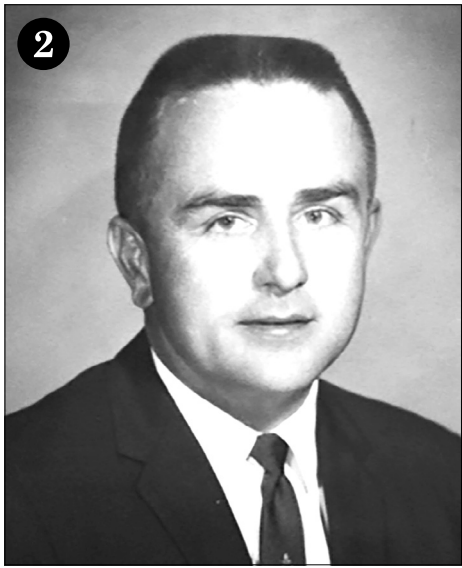
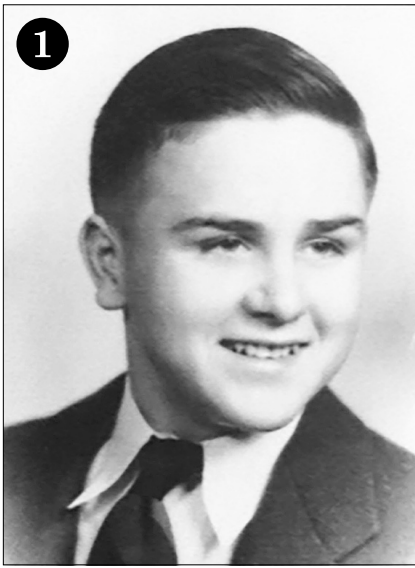
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1. In 1942, a young Joe Williams lost his father and was forced to help his mother as his older brothers served in World War II. 2. Joe Williams, the son of a country doctor, served as the principal of McKenzie High School and superintendent of the McKenzie Special School District. 3. Doctor James H. Williams, the father of Joe Williams, was noted to be a friend and caregiver to all who needed his attention. “No night was too dark, no road too long or rough, no personal physical pain too great to deter him from what he felt to be his duty. It was in the ministering unto others that he failed to take recognition for his own needs until too late.” 4. Joe Williams served as head football, basketball and baseball coach in Holly Springs, Mississippi. Pictured is Williams with his team in either his first or second season as a coach. 5. In 1945, Joe Williams earned a scholarship to play football at the University of Kentucky.

THE MCKENZIE BANNER
Weekly 150
E: jmartin@mckenziebanner.com By Jason R. Martin
Celebrating McKenzie's oldest business and historical record

Joe Frank Williams (Part I)
The Son of a Country Doctor

A few years back researching McKenzie High School football and the legend of Lon Varnell, I came across a reference about Joe Williams playing football for the University of Kentucky. Growing up, Mr. Williams, to me, was always the straight-laced and straight-faced superintendent of the schools, so it came somewhat of a surprise to me to learn he was a great athlete. Like the old adage states, never judge a book by its cover.

Born November 25, 1927, Joe Frank Williams, grew up during the deepest woes of the Great Depression. His parents, Margaret Bell Phillips and James H. Williams raised their four children in McKenzie, James was a country doctor during this period where payment if received, was

often not in the form of cash but rather goods.

As a young boy, he would ride the muddy and bumpy roads with his father as he made house calls in the more rural areas. Williams once remarked on being the son of a doctor; “Everybody was in the same boat, there were no affluent people. Everybody was struggling but we were happy.”

The Williams family ate the doctor's payments of watermelons, chickens, vegetables and pigs which were in lieu of cash payments. Joe and his brothers slept on feather beds on the “sleeping porch” for many years before they had an enclosed bedroom. Williams said he could remember nights when snow would blow in on them. Something as simple as receiving a bicycle when he turned eight was an expensive gift.

Upon entering into high school, young Joe Williams experienced a series of hardships. His brothers were overseas fighting in World War II, and Dr. Williams passed away from cancer at age 59.

With the brothers away, Joe felt the weight of the world on his shoulders. At the time of his father's death, his mother had never worked and had no assets other than the house and a \$1,000 insurance policy. Barely scraping by, Mrs. Williams worked various menial jobs, while Joe took every job he could find.

During his time in high school, the school system faced many hardships like the rest of the United States, especially in regard to faculty. He noted in one year, he had five chemistry teachers. Some of the teaching staff were students from Bethel College.

In 1945, two weeks after graduation, Williams began summer classes as he transitioned to the University of Kentucky. He earned a scholarship to play football for the Wildcats. It was during this time frame, Lon Varnell was coaching at McKenzie and spent a summer in Lexington, Kentucky working under Kentucky Basketball Coach Adolph Rupp.

Varnell and Kentucky football coach Bernie Shively had Rupp send Williams a recruiting letter to entice the young man to come to Kentucky to play football.

Williams' roommate was George Blanda. Blanda, the future Hall-of-Fame quarterback and placekicker, played professional football for 26 years, retiring at age 48.

As his first season of football came to a close, he received his draft notice from Uncle Sam. The following year, Paul “Bear” Bryant became the head coach at Kentucky. Williams chose to join the Navy. He spent nearly two years of his service aboard a destroyer in the Atlantic Ocean. The task given to the crew was to sweep the coastal waters for undetonated mines.

“It was amazing how many mines were planted all along the eastern seaboard,” he said. The mines had come untethered and were floating just beneath the surface. A sharpshooter's bullet would explode the mine.

In December 1947, he returned home from service. In January, he enrolled at Murray State University on the G.I. Bill. He majored in physical education and minored in chemistry. On weekends, he worked in order to assist his mother as he had done since high school.

Turning down a position at an atomic plant in Paducah, Kentucky, Williams took a teaching position at Holly Springs, Mississippi. One of Williams' high school coaches was serving as the school superintendent and was in desperate need of someone

with his credentials. In his first year, Williams taught science, to seventh, eighth and ninth graders along with biology and chemistry while coaching football, basketball and baseball for \$1,200 a year (which is less than \$12,000 a year in 2020 standards).

It was at Holly Springs Williams met his future bride, Elaine, a senior member of his high school chemistry class. After graduation, she left for college, but “was miserable away from him and he was miserable away from her.”

Elaine returned to Holly Springs and the couple married two years later. They remained there for 18 years.

“I really enjoyed my years there,” he said. After teaching for three years, he spent 12 years as principal as well, as a teacher and coach. In his final three years, he served as superintendent. It was during this time period the pair had three children: Joe, Jr.; Mary Elaine; and Laura.

In 1969, approached with an offer to return to McKenzie to serve as principal, Williams and his family made the move. They moved into his family home that was left empty following the death of his mother.

In next week's article, we'll pick up with the Williams family's transition to McKenzie.



Jason R. Martin
B.S. • M.A.Ed • MLS
Councilman, Ward II
Rotary Dist. 6760, Asst. Governor
WestStar Class of 2019
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Jason Martin is a life-long resident of McKenzie. He graduated from McKenzie High School in 2000; earned a Bachelor of Science in History from Bethel College in 2004; a Masters in Education from Bethel University in 2009 and a Masters in History and Humanities from Fort Hays State University in 2011.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Citizens Write About Wheel Tax on Lake

After a meeting of the Carroll County Budget Committee last week, I would like to point out that we and others Carroll County citizens have questioned the lake wheel tax.

We have spoken to hundreds of residents who question the wheel tax and have for several years.

We just exercised our Constitutional right and obligation to question our governments management of our tax dollars and asking for some answers.

So far we have been disappointed in the response we as citizens, representing the views of many

have received.

I also point out the state law passed March 22, 1983 that stated the County Commission has the authority to change or cancel a wheel tax.

Outlined in the law was the proper manner to repeal any wheel tax.

The County Commission must approve any change in the wheel tax rate by a vote of two-thirds or more at two consecutive regularly schedule meetings.

This procedure was followed by having the resolutions reviewed January 6, 2003 then again January 13, 2003 and passed both times.

The resolution was then signed and approved by the County Mayor Kenny McBride and attested by the county clerk Carolyn Lutz January 13, 2003 also by Watershed Authority Chairman Tommy Surber and Mayor McBride on January 28, 2003.

So are we to believe that the words written in the resolution so many years ago meant nothing as the actions seem to show us?

Addressing both the commissioners and the Watershed Authority board with that question.

Janis and Cyril Ostiguy

HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

‘Say It Ain’t So, Joe...’

You remember that famous actor in “A League of Their Own” saying, “There is no crying in baseball.” Well, he was wrong!

I’m crying this morning. And it's not so much that I miss the opening day game between my St. Louis Cardinals and the Cincinnati Reds that was scheduled for late March. I miss the thought of not having it!

I can't stand the silence. The stillness. I miss the roar of the crowd. And the hope that springs eternal.

Baseball has been the one constant in life. It just always was...and always is. It is not ruled by a clock or constrained by exact outfield dimensions. And the outcome is not always decided by the biggest, the fastest or the most skilled.

Anybody can be the hero on any given day. Of course, I can tell you from experience—the opposite is also true!

It mirrors the ups and downs of life. The joy and the heartbreak. The thrill and the agony. Life's lessons abound in every facet of the game!

But nobody cares about that.

We played for the sake of playing. It was the wind in your hair as you rounded second and headed for third. It was the sun in your eyes as you tracked down a long drive off the bat of Bobby C. Melton. It was the feel of the leather as you slipped your hand into a well oiled Rawlings glove. It was the smell of the horsehide. It was the dust rising to cover you on a hot, sticky, cloudless day.

I've heard the roar of that crowd...when there wasn't nobody at the field except for me and Ricky, Buddy, Yogi and David Mark.

Gosh, the anticipation could make you tingle all over. I've awakened on a million mid-summer mornings with one thought overriding all others—baseball today! We'd gather up in the field behind the house. Sometimes we played in Brenda Ellis' backyard. Or met over on Forrest Avenue in the vacant lot beside Ricky Hale's house. As we got older we gravitated to the big field across from the Pajama Factory.

We'd play “rolling at the bat” if only two or three of us were there; and “two on a side” when the next guy arrived. By ten

o'clock, we'd have enough for a real game. We'd “choose up teams” and play till dark. Most evenings—after a quick bite of brown beans and cornbread—out under the porch light, I'd bounce a rubber ball off the side of the house till Mom yelled it was bedtime.

You can't get much more constant than that! And don't you dare say “it's just a game.”

When I was really small, I'd tag along after Leon. He was five years older...and that was a GIANT baseball difference when he and his friends were 11...and I was 6. It never dawned on me (and I didn't care) that I was the embarrassing little brother.

If they had an odd number they'd let me play right field and bat last. I couldn't throw with them or hit like them or run like them...but I WAS IN THE GAME! To this day I can name every kid on that field. I still idolize them.

You can't outgrow baseball. Ever. It's a rule.

When I was in high school I met a pretty nice girl from a neighboring town. I thought it was true love. I was playing American Legion Baseball that summer. We had a game near 'bout every day.

For some unfathomable rea-

son, she determined on an upcoming Saturday night we were going to a dance at the National Guard Armory over in Lexington. She laid down the law—it was HER or BASEBALL.

Talk about a no brainer.

I started listening to the St. Louis Cardinals' games when Vinegar Bend Mizell was a rookie and Enos Slaughter was our right fielder. I was glued to the radio on the May 2, 1954, Sunday afternoon when Stan “the Man” Musial hit five home runs in a doubleheader. My day was a little brighter when the Cards won; the brown beans and cornbread a tad tastier...

I have played baseball, coached baseball, lived baseball, dreamed baseball, loved baseball for an entire lifetime.

And I haven't missed a single opening day...until, well, this year.

I've played “pitch” with my granddaddy. And with my Father (and Mom when no one else was available). And two brothers. And both my sons. And six grandchildren.

It's some more of that constant stuff. No wonder the world seems upside down right now.

**Respectfully,
Kes**

Postal Service Requests Support of Associates

The United States Postal Service is committed to delivering your mail and packages throughout the current pandemic. We are proud of our role in providing an essential service to every community. The one constant throughout this crisis has been our commitment to fulfilling the vital mission of the Postal Service.

We are sharing the following information and requests:

USPS wants to help keep you – and our employees – safe. We ask for you to maintain a safe distance at all times. The Centers for Disease Control recommends keeping a distance of six feet or more between other individuals. Please allow a safe distance between you and your letter carrier or post office clerk while they are performing their duties.

We know it is a challenge to find ways to connect with family

and friends at this time. Please remember anything without postage and not related to USPS business should not be placed in mailboxes.

It is important to note the CDC, the World Health Organization, and the U.S. Surgeon General have all said there is very low risk that this virus is being spread through mail.

Our mission to bind the nation together is achieved through the tireless efforts and sacrifices of our dedicated employees. The outpouring of support you have shown has had a great impact on everyone at the Postal Service. Knowing how much you care means everything to us. On behalf of all employees at the McKenzie Post Office – Thank you.

**Sincerely,
Jonathan Hampton
Postmaster, McKenzie, Tenn.**

NEWSPAPERS HAVE YOUR BACK.
We are grateful for those who have our back in this important time.

America's Newspapers
NEWSPAPERS.ORG

Newspapers Have Your Back

We're in the midst of a global pandemic, but its impact on America's communities is local.

First responders are our neighbors helping our neighbors, rushing to addresses just down the street and taking the sick to the nearby hospital. The workers on the front line of this crisis, manning

the cash register at supermarkets or delivering takeout from a favorite restaurant with a closed dining area, are folks that we might have gone to school with.

Local newspapers and their journalists are also among the front-line workers dedicated to serving their communities.

Local newspapers, in their digital and print forms, immediately report critical breaking news of the fast-moving coronavirus public health crisis in their communities. They chronicle the local businesses that have closed and guide those suddenly furloughed to sources of financial and un-

employment assistance. They alert local people to the scams that target that assistance.

In the stillness of communities under stay-at-home orders, the local newspaper advises on how to keep homes safe and prepared, and how to keep families entertained and learning.

Newspapers let their communities know how they can help the medical, public safety and service workers who heed the call of duty even among the din of uncertainty.

And local newspapers respond to their own call of duty in this crisis.

Their reporters continue to work so readers can stay informed. The production team continues to assemble the content and the press crew continues to run the presses.

But, like many other businesses affected by the pandemic, revenue has suddenly dropped off a cliff, in some newspapers by 50 percent or more. Yet, while many of those local businesses have simply shut down operations for now, the great majority of newspapers have actually increased the amount of critical information they are delivering for their communities.

Just as communities generously support their restaurants and favorite stores by ordering take-out meals and gift cards, we hope you will also remember to support the staff of your local newspaper and the vital work newspapers do by subscribing in print or online.

They are your neighbors — and they've got your back.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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

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

The Dresden Enterprise and The McKenzie Banner

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

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POSTMASTER:
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McKenzie Banner, 3 Banner Row,
McKenzie, TN 38201

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\$52 • Print & Online • 1 Year
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25 CALENDAR

COVID-19
DISCLAIMER

All items appearing on this calendar are subject to postponement or cancellation due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Tri-County Publishing, Inc. (TCP) dba The McKenzie Banner and Dresden Enterprise, has not received notice of changes to any of the events, but also can not guarantee that each event will still be held at the time and date listed. TCP appreciates your patience during this unprecedented time of rapidly-changing circumstances.

MCKENZIE SCHOOL
BOARD MEETS
IN MAY

The McKenzie Special School District Board of Education meets in regular session on May 5, 2020. The first agenda item will be the approval of a contract renewal for K. Lynn Watkins, Director of Schools.

TANSIL CEMETERY
NEEDS FUNDS

The Tansil Cemetery on Sidonia Road in Sharon is in need of funds for upkeep. If you have a loved one buried there, please make a donation in any amount to the Tansil Cemetery account at Simmons Bank in Sharon or to John Waterfield at 573 Hawkins Road, Sharon, TN 38255.

IRIS RHIZONES
BULB SALE

McKenzie First Cumberland Presbyterian Church is selling iris rhizome bulbs. All proceeds go to the church's building fund.

MCKENZIE
SENIOR CITIZENS
CENTER CLOSED

The McKenzie Senior Citizens Center is closed until further notice due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

DRESDEN
AMERICAN LEGION
MEETING CANCELED

The Dresden American Legion's April 16 meeting is canceled.

IRIS FESTIVAL
IS JULY 4 TO 11

DRESDEN — Due to the threat of the coronavirus and the care and concern for the community, a decision was made to postpone the annual festival. The rescheduled dates are July 4-July 11. Please check our page often for more updates. You may contact City Hall (731-364-2270) for more information.

Pageants are rescheduled for June 12 and 13.

CARROLL COUNTY
ADULT EDUCATION
CLASSES

Huntingdon location: Adult Education Building, 191 Mebanewood Drive on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. to noon, also Tuesdays, 5-7 p.m. McKenzie Location: McKenzie Church of Christ, 16300 Highland Drive on Thursdays, 4-7 p.m.

New Student Orientation on the third Thursday of each

month in the Huntingdon location. For more information please call the Carroll County office at 731-986-4841.

PSA: USDA
COMMODITIES
DISTRIBUTION
POSTPONED

USDA commodities distribution for Weakley County for April 15 and 16 are postponed until some time in May. Date has not been set.

CARROLL COUNTY
DEMOCRATIC WOMEN
MEET MONTHLY

The Carroll County Democratic Women and Committee meet the third Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at the county office complex in Huntingdon.

WEAKLEY COUNTY
FAMILY AND
COMMUNITY
EDUCATION

Are you looking for an association that can help make a difference in your home and community? Then check out the Family and Community Education Club in your area.

Monthly meetings are held by each club, with different timely topics discussed by either the club project leader or by the UT Extension Agent.

Family and Community Education Club membership is open to all eligible persons regardless of race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, religion or veteran status.

The following is a schedule of Weakley County FCE club meetings:

First Friday — New Salem Club (Martin/Sharon area), 1:30 p.m.

Second Wednesday — Central Club (Dresden area), 1 p.m.

If you are interested in attending or becoming a member of a FCE Club in your area, please contact the Weakley County UT/TSU Extension at 731-364-3164.

JOY CLUB MEETS
TWICE MONTHLY

The Joy Club meets at McKenzie First United Methodist Church on the first and third Thursdays of each month from noon-2 p.m. Bring a sack lunch and enjoy fellowship, games, guest speakers and movies. All are welcome.

DRESDEN SENIOR
CITIZENS CENTER
ACTIVITIES CANCELED

All scheduled activities at the Dresden Senior Citizens Center are canceled until further notice. This is a precaution to keep everyone safe.

CCHS CAT SPAY,
NEUTER VOUCHERS

The Carroll County Humane Society provides low-cost cat spay/neuter vouchers for \$35. Come by the shelter 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. Saturdays. Call Paris Vet Clinic and set up your appointment. Take your cats in one morning and they come home the same day! That's all there is to it.

Here's all the information you need about these vouchers: Your city of residence or income doesn't matter, anybody can buy these vouchers. You can buy as many as you need. All

vouchers must be used at Paris Vet Clinic. Vouchers expire one month from purchase.

You can use these for your cat or the neighborhood stray. You can buy the vouchers for others to use for their cats.

This is an ongoing program. Cats just need to weigh two pounds, which is usually at around eight weeks of age.

MCKENZIE
AA MEETINGS

The McKenzie group of Alcoholics Anonymous meets Sunday and Wednesday nights at 8 p.m. at 10 Lee Street in downtown McKenzie. For more information, call Sean at 731-535-2884 or Robert at 731-418-2772.

TURNING POINT
GROUP AA MEETINGS

Turning Point Group AA meetings are Thursdays at noon at the Park Theatre in McKenzie.

WEBB ALUMNI
MUSEUM

Webb High School Alumni, Inc., and the Webb High School Alumni Museum Committee welcome all to visit the museum at 938 West Walnut Ave., McKenzie, open every Tuesday from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. or by appointment.

JOHNSON TEMPLE
C.M.E. PRAYER VIGIL

There is a Community Prayer Vigil every Tuesday at 5 p.m. at Johnson Temple C.M.E., 915 Walnut Avenue, McKenzie.

We come together to pray for one another, our community and country, then study the Word of God. Johnson Temple C.M.E. Church convenes each Sunday with Sunday school at 9:45 a.m. and morning worship at 11 a.m.

MCKENZIE
HISTORIC ZONING
MEETS MONTHLY

The McKenzie Historic Zoning Committee meets the second Wednesday of each month, 4 p.m. in the city hall council chambers.

MCKENZIE
INDUSTRIAL BOARD
MEETS MONTHLY

McKenzie Industrial Board meets the second Tuesday of each month in the former railroad depot.

MCKENZIE
CONDEMNATION
MEETINGS MONTHLY

City of McKenzie Condemnation Meetings are the fourth Monday of each month at 3 p.m. in the city hall council chambers.

MCKENZIE
CITY COUNCIL
MEETS MONTHLY

The McKenzie City Council meets at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month.

Obituaries



JAMES BUNN
1936 — 2020

CAMDEN — Mr. James "Jamie" Bunn, 83, of Camden, Tenn. died Wednesday, April 8, 2020. Mr. Bunn was born August 18, 1936 in Carroll County to the late Ivy and Louneattie Bunn. He was also preceded in death by a brother, Doyle Bunn, sisters, Mae Cobb, Nell Harper and brother-in-law, Alfred Harper.

Survivors include his wife, Carol, daughters, Debbie French and June Walker, both of Camden, stepson William Frazee of Camden, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Private graveside services were at Prospect Cemetery in Camden.

HELEN SHELL
1946 — 2020

MCKENZIE — Family graveside services for Helen H. Shell, 73, were Friday, April 10, 2020 at Mt. Olivet Cemetery with

Ann Alexander and Oberlin York, his brothers, C.L. McDearmon, and Marshall McDearmon. Survivors include his daughter and son-in-law, Diane and Mike Conley of Trezevant, Tenn., his brother, Duell McDearmon of McKenzie, four grandchildren, James Derek (Lauren) Fields, Heather (Jeremy) Stone, Bethany Conley, and Kristin Conley and six great-grandchildren. Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. For more information please call (731) 352-4848 or visit www.brummittmckenziefuneralhome.com.

JAMES BUNN
1936 — 2020

CAMDEN — Mr. James "Jamie" Bunn, 83, of Camden, Tenn. died Wednesday, April 8, 2020. Mr. Bunn was born August 18, 1936 in Carroll County to the late Ivy and Louneattie Bunn. He was also preceded in death by a brother, Doyle Bunn, sisters, Mae Cobb, Nell Harper and brother-in-law, Alfred Harper.

Survivors include his wife, Carol, daughters, Debbie French and June Walker, both of Camden, stepson William Frazee of Camden, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Private graveside services were at Prospect Cemetery in Camden.

HELEN SHELL
1946 — 2020

MCKENZIE — Family graveside services for Helen H. Shell, 73, were Friday, April 10, 2020 at Mt. Olivet Cemetery with

Brother Larry Moore officiating. Interment will follow. Ms. Shell died Tuesday, April 7, 2020 at her residence.

She was born on April 23, 1946 in Huntingdon, Tennessee to Olin and Lorene Coleman Hudgins.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her son, Terry Vance Shell, who died February 10, 2014, three sisters, Rene Adams, Mary Sue Cook, and Linda Lou Jackson, and two brothers, Elroy Hudgins and Jimmy Hudgins.

Survivors include her son and daughter-in-law, Michael Dwayne and Linda Shell of McKenzie, Tenn., a sister, Doris Davis of McKenzie, a brother, Ray Hudgins of McMoresville, four grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

Brummitt-McKenzie Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. For more information please call (731) 352-4848 or visit www.brummittmckenziefuneralhome.com.

DOROTHA EDWARDS
1937 — 2020

HOLLOW ROCK — Dorothea Marie Edwards, 83, died April 9, 2020 at Lakeside Senior Community Living in McKenzie. Graveside services were at Crossroads Cemetery on Saturday, April 11.

She was born March 29, 1937 in Henderson, Tenn. to the late Jesse Leo Thomas and Thelma Esra Thomas.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Lawrence Edwards, brother, Bobby Thomas. She is survived by a daughter, Teresa (Dwight) Hollingsworth, on e sister, Diane Hayes and one granddaughter.

Inglenook Book Club News

The Inglenook Book Club met in March at the lovely home of Carolyn Moore. Hostesses were Victoria Ard and Carolyn Potts. Most members wore something green in observance of St. Patrick's Day. Everyone enjoyed Victoria's delicious Irish soda bread served with a spread made of cream cheese and butter, along with green grapes, candies and beverages.

Members who celebrated birthdays in March are Jean McKinzie, Suzanne Howell and Genia Sherwood.

President Moore announced the children's reading skills project was postponed due to the Coronavirus situation. Our joint meeting with the new book club in Paris is still in the planning stage.

President Moore thanked those who took part in the Carroll Arts Trivia Bowl in February. Our team did not win but all enjoyed the evening.

After the business meeting Gaye Rowan presented her program on mystery author, Louise Penny, who has 16 published novels to her credit.

A Canadian, Louise knew from age eight that she wanted to be a writer, but life interfered for almost 30 years. She struggled with alcoholism starting in her twenties and that was followed by writer's block. She worked for the Canadian Broadcasting System for 18 years where she honed her

communication skills. Fear was her biggest barrier to writing, but finally things began coming together for her in her forties. She was 46 when first published after her manuscript had been rejected by over 50 publishers.

Penny's Three Pines mysteries contain an endearing cast of characters and take place in Canada. The main characters are Armand Gamanche and his wife, RenMarie. Armand has had a long career at all levels in the Quebec police force which leads to good story-telling. He's a likable, wise, and gentleman whose loving wife RenMarie is supportive and has a background in research and historical archival work.

The Gamanches and their colorful neighbors live in Three Pines. The daughter and son-in-law of the Gamanches play a large role in the stories. A neighbor is an eccentric old woman named Ruth who uses rather rough language. Ruth is taxed with the job of coordinating emergency services for the village and bumps up against Gamanche routinely. Ruth has an unusual pet, a duck who also has an abrasive vocabulary. There's the baker, the grocer, a used book store owner, Myrna Landers, who is a retired psychologist, and a gay couple Gabri and Olivier who operate the local bistro. This is the core group who constitute a

supportive, loving family where

safety, security, acceptance and belonging are found.

Not all the crimes occur in Three Pines, but there are ties back to the village. The crimes are complex and varied, not at all predictable. The Three Pines village is able to absorb the blows that life serves up with forgiveness and letting things go. Penny feels that when choosing tolerance over hate, kindness over cruelty, goodness over bullying, and hopefulness over being cynical, the reader will find a good place to reside for their life, rather than swirling around lost in the wilderness.

Louise Penny's first novel, Still Life, was published in 2005, and the latest is All the Devils are Here, published this year. Gaye distributed a list of all 16 of her books, a few of which are available at the McKenzie library.

Louise Penny lives in a small village south of Montreal, Quebec quite close to the American border, not unlike Three Pines.

Our next meeting is at the home of Marilyn Putman with co-hostess Shirley Martin. Suzanne Russell has the program.

Members present were Victoria Ard, Peggy Chappell, Linda Edge, Juanita Finley, Carolyn Goodwin, Suzanne Howell, Geneva Johnson, Shirley Martin, Jean McKinzie, Carolyn Moore, Mary Newman, Carolyn Potts, Marilyn Putman, Shelia Rogers, Gaye Rowan, Suzanne Russell, Genia Sherwood, Donna Ward and Elaine Williams.

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SUDOKU

WEEK 16

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

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See solution in next week's edition.

Level: Advanced

Animals Word Search

M B T D W H K E E Y H G T L C

U A I R O M S N X L F I S H H

S B B I C R I G R O L L L C I

S O B B O P A A R D V A R K P

O O A H U M E V H K S L M Q M

P N R C E R H Y A Q H G W A U

O P R A U S E G R P E Y O O N

Q O L T R N U E O F E W G A K

P S L A A A I O C H P D R H T

Q U U G T N C O M A E L G A E

V U O P D Y Y C D T A G I Q D

M R D E H O P X O R W R D S B

F O E K T K V U Y O A L M E D

G R R E V A E B S O N Z H E H

R H C L E R R I U Q S A I Q I

W A L L A B Y O S K U N K L Z

AARDVARK

BABOON

BEAVER

BIRD

CAT

CHIPMUNK

COW

COYOTE

DOG

EAGLE

EMU

FISH

FROG

GOAT

HEDGEHOG

HORSE

HYENA

LIZARD

LLAMA

MOUSE

OPOSSUM

OWL

PLATYPUS

PORCUPINE

RABBIT

RACCOON

REINDEER

SHEEP

SKUNK

SQUIRREL

VULTURE

WALLABY

Weekly Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

1. Germanic mythological god

4. Cash machine

7. Improvement

12. What voters want

15. Sheepish

16. Placed at powerful level

18. Measure of illumination

19. Trent Reznor's band

20. Commercial

21. Amounts of time

24. English broadcaster

27. Rolls of tobacco

30. Position

31. Expresses pleasure

33. Corporate exec (abbr.)

34. Body part

35. Bleated

37. Businessman

39. Beats per minute

41. Defunct Italian monetary unit

42. Broken branch

44. Put in advance

47. Arrest

48. Prefix indicating adjacent to

49. Artificial intelligence

50. Disfigure

52. The Fighting Irish (abbr.)

53. Not in any place

56. Predict

61. A system of getting stuff from one place to another

63. Philosophy of the principles of things

64. US gov't office (abbr.)

65. Seaborgium's former name (abbr.)

6. Work hard

7. Drivers' speed

8. Largest English dictionary (abbr.)

9. Healthcare pro

10. Egyptian Sun god

11. Expresses the negative

12. Some are three-legged

13. Clothing manufacturer

14. Close by

17. Tooth caregiver

22. Housing material

23. Flows through

24. Founder of Babism

25. Honoric title

26. A type of letter

28. Seize and hold firmly

29. Artery

32. Body fluids

36. Press against lightly

38. An island in the Pacific

40. A reminder of past events

43. Austrian spa town

44. Peter's last name

45. Something a mob might do

46. Of the bones of the feet

51. "Amazing Stories" writer

54. Nazi-resistant youth group (abbr.)

55. Used to have (Scottish)

56. A way to cook

57. Japanese port city

58. Type of precipitation

59. Engrave


60. Female sibling

62. Expresses emotion

Week 16

See solution in next week's edition.

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- **2003:** TEN NEW MEMBER STATES ARE ADMITTED TO THE EUROPEAN UNION WITH THE SIGNING OF THE TREATY OF ACCESSION.

- **1912:** HARRIET QUIMBY BECOMES THE FIRST WOMAN TO FLY

SUDOKU

SOLUTION WEEK 15

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

PUZZLE SOLUTION

Week 15 Crossword Puzzle Solution

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

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Carroll County Sheriff's Reports

Aggravated Assault — Isaiah Germail Willis, 25, of 525 Cheatham Street, Bruceton, was charged with aggravated assault and domestic assault after allegedly severely injuring his father during an April 5 incident at their mutual residence.

According to the report by Deputy Eric Sawyers, he went to Willis' residence after receiving a call that an assault had taken place. Upon arrival, Sawyers was informed that Willis had gotten into a verbal argument with his father, Homer Willis, and had pushed his father off the front porch. It was initially believed that Homer Willis suffered from a possible broken leg, but after he was transported from the scene by ambulance, Sawyers was later advised that he had sustained a broken neck and was being flown to Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville. Isaiah Willis fled the residence before deputies arrived, but he returned later and started arguing with family members. Willis fled again before authorities returned, but he was apprehended by deputies shortly thereafter while running across a field near Roundhouse Road.

Under the Influence — Casey L. Shepherd, 32, of 7510 Highway 104 West, Cedar Grove, was arrested for allegedly being under the influence of a narcotic following an April 3 incident at a Cedar Grove residence.

According to the report by Deputy Michael Krause, he responded to 1320 Highway 70 after receiving a complaint from Shepherd's parents, who said they had asked Shepherd repeatedly to leave but she wouldn't leave. Deputies tried numerous times to find a place for Shepherd to go, but she would not agree to any of their recommendations. Shepherd told deputies that she would walk somewhere and then started walking toward the woods. Krause stopped Shepherd and had her perform an HGN test, and based on the results and speaking with Shepherd, Krause determined that she was under the influence of a narcotic. Krause noted that Shepherd is currently on pro-

bation for tearing down a gate at her parents' residence.

Dead Horse Dumped — Deputies are investigating the recent dumping of a dead horse on New Zion Road near McKenzie.

According to the report by Deputy Tony King, he went to New Zion Road after a resident called about garbage being dumped near his home. The resident directed King to a lot between two churches, where King found a pile of garbage with a dead horse carcass in the pile. Some items of mail were also found in the pile, though attempts to locate the owners of the mail had been unsuccessful at the time of the report.

Burglary — Deputies are looking into the recent burglary of a Huntingdon residence.

Andrae Jordan told deputies on March 9 that someone broke into his home between 3 a.m. and 5 a.m. earlier that morning and stole several items. Entry had been made through both the front and back doors. Reported as stolen were two speakers valued at \$250, a Play Station valued at \$400, a lock box containing documents valued at \$30, and a 55-inch flat screen TV valued at \$300.

Multiple Charges — Jared Michael Payton, 31, of Eva was charged with felony evading arrest, driving on a revoked license, and altering plates after a high-speed chase on March 5.

According to the report by Deputy Jason Walker, deputies responded to a domestic call at 1860 Ephesus Church Road near Hollow Rock, and a female victim told deputies that Payton had left the residence on a motorcycle and she was afraid he would come back. While going to check at a residence where Payton might be, Walker passed a motorcycle driven by Payton and attempted to conduct a traffic stop. Payton fled from law enforcement in a pursuit that continued for approximately 15 miles, crossed two county lines, reached speeds of up to 120 mph, and ended with Payton wrecking his motorcycle on Big Sandy River Road in Benton County. A computer check

showed that Payton's driver's license was revoked for a prior DUI, and it was determined that the tags on the motorcycle had been altered.

DUI, License Violation — Christopher John Welch, 47, of Halls was charged with DUI and driving on a suspended license during a March 8 traffic stop on Highway 22 in Huntingdon.

According to the report by Deputy Tony King, he pulled over a vehicle driven by Welch because the vehicle's plate was covered with dirt and the plate lights were not working. When asked for ID, Welch told King that his license was suspended. King detected the odor of alcohol while speaking with Welch, and when asked about it, Welch told the deputy he had consumed half a pint earlier. Welch found two half-empty pint bottle of alcoholic beverages in the vehicle. Due to an old leg wound, Welch was unable to perform field sobriety tests involving walking, but he failed other tests. Welch agreed to take a breath test, but the breath analyzer machine at the jail was not working at the time.

Theft — Deputies are investigating the recent theft of an ATV from private property near Huntingdon.

Donald Moore of Cedar Grove told deputies on March 6 that his 2007 Honda Rancher four-wheeler had been stolen from 160 Vick Road. Moore said that he had been using the four-wheeler to help a friend clean up damage from a recent tornado and had parked the ATV behind his friend's residence on March 5, covering it with a sheet. He said that was the last time he saw the four-wheeler. Moore described the vehicle as dark green with white overspray on the front, an orange "T" on the right side of the fuel tank, front and rear racks, and plastic zip ties holding the right rear fender in place. During investigations, deputies were informed that a suspicious vehicle was seen in the area at around the time of the theft.

Natalie Porter Among 20 Most Influential of West Tennessee

JACKSON — Carroll County Register of Deeds Natalie McCullough Porter was recently named among the 20 Most Influential Women of West Tennessee as part of the Jackson Area Business and Professional Women's annual Sterling Awards.

Porter is serving her third four-year term as register. She was first elected in 2006. Her career started in 1989 as a deputy register under former register Judy Baker.

When she first started her career, the office was located in the courthouse and all records were maintained manually. Approximately 21 years ago, the office moved to the Carroll County Office Complex on High Street, Huntingdon. Now, all records are maintained on computer files and archived manual records are available as well.

Porter was voted "Outstanding Register of the Year" for the year 2019. She received the honor at the 51st annual County Officials Conference in Gatlinburg on November 21. The award is chosen by fellow registers across the state.

She also received an award from the Tennessee Registers Association and the County Officials Association of Tennessee for serving as president of the Tennessee Registers Association for the year 2018-2019. She has previously served as secretary and vice president of the state organization.

She and husband, Bernard have one daughter, Anna Lise Porter, age 8, a student at West Carroll Primary.

Others named in the 20 Most Influential with ties to the area include: Dr. Cindy Boyles of Jackson, associate professor of Criminal Justice at the University of Tennessee at Martin; Virginia Grimes of Martin, program manager/coordinator



for the WestStar Leadership program at UTM; Judge Vicki Snyder of Paris, Henry County General Sessions and Juvenile Court Judge; and Ester Gray Lemus, a McKenzie alum and assistant professor of Music at Jackson State Community College.

Representing education, healthcare, industry, government, small business, nonprofit, and legal, Sterling Award recipients make their cities and communities a better place to live and thrive. They are creating change in real time while paving the road for future generations.

Ten years ago, members of the Jackson Area Business and Professional Women created the Sterling Awards to honor women in West Tennessee who make a strong social difference in

their communities and achieve excellence in their careers.

The Sterling Awards ceremony is held every year on Equal Pay Day, the day that symbolizes how far into the 2020 women must work to earn what men earned in 2019. Although the Sterling Awards ceremony was postponed this year due to the coronavirus outbreak, the names of the recipients were announced on March 31, Equal Pay Day, in keeping with tradition.

Since 1919, the Jackson Area Business and Professional Women organization helps women achieve equality in the workforce through legislative advocacy, education and information. The organization continues to uphold its mission through support of our members, friends, and community partners.

Huntingdon Police Report

DUI, Resisting Arrest — Ricky L. Newsome, 66, of Huntingdon was arrested on charges of DUI and resisting arrest following an April 3 traffic accident in Huntingdon.

According to the report by Officer Christopher Cole, he responded to a one-vehicle crash on Paris Street at around 9:15 p.m. Upon arrival, Cole found a maroon 1997 Ford F150 driven

by Newsome had gone up the wrong way on East Paris Street, cut a utility pole in half, took out a mailbox, and then hit a parked vehicle in a residential driveway. Cole noted Newsome had bloodshot eyes, slurred speech, and smelled strongly of alcohol. Newsome told Cole he had been drinking homemade whiskey prior to the accident. Newsome was transported by

ambulance to Baptist Memorial Hospital-Carroll County for evaluation, but once there, he refused medical treatment and refused to submit to a blood test. Cole reported that when officers tried to place Newsome under arrest, he resisted, and after he was put in handcuffs, he became dead weight so that officers had to carry him.

Property Transfers

- Rodney Anthony and Barbie Bosse to Chris Gurley.
- William O. Pearson to Oronzo and Martiann Manoli.
- Len Hanifan to Dustin Lee Newman.
- Diane R. Ide and others to Donna L. Schmidlin and others.
- Donna L. Schmidlin to Ryan Cameron Dupree and others.

- Lucian M. Kee Jr. to Glen Ray Goodrum.
- Angela Crawford and others to Olimpo Ortega Jr. and others.
- Harold Gene Brewer to Barbara Nicole Moore.
- Jonathan Jay and Amy Marie Murphree to Jonathan Jay and Amy Marie Murphree.
- Jeremy and Angie Morris to

- Rubye Nicole Fesmire.
- Michael T. Lewis and others to CURA, LLC.
- William Lee and Mary Woods to Michael Salach.
- Brian Drew and Emily Ann Kelley to Delbert Ray and Elizabeth Anne Gonzalez Hudgins.
- Donald R. Clark to Jamie Smith.
- Deborah Miller Climer to AAA Farms, LLC.

McKenzie Police Department Reports

Theft of Merchandise — Officer Chance Townes of the McKenzie Police Department charged Christopher B. Page, 36, Pettijohn Creek Road, Henry with theft of merchandise. On April 7, police received a call from the BP station indicating someone had stolen some merchandise from

the convenience store. He is accused of taking alcoholic drinks totaling \$16.41 after police reviewed a surveillance video of the store. Mr. Page was located at a McKenzie residence. He was cited into General Sessions Court and also banned from the store.

Public Intoxication — Dar-

vie Rae Sullivan, 39, of Grand Rivers, Kentucky was charged with Public Intoxication after she was attempting to wave to people to stop, pulling weeds, and acting strange on April 7. Officer Kyle Beauchamp administered a sobriety field test and determined she was impaired. She was transported to jail.

State of Tennessee Carroll County Probate Division	NOTICE TO CREDITORS As Required by TCA §30-2-306	Case Number 2020-PE-60
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Estate of DWYER KENDRICK MITCHUM, Deceased

Notice is hereby given that on APRIL 7TH of 2020 letters testamentary in respect of the estate of **DWYER KENDRICK MITCHUM**, who died March 13, 2020, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court of Carroll County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the estate are required 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 the 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.

Date: 4-1-2020 *Carri Nease Macfarland*
Executrix

Date: 4/1/20 *[Signature]*
Attorney

Date: 4/7/2020 *[Signature]*
Clerk & Master

A561/16-2

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NOTICE

Lee Jones and Teresa Jones, owners of property at 5095 S Broad Street, Trezevant, TN, 38258, are sending this notice stating that anyone who has any personal items on said property must have it moved by 4-27-20.

R15443/15-2

Rebel Basketball Coach Wilkins to Helm Girls as Well

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com
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McKENZIE (April 8) — Next year, a familiar face takes on a new role at McKenzie High School.

The school announced Wednesday boys' basketball Head Coach John Wilkins will also lead the girls' team.

The position opened up when Lady Rebel Head Coach Lance McAllister announced his departure from McKenzie in March.

Wilkins has coached the Rebels for eight season with impressive results, including a 193-52 record, seven district titles and a Class A State Semifinals appearance.

The coach told The Banner he's never coach girls before,

besides his own kids. He added, "I've never done both, but I'm excited about the opportunity."

Wilkins said, "Basketball is all my family knows, so coaching two won't be much of a change. We talk about basketball all of the time. My wife [Lauren] and kids [three daughters] are very excited to be a part of both programs and thankful for the great support of our school system and community as a whole."

As Wilkins notes, coaching hoops is the family business. John's father, Mitch, coaches Gibson County's girls, and his brother Mark coaches the boys at South Gibson. Most notably, his other brother David is the head coach of McKenzie's district rival Huntingdon Fillies.

All four of the coaches earned district championships this year with their respective teams.



McKenzie High School Boys and Girls Basketball Head Coach John Wilkins. *File photo*

WBCA Victory Club Honorees Include Bethel's Chris Nelson

ATLANTA (April 7) — The Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) announced the 2020 WBCA Victory Club honorees today. Bethel's Chris Nelson was included on the list after winning his 300th game this past season.

Coach Nelson, in his 14th season, was named the NAIA Division I Women's Basketball Coach of the Year after finishing the season at 29-4 (.879). The Wildcats finished the season qualifying for the 2020 championship for the 11th time and were ranked at No. 6 in the final Coaches' Top 25. Coach Nelson led his team to the Southern States Athletic Conference (SSAC) tournament championship with a 65-59 win over Martin Methodist (Tenn.). Bethel also won the SSAC regular season title with a 15-1 mark. Bethel finished the season with a 21-game winning streak, which is the second longest in program

history. The Lady Cats would have been making their eighth straight appearance in the national tournament.

Bethel was 15-0 at home on the year. Under Nelson's guidance the Lady Cats are 122-15 all-time in Crisp Arena and 60-4 versus league opponents in the building. Bethel completed play in the SSAC at 112-18.

Nelson captured his 300th career win on January 2 when the Lady Wildcats beat Stillman College 76-38. He finished the season with a 317-142 career mark.

Bethel finished third in the nation in field goal defense at 33 percent. Bethel was third in the nation in scoring defense at 53.9. The Cats were 19-1 when holding opponents to 54 points or less.

Nelson had three players named to the NAIA All-American teams this season. Tyasia Willis was named to the second team while Morgan Martin and



Tasia Jones were named to the honorable mention squad.

The WBCA Victory Club honor is bestowed annually on each WBCA-member head coach who achieves a milestone of 200, 300, 400, 500 or more career victories during the current season on the level of competition at which they currently coach. Victories recorded at differing levels of competition cannot be combined.

Mama T's

WHAT'S COOKIN'

By Teresa Washburn

Ugly Duckling Cake Deluxe

1 box yellow cake mix
1 16 ounce can fruit cocktail in syrup
4 eggs
1/2 cup firmly packed brown sugar
1 4serving pkg lemon instant pudding
1 cup flaked coconut
1/4 cup oil
1/2 cup chopped nuts (optional)
Blend together cake mix, pudding, fruit cocktail and its syrup, 1 cup coconut, eggs, and oil. Beat 4 minutes at medium speed. Pour

into 9x13 pan. Sprinkle with nuts and brown sugar. Bake at 325 degrees for 45 minutes or until cake springs back when lightly pressed. Cool in pan 15 minutes. Add glaze.

Glaze

1/2 cup butter or margarine
1/2 cup milk
1/2 cup sugar
1 1/3 cup flaked coconut
Combine butter, sugar and milk in saucepan. Boil 2 minutes. Stir in coconut. Pour over warm cake.

Mystery Pie

1 can Eagle Brand Milk
1 can crushed pineapple

1 cup chopped nuts
1/2 cup lemon juice
1- 8 ounce cool whip
2 graham cracker pie crusts
Drain juice from pineapple. Mix with milk, lemon juice, nuts and cool whip. Pour into pie crusts. Makes 2 pies. Chill.

5 Cup Salad

1 cup coconut
1 can mandarin oranges, drained
1 package miniature marshmallows
1 can crushed pineapple, drained
1 container sour cream
Mix all ingredients together and refrigerate.

7 Layer Salad

1 head chopped lettuce
3 green onions, chopped
1/2 bag frozen green peas, thawed
1 or 2 cucumbers, diced
1 cup chopped celery
4 slices of bacon cooked and crumbled
2 cup mayonnaise
1/4 cup sugar
Parmesan cheese
Layer first 6 ingredients in glass bowl. Mix mayonnaise and sugar spread on top. Sprinkle crumbled bacon and Parmesan.



Spring Has Sprung, You’re Stuck at Home

BY BRITTANY MARTIN
 brittany@mckenziebanner.com

I t's finally Spring! After months of waiting, spring sports and spending time friends — has been canceled. A deadly new coronavirus made its debut late last year and has since upended everything. From March sadness to April apart, it has left Americans

feeling like maybe spring isn't happening this year. The April showers were right on time, but everything from sporting events to outings at the park has been canceled. In an effort to stop the spread of COVID-19, the disease caused by the virus, state and health officials are urging citizens not to gather in groups of 10 or more. Instead of focusing on what you can't do, like parties, it might

be helpful to focus on what you can do to get ready for the day you reunite with family and friends. These stories offer respite from what you can't control, the raging pandemic outside, to focus on ways you can improve your own corner of the world while staying safe at home. Thank you for reading. Please support the small businesses that made this section possible. Stay well.

Address Insects Before Entertaining

While it is discouraged to gather with friends or family right now, it might be helpful to get entertaining spaces ready for when you can reunite. Barbecues in the backyard or cocktails on the patio provide some fun ways to enjoy the great outdoors from the comforts of home. There are steps homeowners can take to reduce the amount of pests who want to join the party. First identify which kind of insect is most common where you live. House flies, fruit flies, mosquitoes, wasps and bees tend to be abundant in spring and summer. Ants, termites and other bugs can be prevalent. These insects, however pesky they may seem, often can be kept away without the use of pesticides and other chemicals. Lure away pests. Many insects are happy to snack on a treat and leave you alone. Put out a dish of sugar water or slices of fruit for

insects that feed on sweets and nectar, or a slice of sandwich meat for wasps and yellow jackets. Place these items a fair distance from your gathering. Install fans. A patio ceiling fan can blow away mosquitoes and flies. You and your guests can enjoy a nice breeze on sultry days. Use mulch wisely. Mulch adds curb appeal, but too close to the house can be an ideal environment for roaches and ants to nest and find their way into a home. As mulch decomposes, it generates heat and a cozy spot for pests, including mice. Keep mulch 12 inches away from the home's foundation and entertaining spaces, or use inorganic mulch. Keep patios clean. Sweep up and clean away any spilled foods and beverages promptly. Even a tiny nugget of food can attract ants and other insects. Use natural pest deterrents. Citronella oils can drive away

some insects, as can garlic and rosemary. Lavender, eucalyptus, marigolds and other pungent aromas naturally keep mosquitoes and other flying insects at bay. Address standing water. Mosquitoes and other insects lay their eggs in standing water. Routinely drain areas where water collects, including gutters and downspouts. Use light colors. Studies show bugs see dark and bright colors more easily than light colors. Choose lighter shades of paint for outdoor areas, and it may make these spaces less attractive to some bugs. Leave those spider webs. Spiders and their sticky webs can do a fine job of capturing many unwanted insects. Resist the temptation to tear down webs and shoo spiders away. Addressing insects means employing various natural strategies to make outdoor entertaining more pleasant.

Did You Know?

When planning spring landscapes, homeowners should always group plants with similar water needs together. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, grouping plants with similar water needs together helps to

conserve water, which can be an especially useful strategy if or when drought restrictions go into effect in summer. Homeowners also can embrace additional strategies to landscape with water conservation in mind. For example, aerating soil helps to improve water flow to plants' roots and reduces water runoff, helping to

ensure that plants get all of the water they need while reducing the likelihood that homeowners will have to use excessive amounts of water to keep plants healthy. In addition, using low-water-using types of grass can help homeowners who live in areas prone to drought conserve water while still maintaining lush, green lawns.

Tips for Waterproofing a Basement or Crawl Space

Water can be a homeowner's worst nightmare. Few things have the potential to damage a home as much as water. From leaks to flooding to moisture problems like mold, water can wreak havoc on a home. Basements and crawl spaces tend to be the lowest-lying spots in a home, and therefore prime spots for water to enter. Water problems in these areas can contribute to the demise of the structural integrity of the foundation. Many building materials, including concrete, seem solid but are quite porous. As ground water collects around these materials, the weight of the accumulated water can weaken the materials, causing cracks where water can seep through. Water can enter subterranean spaces through basement windows and gaps between footings and concrete slabs, or push up through foundation floors

when homes are in areas with high water tables. Remedying water issues in a home generally breaks down into two methodologies: exterior waterproofing and interior waterproofing. Depending on the cause and severity of the water issue, one or the other, or even both, may be recommended. Exterior Waterproofing Exterior waterproofing aims to keep water away from and out of the home. Exterior waterproofing generally includes the application of a waterproofing agent to the concrete foundation. It could include excavation so a drainage system can be installed around the entire footing of the home. Regrading a property and properly relocating gutters and downspouts can help with many water issues. Interior Waterproofing When water in a basement or

crawl space needs to be remediated indoors, a system to collect, drain and remove water may be necessary. This can include sump pumps, drains, gravity discharge systems, and more. Moisture barriers, which can include special paints or products applied to the foundation walls and floor, can help keep water from entering the space. Moisture Solutions Keeping water out is only one part of the equation. Homeowners need to manage moisture, like excessive humidity. A marriage of HVAC and waterproofing techniques may be necessary to improve air flow and remove humidity in the air. While many homeowners have attempted to address water issues on their own, many times it is a job best left to the professionals. Because water penetration can have multifaceted causes, a professional can best assess the situation and create solutions that fit with homeowners' budgets and needs.

Did You Know?

Many lawns contain a mixture of the roughly one dozen types of different grasses. According to the lawn care experts at Scotts®, knowing which type of grass they have in their yard can help homeowners more effectively manage and care for their lawns. But with so many lawns containing a mixture of grasses, how can homeowners know exactly

what's making up that green carpet in their yards? Scotts® notes that lawns typically fall into one of two categories: warm-season grasses and cool-season grasses. Warm-season grasses are those that thrive in regions where the climate tends to be especially warm, such as the southern United States. Cool-season grasses are those that are at their best in climates that experience extreme temperature fluctuations. For example, cool-season grasses are most likely to be found in

the northern United States, as much of this area of the country experiences cold winters and warm, and in some places very hot, summers. Homeowners who are uncertain about which type of grass they have can consult a lawn care professional for advice. Homeowners who learn which type of grass is in their yard can use that information to determine how frequently they should mow and water their lawns and which type of fertilizer is best-suited to their lawns.



5 OUTDOOR PROJECTS THAT ADD VALUE

+ + + + +

Exterior renovations can enhance the appearance of a property and make it more enjoyable for homeowners. Certain renovations have the potential to add value to a home, while others may do the opposite. Learning which one have the largest return on investment can help homeowners select features that will have the most positive impact. Curb appeal goes a long way toward attracting potential buyers. According to the National Association of Realtors (NAR), first impressions of a

property have a strong influence on buyers. Landscaping and external features can do much to influence such impressions. 1 Lawn care program. Investing in a lawn care program that consists of fertilizer and weed control application and can be transferred over to a subsequent home owner is an attractive feature. NAR says such a care program can recover \$1,000 in value of the \$330 average cost, or a 303 percent ROI.

2 Low-maintenance lifestyle. When choosing materials for projects, those that offer low-maintenance benefits can be preferential. These include low-maintenance patio materials, composite decking, vinyl fencing, and inorganic mulched beds. 3 Fire pit. A fire pit can be used for much of the year. In the spring and summer, the firepit is a great place to congregate to roast marshmallows or sip wine and gaze into the fire. In the fall, a fire pit can make for a cozy retreat. A fire pit that has a gas burner is low-maintenance, and the National Association of Landscape Professionals says that most can recoup about \$4,000 of their \$6,000 average price tag. 4 Softscaping. Hardscaping refers to structures like outdoor kitchens or decks. Softscaping involves the living elements of the landscape. Hiring a landscape designer to install trees, shrubs, natural edging, and rock elements can do wonders toward improving the look and value of a home. 5 Pool or water feature. In certain markets, particularly hot climates, a pool or other water feature is a must-have. However, in other areas where outdoor time is limited, a pool or water feature can actually lower the value of a home. Speaking with a real estate professional can give homeowners an idea of how a pool will fare in a given neighborhood. Outdoor improvements can improve the marketability of a home, as well as enhance its appearance and function.

Mulching Mistakes To Avoid

Landscape features vary significantly from house to house. Some homeowners may prefer water features on their properties, while others focus on flowers that would be the envy of a botanical garden. Regardless of those preferences, lawn and garden enthusiasts who want to make their properties as idyllic as possible may eventually look to mulch to help them accomplish that goal. Mulch helps soil retain moisture, which promotes strong, healthy flowers, plants, trees, and shrubs. Soil beneath mulch retains more moisture than soil that's not protected by mulch; so homeowners spend less time watering mulched landscapes. That saves time and conserves water, which can be a big benefit in areas prone to drought or especially hot summers. Mulch also helps to suppress weed growth. The following are some common mulching mistakes to avoid as lawn and garden season hits full swing.



too close to plant stems or tree trunks. When it is, tissue is so wet that it makes for a perfect environment for disease and insect infestation. Failing to mulch to the drip line. The drip line of a tree refers to the outermost circumference of the tree's canopy from which water drips onto the ground. It is recommended to mulch to the drip line of a plant or tree, which ensures the plant or tree will get the most out of the mulch. Mulching to the drip line also minimizes competition from the grass, leading to stronger plants and trees. Failing to weed before mulching. Weeds should be removed prior to mulching. If they're not, the mulch can provide the same growing environment for weeds that you're trying to create for your plants and trees. Mulching benefits a landscape in many ways, especially when homeowners avoid common mistakes.

Not enough mulch. Mulch is ineffective when spread too thin. Apply mulch no less than two inches in depth. Anything less than 2 inches deep will prove ineffective at preventing weed growth and helping the soil retain moisture; and that means you will need to water more often. Poorly located mulch. Mulch should not be placed

Why is My House So Dusty; What Can I Do?

Spring is a season of rebirth and renewal. As trees and flowers bloom anew, many people get renewed vigor to tackle projects in and around the house. Spring cleaning projects can take on many forms, from garage overhauls to washing the interiors and exteriors of windows. According to the 2019 American Cleaning Institute National Cleaning Survey conducted by Wakefield Research, 77 percent of households surveyed commit to spring clean projects every year. Dust is a formidable foe during spring cleaning projects. Dust is unsightly and dust mites can trigger allergic reactions. But many homeowners lament that, once they dust, dust returns in a flash. Dust may seem like a never-ending nuisance, but there are some ways to mitigate dust for more than just a few hours. Use A Wet Cloth Dry dusting can simply spread dust around. Use a wet cloth to catch dust and remove it.

Invest in a Better Vacuum Cleaner Vacuuming carpets can release and resuspend dust and allergens that were trapped in carpeting and throw rugs, advises the Queensland University of Technology. Traditional vacuums may toss that dust into the air rather than remove it. However, vacuums with HEPA (high efficiency particulate air) filters can catch particles at .3 microns in size or larger at an efficiency rating of 99.97 percent. Another solution is to switch to hard-surface flooring, which is less likely to trap dust. Change the AC Unit Filter According to Kadi Dulude, owner of the New York-based Wizard of Homes cleaning service, HVAC filters are supposed to trap particles that flow through the air and the heating and cooling system. Inadequate or dirty filters cannot do that job as thoroughly as new filters. Check the filters in both window and whole-house AC or heating units and replace according to the recommended schedule. Consider filters with a higher MERV rating, which can catch

smaller particles, suggests Ragsdale Heating, Air and Plumbing company. Use Less Cloth, Linen The cleaning service Maid to Shine Cleaners suggests that textiles trap more dust, particularly synthetic fabrics. Replacing items around the house with leather or wooden furniture may alleviate some of the dust problem. Take Off Shoes Dirt and debris from outside can contribute to dust in the house. Remove shoes when entering the house to reduce the accumulation of dust. Keep Pets Brushed, Groomed Pets bring many positive things to a home, but no matter how short their coats, pet dander can be part of the dust problem. Washing and grooming pets regularly may put a dent in the dust situation. In addition to these suggestions, getting a whole-house filtration system, increasing wet dusting and checking for leaky ducts that can be sucking dust from attics, basements or garages are some other ways to reduce dust in a home.

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Myths About Grilling, Barbecuing: Debunked

Grillmasters and pitmasters work hard to produce mouth-watering fare. Many may develop secret recipes, rubs, sauces and cooking techniques all in the name of flavorful food.

Certain myths about grilling and barbecuing have prevailed through the years. Such misconceptions may discourage newcomers from picking up their tongs and spatulas. Setting the record straight about common grilling myths can be just what people need to embrace cooking foods over an open flame.

Myth #1: You can tell the temperature of the grill by placing your hand over the grates.

Fact: Everyone reacts differently to heat, so the best way to gauge temperature is by using a thermometer.

Myth #2: Grilled chicken is done when the juices run clear.

Fact: Even well-done chicken can form juices that are pink-hued. Use a cooking thermometer to learn when poultry is safe to eat, typically at 160 to 165 F.

Myth #3: Marinating is best for grilling and tenderizing.

Fact: It seems that marinades really do not penetrate much beyond the surface of the meat and can keep the outer surface of the food wet, preventing searing and



browning. Rubs and salts can be more effective at adding flavor. Serve a dipping sauce for additional flavor if people desire.

Myth #4: Light up the whole grill for best cooking.

Fact: Temperature control is a key component of effective grilling and barbecuing. Having two temperature zones - direct, radiant heat for searing, and an indirect zone for grilling meat evenly and preventing burning - can make food more tasty.

Myth #5: More smoke equals better food.

Fact: When cooking, faint wisps of blue smoke are better

because blue smoke is made of tiny invisible particles and gases created by small, hot, fast-burning fires. White smoke generally comes from smoldering wood that is starved for oxygen. All of that white smoke can affect the flavor of the food.

Myth #6: Oil the grates to prevent food from sticking.

Fact: This may or may not work, depending on the temperature of the grates when the oil is applied. A better method is to oil the food, which will be cold so the oil will keep from burning and cracking.

Three Tips To Planning Efficient Home-Cooked Meals

A few generations ago, dining out was an experience reserved for special occasions. However, until recently, when restaurants were shuttered in the wake of the public health crisis prompted by the spread of COVID-19, many people were dining out multiple times a week.

People accustomed to relying on restaurants for meals multiple times per week may be unaccustomed to cooking many meals at home. Learning how to shop for food and prepare items by maximizing available ingredients can reduce trips to the store and help people reduce food waste at a time when food is not as readily available.

Plan meals, Browse Circulars. Meal planning and shopping lists are vital tools for people preparing meals at home. Without doing so, individuals can be left floundering in the supermarket, spending more money than necessary and making impulse purchases (all the while forgetting items they truly need). Use sales circulars to browse weekly discounted items at stores. Build a week's worth of meals off of these sale items - going so far as to write out a menu - then fill in any extra ingredients or staples



needed on a shopping list. Leave a day or two for leftovers. Try organizing the list to follow the natural layout where items are arranged in the store.

Shop Smart. With paper and pen in hand or a digital list compiled on your phone, go aisle by aisle and check off items as they are added to the cart. If you are shopping for food you hope will last a week or more, consider substituting canned and frozen foods and other nonperishables for fresh items because they can be stored for longer periods of time. "Club size" or "family size" packages of foods may cost less per vol-

ume and can be sub-divided and stored for later use.

Minimize Waste. Cook only as much as is needed for the household. Generally speaking, a meat or poultry serving of three to four ounces per person is adequate. That means a roast or steak of 1 1/2 to two pounds is fine for a family of four. Use up older frozen or perishable foods first. Store foods properly and use them before the use-by date. Wrap up leftovers and turn them into new meals.

With proper planning and smart thinking, home cooking can be more efficient and less wasteful.

How Parents Can Create Time Together

Starting a family often requires changing routines. Very often homes become child-centric as activities revolve around the kids. While it is important to be supportive of youth, it's also essential for parents to stake out some alone time so they can enjoy life together.

Marital therapists often state that the first year after a first child is born is the biggest threat to a couple's relationship. Therapists often point out the need for parents to work hard to balance their priorities in order to maintain the family unit, and that means making more time for themselves apart from the kids.

Embrace the date night. Schedule time to be alone with your spouse. The problem with parents not getting enough "me" time is profound enough that Norway, in response to rising divorce rates, issued a plea for parents to embrace "date nights" more frequently. Spontaneous nights away are nice, but even scheduled dates can fit the bill.

Spend time at home. Enforce bed times and routines so you can enjoy time together. If the



kids are bound to sabotage these efforts, call in a favor from a friend or relative to watch the kids elsewhere in the home while you take a much-needed break.

Draw a line. There is a fine line between being an engaged parent and being too heavily involved. Be supportive of kids without doing all the work for them. This will free up time and brain power to engage in shared interests with a spouse.

Perform activities together.

If date night doesn't fit in the budget, find less expensive ways to spend time away from the kids. Adolescents may be able to stay home for an hour alone, and you can take a walk around the neighborhood or go for a scenic car ride.

Making a conscious effort to enjoy adult time can improve relationships with spouses, which can have positive, trickle-down effects on family life.

How Parents Can Diminish Stress

Juggling responsibilities of work and family can make parents feel overwhelmed. That feeling of being stretched too thin can be stressful, which many parents acknowledge is part of their daily lives.

Stress isn't always caused by life-changing events. In fact, a recent study found that the daily worries of bed time, getting homework finished, weekly food shopping, and meal times were parents' biggest stress triggers. The younger the age of the children at home, the more stress many parents say they face.

Stress can have negative physical and psychological symptoms, which have health

risks. Parents can curtail stress by instituting some lifestyle changes and employing other management techniques.

Don't take work stress home, even if you are working from home. It's easy to bring work-related problems home, which can then compound issues at home. Talk to a coworker or a spouse before leaving work to diffuse situations so they can be left at work.

Increase quality family time. Take a break from activities that pull families in different directions. Slow down and schedule fun activities that foster parent-child relationships, such as game nights or

family movie nights. **Seek professional help.** Parents who are having difficulty coping can enlist the services of trained mental health professionals, advises Psychology Today. Therapists can offer helpful strategies for coping with life's challenges.

Stick to a routine. Keeping kids on routine schedules enables parents to know which moments of the day they can get a break to rest and recharge.

Ask for help. Do not be a martyr or attempt to be a superhero. Parents who need help should reach out for assistance, especially if it's to tame stress. Doing so is in the best interest of the entire family.

Stress is something many parents face, but it can be overcome.

Tips When Planting Shade Trees

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) notes shading is the most cost-effective way to reduce solar heat gain in a home. Shading also cuts air conditioning costs, which tend to be expensive in areas with warm, humid climates. Well-planned landscapes can reduce unshaded homes' air conditioning costs by anywhere from 15 to 50 percent.

When planting shade trees, one of the first decisions homeowners need to make is which type of tree, deciduous or evergreen. Deciduous trees seasonally shed their leaves, while evergreens keep their leaves throughout the year. Deciduous trees keep homes cool in the summer by blocking sun, and those same trees in winter after they shed their leaves let the sun in keeping homes warm. Evergreens in winter block wind, potentially preventing cold air from making its way into a home through cracks in walls or around windows.

When planting shade trees, techniques vary depending on which type of tree homeowners ultimately choose to plant.

Deciduous Trees

The DOE says that deciduous trees that are between six and eight feet tall when planted will shade the windows of a home within a year of being planted. Depending on the species of the plant, those same deciduous trees may begin shading the roof within five to ten years of being planted.

Plant trees to the south of the home. When planted to the south of the home, deciduous trees can screen between 70 and 90 percent of the summer sun still allowing residents to feel summer breezes.

Consider sun angles. Homeowners who want to shade their homes from low afternoon sun angles should plant trees with crowns that are lower to the ground on the west side of their homes.

Cool air before it reaches your home. Shrubs and ground-cover plants can be planted to cool air before it reaches a home.

Evergreen Trees Planting evergreens to block wind is known as "wind-breaking," which lowers the wind chill near a home. Wind can be used to cool a home in summer.

Location. The DOE advises planting evergreen trees to the north and northwest of the home to stop wind. In addition, to get the most bang for your wind-breaking buck, the distance between the home and wind-break should be two to five times the height of the mature tree.

Plant trees on either side of the house. Planting trees on either side of the house directs cooling winds toward the home in the summer.

Shade trees can help homeowners reduce their energy bills, making them valuable and attractive additions to any landscape.

Key to Keeping Cool is Proper AC Maintenance

Maintaining an AC unit can save money and protect homeowners' investments. Poor maintenance can lead to system failure just when it is needed most. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, the average lifespan of an air conditioning unit is about 15 to 20 years. With regular maintenance, homeowners can keep their units humming properly and avoid premature replacement costs.

The following are some oft-needed checks and fixes.

Keep it clean. Vacuum the fins and coils of the AC unit on the external compressor/condenser fan with a soft-bristled

brush. Remove any accumulated debris that may be impeding air flow. Inspect the filter periodically to see if it is soiled and needs replacement.

Straighten coil fins. The fins on the condenser are easily bent and can affect the flow of air through the coils. If you cannot easily straighten them, then consult with an HVAC professional to do so.

Check the thermostat. Ensure that the thermostat is working properly. You may want to upgrade an old thermostat to a programmable or smart thermostat that enables you to remotely set and adjust the temperature.

Consider an in-line duct booster. HVAC professionals can guide you through the advantages of an in-line duct booster for forced-air cooling. This can increase the flow of cool air into a room that always seems hotter than the rest. Another option is a vent or register booster fan that sits on top or replaces a traditional floor or wall register.

Deal with condensation. Condensation from air conditioning coils can puddle around the furnace if the condensate drain tube is clogged. Clearing it out helps prevent puddling and formation of bacteria-laden water in the system.

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25 feet

STREET

WALK

AREA B
40 feet
FRONT LAWN

SIDE VIEW OF HOUSE

AREA C
60 feet
BACK LAWN

A Trees That Grow Less Than 25 Feet. This area ends 15 feet away from electric utility wires. Care must be taken to prevent growth into the wires. Call us if you have any questions about planting near utility wires. Some of them carry higher voltages and may require greater clearance distances.

B Trees That Grow No Taller Than 40 Feet. This front area, which is mostly lawn, should be used to decorate or frame your house instead of hiding it from sight. Select your trees first, then shrubs can be added to complement the trees and the house.

C Trees That Grow 60 Feet In Height. Larger trees may be planted at the rear of the house if there are no power lines. Plant at least 35 feet from the house for proper root development and to prevent damage to the house.

Few of nature's gifts are as beautiful as trees. Their beauty is universally appreciated. Less well known is their importance in energy conservation. Evergreen trees planted on the north side of your home block those wintry winds. Trees that lose their leaves in winter belong on the south side. In summer they shade the house. In the winter the bare branches allow the sun to warm the home.

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Decor Ideas to Give Homes a Fresh Look

Spring is a season of rejuvenation, and that spirit of renewal can take hold inside a home. Warm weather and longer hours of daylight make spring a perfect time to imagine a home's interior design in a new light. The following are a handful of decor ideas that may inspire homeowners to give their homes an entirely new look this spring.

Wallpaper: Wallpaper fell out of favor years ago, but new styles that aren't so heavily patterned can make for wonderful additions to any room. Large-scale prints can give a room a whole new feel without giving homeowners or their guests the impression they have stepped back in time. A simple, mural-style floral wallpaper on the walls surrounding a table in a breakfast nook can bring nature inside.

Pastel colors: Nothing embodies spring quite like pastel colors. If colorful, bright flowers dot the garden in the backyard, homeowners can bring those uplifting pastels inside by painting an accent wall or even adding some brightly colored accent furniture

to rooms that could use a lift.

Declutter: Clutter is often conquered during spring cleaning sessions, but homeowners who want to create more free-flowing interior spaces can downsize their furniture and/or look for multipurpose features that make it hard for clutter to take over a room. Create more open space in entertaining areas by mounting the television and getting rid of a bulky entertainment center. Create even more space by replacing rarely used end tables with a storage ottoman where books and magazines can be stored to give a room a fresh, clean look.

Accent features: Sometimes the smallest changes to an interior space make the biggest impression. Replace dated accents like vases and table lamps with newer items that reflect the latest styles and trends. Such adjustments won't break the bank, and they can give rooms a whole new feel.

Spring is a great time to reconsider home interiors. This spring homeowners can embrace various strategies, both big and small, to give their homes a whole new feel.

Home DIY Projects to Conserve Energy

Home renovations that aim to conserve energy can have a positive effect on resale value, make homes more livable for residents and save homeowners substantial amounts of money.

Such projects don't often require considerable effort or even large financial investments.

For example, the U.S. Department of Energy notes that a relatively effortless task like turning back a thermostat between 7° and 10° F for eight hours per day can save homeowners as much as \$83 per year. A more labor-intensive task like planting shade trees saves homeowners an average of between \$35 and \$119 per year.

The DOE notes that the following are some energy-saving projects and details what homeowners can expect to save after completing them. While each individual project may not result in jaw-dropping savings, homeowners who follow many of these recommendations may end up saving more than \$1,000 per year.

Project: Install Exterior Low-E Storm Windows

What is it? Low-e windows reflect infrared heat back into a home. Such windows are coated with an ultra-thin layer of metal that improves the window's insulation ability.

How much can I save? Homeowners who install low-e windows can save between 12 and 33 percent on their annual heating and cooling costs.

Project: Seal Air Leaks

What is it? Air leaks let cool air in during winter and warm air in during summer. Caulking, sealing and weather stripping cracks and large openings can cut back on air leaks that are costing you money. The DOE recommends hiring a contractor to seal any leaks on heating and cooling ducts.

How much can I save? Homeowners who seal uncontrolled air leaks can save between 10 and 20 percent on their annual heating and cooling bills.

Project: Plant Shade Trees

What is it? If you plant a deciduous tree between six and

eight feet tall near your home, it will begin to shade your windows within a year of being planted. Depending on the species of the tree and the home, the shade tree will begin shading the roof within five to 10 years. The DOE notes that shading is the most cost-effective way to reduce air conditioning costs.

How much can I save? Properly planted shade trees can reduce air conditioning costs by anywhere from 15 to 50 percent.

Project: Insulate the Water Heater Tank

What is it? New water tanks are likely already insulated. Homeowners with older hot water tanks can insulate their tanks with a water heater insulating blanket kit.

How much can I save? Insulating a water heater tank can save homeowners as much as 16 percent on their annual water heating bills.

Even the smallest DIY projects can produce big savings. More information about energy-saving home improvement projects can be found at www.energy.gov.

Foods with Ample Antioxidants

Berries, by and large, are fruits that have some of the highest antioxidant levels.

The term "antioxidants" is frequently associated with cancer prevention. Antioxidants are helpful, but many people may not fully comprehend the role antioxidants play in fighting cancer.

Antioxidants are chemicals that interact with and neutralize free radicals, thus preventing them from causing damage. Free radicals are formed in the body by exposure to ionizing radiation and other radiation. An excessive amount of free radicals in

the body can negatively affect cells and potentially lead to the formation of various types of cancer and other diseases.

While the body makes some of the antioxidants it uses to scavenge free radicals and render them ineffective, it also relies on antioxidants from food sources.

So what foods offer the highest levels of potentially cancer-fighting antioxidants?

- Small red bean (dried)
- Wild blueberries
- Red kidney beans (dried)
- Pinto beans
- Cultivated blueberries

- Cranberries
- Cooked artichokes
- Blackberries
- Prunes
- Raspberries

These foods rank high among those with the most antioxidants per serving, according to the USDA. However, many other foods also are great sources of antioxidants. These include russet potatoes, pecans, gala apples, walnuts, Indian gooseberries, cloves, and mint.

Eating a variety of fruits and vegetables, particularly berries, can provide many of the antioxidants the human body needs to neutralize the potential damage caused by free radicals.

Supporting Local Businesses During Mandatory Restrictions

The outbreak of COVID-19 throughout the United States in 2020 transformed American lives in ways never imagined. Social distancing restrictions have a ripple effect on the economy that adversely affected many small businesses.

The U.S. Small Business Administration states small businesses make up 99.9 percent of all businesses in the U.S. and employ 59.9 million employees. Many of these businesses have been hit especially hard as more and more of their regular customers stay at home.

There are ways to support them and help them stay afloat as they confront the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Order delivery. Many restaurants are offering delivery services, be it curbside or at-home, and this can be a great respite



for families who have cooked three meals a day at home for their entire family for extended periods of time.

Recognize more than food is available for takeout. In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, governors have placed relaxations on laws governing what can and cannot be obtained via takeout, allowing takeout on

goods that were previously restricted. Tennessee relaxed some alcohol regulations regarding the takeout and delivery of alcohol. Utilizing such services can be a great way to support local businesses.

Purchase a gift card. Gift cards can help small businesses generate revenue at a time when their doors are largely closed to the public. It also gives consumers something to look forward to when life returns to normal.

Help market local businesses. Spread the word when local businesses deliver in the wake of the restrictions. Share these experiences and urge your neighbors to patronize these businesses.

Communities can come together to support business owners and their employees to help these vital businesses stem the tide.

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Did You Know?

Supporting local businesses has some surprising benefits that can greatly improve life for entrepreneurs and the communities they call home. Large corporations may find it impractical to open up shop in some small towns, villages and rural areas, feeling that the cost of opening and maintaining the business might not be justifiable with such a small potential customer base. In such instances, small businesses offer an invaluable service to their communities, providing readily accessible goods to residents might not be able to or simply don't want to drive long distances to purchase items from the nearest retail center. Small businesses also provide employment opportunities to local residents, which can be especially valuable in communities where jobs are few and far between. Supporting small businesses also can help make communities safer and more stable. When small businesses thrive, they pay more in local taxes, and that increased tax revenue is then used by local governments to fund local schools, police forces and fire departments.

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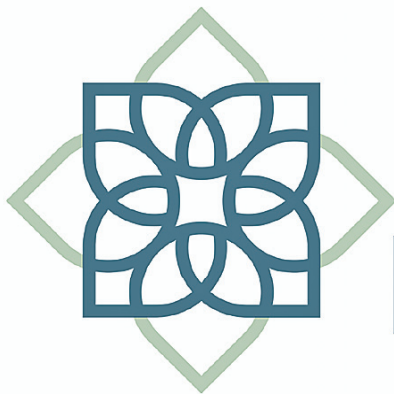
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