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Vol. 155 / No. 13 / 75¢

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OBITUARIES

Wansie M. Benson, 87
Megan White Inman, 40
Gerald Ray, 83
Linda Simmons, 78
Patricia Ann Snyder, 76

QUOTE

"When it is obvious that the goals cannot be reached, don't adjust the goals, adjust the action steps."
— Confucius

City Plans to Replace Aging Tornado Sirens

The tornado siren located at the intersection of Eastwood and Paris Avenue. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

McKENZIE (March 28) — The City of McKenzie's three aging outdoor sirens are in disrepair with one working consistently and one sporadically.

Mayor Ryan Griffin said the city is working to install a new network of five tornado sirens, assuming a grant is received to help pay for those.

The city is seeking \$200,000 in state disaster mitigation funds for the estimated \$187,000 cost for the five sirens and another \$800,000 for the repair of Kencindot Street that partially washed out the major connector street between State Route 124 (Cedar Street) and State Route 436 (Cherrywood Road). Mayor

See SIRENS on Page 3

The old windows were removed and new windows installed at McKenzie High School during the Spring Break. Photo by Joel Washburn/The Banner

Window, Door Replacement Begins at McKenzie Schools

McKENZIE — New windows and doors are being installed at McKenzie High School and McKenzie Middle School.

During Spring Break, crews replaced exterior windows at McKenzie High School. Dr. Justin Barden, the director of schools, stated that 25 to 30 windows will

be replaced at the high school along with several exterior doors. The new windows are shatter-resistant and feature a reflective film. The school was originally constructed in 1997.

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SOLID WASTE COMMITTEE

4.9% Trash Rate Increase Questioned

BY JOEL LANCASTER
jlancastr@mckenzie.banner.com

HUNTINGDON (March 26) — The Carroll County Solid Waste Committee met March 26 to review a solid service rate adjustment from Republic Services, the county's contracted waste hauler, and to evaluate rising costs tied to collection and disposal operations at the local convenience center.

Republic Services has submitted a 4.9% annual rate increase, raising the residential cart rate from \$21.35 to \$22.40, in accordance with its contract's Consumer Price Index (CPI) clause. The CPI formula is based on water, sewer, and trash service indices, with year-over-year adjustments applied at each contract anniversary.

A Republic Services representative said the increase reflects ongoing cost pressures, including the fuel price increase from \$3.73 to \$5.81 per gallon, higher equipment and insurance expenses, and expanded driver training programs. The company emphasized that the adjustment is formula-based and does not exceed contract terms. The county's charges are bundled into a \$25 monthly fee that includes curbside collection. Committee members

See TRASH on Page 3

BETHEL LADY WILDCATS BASKETBALL

2025 NAIA Coach of the Year Chris Nelson earned his 400th career win at home during the NAIA tournament. File photo

Huge NAIA Honors for Coach Chris Nelson, Hart Sisters

Courtesy Bethel SID

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) announced the 2024-25 NAIA Women's Basketball All-America Teams along with the 2025 NAIA Player of the Year and the 2025 NAIA Coach of the Year.

Chris Nelson of Bethel University was named the 2025 NAIA Women's Basketball Coach of the Year.

Nelson turned things around for Bethel in just one year after going

13-16 overall and 0-12 in the Mid-South in 2023-24 to 2024-25, where the Wildcats finished the season with an overall record of 27-8 and 5-7 in conference.

Nelson directed his team to its first Mid-South Conference title this season and continued the season where the Wildcats went on to secure the team's first semifinal appearance at the NAIA Championship.

See NELSON on Page 3

Huntingdon Approves Park Upgrade Plan

HUNTINGDON (March 25) — The Town of Huntingdon approved a master plan to upgrade Kelley Sports Complex during its Tuesday, March 25 meeting of the Huntingdon Mayor and Council.

The \$585,000 plan calls for 50 percent from state grants and 50 percent from local funds to build two baseball fields, add and improve lighting for four fields, add parking and walkways - all accessible to meet American with Disabilities Act requirements. The plan indicates the

See PARK on Page 3

USPS New Standards Now Active

WASHINGTON, DC — The United States Postal Service is implementing refinements to service standards and has launched new online tools and a fact sheet to help customers prepare for the changes. These adjustments will affect First-Class Mail, Periodicals, Marketing Mail, Package Services (including Bound Printed Matter, Media Mail, and Library Mail), USPS Ground Advantage,

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Carroll County 1000-Acre Recreation Lake Planning Commission (L to R): Jeff Heyduck, codes enforcement; John Austin, chairman; Brad Hurley, commissioner, and Donny Buntin, regional planner.

Lake Planning Commission Rejects RV Park Site Plan

HUNTINGDON (March 27) — An incomplete site plan for an recreational vehicle and small cabin park was rejected during the March 27 meeting of the Carroll County Lake Regional Planning Commission on Thursday, March 27.

Mike Zuro submitted the plan during the March 4 meeting for Cassinino Road, near Lake Halford, which lies within the planning region of the Lake Planning Commission. Zuro’s plan calls for 20 RV spaces, seven

rental cabins and a lodge on 8.91 acres.

Zuro said the park would serve the lodging and camping needs for the area.

Donny Buntin, a regional planner with the Northwest Tennessee Development District, said the site plan was incomplete and lacked the necessary information. It is also not on a main arterial road as required by the rules of the Planning Commission. Chairman John Austin said the zoning regulations were designed to

protect the geographic area.

Commissioner Tony Tucker said the site also lacks water and sewer, which must be installed.

Buntin said the county could adopt rules that permit tourist courts, which could create the necessary variances for such a project. However, any changes to the regulations must be approved by both the Planning Commission and the County Commission.

County Budget Committee Reviews Amendments

BY JOEL LANCASTER
jlanaster@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (March 27) — The Carroll County Budget Committee met Wednesday to approve several budget amendments and distribute department proposals ahead of the annual hearings on April 3. Elected department officials and department supervisors will present their proposed budgets for the 2025–26 fiscal year.

Approved amendments included a \$42,434 transfer in the Rural Fire Department to cover salaries

through year-end, along with smaller corrections in the Trustee’s and County Clerk’s offices totaling just under \$1,800.

Committee members were also briefed on upcoming school fund resolutions, including a \$7,500 transfer for trustee commission fees, a \$12,000 reallocation from bus driver wages, and a \$1,000 increase to the career ladder program supported by new revenue.

Department budget packets were distributed for review before next Thursday’s hearings. Officials said court-related departments

would appear in the afternoon due to scheduling conflicts. Committee members were encouraged to prepare questions in advance, as the schedule is expected to be tight.

The committee also briefly discussed increased retirement contribution rates—now set at 7.11 percent—and future capital needs, including fire equipment reported to be more than 30 years old.

The committee will reconvene Thursday, April 3, at 8 a.m. for a full day of hearings.

Private Employers Can Dismiss Workers for Contacting Lawmakers

BY JOEL LANCASTER
jlanaster@mckenziebanner.com

NASHVILLE (March 31) — In a binding decision issued March 27, the Tennessee Supreme Court ruled that private employers may lawfully terminate employees for petitioning state lawmakers, reaffirming that constitutional protections under both the U.S. and Tennessee constitutions apply only to government action—not to private companies.

The case, Heather Smith v. BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee, centered on a former employee who was terminated after emailing State Rep. John Ragan, R-Oak Ridge, during a 2021 special legislative session. In her email, Smith urged lawmakers to intervene against her employer’s COVID-19 vaccine mandate, requesting “legislative protection for ... individual liberties and rights.” Rep. Ragan read the email aloud on the House floor, publicly linking it to ongoing policy discussions.

BlueCross BlueShield cited its internal social media and communication policy in her dismissal. Smith filed suit alleging retaliatory discharge, asserting that her termination violated her constitutional right to petition. A Hamilton County trial court dismissed the suit. The Tennessee Court of Appeals later reversed that ruling, but

the Supreme Court accepted review and overturned the appellate decision.

Chief Justice Holly Kirby, writing for the majority, held that Article I, Section 23 of the Tennessee Constitution, which affirms the right of citizens to apply to government for redress, “does not provide a basis for a retaliatory discharge claim against a private employer.” The opinion emphasized that constitutional rights function to restrict government power, not the conduct of private parties. “For hundreds of years,” Kirby wrote, “the constitutional right to petition has been considered a bulwark against government oppression, not a constraint on private entities.”

Tennessee law does recognize retaliatory discharge in limited contexts, such as whistleblower claims, workers’ compensation filings, and refusals to participate in illegal conduct. However, the court found that no existing statute or public policy shields private employees from termination solely for petitioning lawmakers and declined to extend such protection judicially.

Justice Sarah K. Campbell concurred with the ruling but cautioned that future exceptions should come through legislation, not judicial interpretation. “There are undoubtedly situations in

which the termination of an employee would violate public policy,” she wrote. “But courts are not well-equipped to determine which public policies are sufficiently clear and important to warrant the strong remedy of a retaliatory discharge claim.”

The ruling confirms that in Tennessee, workers employed by private entities have no state constitutional protection when contacting lawmakers—regardless of the content, context, or public importance of their message. This is consistent with long-standing federal precedent. The First Amendment restricts only state action. See *Hudgens v. NLRB*, 424 U.S. 507 (1976).

The decision also carries broader implications for Tennessee’s evolving governance model. As increasing public functions—education, health care, corrections—are outsourced to private actors, constitutional protections do not necessarily follow. Under current law, employees of charter schools, voucher-funded private institutions, or state-contracted health providers may face termination for policy advocacy without constitutional remedy.

No legislation is currently pending to expand speech-related discharge protections for private-sector workers in Tennessee.

FROM VIETNAM TO MCKENZIE

Family Nail Salon Finds a Home

BY JOEL LANCASTER
jlanaster@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE — Ken and his family have been operating their business, Top Nails & Spa, in McKenzie for one year, but their journey started much farther away.

“We come from Vietnam, then from Georgia,” Ken said. “Tifton, Georgia.”

Ken immigrated to the United States in 2017 and lived in southern Georgia before relocating to West Tennessee. The move to McKenzie wasn’t pre-planned—it happened while passing through. “I drive all around and I saw that here, I don’t see any nail salon. Like a real nail salon,” he said. “Some hair salons have nails, but not like dedicated to nails, or like one we have right here.”

That gap in the market led to the opening of a dedicated salon—now operating at its current location for a full year.



The husband and wife duo, Ken and Amy, work together.

The business is family-run, and Ken says the goal is simple: make sure customers leave satisfied. “We try our best to make all the customers happy when they come here,” he said. “If they’re not happy about their service, we fix it.”

Cleanliness is a top priority. “We all follow the state [guidelines] for sanitizing, step by step — so they don’t have to worry,” he added.

Open seven days a week, the shop provides services ranging from basic manicures to complex nail art. Hours run from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday,

with adjusted hours on Sunday.

Prices range from \$15 to \$100 depending on the service. “The customer’s gonna pay what they want,” he said. “If they request any special design, we’re going to tell you how much [it is] before we start.”

Though many of Ken’s relatives still live in Georgia, he and his wife Amy have made McKenzie their home. “My father, my mom and my uncle still [live] in Tifton,” he said. “But only myself and my wife [are here].”

He said the adjustment has been positive. “I like

McKenzie better,” he said. “The people here [are] so nice. The school here is very good for my kids. So, I really love McKenzie.”

While Ken is open to future growth, his focus is steady. “If any nail technician [wants to] come work, yes,” he said. “But right now, I’m happy.”

As for what he hopes customers take away from their visit, the answer is direct. “When they come in, they’re gonna leave happy,” he said. “When they go out, they feel beautiful.”

Top Nails & Spa is located at 15850 N Highland Drive, McKenzie.

McKenzie Fire Department Offering Free Smoke Detectors

MCKENZIE (March 31) — McKenzie residents can now receive free smoke detectors, thanks to a donation from the Tennessee State Fire Marshal’s Office to the McKenzie Fire Department.

The department will also provide free installation as part of an effort to improve home safety and fire prevention throughout the community. The program is open to all residents within the McKenzie city limits.

To sign up for a free smoke detector and installation service, visit: <https://stationboss.net/alarms/request.php?agencyID=401573>.

For more information, contact the McKenzie Fire Department.

out the community. The program is open to all residents within the McKenzie city limits.

To sign up for a free smoke detector and installation service, visit: <https://stationboss.net/alarms/request.php?agencyID=401573>.

For more information, contact the McKenzie Fire Department.



Scan the QR Code to Sign Up for a Free Smoke Detector.

First Baptist Approved For Deed Consolidation

MCKENZIE (March 26) — McKenzie Regional Planning Commission approved a request from First Baptist Church to

consolidate eight individual land parcels into a single deed during the March 26 meeting.

As the lone item on the

agenda, the process was simply procedural during the meeting.

The real estate is located along Church Street in McKenzie and included parcels already owned by the church and some contiguous recently acquired real estate.

County Fire Report Highlights Aging Fleet, Facility Needs

BY JOEL LANCASTER
jlanaster@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (March 27) — The Carroll County Rural Fire Committee received a detailed report Thursday from Chief Jonathan Gaskins outlining the condition of fire apparatus and facilities across the county’s volunteer departments, revealing widespread equipment aging, safety concerns, and infrastructure deficiencies.

Gaskins reported that most frontline fire engines and tankers in the rural system date from the late 1980s to the mid-1990s. Many remain in service despite pump failures, electrical issues, and limited parts availability. One 1981 ladder truck is still operational but lacks current safety certification and is not used for elevated rescue.

Heating failures were reported at multiple stations. In one case, firefighters

relied on portable propane heaters through the winter, raising concerns about pump damage due to freezing. Another unit was deemed non-repairable due to age and system deterioration.

A self-contained air tank breathing apparatus station was taken offline after it was found to lack a filtration system and inspection documentation. Gaskins warned that continued use could pose a carbon monoxide risk to personnel.

Several departments reported challenges related to manual doors, uninsulated metal buildings, and a lack of municipal support. Some volunteers have converted older apparatus into support or rehab units to extend functionality. Gaskins also noted a large number of expired SCBA tanks, which must be phased out for safety compliance.

Financial needs were evident across the system.

One department reported spending over \$4,000 for recent air tank refills, while others are facing heating unit replacements and structural repairs. At least 30 expired SCBA tanks were identified across multiple stations. A replacement unit for Cedar Grove was estimated to cost significantly more than repair due to age and obsolescence. Spray-in insulation, pump repairs, electric door lifts, and air filtration upgrades were among the recurring facility needs discussed.

Despite the aging fleet, Gaskins praised departments for maintaining equipment under tight budgets. Committee members noted the report provided a level of detail not previously presented and thanked Gaskins for compiling a full system overview. Further discussion is expected during the April 3 budget hearings.

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Lady Cats Fall in National Semi-Finals

STIOUX City, Iowa — Bethel's historic season came to an end Monday night in the NAIA Women's National Semi-finals in Sioux City, Iowa as the Lady Wildcats fell 84-52 to the defending champion Dordt Defenders.

Dordt moved to 34-2 on the season while Bethel finished 27-8 on the year.

The Cats trailed 17-14 at the end of the first quarter and 36-28 at the half. A 22-11margin in the third quarter gave the Defenders a comfortable 60-39 advantage through three quarters.

The Wildcats struggled from the field, shooting just 29 percent. Dordt shot 53 percent from the floor. The Defenders had a commanding advantage on the boards at 44-25. Points in the paint were 30-16 in favor of the area team.

Dordt's bench was effective with a 30-11 margin.

Dordt entered the game averaging 19 assists per game, and they had 19 against the Lady Cats.

Janie VanDonge led Dordt with 20 points and 16 rebounds. Gracie Schoonhoven followed with 15 points. Macy Seivers showing why she is one of the best guards in the nation had 14 points, seven rebounds and 11 assists.

MSC Freshman of the Year, Micah Turner led Bethel with 20 points. Madison Hart had 14 points and eight boards.

Coach Chris Nelson shared his thoughts on the game, the season, and his seniors. "We didn't play well tonight but give Dordt a lot of credit. They are long and very good defensively. They showed why they

are the defending national champions." Nelson added, "This one game does not define this team and year. They have given me, our staff, and our fans some of the best days ever. This past month they won a conference title, the first ever Fab Four and memories for a lifetime. They have set the stage for a return to the tournament in the years to come and we look forward to the challenge." Nelson summed up his feelings, "I want to thank our seniors, Kalynn Howard, Brooklyn Williams, and Kyla Taylor for their contributions and leadership. They are all special young ladies. I also want to thank our fans back home and all those who made the long journey here to Iowa to support us. You all are a huge part of our Lady Wildcat program."



Left, 2025 NAIA First-Team All-American Madison Hart hits for three at home during the NAIA tournament. Right, 2025 NAIA Second-Team All-American Micah Hart scores at home during the NAIA tournament. File photos

Nelson

...From Front Page

Coach Nelson's 402 career victories rank him 13th in wins among active women's basketball coaches in the NAIA. He has led Bethel to 12 seasons with 20-plus wins.

During Nelson's tenure as head coach, Bethel has qualified for 15 NAIA national tournaments (2009-11, 2013-2020, 2022 and 2025).

The Lady Wildcats are 173-41 in home games at Crisp Arena since the venue opened in 2012.

MMS Honor Roll, Third Nine Weeks

HONOR ROLL ALL A's

8th Grade

Lillian Brown, Makayla Dabbs, Sophia Dameron, Ryan Davis, Alan Dixon, Clay Fowler, Liam Moore, Mary Morris, Helena Phipps, Dawson Reeder, Hadley Smith, Frances Trout, and Kinsley Wilson.

7th Grade

Andrew Arnold, Abigail Carroll, Graylin Ghyers, Noah Johnsonius, Cooper Jones, Aiden Long, Soksom-bath Long, Katelyn Martin, Samantha Mathis, Cason Mayo, William Newman, Kallie O'Rourke, Ulises Ramirez, Seth Stafford, and Christian Wall.

6th Grade

Brooklyn Andrews, Deacon Barden, Aiden Blackwell, Cooper Cunningham, Eli Davis, Julee Eubanks, Malcolm Evans, Sonny Fuller, Alice Gallimore, Saxon Hayes, BRantzen Melton, and Olivia Shank.

5th Grade

Lola Batton, Addilyn Brown, Ava Diller, Adisyn Doede, Olivia Fontana, Tate Gilbert, Emilee Harris, Neyland Harris, Avacyn Latham, Taylor Little, Aubree Roberts, Bentley Siler, Anna Kate Tucker, Samantha Unsted, Cord Wall, Rumor Weatherford, Parker Wolski,

and Colin Yeley.

MERIT ROLL ALL A's and B's

8th Grade

Kynlee Barden, Noah Bennett, Alleigh Britt, Ka-leigh Champion, Brylie Chester, Grayson Cook, Elissa Doede, Hudson Garrett, Belle Glisson, Shayleigh Lewis, Brin Murray, Tucker Redmond, Sebastian Sass, Maddox Soden, Lola Sumrok, Colby Swalley, Marlee Toombs, and Routon Wilson.

7th Grade

Fisher Allen, Lily Baker, Caleigh Ball, Jackson Barden, Bella Batton, Kaylee Berryhill, Serenity Bobo, Lane Brown, Leighem Broyles, Charlie Cassidy, Colton Cobb, Dakoka Cowan, Riley Crafton, Calista Diller, Finnian Evans, Miles Fontana, Zachary Fuller, Nicholas Ghyers, Gabriel Green, Andres Hernandez, Nevaeh Herris, Emily Jackson, Camden Lee, Milania Long-Townes, Bailee Lovell, Edward Maynard, Joseph McCann, John-Patrick McReynolds, McCoy Merrick, Madilyn Milam, Zoey Neville, Javonte Piro, Mahelet Rivera, Charles Scott, Willow Stenberg, Kristy Towne, Miyah Townes, Reid Warman, and Margaret Webb.

6th Grade

Kayden Adams, Ruthie Adkins, Layla Arnold, Ashton Blackwell, Anna-belle Bobb, Macy Brooks, Kenden Coleman, Zander Cunningham, Micah Dickinson, Karma Durham, Reed Gaskins, Kingsten Gibbs, Jazmin Hernandez, Miranda Hood, Emma Lifsey, Isabelle Long, Sunny Norris, Na'Vadius Owens, Aurora Ozment, Jake Parish, Genevieve Phipps, Mal-lorie Pierce, Sophie Price, Kiya Priddy, Armani Seats, Graham Seavers, Shelby Shaw, Gabriel Sutton, Rex Thompson, and Jamair Weatherford.

5th Grade

Harper Allen, Zoe Avila, Skylar Bass, Samuel Berry, Jax Brown, Brycen Broyles, Zane Campbell, Keegan Clark, Callie Davidson, Andrew Ellis, Brooklyn Fowler, Johnathan Ham, Eilan Harris, Abdoul Jarju, Easton Johnsonius, Tynleigh Kor-negay, Eli Mann, Cohen Martin, Arienna Martinez, Benjamin McCaig, Maggie Merrick, Paisley Morgan, Jaiden Owens, Kirk Phillips, Mateo Rivera, Anna Robert-son, Ruger Schieman, Pres-ley Shipp, Kennedy Steele-Hysmith, Peyton Swafford, Devin Towne, Alayna Twitty, Amelia Walker, and Grayson Wilson.

West Carroll FFA Earns State Recognition at Convention

ATWOOD (March 27) — Fourteen members of the West Carroll High School FFA chapter traveled to Gatlinburg to attend the 97th Tennessee FFA State Convention, held March 23–26. The event brought together chapters from across the state for competition, recognition, and leadership development.

West Carroll FFA members earned multiple honors throughout the four-day convention. Seniors Hannah Fowler, Landon Hudgins and Nick Hudson were awarded the State FFA Degree—the highest recognition offered by the Tennessee FFA Association. The chapter was also named a Superior Chapter and received a 10% Membership Increase Award.

Individually, senior Hannah Fowler was recognized as one of the top three students in Tennessee for her Beef Cattle Production Supervised Agricultural Experience (SAE). Freshman Carson Cooper was named a top three finalist statewide for his Forage Production SAE. Both were recognized



West Carroll FFA State Convention Attendees (L to R): Landon Hudgins, Advisor Noah Rogers, and Hannah Fowler are pictured at the 97th Annual Tennessee FFA State Convention. Hudgins and Fowler were awarded the State FFA Degree—the highest recognition offered by the Tennessee FFA Association.

as regional champions in their respective categories.

Additionally, Fowler, Joy Bryant, Elizabeth Hritz and Rylan Forrest competed in the state Agronomy Career Development Event, placing 13th out of more than 35 chapters—an impressive debut for the chapter in this contest.

West Carroll High School Principal Dr. Adam Douglas said, "These results highlight

or more in a career.

Later in the season, she became the 18th player in program history to collect 500 rebounds or more in a Wildcat uniform.

Micah, a freshman, led Bethel in scoring with 18 points per game. She also led the team in steals. Micah was named the MSC Freshman of the Year.

Both players were named first-team All-MS-C performers.

All of the All-America selections are made by the NAIA Women's Basketball All-America Committee and are comprised of first, second and third teams.

Park

...From Front Page

project would be completed by January 2027, assuming the town is awarded the grant funding.

In other business during the Council meeting, the

board approved the Master Plan for the Kelley Sports Complex and approved a document that indicates to the Tennessee Comptroller's Office that the city will issue \$150,000 capital outlay note for the purchase of three police vehicles.

Mayor Chad Edwards said the police cars should

be manufactured soon and be placed in service at Huntingdon.

Brother Hunter Jones was invited to offer a prayer at the first of the meeting. Mayor Edwards said he will invite ministers in the community to offer a prayer during the monthly meeting.

USPS

...From Front Page

Priority Mail, and Priority Mail Express.

The enhancements are estimated to save the Postal Service at least \$36 billion over the next decade through reductions in transportation, mail and package processing and real estate costs. The service standards refinement will occur in two phases to ensure effective operational implementation: the first phase will begin April 1. The second phase will start July 1.

As part of the ongoing Delivering for America 10-year plan, USPS has already achieved \$2.2 billion in annual transportation cost reductions by streamlining networks and optimizing air and surface options. Additionally, it has decreased work hours by 50 million — translating to \$2.5 billion in annual savings, by enhancing plant productivity and closing unnecessary facilities. At the same time, the Postal Service has increased revenue by \$3.5 billion annually by adapting product offerings amidst significant

declines in First-Class Mail volume.

These newly enhanced service standards align with the Postal Service's operational goals and enable the organization to realize the projected savings while also:

Preserving the current service standard day ranges for First-Class Mail and USPS Ground Advantage, thus ensuring the standard First-Class Mail delivery time will not exceed 5 days.

Enhancing service predictability and reliability.

Offering 2-3-day turnaround service within regions and specific local areas.

Allowing flexibility in regional transportation schedules, which may extend service expectations by one day for mail collected at certain Post Offices, while overall improving delivery speeds for mail and packages between regions.

In preparation for these upcoming changes, USPS has developed user-friendly tools to assist customers in understanding expected delivery times for their mail.

Available Now:

Detailed file specifications for downloadable files with the new standards are

available on PostalPro (Service Standards | PostalPro).

The service standards Application Programming Interface (API) has been updated to include a new presort indicator for First-Class Mail standards. API specs are available now on the USPS Developer Portal (<https://developers.usps.com/>)

Starting March 24:

Customers can look up service standards on usps.com for mailings from one ZIP Code to another on a particular mailing date. The search results will display the available mail classes along with the expected delivery dates for each.

A new interactive map will be available that will display service standards. Customers will be able to enter the ZIP Code they are mailing from along with the mail class to view the expected delivery time.

For additional information about the service standard changes, please go to: <https://about.usps.com/what/strategic-plans/delivering-for-america/details.htm#fcps>

This information will be updated as needed to communicate any new information.

Sirens

...From Front Page

Griffin said the application for the grant started during the Mayor Jill Holland administration and is still an ongoing request for funding. The state's mitigation funds are heavily taxed by the

flooding in East Tennessee and in Obion County, where a levee breached allowing flooding in the area.

McKenzie subscribed to an emergency alert system to warn area residents of certain dangers and severe weather.

Mayor Ryan Griffin said the Everbridge alert system is used for mass notification of severe weather, missing

persons, active shooters, hazardous material spills, etc.

You may register for notifications at <https://member.everbridge.net/311715841441968/new>.

The City of Milan is one of the area municipalities using the system. Griffin said the system costs the city \$2,500.

The system can call or text a cell phone or use a traditional landline for a call.

Trash

...From Front Page

raised concerns about affordability, with at least one citing a recent missed pickup and questioning whether service levels reflect the rate increase. The incident was attributed to a substitute driver unfamiliar with the route. The Republic representative acknowledged the problem and stated it would be addressed internally.

The committee also reviewed increasing expens-

es related to the county's 40-yard roll-off containers, which are provided free to residents for bulky item disposal. Committee members said the containers have helped keep drop-off sites cleaner compared to conditions before their installation, citing fewer incidents of illegal dumping. One recent invoice exceeded \$6,000, with others ranging from \$2,400 to \$5,400.

The current haul rate of \$200 per container reflects a negotiated reduction from earlier rates of \$337.50. Disposal costs have also decreased, but usage remains high—particularly in the

years following the pandemic—placing strain on the county's solid waste budget.

The committee reiterated that the program is intended for residential household waste only, excluding construction materials and rental property discards. No formal changes were proposed, but members agreed to continue monitoring costs and raise the issue with budget officials if needed.

No votes were taken during the meeting. Further discussion with Republic Services is expected as part of the county's ongoing solid waste planning.

Windows

...From Front Page

In the coming months, McKenzie Middle School will receive new exterior doors and a few additional windows. Barden indicated

that this work will be completed during times when school is not in session, specifically on weekends or during summer break. Portions of McKenzie Middle School were built in the 1950s as a cafeteria and gymnasium. A major ad-

dition was completed in 1975 when it transitioned to a high school. In 1997, it became a middle school after the construction of a new high school.

The total guaranteed cost for the windows and doors is \$692,000.

HUNKER DOWN WITH KES

We Are All Brothers in This Game

I was in the baseball locker room before daylight, trying on gloves. My hand went instinctively to the Rawlings XPG6. It was endorsed, with his name embossed on the palm, by Mickey Mantle. It even says “Personal Model.” It had the beautiful “Spiral Top” with the “TRIPLE ACTION” web. And the faded, worn red Rawlings tag on the back strap still proudly proclaims that it was “Made in America.”

I bought this glove at Johnsey Sporting Goods in Jackson, Tennessee, in June of 1966. I tried on every glove in the store. I smelled the leather. I banged my hand into the pocket. I dropped down into a fielding position and simulated catching a two-hop shot hit right at me.

It is the best baseball glove that I have ever stuck my hand into. I was 19 years old, and heading into my sophomore year at the University of the South. I had played my freshman year with a dilapidated 1957 Frank Bolling model Spalding I borrowed from Chick King.

At a whopping \$39.99, the Mantle glove was the most expensive in the store. It was an economic fact in those days we didn’t do “most expensive;” it was always about what we could afford. With Mom’s help, between us, we came up with the money.

It turned out to be the bargain of the century.

Another Major League Baseball season is upon us. I still get a thrill out of “Opening Day.” There are no better words in the English language than a home plate umpire yelling out, “Play Ball!”

Sure, there is another side of the coin (pun slightly intended) in baseball today. It deals with 500-million-dollar contracts, salary arbitration, slow play,

pitch counts, instant replay interruptions....

Many say baseball has taken a back seat to football, March madness, and political boxing. I worry about the “State of America’s Pastime.” It’s like an attack on motherhood, apple pie, Chevrolet, the Fourth of July....

Then, at five-thirty in the morning, I stick my aging fingers into my Mickey Mantle XPG6. I step to the middle of the locker room, and slowly bend my knees and drop into a good, balanced fielding position. I was ready for that two-hop shot whistling towards me.

All is right with the world.

I dug through a pile of gloves and found the two-dollar Revelation Daddy bought from Western Auto. For two dollars you didn’t get Mickey Mantle’s endorsement. Nor did you get a triple action web, much padding in the palm, or leather lacing to hold the fingers together.

I hadn’t even started to school yet when Leon helped me break that glove in. He didn’t begin with two-hop shots. He tossed the ball in the air until I could comfortably catch it. Then he started backing up....and backing up....and backing up!

Leon had absolutely no patience with his bothersome little brother, unless a baseball was involved. He carefully taught me how to get my little fingers across the seams before I threw it. We graduated to ground balls and hitting drills.

“Care for your glove means everything,” he’d say as he judiciously put just a drop of Neatsfoot oil in the palm on my Revelation, and let me gently rub it in. Leon was a different person when it came to baseball!

I noticed it from the get-go. It transformed him.

And I’m telling you, there could only be one explanation.... there is magic in the game of baseball!

I wondered in the pre-dawn morning about other brother combinations I had played with over the years. Did Jackie Burns teach Glen how to throw? And was it the same with Nicky Joe and Ricky Gene Stafford? Bobby C. and Don Melton? Dennis and Keith Coleman? Ralph and Sammy Fisher?

I saw Ralph (second base) and Sammy (shortstop) turn the most unbelievable double play I’ve ever seen at the old field across from the pajama factory. Ricky Gene could keep up the on-field baseball chatter all day long. Bobby C. and Don could both explain baseball to you while they were playing it.

Keith and I played on the old town team. He struck out the side down at Dyer one inning on maybe ten pitches. As we trotted to the dugout I commented, “Gosh Keith, that’s great pitching!”

He shrugged his shoulders, “It was ok.” Keith took the game like a guy ought to. It was serious business to the end. We could relax and celebrate when the game is won....

They can’t mess baseball up today. No power on earth can. We need to set all the “eye wash” aside and get ready to enjoy another year of somebody pitching it, someone hitting it, and some lucky soul out there chasing it down. I can’t wait!

I ran my hand across the jersey I was wearing at that long ago game “down at Dyer.” It, as you can well imagine, has a hallowed spot in the locker room.

As do the memories....

Respectfully,
Kes

Editor’s Viewpoint

BY BRITTANY WASHBURN MARTIN
brittany@mckenziebanner.com



Camping

It’s always nice to get away and go camping, whether by “glamper” (travel trailer) or tent, it’s always an adventure. State parks, surrounded by trees, no cell signal and nothing to do but spend time together is the best. Building a campfire, roasting marshmallows, staring at the sky, watching the clouds or stars, working a crossword puzzle, taking lots of photos, playing ball with the kids, extra cuddles whenever — is my idea of Heaven. My love for these moments started at an early age.

My parents have a long history of camping, when Friday afternoon hit, Dad hitched the camper to the truck and off we went on another adventure. They camped all over Tennessee and in Kentucky and Mississippi. It made for the best memories growing up.

I spent much of my time on the playground, riding my bike, swimming or exploring the woods. I’d stay gone for hours, no cell phones back then. In hindsight, it’s a little concerning that my parents weren’t more worried, but it was a different time then; you could go explore without the fear of abduction. Maybe the possibility of abduction was still there, but my cousins and I didn’t have a care in the world, we were having fun.

My parents had a travel trailer until sometime between my high school and

college years, when they sold it. It became harder to get away with busy lives and busy schedules. So camping adventures took a backseat for a while, but we never fully detoxed from our love of it.

Mom and I went tent camping a few times at Columbus Belmont in Kentucky. Sleeping on the ground in a nylon safe house, in 50 degree weather, hearing coyotes in the tree line nearby is my jam. Ironically though, I’m not a big fan of bugs. Mom’s hidden talent is finding a way to cook full meals using only a George Foreman and a portable cook top. If you know her you’re probably saying, “of course she cooked full meals in a tent.”

Then, my parents got a pop up camper and Jason and I used that a few times to camp and it was everything. In 2017, Jason and I bought a small 19 ft camper and the adventures continued.

You learn a lot owning your first camper.

For example, chock the wheels before unhitching the camper from the truck. Sway bars are a necessity. All the bridges on I-840 make for a very bumpy ride, sometimes resulting in a flat tire. Always have a spare and an impact drill.

If you think you have all the tools you’ll need, you don’t.

YouTube is your best friend, as long as you have cell signal or wifi. The pilot light can be the most frustrating part of the camper if it doesn’t stay lit.

Water heaters are a nightmare if the last owner forgot to winterize. Seeing a waterfall coming out the bottom of the camper (because the

water heater burst) is next level terrifying.

I started to wonder if I was really cut out for this adulting thing, maybe I’m in over my head.

An on demand water heater can be great once you get past the pain of installing it correctly.

If you don’t level the camper, the bathroom door will hit you in the butt all weekend.

And life tip, you should always apologize for what was said while trying to park the camper.

After all of that, you may need a vacation from your vacation.

After the kids came along, we needed a bigger camper with bunk beds, and I’m in love with this one, mainly because the kids absolutely love it too. They always wanted to be outside camping, swimming, playing, riding - sound familiar?

And now the story has come full circle.

We spent part of their Spring Break camping at Columbus Belmont. They played on the playground I used to play on (it has changed a little since then). They explored the trenches like I did so long ago. They went on a walk with Jason. They blew bubbles. We snuggled. They had a blast and I got lots of photos.

The air conditioner froze up for a while, but it was cool enough that we didn’t really need it. We opened all the windows and let the breeze blow through the camper. We built a fire and sat and watched the clouds go by.

As soon as we got home, the kids were asking, “when are we going back?”

Hopefully very soon. I hope you all had a good week as well. Stay safe.

THE WIT AND WISDOM OF DAVID JOHNSON

I Can’t Find My Belt Buckle

Recently, as I was getting dressed, I complained to my wife, “I can’t find my belt buckle.”

A little side note here: Why is it that husbands immediately assume anything that’s lost can be found by their wives?

Come to think of it, don’t kids assume the same thing about their mothers? As in,

- “Hey mom, I can’t find any socks.”
- “Momma, where’s my toothbrush?”
- “Momma, I can’t find one of my shoes.”

The remarkable thing is your wives and mothers know EXACTLY where to find things. You walk into a teenager’s bedroom that looks like it’s been hit by a cyclone and point out the missing shoe or sock.

But, back to me and my lost belt buckle.

Ever since high school, I’ve been tall and thin and endured all those skinny jokes while in school. One time, a number of years ago, while on a horseback ride in the Smokey Mountains with friends, we got soaked by a thunderstorm. Once the rain stopped, us guys took off our shirts, wrung them out, then hung them on the saddle horn to dry. My best friend looked at me and remarked, “You look like a starving Indian.”

(That’s just the kind of best friend he is.)

There was no point in arguing with him or getting my feelings hurt when in truth my ribs looked like a xylophone.

In recent years, though, I’ve had to add an extra hole toward the end of my belts, snakeskin belts that I’ve had for twenty years and never replaced because they were handmade by my good friend, Felipe, in Honduras and have sentimental value.

Adding an extra hole is an admission of guilt.

“Yes, your honor, I’ve gained some weight.”

Pounds have a sinister way of sneaking onto your body. It’s like a friend declared at a thirty-year class reunion, “I’ve done pretty good with my weight. I’ve only gained three pounds a year.” (I’ll let you do the math on that one.)

If we gained fifteen or twenty pounds overnight, we would immediately be alarmed and do something about it. But, hey, three pounds in one year? What’s the big deal?

So, for several years now, when cinching my belt, I slip that little thingy on the belt buckle that goes in the hole (its technical name is the prong, but I had to Google to find out) into the last hole.

Putting on a belt, I slide it through the belt loops (don’t forget that loop in the back), bring it end to the front, stick it through the frame of the buckle, stick the prong in, then put the tip in that thingy (Google didn’t know the answer to that one) that keeps the belt from dangling down. Easy peasy.

However, on the morning in question, I looked down and couldn’t find my belt buckle because I couldn’t see it, because it was hidden under the overhang of my stomach! How did that happen seemingly overnight?

I immediately thought of how for years I’d silently made fun of men whose belt followed the shape of a parabola rather than a straight line around their waist because their girth was completely out of control.

“That’s what you get for being insensitive,” I told myself.

So, now, I’m on a mission not to lose weight but to find my belt buckle. I fear finding it will be much less enjoyable than losing it.

Wish me luck.

** Taken from The Wit and Wisdom of David Johnson, Volume 11: The Hairy Catfish Caper.*



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Periodical Postage
Paid at McKenzie, TN

PRINTED BY OFFSET
Published Each Tuesday
at 3 Banner Row
McKenzie, TN 38201-2230

POSTMASTER:
Send Address Changes to
McKenzie Banner,
3 Banner Row,
McKenzie, TN 38201-2230



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Obituaries

GERALD RAY
1941 – 2025

HUNTINGDON — Mr. Gerald Ray, 83, of Huntingdon, died Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at Patriot Health and Rehabilitation Center in Paris.

Funeral services were Monday, March 31, 2025, at Old Bethel Baptist Church in Palmersville, Tenn. Interment was at Old Bethel Baptist Church Cemetery.

Mr. Ray was born November 15, 1941, in Weakley County, to the late Alvie Payne Ray and Estella Parham Ray.

He is survived by his wife, Brenda Ray of Huntingdon; one daughter, Jacqueline (Patrick) Powers of Dresden; five grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

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

MEGAN WHITE
INMAN
1984 – 2025

HUNTINGDON — Megan White Inman, 40, of Huntingdon, died in the early morning of March 16, 2025, in her home, surrounded by family and friends.

She is leaving behind her loving husband, Chase; one daughter, Mackenzie Mae Dunbar; two sons, Myles Cope and Maddux Inman; her mother, Melinda Vailes; her maternal grandparents, Billy and Louise Baker; and one sister, Michelle White (Dustin).

A Celebration of Life was Saturday, March 29, 2025, at the Huntingdon Missionary Baptist Church, 11110 Lexington Street, Huntingdon, TN 38344.

WANSIE BENSON
1937 – 2025

HOLLOW ROCK — Mrs. Wansie M. Benson, 87, of Hollow Rock, died Saturday, March 22, 2025, at Baptist Reynolds Hospice House in Collierville.

Funeral services were



Egg Custard Pie

4 eggs
2/3cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/4 teaspoon nutmeg
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups milk, scalded
1 pie shell, unbaked
Heat oven to 350 degrees.
Put the eggs, salt, sugar, nutmeg and vanilla into mixing bowl.

Whip until sugar is dissolved and eggs lemon-colored. Add milk; whip until well blended.

Pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake for about 30 minutes or until done.

Orange Slice Cake

1 (7 oz.) package coconut
1 cup dates
1 cup margarine
4 whole eggs
2 cups pecans
1 1/2 cup sugar
2 cups flour
1 teaspoon soda
1/2 cup buttermilk
1 (12 oz.) pkg orange slices

Cut nuts, dates, orange slices in small pieces.

Mix with other ingredients and cook at 350 degrees until done, about 1 1/2 hours.

Plum Pound Cake

2 cups self-rising flour
2 cups sugar
1 cup Wesson oil or Crisco
2 small jars plum baby food
4 eggs
1 teaspoon cinnamon
1 teaspoon vanilla
1 cup chopped pecans

Mix and pour in greased tube pan. Bake one hour at 350 degrees.

Thursday, March 27, 2025, in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home. Interment was in the Prospect Cemetery.

Mrs. Benson was preceded in death by her husband, Marvin Bates Benson; and her parents, Vernon Guthrie Medlin and Cleo Nell Medlin.

She leaves behind two children, Sharon Fletcher (James) of Cordova, Tenn., and Phillip Benson (Cathy) of Horn Lake, Miss.; and six grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

LINDA SIMMONS
1946 – 2025

HOLLOW ROCK — Mrs. Linda Simmons, 78, of Hollow Rock, died Friday, March 28, 2025, at her home.

Funeral services were in the Chapel of Chase Funeral Home on Monday, March 31, 2025, at 2 p.m. with Bro. Joey Simmons officiating. Burial followed in Pisgah Cemetery in Hollow Rock.

Mrs. Simmons was born June 15, 1946, in Jackson, to the late James Lester and Oma Lee Scott Ellis. Besides her parents, she was preceded in death by a grandson, Ethan Jernigan; two brothers, Scotty and Leslie; and her beloved grandmother, Nancy Ellis.

She is survived by her husband of 61 years, Bailey Simmons; two daughters, Tracy Jernigan (Carl) of Hollow Rock, and Jackie Morris (Scott) of Murfreesboro; a son, Joey Simmons (Monica) of Hollow Rock; six grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

PATRICIA SNYDER
1948 – 2025

HUNTINGDON — Mrs. Patricia Ann Snyder, 76, of Huntingdon, died Sunday March 23, 2025, at Jackson Madison County General Hospital.

Mrs. Snyder was born

May 16, 1948, in Murray, Ky., to the late Hughie Turner and Mary Nell McKinney. In addition to her parents, she is preceded in death by husband, Hal Snyder and one sister, Sandra Turner. She was a proud member of Ephesus Missionary Baptist Church.

She is survived by two daughters, Angela (Jason) Pillow of Huntingdon=, and Helen (Michael) Robertson of Springville, Tenn.; one brother, Albert (Betty) Turner of Aurora, Ky.; five grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren; and three great-great-grandchildren.

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MACEDONIA COMMUNITY CENTER CAKE WALK

Macedonia Community Center, 4680 Highway 423, McKenzie, is hosting a cake walk on April 11. The event features live music, hamburgers, hot dogs. The music and food starts at 5:30 p.m. and the cake walk at 7 p.m.

McKENZIE SENIOR CENTER EVENTS

Thursday, April 3 — BIN-GO at 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 5 — Dance with music by Larry Morgan, 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, April 9 — Senior Movie “Last Breath”, 2 p.m. at the Park Theatre.

Thursday, April 10 — BIN-GO at 2:30 p.m. at the Center.

Saturday, April 12, 5 p.m. — All you can eat Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser for our community outreach program. Spaghetti, salad, garlic bread, dessert and beverage for \$10.

Every Tuesday — Jam session with Steve Morris, 6 p.m. Open to the public.

PASTA DINNER TO HELP HUMANE SOCIETY

Carroll County Humane Society is hosting an online fundraiser to help with the shelter animals’ medical expenses. What is better than pasta? Fun delicious pasta that’s made in Nashville in all the fun shapes.

Please get your orders in before April 8 and as always, we appreciate your support! <http://funpastafundraising.com/2025-spring-carroll-county-humane-society/catherine-clark/>

McKENZIE HIGH SCHOOL DECADES REUNION

McKenzie High School is hosting the annual football Homecoming on Friday, September 19, 2025. The Rebels will play Camden

Lions at Rebel Stadium. In conjunction, the MHS Alumni Association will host its second annual Decades Reunion. Any MHS class hosting a reunion should contact the MHS Alumni Association to help promote the class reunion.

CARROLL COUNTY SPORTS HALL OF FAME CEREMONY

The Carroll County Sports Hall of Fame induction ceremony is Saturday, May 3 at 6 p.m. at the Carroll County Civic Center. The event will honor one male and one female senior from each high school, along with outstanding athletes who have graduated from the five local high schools. For ticket information, contact Lex Suite at 731-415-2834.

TCAT-McKENZIE SKILLSUSA FUNDRAISERS

Are you hungry to help SkillsUSA competitors compete at the state level? TCAT Henry/Carroll at McKenzie’s local SkillsUSA officers are hosting fundraisers to raise money for state competition. Come out and support our competitors going to the 2025 STATE Leadership and Skills Conference.

Friday, April 4 at 11 a.m. — Mr. Tim Fann’s chili plate. Comes with 2 chili dogs and a bag of chips for \$6 per plate.

CARROLL COUNTY DEMOCRATIC PARTY REORGANIZATION

The Carroll County Democratic Party Reorganization Convention is Thursday, April 10 at 7 p.m. at the Huntingdon Police Station, located at 1160 Lexington Street. Doors open at 6 p.m.

RELAY FOR LIFE CANCER BAKE AUCTION IS APRIL 14

The annual Carroll County Relay for Life Cancer Bake Auction is April 14-18, 1-4 p.m. at McKenzie Church of Christ, 16300 Highland Drive, McKenzie. The auction is hosted live on radio station WHDM, 1440 AM and 98.9 FM. each day. Tune

in to place your bids and support cancer research and care. The Church of Christ opens daily at 7:30 a.m. for in-person activity and support. For more information, call 731-333-0194.

PREMIER FURNITURE RIBBON CUTTING

Premier Furniture in downtown McKenzie is having a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Friday, April 4, 11 a.m. McKenzie Chamber of Commerce is hosting the event.

WEST CARROLL BAND BENEFIT, SONGWRITER SHOWCASE

A dinner, concert and silent auction are planned for Saturday, April 5 at the Carroll County Civic Center. The doors open at 5 p.m. and the silent auction is 5 to 7:30 p.m.

Dinner with entertainment from West Carroll Band Members Jace Hammett, Cole McMinn and Sawyer Sutton is 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

The Songwriters Showcase is 6:30 to 8 p.m. with Brice Ling, Deric Ruttan, and Philip White.

For ticket information, contact Jenny Mims at 731-415-3760.

UPCOMING DATES, EVENTS

The following list of events was provided by Carroll County Chamber of Commerce. Specific information about events may be available at a later date.

May 1 — National Day of Prayer.

May 3 — Carroll County Sports Hall of Fame and Bethel University Spring Commencement.

May 17 — Bruceton in May.

May 22 — Chamber Golf Tournament.

May 22 — Last day of school spring semester.

May 26 — Huntingdon and McKenzie Memorial Day Celebrations.

June 28 — Eastview Fireworks Celebration.

July 4 — McKenzie and McLemoresville July 4th Celebrations.

August 5 — 2025-2026 school year begins.

August 22-23 — McKenzie Sweet Tea Festival.

September 27 — Huntingdon Heritage Festival.

October 13-17 — Fall Break.

October 27 — County Chamber Banquet.

November 7-8 — Carroll County Christmas Market.

November 24 — Ducks Unlimited Banquet.

December 19 — Last day of fall semester.

LOW-INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE

The Northwest Tenn. Economic Development Council is accepting applications for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program. This program assists low-income households through direct energy payments to their energy provider. Individuals interested in applying for the LIHEAP Program should make an appointment at the Northwest TN Economic Development Council office in their county of residence. Go to our website for county site contact information: nwcommunityaction.org.

HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATION OF THE ARTS APRIL 12

Carroll Arts, Inc. presents the Celebration of the Arts, a free event showcasing Carroll County high school students involved in the arts, will be held on Saturday, April 12 at The Dixie Carter Performing Arts and Academic Enrichment Center in Huntingdon. The celebration is open to all high school students in Carroll County to exhibit or perform in the areas of visual arts, music, and drama. Performers will take to The Dixie stage to display their talents and artwork will be prominently displayed in the gallery. The art exhibit starts at 6:30 p.m. and performances start at 7 p.m. If students are interested in participating, please reach out to your school’s art, drama, band, or guidance counselor.

Carroll Arts, Inc. is a non-profit dedicated to shin-

ing a light on the arts in Carroll County, Tenn. To learn more, e-mail carrollartsinc@gmail.com.

Other upcoming events include: An Evening with Carroll Arts is June 21; The Creativity Camp for Carroll County elementary and middle school students is July 7-11; Southern Fried Funnies during McKenzie’s Sweet Tea Festival in August; Storytelling during the Huntingdon Heritage Festival in September; A Mistletoe Christmas Program during McKenzie’s Christmas Celebration in December; and the 15th Annual Trivia Bowl in January 2026.

CAPITOL TALK DATES RELEASED

The Carroll County Chamber of Commerce announced upcoming final date for “Capitol Talk” Senator John Stevens will be at the Civic Center on Friday, April 11. Events start at 8 a.m. with remarks from 8:10-8:30 a.m. and question and answer from 8:30-9 a.m.

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

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

CARROLL HUMANE SOCIETY EVENTS

Cat Vouchers

We always have spay/neuter vouchers for cats at a cost of \$60 and to be used at Paris Vet Clinic. If you need to pay with cash, come by the shelter to purchase. Otherwise, we have a NEW NUMBER to purchase using a credit/debit card. Please leave a message and the volunteer will return your call very soon, 731-514-0878.

Dog Vouchers

Dog vouchers are available for \$60 each cash or card only. These must be purchased at the shelter

during business hours Tuesday-Saturday 8 a.m.-12 p.m. Appointments will be made at the time of purchase. The participating vet clinic is Huntingdon Animal Clinic. You’ll be responsible for paying the clinic when you pick up your animal. We do recommend that you have your pet vaccinated due to exposure to other animals. Puppies must be a minimum of 4 months of age (older if small breed) at the time of surgery.

McKENZIE TOPS MEETS MONDAYS

The McKenzie Chapter of TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets Mondays at 3 p.m. at the McKenzie Church of Christ gym. Anyone interested in losing weight can join. The first meeting is free. For more information, call (731)- 352-7309. If no answer, leave a message.

CARROLL DEMOCRATIC PARTY MEETS

The Carroll County Democratic Party meets the third Thursday of every month at 6 p.m. at 12740 Lexington Street, Huntingdon.

CARROLL REPUBLICAN PARTY MEETS

Carroll County Republican Party meets monthly each fourth Tuesday, 7 p.m. in the Public Safety Building in Huntingdon.

CARROLL COMMISSION MEETS MONTHLY

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

GET THE WORD OUT

The newspaper publishes most news items for free. Submit to EVENT@mckenziebanner.com or call 731-352-3323 Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m.-4 p.m. Thank you for reading and supporting your community newspaper.



Rotary Hears about L.I. Smith company during the March 25 meeting. Pictured are Christy Williams, Rotary President; Patrick Smith, President of L.I. Smith; Ashley Horn, Marketing Director of L.I. Smith; and Ricky Price, Rotary Vice-President.

Rotary Members Learn About L.I. Smith

McKENZIE (March 25) — McKenzie Rotary mem-

bers heard about L.I. Smith, a full-service, integrative engineering and surveying company that provides services to the public and private sectors.

Patrick Smith is the president of the Paris Tennessee-based company.

Smith said his company works to give back to the area communities and hire locally. The company has 50 employees in Paris and Nashville.

Ashley Horn, marketing di-

rector, serves on the McKenzie Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors as part of the outreach of the company to serve the surrounding communities.

Patrick is a second-generation owner of the company. He is a licensed engineer and works to attract other engineers to the rural area. One thing COVID taught America is the fact one can live anywhere and work on projects everywhere.

Agenda for West Carroll Special School District

West Carroll Board of Education Meeting Agenda: April 3, 2025, 6:30 p.m.

West Carroll Jr/Sr High School Cafeteria.

Approve Resignation of Mr. Adam Dowland.

Recognition WCJSHS FFA Agriculture Awards and Spring Plant Sale — Mr. Noah Rogers.

Discuss/Select WCJSHS 50/100 lb. daily capacity composter bids (Perkins Reserve Grant) — Director Caldwell.

Discuss/Approve WCSSD Science Textbook Adoption for 2025/2026 SAVVAS — Mrs. Michelle Matthis.

Discuss/Approve WCJSHS Girls Basketball Field Trip Request to Waynesboro, TN

for June 8th through June 11, 2025 (Two Readings Required) — Coach Ryan Mansfield.

Discuss/Approve Policy 6.411 Student Wellness (1st Reading) — Director Caldwell.

Discuss/Approve WCSSD Resolution to participate in section four (4) of The Education Freedom Act of 2025 Certified Teacher Bonus (\$2,000.00) — Director Caldwell.

Review WCSSD 5-year Strategic Plan — Director Caldwell.

Public Comment (*Prior Approval Required). Principal Reports.

Director of Schools Report. Adjourn.



Local band 24 Seven performed at the Bow Wow at the Barn. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Carroll County Humane Society Hosts Bow Wow at the Barn

BY BRAD SAM

brad@mckenziebanner.com

McKENZIE (March 22) — The Carroll County Humane Society hosted its annual Bow Wow at the Barn Saturday at The Venue at Waddell Place to raise funds for the non-profit organization’s needs.

The event featured live music by 24 Seven, food catered by Bealla Q and a silent auction with dozens of items.

Sponsors and donors for the event included The Venue at Waddell Place, The Dixie PAC, Carroll Insurance, McKenzie City Florist, Madi & Co., Widget’s World

Domination Plan, Cornerstone, Small Town Blessings, Geneva Roberts, Black Heart, Mo’s on Main, Maple on Main, Addi Claire’s Sweet Treats, Beauty Sense Med Spa, Linda Baggett, Patti Hill, Wild Roots, Velvet Cactus, Huntingdon Animal Clinic and Hair and Nails by Brookelyn.

FFA Plant Sales Set for McKenzie, West Carroll

McKENZIE (March 31) — Local Future Farmers of America (FFA) chapters are preparing for their annual plant sales, offering a wide selection of flowers, vegetables and hanging baskets just in time for spring planting.

McKenzie High School’s FFA plant sale opens Friday, April 11, from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and continues Saturday, April 12, from 8 a.m.

to noon. Beginning April 14, the greenhouse will be open weekdays from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. until sold out. The sale features dozens of plant varieties, including vinca, coleus, geraniums, marigolds, sweet potato vines and dwarf sunflowers. Hanging baskets, succulents and mixed planters are also available. Cash or check are accepted.

West Carroll FFA will hold

its sale Friday, April 19, from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the greenhouse on Norris Robinson Loop, 760 Highway 77 in Atwood. More than 30 types of bedding plants will be offered, along with tomato and pepper starters, succulents, and large porch pots. Prices range from \$3 for vegetable 4-packs to \$30 for 14-inch fern baskets. A silent auction will conclude at 1 p.m., and food will be available on site.

Proceeds support student agriculture projects and greenhouse operations. Donations are welcomed at both locations.

Parisian

THEATRE

Jim Adams Drive
Paris, TN • 642-1696

THE CHOSEN:
LAST SUPPER PART I

Tues. 7:00
Wed. 7:00
Thurs. 7:00

A WORKING MAN (R)

Tues. 7:25
Wed. 7:25
Thurs. 7:25

WOMAN IN THE YARD (PG-13)

Tues. 7:35
Wed. 7:35
Thurs. 7:35

SNOW WHITE (PG)

Tues. 7:25
Wed. 7:25
Thurs. 7:25

CAPTAIN AMERICA: BRAVE
NEW WORLD (PG-13)

Tues. 7:30
Wed. 7:30
Thurs. 7:30

LAST BREATH (PG-13)

Tues. 7:35
Wed. 7:35
Thurs. 7:35

INFOLINE 731-642-7171

All Movies Now in
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4036703-1

McKenzie Police Reports

Violation of Probation — Lauren Marie Parker, 42, Maple Avenue, McKenzie, was charged with Violation of Probation on March 28.

Officer Dustin McClure went to Parker’s residence to serve two outstanding warrants out of Davidson County and arrested Parker on the above charges.

Domestic Assault — Travis A. Ideus, 28, Birmingham Lane, McKenzie was charged with Domestic Assault on March 26.

Officer Matthew Cunningham, and Sgt. Cody Coleman and Patrolman Batchelder responded to the lobby of McKenzie Police Department where three individuals were arguing.

The incident involved Ideus, his ex-girlfriend and his current girlfriend.

The ex-girlfriend needed some items she had left behind at Ideus’ residence. Ideus reportedly threatened the ex-girlfriend by stating he had a handgun with the ex-girlfriend’s

name on it. Ideus was arrested and transported to Carroll County Jail.

Domestic Assault — Terrance T. Davis, Jr., 22, Walnut Circle, McKenzie, was arrested on March 27.

Officer Dustin McClure witnessed a female and male walking and stopped to speak with the female, who he was aware had an active order of protection. A request for identification of the male and a check with the crime computer resulted in the arrest of the male subject, Davis on an outstanding warrant from Shelby County. He was transported to Carroll County Jail on the charge of Domestic Assault in Shelby County.

Failure to Appear — Ryan John O’Rourke, 40, Poplar Avenue, McKenzie, was arrested on a Failure to Appear warrant on March 27.

Officer Dustin McClure and Sergeant Davis served the warrant on O’Rourke at his residence. He was

transported to the Carroll/Weakley County line where Weakley County officers took custody of him.

Failure to Appear — Daryl Eugene Ross, 66, Winston, Paris, was arrested on an outstanding warrant for Failure to Appear.

Officer Bryan Batchelder, Sergeant Cody Coleman, and Officer Matthew Cunningham responded to Reynolds Street where they had knowledge Ross could be located. Ross was placed under arrest and transported to Carroll County Jail.

Contempt of Court — Christopher B. Page, 41, Highway 69, Paris, was arrested for Contempt of Court on March 26.

Sergeant Cody Coleman stopped a vehicle for speeding. After checking the driver’s and then the passenger’s identification, Page was arrested on four active warrants out of Henry County for Contempt of Court. He was transported to Carroll County Jail.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL



Left, Mustang Owen Kreuziger got the start, allowing two earned runs on ten hits while striking out five and walking none in six innings of work. Right, Rebel pitcher Tate Surber makes the throw to first baseman Craegen Travis to get Mustang Gray Eubanks out on a bang-bang play. Photos by Joel Washburn/The Banner

Mustangs Top Rebels, 5-2

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

HUNTINGDON (March 28) — Huntingdon High School hosted McKenzie Friday as part of the Diamond Club Classic. Despite outhitting Huntingdon 10-1, the Rebels managed only a couple of late runs as the Mustangs won 5-2.

Huntingdon struck first with three runs in the bottom of the second inning and added a pair in the sixth. McKenzie plated two runs in the top of the seventh.

Mustang Caleb Ezell was

1-for-2 with a walk and two RBIs. Braylin Dearmon was 0-for-0 with three walks and a run scored. Hayes Eubanks went 0-for-1 with two walks and a run scored. Braylon Rich was 0-for-3 with a walk and an RBI.

Rebel Fletcher Holt hit 2-for-3 with a walk. Xander Johnsey was 2-for-4 with a double and a run scored. Cole Brown went 2-for-4 with an RBI. Ace Brown batted 1-for-3 with a run scored. Tate Surber was 1-for-4. Maddox Shiell went 1-for-3. Cooper Davidson was 1-for-4.

Owen Kreuziger got the

start for Huntingdon, allowing two earned runs on ten hits while striking out five and walking none in six innings of work. Braylin Dearmon threw the final inning, allowing no runs or hits while striking out one and walking one.

Tate Surber started for McKenzie, allowing three unearned runs on one hit while striking out eight and walking nine over five innings. Fletcher Holt pitched the final inning, allowing two runs (one earned) with no hits or walks and one strikeout.

Carroll County Sheriff’s Reports

Simple Assault Domestic — On March 21, Deputy Avalon received a call in reference to a domestic and aggravated assault. Derek Scott Baker, 43, of Trezevant, is accused of verbally assaulting and threatening family members with a handgun.

Possession of Sch. VI — On March 22, Deputy Alex Sherwood performed a traffic stop on a vehicle in McKenzie after smelling a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. The driver, and only occupant Donavan Teague, 23, of Paris, had a marijuana blunt in his ashtray still burning and had about an ounce of marijuana in his backpack. He was issued a citation for Simple Possession with a booking date of March 31st.

Driving on Revoked

License — On March 22, Corp. Jeremy Smith stopped Davyontae Vaughn, 21, of Trenton for a license plate violation. After a driver’s license check it was discovered that his license was suspended. He was cited into General Sessions Court.

Domestic Assault — On March 23, Cameron Hernandez, 23, of Paris, was arrested for Domestic Abuse to an ex-girlfriend. He was picked up at his house in Paris and was transported to Carroll County Jail.

DUI — On March 25, Deputy Alex Sherwood made contact with a vehicle stopped in the gravel area of Hwy. 77 and Hwy. 79 in Atwood. The driver, Mia Rhyne, 32, of Trezevant, appeared intoxicated. Rhyne advised that she had consumed a

couple of drinks but later recanted that statement. After a search, a bottle of liquor was found open and half empty and a loaded 9mm handgun was found in the glove box. She was transported to Carroll County Jail.

Drug Violation — On March 25, Deputy Alex Sherwood performed a traffic stop on a vehicle failing to maintain lane and having illegal window tint on Tate School Road off Highway 70, Huntingdon. The driver, Joe Harmon III, 37, of Cedar grove, gave consent for the vehicle to be searched. A small bag of meth, marijuana, two meth pipes, a plastic straw, and synthetic urine were all found. He was transported to Carroll County Jail.

Property Transfers

Philip Frederick Issler Jr. to Philip Frederick Issler Jr.

Jerry Robert Sr. and Barbara Ann Phipps to Jerry R. Phipps Jr. in District 22.

Deborah Cupples to Jeffrey L. Lamonte in District 4.

Joe J. and Pamela K. Barker to Hunter Austin Barker in District 11.

Phillip and Charlotte White to The White Family trust in District 11.

Jason Hale to Cody Gregory in District 4.

John Franklin and Irene D. Smith to John Franklin and Irene D. Smith in District 4.

Bob Page Jr. Family, LLC to Mason Nelson Farms, LLC in District 2.

Arnold and Janet Lynette Trueman to Michael and Jeanine O’Brien.

Joseph N. and Lindsey D. Foster to Philip E. Moore in District 24.

Roy Stephen Stokes to Lea Elizabeth Stokes in District 24.

James E. and Teresa J. Speer to Rebecca Robertson.

David W. and Nancy G. Hicks to Robert E. Sr. and Pamela L. Freeman in District 22.

James Robert Bohanek to Kaley Coleman in District 4.

Lighthouse Investments, LLC to Robert Max Claunch.

Meredith Kelley Surber to Bryan Lee and Reba Leggett Davis in District 11.

Thaddeus Gilley to Jacob Rolanda and Alyssa J. Bullington.

Alexis Raeann and Richard

W. Bartsch Sabye to Gabriel Jr. and Angela Ortiz in District 16.

John and Joyce Hamilton to Jose Becerra Hernandez

in District 22.

Jessica Kathleen Hightower to James Williams.

Rachel Chapman to Steadfast Home Buyers.

Sara Berlean Burns to John Dennis Jr. Burns in District 16.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Carroll County Government (Tennessee)

Please notice that the Carroll County Mayors Office shall accept sealed written bids for Three (3) Side-by-Side Vehicles to be used by School Resource Officers for patrol, community engagement, security purposes, and for emergency transportation purposes.

Proposals, bids, or responses must be submitted to the Office of the Carroll County Mayor, Joseph G. Butler, at 625 High St. Suite 101, Carroll County Office Complex, Huntingdon, Tennessee, 38344, no later than 9 a.m. CST, April 10, 2025, at which time the bids will be opened and considered at a public meeting of the Purchasing Committee.

For inquiries, please contact Mayor Joseph Butler by phone at (731) 986-1936 or by email at jbutler@carroll.tn.org. For copies of bid documents, please email Mayor Butler or pick up documents at the Carroll County Mayors Office.

All interested parties, without regard of race, color or national origin, shall be afforded the opportunity to bid and shall receive equal consideration. Title VI states “No person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program activity receiving Federal financial assistance.” Carroll County strives to protect individuals’ civil rights through active compliance with the requirements of Title VI.

The Owner (Carroll County) further reserves the right to reject any and all bids, to waive any and all informalities and to negotiate contract terms with the successful bidder, and the right to disregard all non-conforming, non-responsive, or conditional bids.

Joseph G. Butler, Mayor
Publication Date: 3/31/2025

A5605/13-2

Carroll County General Sessions Report

The following cases were heard in Carroll County General Sessions Court on March 26.

The following defendant was bound over to the Grand Jury of the Carroll County Circuit Court.

Kenyale Cliff, Trenton Highway, Humboldt, was bound over on charge of Theft of Firearm, Violation of Display of Registration Plates, Violation of Financial Responsibility, and Registration Expired.

The following cases resulted in a guilty finding or plea.

Sarah Elizabeth Bryant, Griggs Chapel Road, Cedar Grove, guilty, Probation Violation, 11/29 supervised probation.

Susan Coplin, Walnut Circle, McKenzie, guilty, Reckless Driving; guilty, Probation Violation, time served, probation extended; dismissed, Financial Responsibility; dismissed,

Implied Consent.

Colton Blake Kyle, Green Valley Road, Bruceton, guilty, Resist Stop, Arrest, Search, six months jail, may attend in-patient treatment; dismissed, Evading Arrest.

Douglas Pracher, Perrit Lane, Huntingdon, pre-trial diversion, Assault, 90 days probation;

Nicholas Snider, Sandhill Drive, Gleason, guilty, Meth-Possessor Casual Exchange, \$750 fine, 11/29 jail-suspended except for 30 days.

Dustin Eugene Whitson, Garrett, Gleason, guilty, Driving While Canceled, six months probation, must obtain a valid license.

Joe Williams, East Main Street, Atwood, guilty, Assault, 11/29 jail suspended except 13 days, probation; dismissed, Aggravated Criminal Trespass.

The following cases were dismissed.

Dana Anderson, Birmingham Lane, McKenzie, dismissed, Theft.

Chandra Blackburn, White Street, Martin, dismissed, Unlawful Possession of a Weapon.

Quince Allen Glasgow, Jr, Winchester Street, McKenzie, dismissed, Driving While Suspended.

Christopher Gregory, Hopewell Street, Gleason, dismissed, Simple Possession; dismissed, Schedule II and IV Drugs — Manufacture, Deliver, Sell or Possess.

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE CASE NO: 2025PE59

ESTATE OF: MARGIE INGRAM ADAMS, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Notice is hereby given that on the **19TH** day of **MARCH, 2025** Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of **MARGIE INGRAM ADAMS** deceased, who died **MARCH 4TH, 2025**, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk & Master of Carroll County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required by law to file the same with the Clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this Notice to Creditors at least sixty (60) days before date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or
- (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the Notice to Creditors, if the creditor received a copy of the Notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting) as described in (1) (A); or
- (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent’s date of death.
- All persons indebted to the above Estate must come forward and make proper settlement with the undersigned at once.

This 19TH day of MARCH, 2025.
THIS NOTICE WILL RUN TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

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

REBECCA PAULETTE HAGLER, Executor/Administrator
DWAYNE D. MADDOX III, Attorney
KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master

A561/R25362/12-2

IN THE CHANCERY COURT OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE NOTICE TO CREDITORS

PROBATE CASE NO: 2025PA58

ESTATE OF: ALDRED KENT JOHNSON, LATE OF CARROLL COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Notice is hereby given that on the **19TH** day of **MARCH, 2025** Letters Testamentary, of Administration, in respect to the Estate of **ALDRED KENT JOHNSON** deceased, who died **FEBRUARY 28TH, 2025**, were issued to the undersigned by the Chancery Court Clerk & Master of Carroll County, Tennessee. All persons, resident and non-resident, having claims, matured or unmatured, against the Estate are required by law to file the same with the Clerk of the above named Court on or before the earlier of the dates prescribed in (1) or (2) otherwise their claims will be forever barred:

- (1) (A) Four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting, as the case may be) of this notice if the creditor received an actual copy of this Notice to Creditors at least sixty (60) days before date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting); or
- (B) Sixty (60) days from the date the creditor received an actual copy of the Notice to Creditors, if the creditor received a copy of the Notice less than sixty (60) days prior to the date that is four (4) months from the date of the first publication (or posting) as described in (1) (A); or
- (2) Twelve (12) months from the decedent’s date of death.
- All persons indebted to the above Estate must come forward and make proper settlement with the undersigned at once.

This 19TH day of MARCH, 2025.
THIS NOTICE WILL RUN TWO CONSECUTIVE WEEKS.

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

BETTY JOHNSON, Executor/Administrator
DWAYNE D. MADDOX III, Attorney
KENNETH TODD, Clerk & Master

A561/R25361/12-2

Marriage Licenses

Celia Margarita Townsend, 24, of Atwood, to Carson Lee Robinson, 25, of Atwood.

Madeline Ava Peterson, 21, of Buena Vista, to Jared Waylon Gossett, 20, of Buena Vista.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BID

Carroll County Civic Center

Please notice that Barger Construction has been selected as the Construction Manager to oversee the renovation of the Carroll County Civic Center. The project includes but is not limited to painting, Flooring, roof repairs, repave asphalt parking lot, electrical, plumbing and LED digital signage.

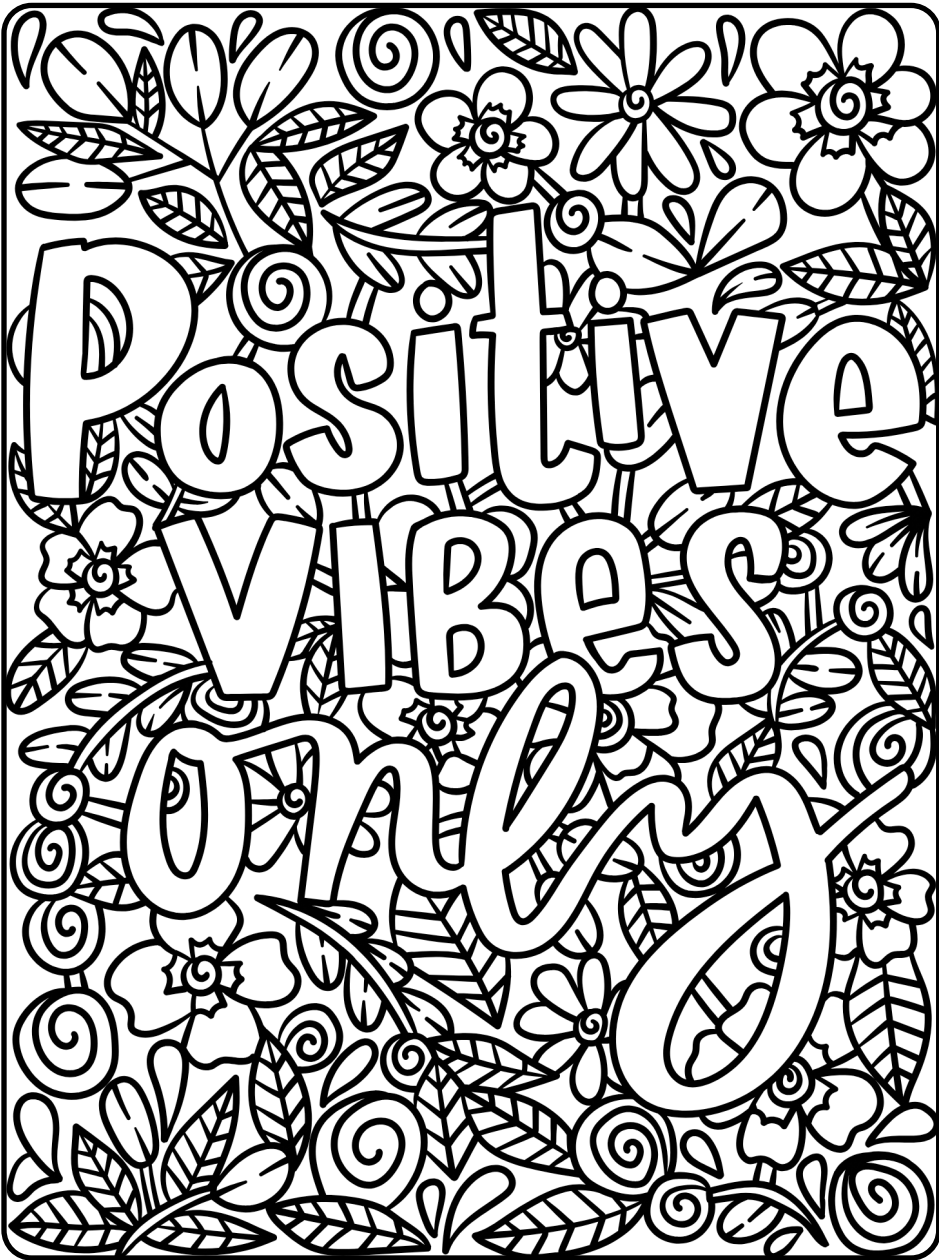
A non-mandatory walk thru will be at the location on April 16, 1 p.m. Bid packages and requirements will be able to be picked up at Barger Construction, 23134 Hwy 22N, Yuma, TN 38390 or by email at lisat@bargerconstructionco.com by April 15.

Bid dates and requirements will be included in the Bid Packages

A5605/13-2

A561/R25361/12-2

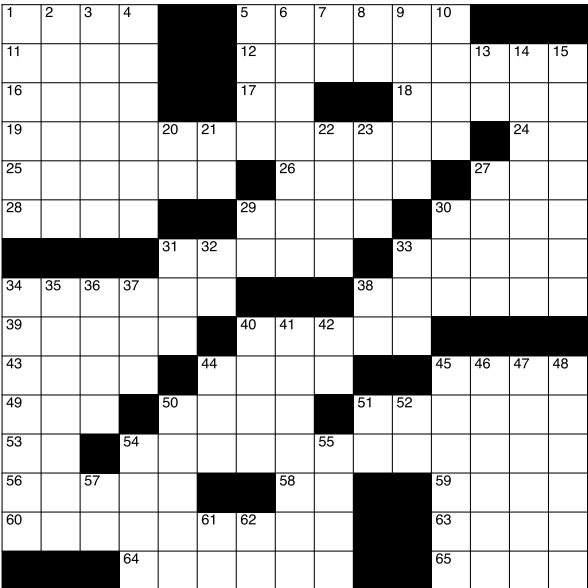
Color A Masterpiece



Weekly Crossword

CLUES ACROSS

- 1. Narrow piece of wood
- 5. African desert
- 11. Waxy covering on birds' beaks
- 12. Sour
- 16. Infrequent
- 17. Former AL MVP Vaughn
- 18. Policemen wear one
- 19. Out of the question
- 24. Used to chop
- 25. Symptoms
- 26. Not moving
- 27. Folk singer DiFranco
- 28. Comedian Armisen
- 29. Quantitative fact
- 30. Incline from vertical
- 31. Scottish musician
- 33. Rooney and Kate are two
- 34. Positioned
- 38. A very short time
- 39. Tropical American shrubs
- 40. Yemen capital
- 43. Spanish municipality
- 44. Medical professionals
- 45. Fibrous material
- 49. Confined condition (abbr.)
- 50. Without covering
- 51. "Mad Men" honcho Don
- 53. Hockey position
- 54. Taste property
- 56. Fertile spots in a desert
- 58. They precede C
- 59. "Requiem for a Dream" actor Jared
- 60. Try a criminal case
- 63. Liberal rights organization
- 64. Spoke
- 65. Insect repellent



CLUES DOWN

- 1. Unshaven facial hair
- 2. More thin
- 3. Show up
- 4. Seethed
- 5. Ancient Greek city
- 6. Poisonous plant
- 7. Hello
- 8. College sports official
- 9. Monetary unit of Russia
- 10. Wings
- 13. Take too much of a substance
- 14. A citizen of Uganda
- 15. Most appealing
- 20. Atomic #18
- 21. Global investment bank (abbr.)
- 22. Jewish calendar month
- 23. Popular sandwich
- 27. Swiss river
- 29. Incorrect letters
- 30. Popular entree
- 31. Foot (Latin)
- 32. A driver's license is one form
- 33. Extinct flightless bird
- 34. Appetizer
- 35. After battles
- 36. It neutralizes alkalis
- 37. Beverage container
- 38. Partner to "Pa"
- 40. Gray American rail
- 41. Salt of acetic acid
- 42. Canadian province
- 44. Dish made with lentils
- 45. Narrative poem of popular origin
- 46. For each one
- 47. Come to terms
- 48. Test
- 50. More dishonorable
- 51. Unit of loudness
- 52. The Ocean State
- 54. Monetary unit in Mexico
- 55. Lying down
- 57. Thus
- 61. Where LA is located
- 62. Western State

Week 13

See solution in next week's edition.

Distracted Word Search



Activity
Attention
Cognitive
Crash
Dangerous
Distracted

Driver
Drowsy
Eating
Highway
Injury
Manual

Noisy
Passenger
Radio
Reading
Safety

Speed
Talking
Texting
Vehicle
Visual

THIS DAY IN HISTORY



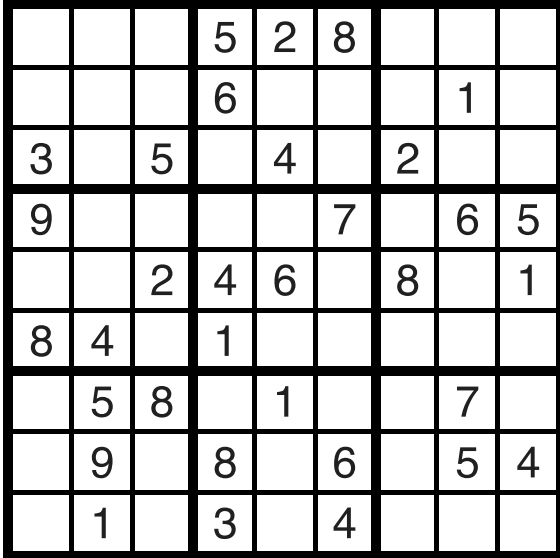
1865: Union forces capture Richmond, Virginia, the capital of the Confederate States of America.

1933: The first flight over Mount Everest is led by the Marquis of Clydesdale.

1981: The Osborne 1, the first successful portable computer, is unveiled.

SUDOKU

WEEK 13



Level: Beginner

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

See solution in next week's edition.



Solve the code to discover words related to distracted driving. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 6 = E)

A. 20 18 11 22 21 26 7 22 18 25 3

Clue: Draws attention away

B. 17 6 9 18 7 4 6

Clue: Car or truck

C. 21 25 26 20

Clue: Place to drive

D. 6 13 6 11

Clue: Used for sight

Answers: A. distraction B. vehicle C. road D. eyes

LETTER MIX-UP

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

DISTRACTION

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

Riddle Me This

When do truck drivers stop to eat?

Answer: Whenever they come to a fork in the road.

WORD SCRAMBLE

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

HPNEO

Answer: Phone

GUESS WHO ?

I am a comic/actor born in New York on April 3, 1961. I began performing stand-up comedy as a teenager, which led to a gig on "Saturday Night Live." I am a singer, director, actor, and comedian, and am best known for my comedic roles. I won a Golden Globe for a 2007 film.

Answer: Eddie Murphy



Lakeside
SENIOR LIVING
COMMUNITY

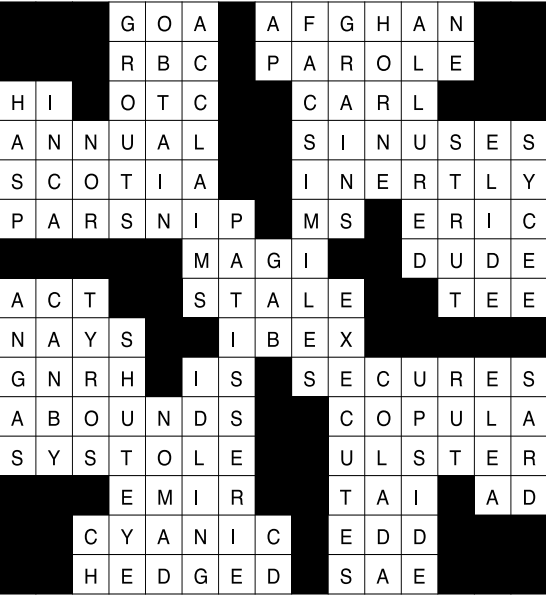
- Affordable, spacious private apartments
- Loving and caring community
- Located on the banks of Carroll Lake

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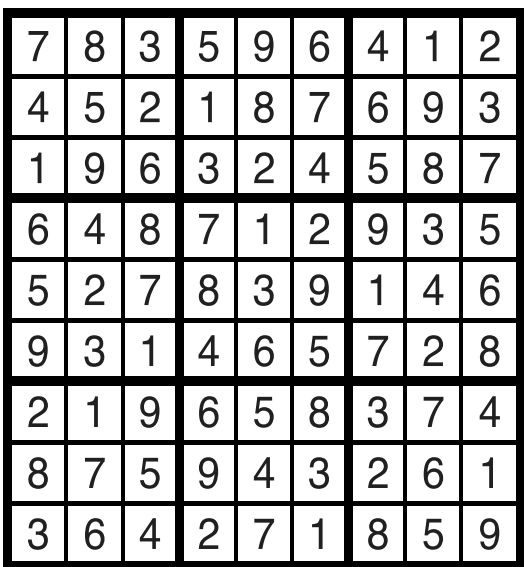
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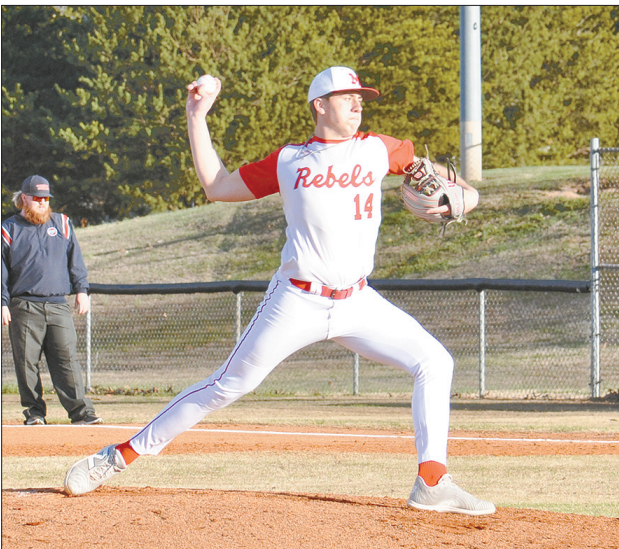
Rebels Tame Bulldogs, 11-1

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

MCKENZIE (March 21) — McKenzie High School hosted Gleason Friday for an afternoon baseball game. The Rebels struck early and often, earning an 11-1 win in five innings.

McKenzie scored four runs in the bottom of the first and matched that in the second before adding three in the fourth. Gleason's lone run came in the top of the fifth.

Rebel Tate Surber went 3-for-4 with a triple, a double, three RBIs and two runs scored. Xander Johnsey was 3-for-4 with three runs scored and two stolen bases. KD Cunningham batted 2-for-3 with a double, an RBI and a run scored. Fletcher Holt went 1-for-2 with two walks, an RBI and a run scored. Cole Brown was 1-for-3 with a walk and a run scored. Cooper Davidson went 0-for-2 with two walks, an RBI and a run scored. Lelan Gordon was 0-for-1 with two walks and an RBI.



Rebel Craegen Travis earned the complete-game win, allowing one unearned run on two hits while striking out six and walking five in five innings. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

Bulldog Brody Sanders went 1-for-1 with a walk, a run scored and a stolen base. Jaxson Morgan batted 1-for-2.

Craegen Travis earned the complete-game win for McKenzie, allowing one unearned run on two hits while

striking out six and walking five in five innings.

Aiden Legens took the complete-game loss for Gleason, allowing eleven runs (six earned) on ten hits while striking out one and walking seven in three and two-thirds innings.

Ensley Named TSWA College Baseball Player of the Week

NASHVILLE (March 26) — Tennessee redshirt senior outfielder Hunter Ensley put on a show this past week as he helped the Vols claim a series win over No. 10 Alabama and earned this week's Tennessee Sports Writers Association College Baseball Player of the Week.

Across four games, Ensley hit .520 (11-for-20) with nine RBI and four runs scored. The Huntingdon graduate had multiple hits in all four games on the week and had

six RBIs in the series against the nationally-ranked Crimson Tide.

He had four hits (including two doubles) and three RBIs in the midweek contest against East Tennessee State, then went 3-for-4 with two runs scored, two RBIs and a career-high three stolen bases in the 10-7 win over Alabama. He finished out the series Saturday with another multi-hit game that included a double and three runs driven in to claim the series win.



Left, MISS WCHS 2025: Hannah Fowler was crowned Miss West Carroll High School during the annual spring pageant. Right, MISS WCJH 2025: Jasmin Dodd was named Miss WCJH during this year's junior high pageant.



West Carroll Names Miss WCHS, Miss WCJH

ATWOOD (March 26) — West Carroll schools honored two new queens this spring as part of their annual beauty review competitions, selecting 2025 royalty for both the high school and junior high divisions.

West Carroll High School senior Hannah Fowler was crowned Miss WCHS. Her court included First Maid Bailey Rogers, Second Maid

Hayden Weaver, and Third Maid Hannah Pinson. Fowler received the title following formalwear presentations and panel interviews, representing the school's senior class.

In the junior high division, eighth grader Jasmin Dodd was named Miss WCJH. She was joined by First Maid Avrie Estes, Second Maid Shaylee Bynum,

and Third Maid Chelsey Tolley. The competition drew students from multiple grade levels and was judged on appearance, poise, and stage presence.

The pageants are a long-standing tradition at West Carroll, offering students the opportunity to showcase leadership and public presentation skills in a formal setting.

BUSINESS SPOTLIGHT

Shining a light on people and businesses in the Carroll County area.



A group of Bethel students prepare for battle in one of the two laser tag arenas. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

WarZone Ax n Tag

Endless Family Fun, Right Here at Home

BY BRAD SAM
brad@mckenziebanner.com

WarZone Ax n Tag, located at 12915 US-79, just south of McKenzie, offers endless, affordable fun in a safe, friendly environment.

Owner Mark Bowlin acquired the business last year.

The previous owner operated on a limited basis, mainly on Saturdays. Bowlin wanted to expand on that when he reopened in June. He told The Banner, "My goal is to have something for everybody, for the people of McKenzie and Carroll County to have something fun to do without having to go all the way to Jackson."

When Bowlin took over, there was only laser tag and ax throwing, but he has quickly added many new offerings and plans to add more still.

The first addition was the rage room, where customers can smash and break things. Eventually the room will be sound-proofed. "You'll be able to scream as loud as you want."

Another addition is jelly ball, which is less messy than paintball and less expensive than airsoft. Tiny pellets are soaked in water to expand into Orbeez, which are fired from a battery-powered gun.

Jelly ball can be played in either of the laser tag arenas, as can Nerf wars. Bowlin said, "Who wants to have to clean up Nerf darts in their yard of home? We will handle that part here."

WarZone will start water wars for the summer time, with high-pressure water guns. There's a large lot in the back where inflatable obstacles can be used.

Customers also have the option of jelly ball and water wars coming to their home or other venue.

Bowlin soon hopes to add a splatter room where patrons will be provided a canvas. "They can come in and splatter paint. They get messy, the whole room gets messy, and hopefully they get an art piece out of it."

WarZone offers an after-school program for Kindergarten through sixth grade until 5:30 p.m. Kids are provided with snacks and homework help as well as an art or science activity, then enjoy another fun activity such as laser tag, hide-and-seek or playing outside.

Bowlin is currently unsure about a planned summer



WarZone Ax n Tag owner Mark Bolin. Photo by Brad Sam/The Banner

program because of climate control concerns.

WarZone offers special seasonal activities such as haunted laser tag for Halloween and "Stop the Grinch" laser tag for Christmas.

A free Easter egg hunt is Saturday, April 19 from 1-2 p.m. "Hopefully some will stick around and play some laser tag or throw some axes."

Bowlin hopes to add food such as pizza, burgers and hotdogs.

Friday, March 28 was National Laser Tag Day, and early Saturday, WarZone welcomed a special guest. Internet personality Lori Britton travels the country playing laser tag and promotes the benefits of the activity while supporting various causes. She was joined at WarZone by a Bethel fraternity for a few hours of fun. Her podcast and blog can be found at tivichickloveslasertag.com.

WarZone offers a loyalty program for customers. After five individual activities, customers will earn something free, such as 30 minutes of laser tag or ax throwing or a visit to the rage room. After ten activities, they earn something bigger, such as an hour or two rage room visits.

WarZone's regular business hours are Wednesday through Friday from 5:30-8 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 2-8 p.m.

Parties may be scheduled during or outside of regular hours and can be private or alongside walk-in customers.

Bowlin is a lifelong McKenzie resident. He graduated from McKenzie High School in 2006.

He served in the National Guard from 2005-2011 and was deployed to Iraq from 2009-2010. During that time he earned an associate and a bachelor's degree online. He later earned a Masters in Education from Bethel University.

Besides his military service, he has worked in re-

tail and at prisons before becoming a business owner.

He spoke about his experience so far. "It started out very slow, but since the start of the new year we've matched the previous half-year, so I'm taking that as a plus. I still feel like there's people that don't know we're here. There are still days we have no traffic."

"Ax throwing has been the biggest for walk-in traffic. And people love our laser tag. They love our Call of Duty-style guns, different from the futuristic style other laser tag places have."

He recalled a group that came from a senior living facility in Paris and the joy of watching people in their 70s playing laser tag and even a woman in her 90s throwing axes.

He also noted, "We've got guns that little hands can hold. I take pride in being able to say we have something for everybody."

He is also mindful of prices. "I researched and compared areas similar to us. I try to keep it as cheap as possible, where the business makes a profit and the families that come in get to have fun and it not break the bank."

Besides himself, WarZone employs his mother, Christie Maloney; Alana Morrison, a Bethel Archery student; and Sydney Donald, an education assistant at Huntingdon Primary School.

Bowlin said, "I'd love for this to be a place where people can come together and have a little bit of fun and keep kids off the streets. But it's something for everybody; it's not just for kids. Growing up here in McKenzie, I would have loved to have this."

Ultimately, he said, "The goal is not to be rich, but to have enough to pay the bills and give back and hopefully help McKenzie grow. Let's support businesses in McKenzie. I care about McKenzie, and I know a lot of other people do too. We've just got to get together."

Carroll County Democratic Party Announces 2025 Reorganization Convention

The Carroll County Democratic Party is pleased to announce its biennial **Reorganization Convention**, scheduled for **Thursday, April 10, 2025**. This pivotal event will take place at the **Huntingdon Police Station** located at **1160 Lexington Street**. Doors will open at **6 p.m.**, with the convention commencing promptly at **7 p.m.**

The Reorganization Convention is the party's commitment to democratic principles. It is held every two years to elect new leadership and shape the party's direction for the upcoming election cycle. During this convention, voting delegations will adopt County Party bylaws. Attendees will elect officers, including the Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, and members of the Executive Committee. These leaders will be instrumental in organizing and growing the party, recruiting and supporting Democratic candidates, and advocating for the values that matter to our community.

All Democrats who are residents and registered voters of Carroll County are encouraged to participate in this process.

For more information, please visit our Facebook page "Carroll County Democratic Party - Tennessee" and email communications for more information and eligibility requirements.

Regards, Ginger House, Chairperson Carroll County Democratic Party
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