



LATE NIGHT CRASH — John Odom's truck sits part way into Lorene Davis's living room after crashing through the front of her home Thursday morning. *Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer*

Truck Crashes into House, Charges Pending

Jesse Joseph
Editor

Mrs. Lorene Davis woke to a loud crash she first thought was thunder early Thursday morning, November 13. Instead, a pickup truck had plowed through the front of her home.

According to the Tennessee Highway Patrol, 32-year-old John Odom of Huntingdon was driving a 2004 Toyota Tacoma south on State Route 22 around 3 a.m. when it crossed the grass median, veered through

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AFTERMATH — The front of Lorene Davis's home sits in shambles after John Odom's truck crashed through the front. *Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer*



County Commission Remembers Larry Spencer

Jesse Joseph
Editor

A white ribbon adorned longtime Carroll County Commissioner Larry Spencer's seat on Monday, November 10, during the Commission's relatively quick meeting.

Spencer passed away on Wednesday, November 5, which was also his 87th birthday.

Butler made a few remarks about Spencer, as well as former longtime Commissioner John Mann, who had also passed away, recently.

"There's a million good things we can say about those two guys," Butler said. "Between the two of them, they had more than 100 years of experience on the County Commission."

See SPENCER, Page 3



FUNERAL PROCESSION — Mr. Larry Spencer makes one final pass by Bruceton Funeral Home, where he spent over half a century serving others through the most difficult of life's moments. His casket rode in the bed of his own pickup truck. *Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer*

MUCH MORE IN THIS FIRST EDITION

- Veteran's Day Programs Across Carroll County
- Chad Barnhart Competes in Bodybuilding Contest
- McKenzie Honors Responders
- Trezevant Passes Tiny House Ordinance
- Modern Icons Art Exhibit Now Open
- Mustangs Advance to Quarterfinals
- Central's Basketball Season Opener
- Joseph Mayo Basketball Tournament
- AND MORE!

AJ's Allstar Café Begins Rebuild After Kitchen Fire

Jesse Joseph
Editor

"We're shooting to be back open in six weeks," said Jason Postlethwait, owner of AJ's Allstar Cafe, looking at the charred remains of what was once the restaurant's kitchen. "But it may be longer."

What started as a typical Wednesday morning, November 12, quickly unraveled after a fire broke out in the kitchen.

According to

Postlethwait, the morning breakfast rush had just ended.

"When I walked into the kitchen, it was full of smoke," he said. "I couldn't see anything."

Postlethwait, his staff, and his patrons quickly evacuated.

At around 8:20 a.m., the first calls went out to Huntingdon Fire Department.

Flames jetted out of the roof upon their arrival just

minutes later.

Dispatchers paged out other fire departments to assist, including Carroll County Districts 1, 4, and 17.

Postlethwait and everyone else watched as firefighters battled the blaze for more than an hour.

He said the reality of the situation didn't hit until his family showed up.

"When my kids showed up, that's when it hit me," he said.

After the Fire

After the smoke finally cleared, things took a positive turn, Postlethwait said.

"I thought it was to the ground," he said. "But the tables are fine, the chairs are fine, the structure held."

Postlethwait said an insurance adjuster toured the property Wednesday morning and cleared the rebuild to begin.

He said that he, along

See CAFE, Page 2



BATTLING THE BLAZE — Firefighters from multiple departments tear out the exterior wall of the kitchen to extinguish the fire. *Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer*

Early Morning Fire Destroys Hollow Rock Home

Jesse Joseph
Editor

A fire on Dodd Street in Hollow Rock destroyed a family's home and claimed

their pet at around 3 a.m. Monday, November 17.

Homeowner Adalis Morales and all occupants made it out safely. No injuries were reported

among the family or firefighters.

According to Carroll County Fire Chief Jonathan Gaskins, the fire is believed to have started in the area

of the home's water heater, which was located in the crawl space.

The exact cause remains

See FIRE, Page 2



TOTAL LOSS — The home of Adalis Morales was completely gutted by a fire early Monday morning. *Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer*

Bruceton Tables Scrap Ordinance After Heated Debate

Jesse Joseph
Editor

A heated discussion over a proposed ordinance regulating scrap and salvage yards dominated Bruceton's regular town meeting Tuesday, November 11.

Resident John Pardue addressed the board during citizens' comments, saying

he was frustrated by what he called ongoing harassment and selective enforcement connected to complaints from Alderwoman Renee Ward about materials kept on his property. "I have done what I was asked to do," Pardue said. "I keep it contained behind a fence like I was asked, and I'm tired of being harassed."

In October, an ordinance

to regulate scrap yards was introduced, and the board passed discussion on to November's meeting.

Mayor Robert T. Keeton, III said that the new ordinance is designed to clarify existing rules.

"Our current ordinance says no junkyards," Keeton said. "We're just trying to better define what that means and handle

everything fairly."

The proposed revision to Ordinance 25-06 would require all scrap materials to be kept off the ground and behind a privacy fence, hidden from view of public streets or neighboring properties.

Alderman Jack Blocker presented a petition signed

See BRUCETON, Page 3

Bruceton's Meeting Comes to Blows

Jesse Joseph
Editor

The most exciting thing to happen at Bruceton's town meeting on Tuesday evening, November 11, occurred minutes after it adjourned, when Police Chief Rick Crossno and resident John Pardue got into a scuffle outside city hall.

Pardue addressed the board during

the meeting, voicing frustration over what he described as ongoing harassment and selective enforcement of the law in an ongoing dispute with his neighbor, alderwoman Renee Ward. Pardue said he has been the subject of complaints by Ward

related to scrap materials he keeps at his house, and said he was tired of being "the laughing joke" of each meeting.

"Y'all want me out of here?" Pardue said, "\$170,000 to buy my place, and you can control the narrative from here on out."

"If that ain't going to

happen, then I want to be left alone," he added.

Over the course of time, town officials have asked Pardue to make adjustments to his property in response to complaints, including putting up a fence to hide the scrap materials from view.

"I have been in

See BLOWS, Page 4



West Carroll Elementary BETA Students Restock Local Food Pantries, Donate 1,200 toys to Le Bonheur

Jesse Joseph
Editor

West Carroll Elementary School fifth graders are proving that small hands can make a huge impact.

Members of the school's elementary BETA Club have collected a combined 1,700 food, hygiene, and toy items over the last several weeks as part of a series of student-led community service projects.

Their first project filled community blessing boxes in both Atwood and Trezevant, where two of the three pantries were nearly empty when the students

arrived.

"They collected 500 food and hygiene items, and we were able to completely stock those boxes," said Wendy Pinson, parent to one of the students. "One had only two items in it when we got there. They filled it with more than 200."

"I wanted to do the food drive for my community because I know there are families who struggle during the holidays, and I wanted to make sure no one goes hungry," said elementary BETA student Paisley Bennett. "Giving back helps bring

people together and I want everyone to have a warm meal and a happy holiday."

BETA member Liam Hudgins expressed a similar sentiment.

"We collected food because there are people that need help," Liam said. "Some kids don't have much food at home. It makes me feel good to help people that need it."

Cruz Rogers said, "I like to help people, because it warms my heart."

Cooper Pinson said the project was eye-opening to what some families face.

"Our goal was to help as

many people as we could," Pinson said. "We learned that some families don't have enough food to get by, and I hope we were able to feed a lot of them."

The pantry restock is the first of four community service projects the group selected to showcase at the upcoming BETA Convention.

On Friday, November 14, the four students made another large food purchase at Sam's Club for families in need.

Toy Donation and More

Another project the students completed involves donating a number

of toys and small items to the Le Bonheur Children's Hospital outpatient clinic in Jackson.

The clinic relies entirely on donations to keep its Treasure Chest stocked for pediatric patients.

"These kids collected over 1,200 items for Le Bonheur on their own," Pinson said. "Every child who visits the clinic gets to pick something out, so these donations go straight into the hands of kids who really need a moment of joy."

They delivered the toys on Friday. West Carroll's

Elementary BETA students are also writing personalized Christmas cards for residents in each nursing home in Carroll County.

They plan to deliver them before Christmas.

"They're an amazing group of kiddos," Pinson said. "They are choosing projects that truly help people, and they're excited to do it."

The students will present their projects at the upcoming State BETA Convention this coming week at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel and Convention Center.



STOCKING FOOD PANTRIES — West Carroll Elementary BETA students stocked local food pantries. From left, Liam Hudgins, Cooper Pinson, Paisley Bennett, and Cruz Rogers.



TOY DONATION — Paisley Bennett, Cooper Pinson, Cruz Rogers, and Liam Hudgins donate over 1,200 toys to Le Bonheur Hospital in Jackson.

CAFE

with friends and volunteers gutted the damaged areas.

"It's completely empty now," he said. "This back half will be rebuilt. The rest just needs cleaned up."

He hopes to have the café operational again shortly after the new year, depending on materials, inspections, and the availability of contractors.

"I'd love to be open January 1," he said. "Insurance went really fast, which helped. If we can get two or three good weeks in, we might make it."

For now, his concern is keeping his longtime staff until the doors reopen.

"I've had most of the same crew all eight years, even through COVID," Postlethwait said.

Vol State

Postlethwait said he's thankful for his restaurant to remain operating in the same location.

AJ's sits directly along the route of the "Last Annual Vol State" ultramarathon, and for years has been one of the runners' favorite places to stop for a hot breakfast during their 314-mile trek across Tennessee.

Postlethwait ran the race himself in 2024, and said the café has become a tradition

for many runners who pass through Huntingdon.

During cleanup, he discovered something he never expected: two Vol State shirts that survived the fire almost untouched.

One carries signatures from runners who stopped at AJ's in 2024 and 2025, and the other is his personal shirt from the race he competed in.

Both had been found in a plastic bag in his office, under melted debris.

"It was unbelievable," he said. "Everything around them was burned, but those shirts made it. Those signatures, those people.

That meant a lot."

He plans to frame the shirts and hang them inside the rebuilt café.

Postlethwait said the outpouring of support from customers, friends, and the Vol State community has helped keep him focused on the rebuild.

As debris continues to be cleared and contractors line up their schedules, he said he's ready to move forward.

"We'll be back," he said. "This place has been here a long time, and it's not going anywhere."



EMOTIONAL MOMENT—Jason Postlethwait, owner of AJ's Allstar Cafe, comforts his daughter Addison as the two look on helpless while firefighters battle the fire that broke out in the restaurant's kitchen. *Jesse Joseph/CCO*

CRASH

both northbound lanes, and into Davis's yard before crashing through her living room.

Mrs. Davis, 83, escaped injury. She was in the opposite end of the home at

the time.

Carroll County Fire Department, Carroll County Rescue Squad, Carroll County EMA, Huntingdon Fire Department, Carroll

County Sheriff's Office, Tennessee Highway Patrol, and Baptist EMS responded to the scene.

Paramedics transported Odom to the hospital by ambulance.

According to the report, Odom was wearing his seatbelt.

Charges are pending, according to the report.

FROM PAGE 1

FIRE

FROM PAGE 1

unofficial but is considered electrical in nature.

The home sustained heavy fire, smoke, and water damage and is considered a total loss.

A family dog, *Princess*, did not survive.

According to multiple accounts, a CSX train blocked all the crossings in Hollow Rock at the time the call went out.

The blockage prevented the Hollow Rock Fire Department from

reaching the residence for approximately 20 minutes from just under one mile away.

Family members living nearby helped Morales and others immediately after their escape.

The family is currently arranging temporary housing.

The home has been in the family for nearly 40 years.

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Chad Barnhart Medals in Bodybuilding Contest

Jesse Joseph
Editor

Rescue Squad member and Huntingdon Councilmember Chad Barnhart brought home two medals and a third-place finish in his first bodybuilding contest, the NPC Night of Champions on Saturday, November 8 at the Chattanooga Convention Center.

The event is one of the region's largest, drawing more than a hundred competitors from across the country and abroad.

Barnhart placed third out of 16 in his class. "It was never about what the other guys looked like," Barnhart said. "It was about bringing in the best version of myself, and I don't think I could've come in any better."

The final days were grueling, he said, dropping roughly five pounds leading up to the show.

"It was absolutely draining," he said. "I've been hungry through this whole diet, but you've got to do it."

Barnhart thanked E3 Fitness, Gold's Gym in Jackson, Hometown Fitness, and several coaches and supporters for

helping him prepare over ten months of training.

As for what's next, Barnhart said he plans to stay lean but will ease back into a more normal routine.

For now, he's shifting focus to deer season, Thanksgiving, a break with his family, and the return of his well-known December Scavenger Hunt.



BEST SHAPE OF HIS LIFE – Chad Barnhart said he was in the best physical condition he's ever been in, preparing for the show.

BRUCETON

FROM PAGE 1

by more than 100 residents opposing the measure.

"They feel strongly this is government overreach," Blocker said. "We're telling people how to conduct their yards, what they do on their own property. That's their right."

He also pointed to what he viewed as inconsistency in enforcement.

"We have equipment sitting out behind the town shop," Blocker said, as he presented photos to the Mayor.

"That's not a scrap yard," Keeton snapped back. "That's where we store our equipment—pipes, hydrants, things we use on a regular basis. The board hasn't wanted to spend the money to build buildings for it."

Blocker explained that the Mayor had just made his point.

"If we're not willing to spend money to fence that in, we shouldn't be telling someone else to fence their property," Blocker said.

Alderman Cliff Sturdivant agreed with Blocker's remarks.

He said the new rules would place an unfair financial burden on residents.

"We're asking people

to spend thousands of dollars putting up a fence," Sturdivant said.

He gestured toward the crowd.

"I think these two gentlemen have been targeted," Sturdivant said. "There are other properties in this community that look worse. We're always being reactive instead of proactive."

Michael Wilson, another resident who collects scrap materials from time to time, agreed with Blocker's and Sturdivant's arguments, saying the cost would be prohibitive.

"It'd cost half a million to \$2 million to fence my property," Wilson said.

Mayor Keeton responded, "This ordinance would not require you to fence the entire property."

"You're not gonna tell me how much of my property I have to fence and how much I don't," Wilson replied. "It's all or none."

Alderman Doug Fisher suggested removing subjective language from the proposal.

"What's an eyesore to one person might not be to another," Fisher said. "One man's trash is another man's treasure."

As discussion continued, Blocker and Sturdivant both said they could not support the measure with the fencing requirement included.

"As long as it requires people to spend money they don't have, I can't support it," Sturdivant said.

In the end, the board voted to table the ordinance, leaving the existing zoning rules in place for now.

Dog Attack Complaint
Resident Brian Barnhart addressed the board during citizens' comments after Pardue.

He said two dogs attacked his daughter's cat on October 3, leading to \$185 in vet bills and the cat's death.

Barnhart explained that he went to Bruceton Police Department about the incident.

"They just told me it's a civil matter," Barnhart said. "Shouldn't a police report have been made?"

Mayor Keeton said a report should have been filed if a bite was involved.

Barnhart said he and his daughter went to City Hall after the incident but were unable to get anyone from the police department to come out.

He also raised concerns

about how animal control records were kept.

Keeton responded that new employees had failed to properly document the dog owners' names but said the issue had been recognized and addressed.

Barnhart also asked what residents should do when calling police after hours.

Keeton said to call the Sheriff's Office directly or call 911 if it's an emergency.

Other Business
The board approved Ordinance 25-07, prohibiting unauthorized occupancy, camping, or squatting on private or public property within town limits.

Mayor Keeton said that U.S. Congressman David Kustoff's office issued the town a certificate recognizing Bruceton on its Centennial and for its contributions to Carroll County and the State of Tennessee.

At the very end of the meeting, Mayor Keeton mentioned that leaf pickup would begin soon and Christmas decorations would be going up in town.

Bruceton's next regular meeting takes place Tuesday, December 9 inside Bruceton City Hall at 5 p.m.



CHANGE THE LANGUAGE – Alderman Doug Fisher (right) proposes changing some of the language in the ordinance to remove some of the more subjective terminology. Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer



STORAGE SHED – The town of Bruceton's storage shed has various piping and other materials stored directly on the ground. Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer

SPENCER

FROM PAGE 1

"Just good, faithful, God-based servants," he added. "They loved Carroll County. They loved the County Commission. We just wanted to acknowledge, thank their families and other for their service."

"Carroll County is better off because of the service of those two guys," Butler concluded.

Business

The Commission moved quickly through their agenda.

They acknowledged receiving the required debt-obligation report for the Carroll County Electric Department, which just finalized nearly \$10 million in bonds for the construction of the Leach substation.

Commissioners then approved a resolution to submit an application for the Historic Development Grant Program, which includes a \$25,000 local match already set aside in the county's capital improvement budget. The project seeks funding for courthouse steps, railings, and ADA-compliant access improvements.

Two additional resolutions passed without opposition, each adding a \$12.50 court cost on state misdemeanors and felonies.

One fee is for the District Attorney's Office and the other is for the Public Defender's Office.

Butler noted that other counties have passed

similar resolutions.

The remainder of the agenda consisted of grant-fund budget amendments.

Commissioners voted to consider them as a single group and approved them together.

Most required no local match, with the exception of three airport-related grants that each include a 2.5 percent contribution the county had already budgeted.

Before adjourning, Butler formally declared a vacancy in District 3 following Spencer's passing.

The Commission will appoint someone to serve the remainder of the term at its January meeting.

Because 2026 is an election year, anyone appointed, as well as anyone intending to run, will need to be aware that candidate petitions for the May primary can be picked up beginning in mid-December.

The following notaries were elected: Brooke E. Cary, Brett D. Huss, Laverne Jackson, Fred Morris, Raven Trevathan, and Deborah A. Welbon.

The County Commission's next meeting is at 7 p.m. on Monday, January 5 inside the conference room of the Carroll County Office Complex.



IT'S NOT A SCRAP YARD – At left, Mayor Robert T. Keeton III says that the material that sits on the ground outside Bruceton's maintenance storage shed is not scrap. Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer



HE AGREES – Vice Mayor Cliff Sturdivant (left) explains why he agrees with Jack Blocker about the ordinance. Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer

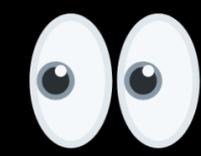


DOG ATTACK – Bruceton Resident Brian Barnhart addresses the board about a dog attack that resulted in the death of his daughter's cat. Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer

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BLOWS

FROM PAGE 1

compliance and I have done what I'm supposed to do," he told the Mayor. "I'm tired of being harassed"

Pardue went on to say, "The law has been at my house eight times because of her trespassing on my property, and your officers have yet to do anything about it. My 'No Trespassing' signs were taken down and found in her garbage can by your officers—nothing happened."

He explained that it didn't seem fair, and he should be protected like everybody else.

"If I trespassed on her, I'd go to jail," Pardue said.

Mayor Robert T. Keeton III responded that in order for any charges to be brought, Pardue would have to get a trespassing warrant through the District Attorney's office.

"Oh, so I have to go to the DA, now? Your officers are not capable of arresting an

alderman, is that what you're saying?" Pardue asked the Mayor.

Alderman Jack Blocker later revisited that point, saying the response didn't sit right with him.

"If somebody trespasses on your property, that's against the law," Blocker said. "That's not a civil claim or something that has to go through the DA. If I call the police and say someone's on my property, I ought to be able to get help."

Crossno then spoke up, saying he wanted to correct any misunderstanding.

"If there's an officer who told someone they couldn't arrest an alderman or handle a situation because of who it involved, I'd like to know who said that so I can address it," Crossno said.

"Danny Emerson," Pardue replied.

After the meeting, Crossno asked Pardue to step outside to discuss the matter

further.

Moments later, a commotion broke out in the parking lot.

As everyone rushed outside towards the commotion, Pardue could be heard shouting, "You hit me first!" as officers moved in to separate the two men.

Crossno returned inside, saying, "He stuck his finger right up there [in my face], and I popped him."

Officer Danny Emerson and another Bruceton officer walked Pardue away from city hall.

Carroll County Sheriff's Office was called out to take statements from all involved.

No arrests were made.

Sources say that statements will be taken to the District Attorney's Office for further review and investigation.



SCUFFLE OUTSIDE CITY HALL – Bruceton Police Chief, Rick Crossno (left) and resident John Pardue (right) are separated by Officer Danny Emerson and another unnamed officer after an alleged fight broke out between the two. *Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer*



FED UP – Bruceton resident John Pardue explains to the board that he is tired of the way he's being treated by the town. *Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer*

FINALIZING THE CENTENNIAL



At left, Bruceton Public Works employees bury the time capsule that was filled during the town's centennial celebration on November 1. It will be opened on November 1, 2050. At right, Bruceton Mayor Robert T. Keeton III receives a proclamation from U.S. Representative David Kustoff, delivered by Jake Rogers. The proclamation is in recognition of Bruceton's centennial.



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West Tennessee Law Enforcement agencies will increase saturation patrols from **8:00 AM to midnight** on **November 26**. Officers will be cracking down on speeding, distracted driving, impaired driving, and other hazardous traffic violations.

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McKenzie Council Recognizes Responders, Athlete

Jesse Joseph
Editor

McKenzie Mayor Ryan Griffin made a number of recognitions at McKenzie's council meeting on Tuesday, November 11.

Police dispatcher Tiesa Dowland and First Responder Mikayla Vincent each received letters of accomodation for their actions during an incident in McKenzie City Hall, in which a woman pulled a gun during a

dispute with officer Cody Coleman.

"Their actions reflect the highest standards of service and highlight the strength, commitment, and professionalism within our first responder community," McKenzie PD said in a statement.

Mayor Griffin also announced November 14 as Charli Weatherford Day.

Weatherford played a record-breaking season for McKenzie High School's girl's golf team.

"It is with great delight that we are able to boast that McKenzie has such an outstanding young golfer," Mayor Griffin read from the proclamation. "Charlie has demonstrated great talent and created an example for the exceptional quality of the youth of our hometown."

In other business, the council unanimously approved the second reading of Ordinance 574, which updates the city's occupational safety and health program.

City Attorney Beau Pemberton reported that the lease agreement for the Depot retail incubator is nearly complete.

He said the final revisions are aimed at preventing permanent alterations to the building while still allowing flexibility for incoming businesses.

Mayor Griffin said public response to the project has been overwhelmingly positive, with more than 64,000 views on the city's Facebook announcement.

The council also approved the annual employee Christmas bonus, maintaining the customary \$100 for full-time staff and \$50 for part-time workers. The amount is already included in the city's budget.

Department heads delivered monthly updates, including reports from police, fire, codes, and public works.

Public Works Director Johnny Mercer announced the completion of refurbishing several city

water tanks and noted that street repair work is expected to begin soon as weather allows.

Mayor Griffin also highlighted the city's recent award of an \$800,000 Community Development Block Grant to support water and wastewater improvements.

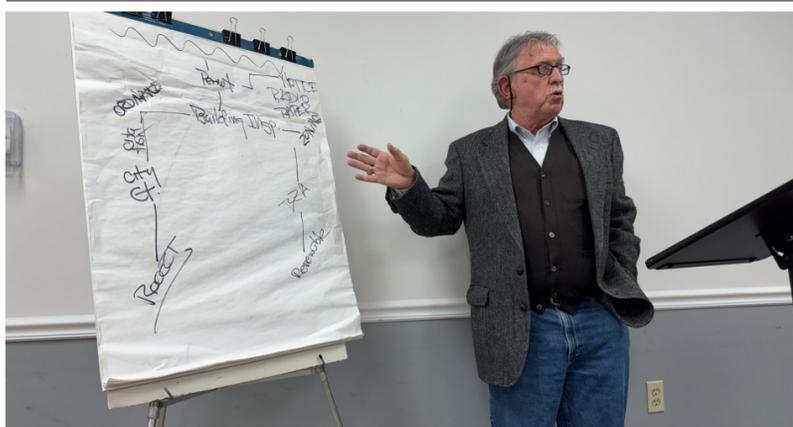
Griffin also announced that Hometown Christmas celebration is set for December 4-7.



LETTERS OF ACCOMADATION — From left, McKenzie Fire Chief Brian Tucker, Mikayla Vincent, Police Chief Ryan White, and dispatcher Tiesa Dowland. *McKenzie Police Department Facebook photo.*



PROCLAMATION— McKenzie Mayor Ryan Griffin reads his proclamation naming November 14 as Charli Weathford Day in honor of her exceptional golf season. *Jesse Joseph/CCO*



PERMITTING SYSTEM — Trezevant Town Attorney Charlie Trotter explains the advantages of adopting a permit system for the town. *Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer*

Trezevant Names New Building Inspector, Adopts Tiny House Rules, Eyes New Permit System

Jesse Joseph
Editor

Trezevant's Board of Aldermen appointed Jim Seaton as the town's new building inspector Tuesday night, November 11.

Town Attorney, Charlie Trotter, says having a building inspector will strengthen enforcement as the town updates its zoning rules and prepares for a future permitting process. Seaton's new role gives him primary responsibility for evaluating permit applications, determining whether a proposal complies with zoning laws, and issuing cease-and-desist notices when necessary.

Trotter said the process is meant to prevent confusion at City Hall, where residents sometimes request business licenses for uses not allowed in their zoning district.

"We don't want to license something that's later going to be determined to be outside the zoning ordinance," he said.

Board members agreed to revisit the permitting system in January, giving Trotter and Seaton time to gather examples from other towns and begin drafting Trezevant's own forms, procedures, and fee structure.

The town will hold future public meetings before adopting any final permitting rules. The tiny house ordinance passed on second reading with one dissenting vote from Alderman Don Barger.

The ordinance defines tiny houses as dwellings of 900 square feet or less and requires them to resemble site-built homes, sit on a permanent foundation, use conventional exterior materials, and connect to all required utilities.

The ordinance also clarifies how travel trailers and recreational vehicles may be used.

RVs cannot serve as permanent residences, but may be allowed temporarily when a home is destroyed or severely damaged. "Temporary usage... for a period not to exceed three months" may be granted, the ordinance reads, with one possible extension.

Beyond tiny homes, the ordinance creates a path for repurposing certain non-residential buildings, such as former churches or schools, through the Board of Zoning Appeals. Trezevant will not hold a December meeting, unless they call a special one. Their next scheduled meeting will be Tuesday, December 13 at 6:30 p.m. inside Trezevant Community Center.

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BUILDING INSPECTOR — Jim Seaton was approved to be Trezevan's new building inspector. *Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer.*

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A Beginning



JESSE'S JOTTINGS

Jesse Joseph

Well, here it is: my first full “newspaper”. The only thing that would make the feeling of having completed this task more satisfying is if it were printed. But maybe that will come one day. It has been six months since the last time I had a story “published” on anything other than the website. Six months of living entirely in the digital flow of posts, updates, and breaking items. It’s important, yes, but it’s quite fleeting in a way that doesn’t feel like a newspaper. This, though. This is different, in my opinion.

It’s an e-edition, so still digital, but somehow more tangible than a website. A website is infinite. It’s ever-scrolling, changing, and updating by the hour at times. An e-edition stands still. It has edges and pages. It’s finite in a way that we might still be able to appreciate. If anything, it’s one step closer to a paper that you can fold, clip, or tuck under your arm. That’s what makes this feel like a milestone. Not because it’s perfect, but because it’s *closer*. Closer to what I want this publication to become, closer to the way local news used to feel, and closer to the way it can feel again. --- There are some caveats to this, however. This being the first full

newspaper layout I ever attempted, I am really slow at it. The speed will come with time, but my worry is sustainability. People seem to think that the way I cover the news isn’t sustainable, and while I would disagree, it’s definitely true that adding design in the mix would make it more so. I ask that, in these first few weeks and months of rolling this out and experimenting with different deadline days and layout looks, you grant me a little patience and grace. I’m learning this in real time. Much like I learned photography in real time, and meeting coverage in real time, and the entire process of running a news outlet in real time. Design is its own language, and while I’m getting more fluent with each page I

build, there are going to be long nights, imperfect choices, and the occasional “why did I do it that way?” moment. But that’s part of the growth and part of building something instead of simply maintaining something. And truthfully, I would rather build. I would rather take the slower, clumsier path toward creating something meaningful than rush down the faster road that leads nowhere new. If this e-edition becomes a weekly staple, it will be because the community allowed it to grow at an honest pace. Thank you for reading this first attempt. Thank you for giving this little digital “paper” the chance to exist.

Letters to the Editor

While the *Carroll County Observer* is an all-digital publication, it’s still a place where your voice can be heard. Our Letters to the Editor section exists for anyone in the community who wants to share an opinion, respond to an issue, offer praise or criticism, or simply contribute to the ongoing conversation about life in Carroll County. Thoughtful public dialogue has always been a

cornerstone of local journalism, and this space is one more way for residents to speak directly to their neighbors. If you’d like to submit a letter, you can send it to: Email: jesse@carrollobserver.com Subject Line: “Letter to the Editor” Mailing Address: P.O. Box 131, Huntingdon, TN, 38344 Name & Town: please include for publication

Carroll County
OBSERVER

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WITH THE GALLERY DIRECTOR – Dan Knowles with Dana Wyatt, The Dixie’s Gallery Director at opening night of the Modern Icons exhibit. *Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer*

Dan Knowles’ Modern Icons Art Exhibit Kicks Off at the Dixie

Jesse Joseph
Editor

Dan Knowles of Paris is what many might refer to as a “Renaissance Man”. He is a skilled and decorated musician, a luthier, and a visual artist skilled in multiple disciplines. Now, much of that art is on display for public viewing inside the Ballroom Gallery of The Dixie Carter Performing Arts Center. Last Friday, November 14, Knowles and friends celebrated the opening of his exhibit, titled Modern Icons. Attendees enjoyed meeting the visionary artisan.

They admired his eclectic showcase consisting of various paintings, sculptures, and other oddities. The public were also treated to a poem-reading by Knowles and a variety of live banjo and guitar music. Mark Porter of Henry County admired the work on display. “Dan’s one of those people who can do just about anything,” he said. “He’ll build an instrument, play it onstage, paint a mural, and then turn around and write a book. He’s got more talent than seems fair sometimes — and he’s still one of the nicest guys you’ll

ever meet.” A woman who went by Sandy also praised Knowles’ work. “I’ve never seen so many different, unique pieces in one place,” she said. “The longer you look at his work, the more you start noticing hidden things you didn’t catch at first.” “It’s imaginative, it’s inventive,” she added. “I don’t even know if there’s a word that fully describes it.” Knowles’ visual work is said to draw inspiration from the surrealism of Salvador Dali, and the pointilism of Georges Seurat. Another attendee of the

reception said he most enjoyed Knowles’ work that was more grounded in reality, such as the piece “Trees and Shadows”. “When I look at art, I try to see beyond the surface. Dan’s work pulls you in like that,” he said. “You see the big picture first, but then you look closer and the structure reveals itself.” The exhibit will be on display in The Dixie’s Ballroom Gallery until Friday January 23, 2026. The gallery is free and open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday-Friday in the second floor of The Dixie.



LIVE MUSIC – Mark McWherter plays a song on guitar. *Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer*



ADMIRING – A couple of attendees check out Knowles’ art. *Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer*



ART – A few of Knowles’s works on display. *Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer*



CLARKSBURG SCHOOL PERFECT ATTENDANCE FIRST NINE WEEKS

Elementary School:

Emma Melton, Olivia Webb, Kayson Harvey, Hadley Gahagan, Rowan McAdams, Lizzie Merkel, Reed Stewart, Kellie Willis, Lenzie Breeden, Lorena Gooch, Lillian Lucas, Julie Melton, Adiken Prater, Tripp Barber, Amelia Frenslay

Middle School:

Alyssa Gooch, Vince Joyner, Benkis Lucas, Makinley Moffitt, Ashlee Rhodes, Elizabeth Surratt, Cordelia Warren, River Bell, Remington Cobb, Chayden Hampton, Ansley McAdams, Annaka Townsend

High School:

Trenton McAdams, Waylon Reed, Gracie Breeden, Joey Faulkner, Brayden Moore, Piper Hilliard, Meeka Melton, Isabella Suggs, Charlie Cannon, Sue Lor, Sea Lor, Hunter Merkel, Stella Pace, Whitley Moffitt, Jack Morgan, Henry Walters, Michael Turley, Emmelyn Mautte, Trent Turpin, Calvin Rameau, Emmie Blackburn, Jayla Clark, Briley Crum, Lorie Hager, Arwen Lankford, Maddox Robbins, Laura Sawyer, Duncan Sawyers, Gage Davenport, Addyson Hedge, Trace Hollowell, Brooke Spain, Calle Danevich, Clay Glosson, Lainey Glosson

CLARKSBURG SCHOOL HONOR ROLL FIRST NINE WEEKS

Honor Roll (9-12):

Emily Bell, Landon Berlanga, Emmie Jo Blackburn, Max Cawthon, Levi Davis, Starrlyn Dixon, Naveah Fugate, Cari Glosson, Cayden Hollowell, Preston Huss, Maddox Robbins, Sara Beth Roberts, Laura Sawyer, Molly Kate Williams, Kyla Wilson, Gracie Alton, Aston Walker, Camden Blackburn, Gabriel Derryberry, Mikaylah Durenberger, Gage Edwards, Owen Gooch, Greyson Jones, Joel Pate, Charles Sawyer, Makenna Bolen, Addison Prater, Robby Reece Thomas, Caleb Vincent, Morgan Gentry, Ethan Green, Kannon Hampton, Elliot Ortiz Ramirez, Riley Prater

All A's (9-12):

Jamie Allen, Baylee Barker, Jayla Clark, Briley Crum, Lorie Hager, Arwen Lankford, Brooklyn Laws, Emmelyn Luther, Emily Melton, Avery Taylor, Weston Vestal, Lydia Wick, A.J. Ward, Anna Aikins, Jackson Burleson, Gage Davenport, Addyson Hedge, Lydia Scott, Brooke Spain, Carlie Swinford, Samuel Wallace, Kelli Walters, Evan Davenport, Taylor Luther, Knox Middleton, Ava Aikins, Garrett Bartholomew, Alyssa Bell, Orion Cary, Ashlee Churchill, Trae Cobb, Clay Glosson, Lainey Glosson, Jayanna Martin, Stephanie Neely, Bayleigh Robison, Nathan Steele, Cole Wood, Brianna Yewell

Eighth Grade:

Jacob Barker, Remington Cobb, Bentley Kniebel, Keris Lucas, Ansel McAdams, Blake Merkel, Ben Noles, Ivy Swinford, Annaka Townsend, Lottie Yundt

Seventh Grade:

Eli Derryberry, Ashley Kate Gurley, Angel Castelano, Drayden Frenslay, Natalie Gurley, Becky Melton, Makinley

Melton, Copeland Reed, Ellison Sawyers, Elizabeth Stuart, Kira Vick, Cordelia Warren

Sixth Grade:

Alyssa Gooch, Allie Kate Gurley, Marley Hicks, Bayleigh Laws, Bentley Laws, Jayce Sproic, Maddie Williams

Fifth Grade:

Keegan Frenslay, Princeton Garner, Stella Pace, Knoxley Scott, Shelby Walters, Londyn Armstrong, Wiley Bailey, Charlie Cawthon, Millie Davenport, Sue Lor, Aela Lucas, Hunter Merkel, Apolinar Nava-Ditzler

Fourth Grade:

Meeka Melton, Cotton Davis, Karsyn Hollowell, Ella Kate Green, Gracie Breeden, Trinity Gashagan, Brayden Gooch, Jacob Harrison, Ryver Hilliard, Piper Hilliard, Mylee Luther, Kinslee Rhodes

Third Grade:

Calvin Rameau, Calvi Weaver, Easton Rickett, Tripp Barber, Beau Whitaker, Mia Frenslay, Waylon Reddix, Zoye Corbin, Kynlie Taylor, Trenton McAdams, Ayla Havner, Griffen Warren, Luke Gooch, Reagan Grund, Walton Reed

Second Grade:

Lillian Lucas, Whitley Moffitt, Evelyne Moore, Asa Snyder, Holden Todd, Zachary Acord, Magnolia Gant, Lorena Gooch, Emmelyn Mautte, Adiken Prater, Sophie Rowland, Trent Turpin, Lenzie Breeden, Michael Yount

First Grade:

Hadley Gahagan, Reed Stewart, Adeline Hilliard, Rowan McAdams, Aubrey Turpin, Maddalyn Haley, Karsynn Avery, Gavin Bailey, Paislee Reeves, Jakob Sporich, Kenneth Lucas, Matthew Walters, Finley Whitaker, Robert Rutowski, Kellie Willis, Palmer Cary, Aurora Ricketts, Tatum Willis



AV CLASS – Front row, from left: Bobby “Flash” Melton, Buddy Smothers, and Gauge Rogers. Back row, from left: AV Class Instructor Sandi Walden, Keith Lancaster, Grayson Thompson, Joshua Clayton, Cooper McMackin, Isaiah Melton, and Colton Ohl. Photos by Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer

Central’s AV Class Learns Interviewing Skills with Local Radio Legends

Jesse Joseph
Editor

WRJB Radio personality Bobby “Flash” Melton and former Central basketball coach, history teacher, and longtime broadcaster Buddy Smothers visited Central’s new AV Productions class on Thursday, November 13, offering students a workshop on interviewing skills.

Melton and Smothers spent a number of years broadcasting Camden and Hollow Rock-Bruceton Central sports on the radio together.

They shared tips and advice to help students find their own voice, shape questions naturally, and listen closely for opportunities during a

conversation.

After the discussion, students put those lessons to work as they filmed an interview with Smothers.

During his talk with the students, Melton pointed out that each interviewer develops a personal style.

“Interviewing goes several ways,” Melton told students. “I may interview one way; Coach Smothers may interview another way. Y’all will be interviewing your way.”

Smothers encouraged students to adapt and never imitate.

He explained that preparation matters, but authenticity matters more.

“There’s our way of doing it, and there’s your way of doing it,” Smothers said. “Be yourself. Don’t go ahead and try to be

somebody else. Continue to work on what you do.”

Melton shared advice he once received from legendary University of Tennessee broadcaster John Ward.

“He told me, ‘You don’t want to be a John Ward. You want to develop your own style and personality,’” Melton recalled.

Both men demonstrated how to reshape questions in natural language.

Smothers told students to listen actively to catch unexpected angles and meaningful details, as well as to record themselves and critique their own speech patterns, habits, and vocal tics.

The workshop ended with a practice interview.

Student Gauge Rogers interviewed Smothers,

while Joshua Clayton and Isaiah Melton filmed.

The interview is the class’s first in a series about the history of Bruceton and Hollow Rock.

Smothers shared reflections on his time as a student and teacher at Central, as well as the people who influenced him, and the small-town character that defined Central for generations.

By the end of the session, the class had completed its first recorded interview and taken a step forward in preserving local history through their own developing voices.

Smothers and Melton closed by telling the class that everyone in the room wanted to see the new AV program, and the students in it, succeed.



VALUABLE ADVICE – Coach Buddy Smothers (right) teaches students the importance of authenticity. Bobby “Flash” Melton (left) looks on. Photo by Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer



FIRST INTERVIEW– Buddy Smothers (left) is interviewed by AV student Gauge Rogers as Isaiah Melton (foreground) and Joshua Clayton record. Photo by Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer



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Veterans Day Programs Throughout Carroll County

Jesse Joseph
Editor

Schools across Carroll County paused on Tuesday, November 11, to honor the men and women who have served in the United States Armed Forces. Each of the five Special School Districts in Carroll County recognized local veterans, shared music and student presentations, and offered messages of gratitude. Clarksburg's Student Council led program

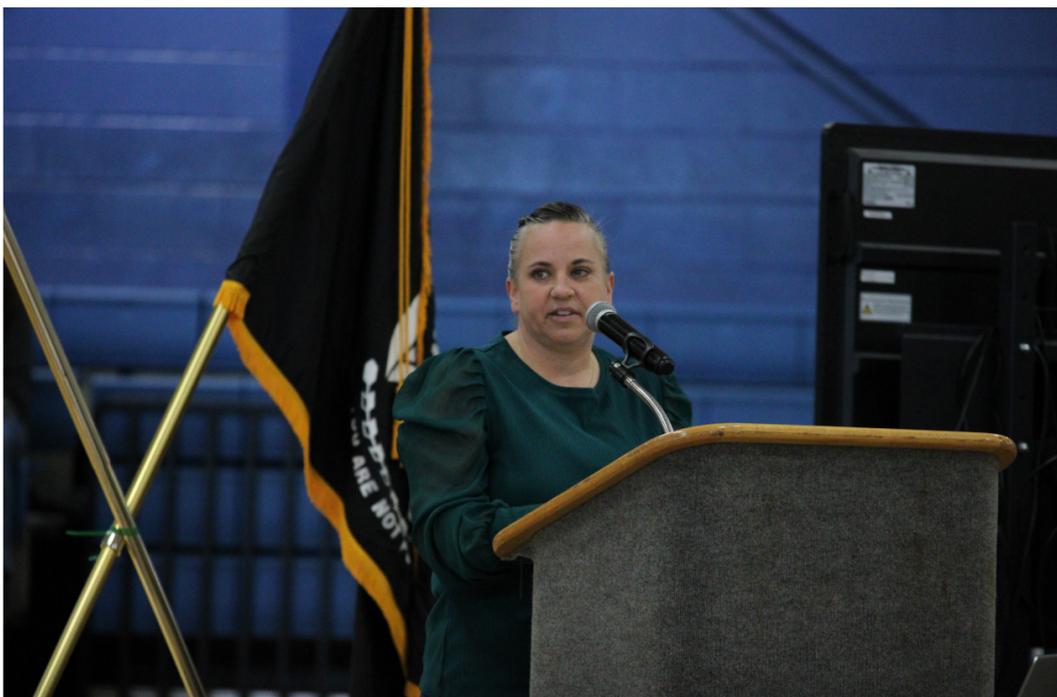
included a keynote address by National Guardsman and Clarksburg teacher Lance Shavchuck. Students and staff at Huntingdon Primary welcomed several guest speakers, including Marty Higginbotham, Adam and Dayle Mathis, and State Representative Brock Martin. At Central, students opened their program with readings, patriotic songs, and a historical reminder of the origins of Veterans Day.

The Central Middle School Choir performed a tribute piece titled "We Say Thank You." Third grader, Ariella Hall sang the Star-Spangled Banner, and retired Master Sergeant Winifred Hollingsworth gave the keynote address. Hollingsworth is a U.S. Air Force veteran who served for 23 years in intelligence and law enforcement roles across the globe, including assignments in England, Alaska, Hawaii, Belgium, and Colorado,

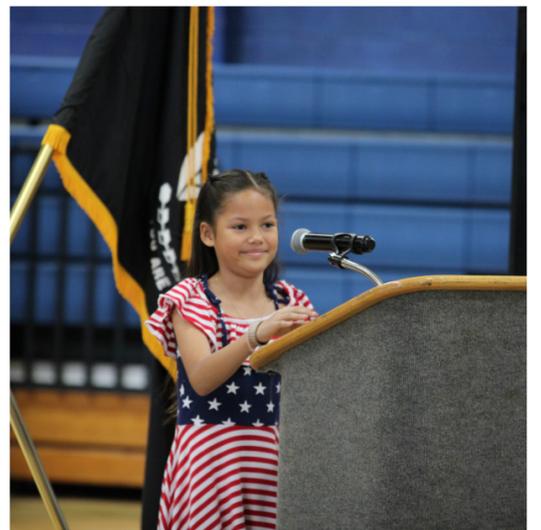
along with multiple combat deployments. She reflected on service, resilience, camaraderie, and the challenges faced by military families. Central's program concluded with a Soldier's Cross Ceremony, presented by members of the Veterans Honor Guard of Parker's Crossroads. The display of a rifle, boots, helmet, and dog tags was explained piece by piece as a tribute to those who gave their lives in service to the nation.



SOLDIER'S CROSS — Members of the Veterans Honor Guard present the Soldier's Cross in tribute to fallen service members.



KEYNOTE SPEAKER — Retired Master Sergeant Winifred Hollingsworth shares her Veterans Day message with Central students and guests.



STAR-SPANGLED BANNER — Ariella Hall performs the National Anthem to open Central's Veterans Day program.



GOD BLESS AMERICA — Central's third graders sing "God Bless America" during Tuesday's ceremony.



UNCLE SAM'S JAM — The Central High School Band performs "Uncle Sam's Jam" as part of the school's tribute to veterans.



PRIMARY PERFORMANCE — Huntingdon Primary students lift their voices in "God Bless America" in honor of local veterans.



PRESENTATION OF COLORS — Members of the Huntingdon Scouts present the colors to begin the Veterans Day observance.

Thank you for your service!

Habitat For Humanity Event Raises Thousands

Jesse Joseph
Editor

Scores of people gathered at the Carroll County Civic Center last Thursday, November 13 for Habitat for Humanity of Carroll County's annual charity banquet event.

The theme this year was *Denim & Diamonds*.

The evening brought together volunteers, supporters, and donors to help advance Habitat's mission of building safe, affordable housing for local families.

Guests enjoyed a catered meal provided by Hometown Hangout, a silent and live auction, video testimonials from volunteers, and special recognitions honoring

those who have gone above and beyond in service.

Teresa Carter, a member of Habitat's Board of Directors, presented the Volunteer of the Year award to Michael and Rhonda Walsh.

They were recognized for their outstanding service during the recent Habitat build in McKenzie.

"So many people volunteer throughout the year, but Michael and Rhonda truly went above and beyond. Whatever needed to be done, they were there to do it, and always with a smile," she said.

Habitat leaders announced they are currently seeking a construction manager, either one person or a pair who would work together,

for their next build.

The next home is a two-bedroom, one-bath house planned in McKenzie.

Skilled and unskilled volunteers are also needed for future projects.

Auctioneer Ryan McDaniel of McDaniel Auctions conducted the live auction.

Items included locally built picnic tables from the Carroll County Technical Center, a custom grill, music lessons from Birdsong School of Music, rounds of golf at Carroll Lake Golf Club, and a three-hour rental of the Colonel Tea Room on the court square.

According to board member Kassie Taylor, the event raised nearly \$30,000.



CROWD SUPPORTS HABITAT — Guests fill the Carroll County Civic Center during the Denim & Diamonds fundraiser. Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer



VOLUNTEERS OF THE YEAR — Teresa Carter (right) presents the 2025 Volunteer of the Year award to Michael and Rhonda Walsh during Habitat for Humanity's Denim & Diamonds event. Jesse Joseph/Carroll County Observer

PRACTICE OF THE QUARTER



BMG/Carroll County General Surgery was recognized as Practice of the Quarter for its outstanding patient-centered care. Pictured L-R: Carla Frye, RNFA; Dr. David Hall; Kylie Tidwell, LPN; and Elizabeth Cope, CSC. Not pictured: Office Manager Amy Campbell.

Light Up The Dixie



Huntingdon High School students Hayden Strop and Sawyer Raines got The Dixie ready for Christmas, Friday evening. They spent much of the night stringing lights on the building. It is now ready for Huntingdon's annual Main Street Christmas event, as well as the anticipated Christmas at the Dixie concert event on December 6.



HUNTINGDON, TENNESSEE

Main Street CHRISTMAS

SAT, DEC 6 - MON, DEC 8

On Saturday, Dec 6, explore local vendors, unique gifts & holiday cheer.

Food Trucks: 11A-7P
Pop-Up Vendors: 1-5:30P, inside First Baptist

SIGN UP TO BE A VENDOR
Applications Due: Thur, Dec 4 at 4p

THANKSGIVING MEAL Giveaway

Griffin and Powell Monuments and CUPKATE'S of Huntingdon are partnering up to give a Thanksgiving meal to a family IN NEED!

Drawing will be placed on Nov. 24th and the meal will need to be picked up from CUPKATE'S on NOV. 26

Taking Nominations NOV 10TH-21ST

To make a Nomination, whether it be for yourself or for a family in need, please text the number below with a name and a contact phone number.
731-393-3827

SPORTS

Carroll County OBSERVER | Wednesday, November 19, 2025 | 10



BREAK AWAY – Tyreke Hutch breaks away for a touchdown run in Mustangs win over Lewis County. Photos by Russell Bush

Mustangs Stampede Past Lewis County Advance to Quarterfinals

RUSSELL BUSH
Sports Writer

The Huntingdon Mustang football program is no stranger to advancing to the quarterfinal round of the playoffs and with the Mustangs 49-22 win over Lewis County in the second round Friday in Hohenwald, the Mustangs have now reached the quarters for eight of the last ten football seasons. The Mustangs have also qualified for the playoffs for the past 20 football seasons.

The Mustangs speed proved too much for the Panthers as the Huntingdon offense piled up 534 yards of total offense for the game. The Mustangs rushed 31 times for 439 yards in the game with senior Tyreke Hutch rushing eight times for 207 yards and three TD's that all came in the first half. Braylin Dearmon was great compliment to Hutch as he amassed 145 yards on 14 carries and one score. Kenton Smith completed 2 of 2 passes for 95 yards and two touchdowns. Gavin Gray led a Mustang defense that held a high scoring Lewis County team to 106 yards on the ground and 11 of 25 passes for 149 yards. Gray recorded 20 tackles and a sack. Broox Bennett had 13 tackles for the Mustang defense.

The Mustangs got off to a slow start in the game as Lewis County took a 3-0 lead with 1:39 left in the first quarter on a 33-yard field goal by Henry Sharp.

The Mustangs answered with 7:58 left in the first half on an 18-yard run by Hutch and a Greyson Anderson point after to take the lead at 7-3.

Lewis County's Drew Ray erased that lead in 14 seconds as he returned the ensuing kickoff 90 yards for a touchdown and a Sharp extra point gave the Panthers a 10-7 lead, but the Mustang offense woke up and exploded to score the 35 points in the game.

The Mustangs started the scoring barrage three plays after the Ray kickoff return. Smith threw a short pass in the flat to Bennett who broke a tackle and then scampered 77 yards for the score. Anderson tacked on the PAT and the Mustangs led 14-10.

Following a Panther punt the Mustangs scored in two plays as Hutch dashed 61-yards for a touchdown and the Anderson point after gave the Mustangs a 21-10 lead with 2:48 left in the half.

Hutch got in the touchdown mode again after the Panthers went three and out and outran the Panther defense for a 76-yard touchdown with 58 seconds left in the half. Anderson was true on the point after, and the Mustangs led 28-10 at the half.

The Mustangs started the third quarter with possession, and it took one play to essentially put the game on ice. Dearmon took the handoff and found a running lane and stiff armed a defender and sprinted 72

yards to paydirt to give the Mustangs a commanding 35-10 lead.

An Owen King sack ended a Panther drive at the Mustang 48 and Dearmon picked up 30 yards to the Panther 18 and the next play, Smith found King at the goal line for an 18-yard scoring toss and the lead was at 42-10 with the Anderson PAT.

Lewis County scored on its next possession with a 30-yard pass from Caleb Skelton to Kobe Feichtinger and went for two but failed, leaving the score at 42-16. The Panthers forced a Mustang punt and took over at the Mustang 38 and scored seven plays later on a Drew Ray 20-yard run. The two-point conversion again failed, and the score was left at 42-22.

The Mustangs recovered the onside kick and on the next play, K'Shun Carter found a hole and scooted to the end zone for a 50-yard touchdown run and Anderson added the final point of the night to make the final score 49-22.

The Mustangs face the second ranked team in the state this Friday in the quarterfinals as 12-0 East Robertson comes to Paul Ward Stadium for a 7 p.m. kickoff.



THROUGH THE GAP – Braylin Dearmon finds a huge hole for yardage in Mustangs win over Lewis County.



FOLLOWING THE BLOCK – Braylin Dearmon follows the block of Brayden Davis in Mustangs win over Lewis County.



TACKLE – Montrae Layhew leaps to tackle a Lewis County runner.



SURROUNDED – Led by Brooks Bennett and Gavin Gray, Mustang tacklers surround a Lewis County runner.



LEAP – Tyreke Hutch leaps over a Lewis County defender for a touchdown in Mustangs win over Lewis County.



HMS Fillies and Mustangs defeat McKenzie as they were perfect for the week

Russell Bush
Sports Writer

The Huntingdon Middle School Fillies and Mustangs had a busy but productive week on the hardwood as they played three games and came away with three wins. The Fillies defeated Union City on the road Monday 42-14, McKenzie at home on Tuesday 44-6, and Milan at home

on Thursday 44-15 to improve to 7-1 for the season. The Mustangs defeated Union City 53-41, McKenzie 47-19, and Milan 48-15 to improve to 11-0 for the season.

In the Fillies win over Union City, they were led in scoring by Kaylee Eatman with 14, Emma Smith 9, Cason 6, Wood 5, Dillahunt 3, Pearson 2, Singleton 2, and Johnson 1. In

their win over McKenzie, they were led by Ella Atkins with 8, Cason 7, Eatman 6, Dillahunt 5, Smith 5, Pearson 3, Martin 3, Singleton 2, and Hayes 2. Kristy Towne scored all six points for McKenzie.

In the Mustangs win over Union City, they were led in scoring by Derius Pratcher with 20, Noah Webb 18, Hayden Weathers 11, Harris 2, and Goble

2. Union City was led by Trey Kail with 16. In the Mustangs win over McKenzie, Pratcher led the way with 13, Webb 12, Weathers 6, Harris 4, Villalobos 4, Strayhorn 2, Holmes 2, Butler 2, Maddox 2. McKenzie was led by Jackson Barden with 4, Kamden Lee 4, and Thomas Howard 4.

See HMS, Page 12



DRIVE – Christian Cerda drives hard to the basket in HMS Mustangs win over McKenzie. Photos by Russell Bush



GOING FOR TWO – Lady Tiger Makayla Bass shoots the ball.

Tigers, Lady Tigers Fall to Camden in Basketball Opener

Jesse Joseph
Editor

Central traveled to Camden on Monday, November 17, to take on the Lions and Lady Lions

in their basketball season opener.

The Lady Tigers fared better against their foe than the Tigers did against the Lions, but both teams struggled to outscore their Benton County opponents.

The final score in the Lady Tigers-Lady Lions game was 43-22 in Camden's favor.

Central's Tigers fell to Camden 69-33.



MOVING IN – Tiger Nic King makes his way toward the goal.

Rockets Stung by Yellow Jackets in Season Opener

Jesse Joseph
Editor

Clarksburg's Rockets opened its basketball season on the road Monday, November 17, at Greenfield to take on the Yellow Jackets.

The Lady Rockets faced a difficult challenge against the defending state champion Lady Yellowjackets, falling 77-25.

Addison Milam led the Lady Rockets with 11 points and added a rebound, a steal and an assist.

Cari Glosson scored four points and pulled down a team-high six rebounds.

Carlie Swinford finished

with five points, three rebounds, an assist and a block.

Brooklyn Laws scored four points with four rebounds, while junior Makenna Bolen added a point, along with two rebounds, two steals and two assists.

Briley Crum collected three rebounds and a steal.

The boys' game was competitive from start to finish.

The Rockets led after the first quarter and stayed within a possession or two until the end. However, the Yellow Jackets were the victors, winning 70-60 over the Rockets.

Erin Dickson led

Clarksburg with 23 points, nine rebounds and three assists.

Jake Miller recorded a double-double with 13 points and 12 rebounds, along with two steals and two assists.

Trae Cobb scored 10 points and pulled down six rebounds.

Reagan Halter added four points, three rebounds and three steals.

Clay Glosson scored four points and grabbed eight rebounds.

Clarksburg returns to action Monday, Nov. 24, with a road game at Dresden.

UPCOMING BASKETBALL GAMES

HUNTINGDON
Nov. 24 - vs Carroll Academy
Dec. 02 - vs McKenzie

CLARKSBURG
Nov. 24 - @ Dresden
Nov. 25 - @ West Carroll

McKENZIE
Nov. 24 - vs Peabody
Dec. 02 - @ Huntingdon

CENTRAL
Nov. 24 - vs South Fulton
Nov. 25 - @ Gleason

WEST CARROLL
Nov. 24 - @ Greenfield
Nov. 25 - vs Clarksburg

CAMDEN
Nov. 20 - @ Riverside
Nov. 24 - @ Henry County

Snaps from the Joseph Mayo Invitational Jamboree Huntingdon High School, Saturday, November 15

Photos by Jesse Joseph





TOUCHDOWN CELEBRATION – Rebels Kason Brown and Avery Brown jump for joy after a touchdown.
Photos by Carol Nanney

Rebels Dominate Greenfield to Advance to State Quarterfinals

McKenzie wasted little time reminding Greenfield why the Rebels are the top-ranked team in Class A, shaking off an early deficit and rolling to a 56-6 win Friday night in the second round of the state playoffs. Greenfield stunned the Rebels with an 80-yard opening drive and a 48-

yard touchdown pass to take a quick 6-0 lead. But that was the lone highlight for the Jackets, who struggled with field position and went three-and-out on their next three possessions. McKenzie responded with eight unanswered

touchdowns, starting with a 60-yard march capped by Timmy Arline's 9-yard run. From there, the Rebels' quick offense and stifling defense took control. Cole Brown hit Avery Brown on a 36-yard scoring pass, broke loose for runs

of 42 and 13 yards, and added a 10-yard TD strike to Lelan Gordon before halftime as McKenzie built a 42-6 lead. A running clock opened the second half, and McKenzie didn't stop. Jayden Callis added scoring runs of 24 and 6

yards to finish the night. Cole Brown went 5-of-10 passing for 97 yards with two touchdowns and added 74 rushing yards and two more scores. Arline finished with 61 yards and a touchdown, while Callis ran for 39 yards and two scores. Avery Brown led the

receivers with 57 yards and a TD. Greenfield finished with 120 total yards, 80 of which were on the opening drive, and ends its season 7-5. McKenzie travels to Richland this Friday for the state quarterfinals. Kickoff is 7 p.m. in Lynnville.



CLOSE CALL – Parker Ross narrowly escapes a Yellowjacket's clutch.



RUNNING – Cole Brown looks for an opening.

HMS

FROM PAGE 9



BATTLE – Davay Strayhorn battles a McKenzie defender in HMS Mustangs win over Rebels.



RUNNER – June Dillahunt takes a running shot in HMS Fillies win over McKenzie.



JUMPER – Ella Atkins fires off a jump shot in HMS Fillies win over McKenzie.

Thank You

FOR READING

CARROLL COUNTY OBSERVER