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Started by Civil War General John Hunt Morgan, bringing Trousdale County's news for more than 150 years and counting

Jackets fumble away region title

BY CHRIS GREGORY
MANAGING EDITOR

The Region 4-2A championship will stay in Watertown for one more season after the Purple Tigers took advantage of Trousdale County's mistakes to hand the Yellow Jackets a 31-21 defeat Friday evening.

It is the fourth season in a row that Watertown (7-3, 5-0) has claimed the region championship and the victory gave the Purple Tigers seven wins in their last eight games after an 0-2 start to the season.

"Kids believe. We just kept believing in what we were doing and the kids believed in it," Watertown

coach Gavin Webster said. "We've been preaching all week that bad things happen sometimes. We said we were going to have a big ballgame and things aren't going to go right all the time."

"I was hoping this squad would be the one to get over the hump," Trousdale coach Blake Satterfield said. "Tonight we just didn't play great football. Now it's an uphill battle... Hats off to Watertown. They took advantage of the bad conditions and there's a reason they're a four-time region champion."

Trousdale County (8-1, 4-1) had been ranked No. 2 in Class 2A and the Yellow

Jackets grabbed the early momentum when Bryson Claiborne got outside and raced 62 yards down the sideline for a touchdown on the second play of the game. The Jackets' defense forced a punt and Trousdale looked poised to take control.

But Watertown's defense stiffened and a snap went over the punter's head, setting up the Purple Tigers at the TC 25. Five plays later, Kwame Seay found the end zone to put Watertown on the scoreboard.

Watertown took a 13-7 lead in the second quarter on Adam Cooper's 4-yard carry and looked poised to extend the lead before halftime. But Trousdale's Kane Burnley forced a fumble along the visitors' sideline and set up the Jackets in positive territory and Cole Gregory's 2-yard plunge with 14 seconds left before halftime gave the hosts a 14-13 lead.

"We gave up a big touchdown but they fought right

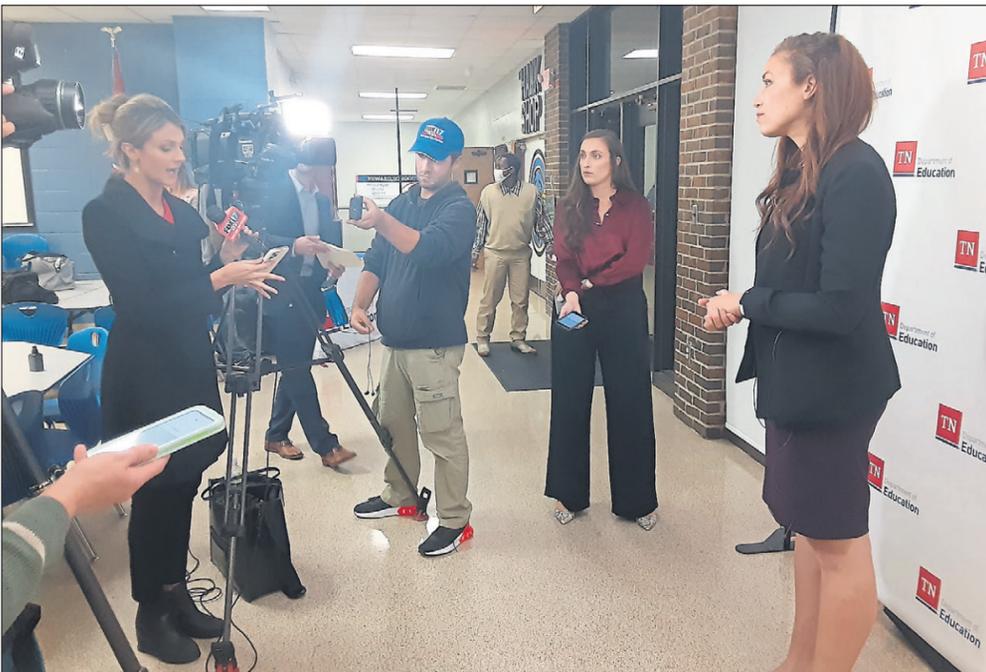
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Trousdale County quarterback Keenan Burnley (8) is dragged down by a Watertown defender during Friday's game.

Chris Gregory / Hartsville Vidette



Town hall addresses education funding formula



Chris Gregory / Hartsville Vidette

Tennessee Commissioner of Education Penny Schwinn, right, takes questions from media following a town hall meeting at Hendersonville's Merrol Hyde Magnet School on Oct. 27. The town hall was the first in a series of meetings to allow public feedback on plans to revamp the state's funding formula for public schools.

State officials hear parents, teachers

BY CHRIS GREGORY
MANAGING EDITOR

State education officials are hearing from parents, teachers and even students as they work toward changing the way public schools are funded in Tennessee.

On Oct. 27, Education Commissioner Penny Schwinn attended the first of eight planned town hall sessions over three months across Tennessee to hear the public's comments on revamping the Basic Education Program (BEP), the funding formula for Tennessee schools. According to the Tennessee Comptroller's Office, the BEP funded public schools to the tune of nearly \$4.9 billion for the 2019-20 school year.

"I think you heard today that people, especially parents and our families that came out,

really want to ensure that dollars get as close to the student as possible," Schwinn said. "I think having these conversations about a student-based formula means we are tying dollars to what the child's needs are."

When you're talking about student-based funding, it is saying, 'Based on the needs of this child, the state will allocate this much money.' That might mean more for students with disabilities, English learners, economically disadvantaged students."

Earlier in October, Gov. Bill Lee announced plans for a full review of the BEP formula with an eye toward focusing on what he called a student-centered investment strategy. The state has set up a central steering committee that includes House Majority Leader William Lamberth (R-Portland) and Senate Speaker Pro Tempore Ferrell Haile (R-Gallatin).

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Open House shopping returns

BY NATALIE KNUDSEN
CHAMBER DIRECTOR

The Chamber of Commerce-sponsored Yellow Jacket Football Fantasy contest wrapped up last Friday in conjunction with the team's last home game. This year's winner was Compliance Engineering, LLC. A big "THANK YOU" to all of the participants in this year's contest.

For the past seven years, the Chamber of Commerce has sponsored the Open House Shopping Days. This event

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Study: Trousdale needs miles of new water lines

BY CHRIS GREGORY
MANAGING EDITOR

Members of the Water Board got a preliminary look at a report on what it would take to extend service to areas of Trousdale County currently without water.

At the board's Oct. 26 meeting, Evan White with Mid-Tenn Engineering spoke to the group about the feasibility study, which was commissioned earlier this year and is still being worked upon. A final report could be ready by the board's November meeting.

White said preliminary indications were that extending services would, based on current populations, only pick up 96 customers with an estimated 31.7 miles of new water lines laid down at an overall cost of \$9.43 million. As part of the study once completed, roads without ser-

vice will be ranked in order of cost-effectiveness.

"Some of those would also require booster pumps at \$50,000 to \$75,000," White said. "None of the roads on this list is a return on your investment, so nothing is feasible from a business standpoint. You will not make your money back; it would be more serving the folks in your county."

At a previous meeting, County Mayor Stephen Chambers had noted that the state comptroller's office would probably not look favorably on investing money into projects that would not provide a return on that investment.

The board asked that the final study be limited to county-maintained roads and not include private roads that might have only one or two homes.

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CPC plans Fall Festival and chili cook-off

BY CHRIS GREGORY
MANAGING EDITOR

Hartsville's Community Pregnancy Center will be holding its fourth annual Chili Cook-off and Fall Festival on Saturday, Nov. 2 in Hartsville City Park.

From noon-3 p.m., attendees can sample chili and enjoy live music, a live auction, cake walk, children's games and more. A baked goods sale and craft sale will also take place. The auction will begin around 12:45 p.m. and the cake walk at 2 p.m., and there will also be free face painting available.

"We couldn't have one last year because of COVID, even with it being outside," said Peg Shonebarger, the center's director. "We're excited to get back on track this year! We've gotten donations from businesses so we'll have a live auc-

tion, live music, a cake walk, bake sale and of course, the chili!"

The event is a fundraiser for the Community Pregnancy Center, which offers pro-life counseling, parental classes, pregnancy testing and other services to its clients. The center also works to provide help to expectant mothers through donated items such as clothes, diapers, car seats and more.

All proceeds from Saturday's event will benefit the Community Pregnancy Center, which has been open since summer 2017 at 783 E. McMurry Blvd.

For more information on Saturday's event, contact the CPC at 615-680-8026.

Reach Chris Gregory at 615-374-3556 or cgregory@hartsvillevidette.com.

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THE PEOPLE'S AGENDA

The Solid Waste Committee will meet on Thursday, Nov. 4 at 6 p.m. in the upstairs courtroom of the courthouse.

The Emergency Services Committee will meet on Thursday, Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. in the upstairs courtroom of the courthouse.

MORE INSIDE

Health Department offering free flu shots to community on Nov. 9.

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