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Carter County Times

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CARTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024

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Family sentenced in contraband case

Parents had funneled illegal items to incarcerated son

By: Jeremy D. Wells
Carter County Times

A Grayson couple arrested last year for funneling contraband to their son inside the Carter County Detention Center have been sentenced in connection with their role in the scheme. Ronald Carroll, 65, and Barbara Carroll, 59, were arrested in July of last year after investigators inside the jail discovered they were the source of contraband found in a search of their son's cell. At that time internal affairs

investigator Sergeant Matt Moore, with the detention center, explained that Kevin Carroll, 34, had coerced a food service contractor into bringing the items into the facility. The items in question included tobacco products and nicotine vape cartridges, as well as a cell phone. The latter was the most worrying, according to Moore, because a cell phone could be used to coordinate other crimes.

The food service contractor, Kierson Callicoa, 22, of Ashland, was also arrested at that time, but cooperated with investigators.

According to Moore, the younger Carroll and other inmates played on Callicoa's sympathies.

"She felt bad for them," he

See **CONTRABAND** on A-3



Ronald Carroll, 65, and Barbara Carroll, 59, received probation for their role in the scheme. Their son, Kevin, received five years. (Submitted photos)

Ambulance board continues to improve fleet

Board reviews purchases and upgrades during regular meeting

By: Jeremy D. Wells
Carter County Times

The Carter County Emergency Ambulance Board couldn't wait until their regular March meeting to order a replacement chassis for one of their existing truck bodies. After discussing the measure during their regular February meeting, the board held a special meeting on March 6 to approve the purchase and

changeover.

During that February meeting the board also made and approved a motion to offer interim director Tim Woods the job of executive director – a move that Woods accepted.

During his first meeting as executive director, the March 6 special meeting, Woods presented the board with a proposal from Emergency Transportation Associates for the purchase of the Dodge 4500 4X4 diesel chassis, and the reconfiguration of truck #4 to fit that chassis; with the offer of a 180 day turn around. The cost for the project, which the board voted to approve, is \$192,396.25 with the loan pro-

See **AMBULANCE** on A-3



An ambulance in the Carter County EAS fleet. (File photo by Jeremy D. Wells, Carter County Times)

Eyes and ears of the beholder

Sharing stories of the unexplained

By: Charles Romans
Carter County Times

I asked a friend who is a pastor once if he believed in ghosts and his answer was a good representation of how people – especially those who live in Appalachia – react to anything that has to do with the strange or paranormal. He said, "Well, the company (meaning the church) line is that ghosts aren't real." However, on the heels of that statement he added, "But let me tell you what happened to me once..."

And that, my friends, describes the way most people view the strange or paranormal. Sort of like two equally domi-

nant sides of the same coin. We are told not to believe, but it seems as though we are almost compelled to acknowledge the possibility. Especially if we have seen something that 'just wasn't right'.

I asked my friend the question because that's what I do; and I've done that since long before I became a reporter. And on this specific subject I truly want to know what people think about the stories that have fascinated me since a very young age. Yes, I have read a lot on the subject. But what truly fascinates me are the eyewitness accounts. And there has never been a shortage of those where we live.

My grandfather was a very talented storyteller who knew a lot of these stories, and I heard a lot of those growing up in Rush, Kentucky. Some were

stories he had heard himself and some were those he swore he'd experienced himself, and most of them he said were true. As I grew older, I soon found out that he was by no means the only source of these stories. People whom I would have said would never say anything but the truth would either tell stories of strange occurrences and what we now call the paranormal or they would support the same type of stories told by others.

Of course, there have always been those who disbelieve stories that seem to fly in the face of logic or accepted reason on sheer principle alone. For every question of strange occurrences these people have a 'logical' answer – often the same answer for multiple questions. Belief might be credible or incredible

See **UNEXPLAINED** on A-8

Weekly arrests report

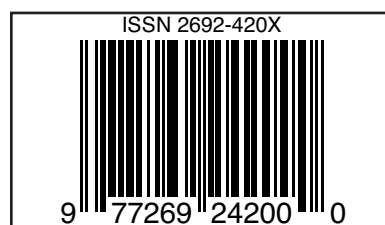
The following individuals were arrested and booked into the Carter County Detention Center over the past week. This list includes local arrests only. It does not include federal inmates being housed at or transported through the detention center.

- Michael Hedge, 52, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on a charge of contempt of court – libel/slander – resistance to order, arrested March 24, booked March 25.
- Caleb McGlone, 33, of Grayson, self-surrender, week-end, arrested and booked March 25.
- Dorothy Sparks, 37, of Lexington, arrested by Fayette County Detention Center, for non-payment of fines, arrested and booked March 25.
- Noah Miller, 18, address

- unknown, arrested by Grayson PD, on a charge of first degree sexual abuse – victim under 12 years of age, arrested and booked March 25.
- Robert Fosson, 58, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County District Court, charges unavailable, arrested and booked March 25.
- Skylar Ayers, 27, address unknown, arrested by Grayson PD, for failure to appear, arrested and booked March 25.
- Danny Mullins, 57, of Olive Hill, self-surrender, return from medical bond by CCDC, arrested and booked March 27.
- Melissa Adkins, 45, of Morehead, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on a charge of driving on a DUI suspended license, arrested and booked March 27.
- Jeffery Young, 55, address unknown, arrested by Grayson

- PD, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a substance, failure to wear seat belts, and failure to produce an insurance card, arrested and booked March 27.
- Mark Jarrell, 37, address unknown, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear, arrested and booked March 28.
- Matthew Hall, 46, address unknown, arrested by Kentucky State Police, charges unavailable, arrested and booked March 28.
- Emily Hatfield, 20, address unknown, arrested by Grayson PD, on a charge of alcohol intoxication in a public place, arrested and booked March 28.
- Steven Binion, 28, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on two counts of failure to appear, arrested March 28, booked March 29.

See **ARRESTS** on A-3



This Week's Obituaries

Floyd Elwood Hall, 91
James Edward Humphries, 77

James Delmar White, 79

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LIFESTYLE



Egg-citing delights: Deviled eggs galore!

As Easter rolls around, so does the inevitable surplus of hard-boiled eggs. But we're about to transform those humble eggs into delectable delights: deviled eggs! These egg-cellent creations are not only perfect for post-Easter gatherings, but can be enjoyed all year round. Versatile, flavorful and oh-so-satisfying, deviled eggs are the ultimate crowd-pleaser.

The Green Ring Dilemma. Ever wondered about that unsightly green ring around hard-boiled egg yolks? It's not a culinary catastrophe, but merely a harmless reaction between sulfur and iron during cooking. To avoid this, follow our foolproof

method for perfectly boiled eggs: Gently simmer them in water, cover, and let them rest before cooling in an ice bath.

Some Diva tips: Always boil extra eggs, because some won't peel cooperatively, and a few extra yolks makes for abundantly filled deviled eggs. For the classic deviled egg experience, use good old yellow mustard. Also, leave perfectionism out of this. Remember, even the ugliest deviled egg tastes delicious! Absolutely worst-case scenario, chop them up and serve egg salad on croissants.

CLASSIC DEVILED EGGS
Yield: 24 deviled egg halves
Total Time: 1 hour

- 12 large eggs
- 1/4 cup mayonnaise
- 1 tablespoon yellow mustard
- 1 teaspoon white wine vinegar or rice vinegar
- 1/4 teaspoon table salt
- Paprika, for garnish (optional)

Lay the eggs flat in a pan and cover with cold water. Put the pan over medium heat and bring to a rolling boil. Once at a boil, immediately cover with a lid, remove from heat and let the eggs sit for 12 minutes. Submerge in very cold water until cooled.

Once the eggs are cool, gently tap each egg on a hard surface to

crack the shell, then peel under cool running water. Pat the eggs dry with a paper towel.

Slice the eggs in half lengthwise and carefully remove the yolks. Place the yolks in a separate bowl and mash them with a fork until smooth.

Add the mayonnaise, mustard, vinegar and salt to the mashed yolks. Mix until well combined and creamy. Spoon the yolk mixture back into the egg white halves, dividing evenly. Alternatively, spoon the yolk mixture into a baggie and cut the corner for easy squeeze egg filling.

If desired, sprinkle the deviled eggs with paprika for a classic touch. Refrigerate the deviled eggs for at least 30 minutes before serving to allow the flavors to meld together.

Serve chilled and enjoy these timeless appetizers at your next gathering! To ensure food safety, store any leftover deviled eggs in the refrigerator and consume within two days.

Egg-citing Varieties to Try:

Spicy Sriracha: Add a fiery twist to your deviled eggs by incorporating a generous drizzle of sriracha sauce into the filling. It's sure to spice up any occasion!

Bacon Lover's Dream: Indulge in savory bliss by topping your deviled eggs with crispy



Dive into the irresistible delight of deviled eggs! (Photo credit: www.JasonCoblentz.com)

bacon bits. The smoky flavor pairs perfectly with the creamy filling.

Avocado Avenger: For a healthier spin, swap out mayo for mashed avocado in your deviled egg mixture. It's creamy, luscious, and oh-so-delicious.

Zesty Mediterranean: Elevate your deviled eggs with a burst of Mediterranean flavors. Mix in chopped olives, sun-dried tomatoes and a sprinkle of feta cheese for a taste of the Mediterranean sunshine.

Everything Bagel Bliss: Embrace the flavors of your favorite breakfast treat by sprinkling everything bagel seasoning on top of your deviled eggs. It's a

crunchy, savory delight that will leave you craving more.

With endless variations to explore, deviled eggs are sure to become a staple in your culinary repertoire. Enjoy, and happy egg-sperimenting! Too many egg puns? Well, egg-scuse me!

Until next time, happy cooking, my frugal friends!

Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website *Divas On A Dime -- Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous!* Visit Patti at www.divasonadime.com and join the conversation on Facebook at *DivasOnADimeDotCom*. Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com

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Bluegrass Bible Beat

In the end, only one

By: Sling 'n Stone Ministry
Carter County Times

Big crowds! Big crowds!

Churches today seek and celebrate big crowds – one church publicly celebrates drawing 25,000 attendees. Big crowds, however, don't impress God; nor do most in those big crowds follow God or His Son. We know this is so because big crowds attended Jesus's sermons. (Matthew 4:25) But they did so, not for His truth, but for "loaves and fishes," that they might be filled. (John 6:26) Thousands attended Jesus's sermons, seeking their own selfish ends – not God's kingdom or His righteousness. (Matthew 6:33) When Jesus hit them with truth, "many... went back, and walked no more with Him." (John 6:66) Same thing happened when the Sanhedrin arrested Jesus. When persecution's heat came, every single disciple ran off, abandoning Jesus to face what came next. (Mark 14:50) ("They all forsook Him and fled.")

Nothing's changed. Today, millions say they follow Jesus, but like the

big crowds in Jesus's day, today's big crowds hang around Jesus, seeking only to satisfy and justify themselves, saying, "I go to church; pay my tithes; I believe in Jesus." Jesus ain't impressed. Like Luke 18:13's Pharisee, today's selfish seekers risk eternal doom.

His truth still offends today. And persecution's heat still separates who's real from who's not. Many prefer emotional songs and sermons over steadfast faithfulness and hard work – like evangelizing the lost, no matter the cost – Jesus accepts nothing less from those who call Him Lord. (Luke 6:46) ("Why call ye ME, Lord, Lord and do not the things which I say?")

We must examine ourselves: Do we follow Jesus, and if we do – why? (II Corinthians 13:5) Do we seek something from Him? Or do we seek only to serve Him for His sake? The latter proves soul-saving faith. The former? Soul-damning hypocrisy. What makes folks serve Jesus for His sake alone, no matter what? Answer: Steadfast love for Him, for Who Jesus is; and for what He did when he died

on the cross. (I John 4:19) (Ephesians 2:14-18) Scripture remembers only one who so loved Jesus: Mary Magdalene.

When the Romans crucified Jesus atop Golgotha, the big crowds were long gone. Only four remained: John; Jesus's mother; her sister; and Mary Magdalene. (John 19:25) After they entombed Jesus, everyone went home. Everyone but Mary Magdalene. She alone remained faithful. Mary never flinched. She loved and trusted Jesus even beyond His atoning death on the cross. Walking to Jesus's tomb Easter morning, Mary found it empty. Yet, she stood fast. Weeping alone and faithful to Him still, Mary loved and trusted Jesus to the very end – and that's when Jesus showed-up... and then, HE spoke her name: "Mary." (John 20:10-16)

Y'all see? It ain't the big, self-seeking crowds; it's that one who stays faithful 'til the end. That's who spends forever with Jesus. (Matthew 24:13) ("He that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved."); (Mark 13:13) Who do y'all want to be?



Extension Notes

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

How to properly manage the damage caused by brown marmorated stink bugs

As their name implies, brown marmorated stink bugs are not just stinky—they can seriously harm crops. You must take action to keep this pest away, regardless of the size of your field or garden.

Although brown marmorated stink bugs have long been present in the eastern part of the state, since 2019 they have started appearing in more counties in Western Kentucky. This invasive species resembles native stink bugs in appearance, but it has a gray belly, and a brown, mottled top along with white bands on its antennae.

These stink bugs will consume any crop. Sweet corn, eggplant, peppers

and tomatoes are a few of their favorite foods. They also prey on ornamental trees like redbuds and field crops like soybeans. Their feeding discolors crops, turns their insides corky, and—most importantly—makes them inedible.

Home and commercial growers should take prompt action to control brown marmorated stink bugs because of their capacity to quickly decimate crops.

Here are some quick tips:

- They smell strongly, so you don't want to smash them. Even if you inadvertently crush them, their odor will keep other stink bugs away from your crops. To eliminate them

in large quantities, you can sweep them off plants and place them in buckets of soapy water.

- When stink bugs are small, homeowners can control them with insecticidal soap; for larger stink bugs, use products containing pyrethroids. You can also utilize physical exclusion techniques like netting or row covers to keep the stink bugs out of your yard. When using row covers, timing is crucial because you don't want to use them to impede pollination.
- Since the brown marmorated stink bug most frequently infiltrates along field edges, commercial producers should concentrate their monitoring efforts there. In these circumstances, pyrethroid products can also be

See **BUGS** on A-3



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Extension Notes

carter.ca.uky.edu
FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES

Become a smoothie-making pro with these simple, nutritional steps

Smoothies are a convenient way to add nutrients to your diet, adding variety to what and how you eat. Smoothies are simple because you combine all the ingredients into one spot, then blend and enjoy.



Whitney Morrow
Carter County
Extension Agent

With a little practice and these tips listed, you can become a smoothie-making pro. • Add over-ripened fruits and vegetables. Over time, this can reduce food waste and save food dollars in your home. • Consider buying

single-serving blenders. These are typically less expensive than a true blender. You can also buy blenders secondhand or refurbished, generally discounted around the holiday season. If you do not have a blender, make smoothies in a food processor or with an immersion blender instead.

See **SMOOTHIES** on A-6

Kentucky Dept of Agriculture Livestock and Grain Market Report

Compared to last week, the trends for feeder cattle were mixed with some markets reporting steady to 5.00 lower and a few reporting steady to 5.00 higher with good to very good demand for all classes. Yearlings sold mostly 2.00 to 4.00 higher throughout the week. Slaughter cows and bulls sold mostly steady to 5.00 higher with good to very good demand.

Courtesy of <https://www.kyagr.com/> Week ending 3/30/24

STATE AVERAGES			
Steers (M&L 1-2)	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
350-400 lbs	324.72	337.50	221.75
400-450 lbs	323.63	330.51	231.09
450-500 lbs	310.73	323.48	228.96
500-550 lbs	297.95	301.22	219.61
550-600 lbs	290.54	292.20	212.74
600-650 lbs	277.13	280.34	200.46
650-700 lbs	275.99	256.92	191.92
700-750 lbs	247.95	246.47	181.66
750-800 lbs	240.54	237.25	176.76
800-850 lbs	224.03	232.66	170.34
850-900 lbs	225.16	226.82	172.26
Heifers (M&L 1-2)	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
300-350 lbs	302.08	293.46	207.71
350-400 lbs	295.50	293.58	208.59
400-450 lbs	285.30	281.83	205.91
450-500 lbs	272.98	274.32	203.59
500-550 lbs	258.98	261.19	193.15
550-600 lbs	250.01	250.26	189.86
600-650 lbs	238.67	235.49	175.84
650-700 lbs	229.54	231.48	170.67
700-750 lbs	213.59	216.44	161.38
750-800 lbs	205.17	212.82	158.64

WEEKLY COW SUMMARY			
Slaughter Cows	Average	High	Low
Breakers	98.00-133.00	115.00-165.00	100.00-115.00
Boners	101.00-143.00	118.00-167.00	80.00-118.00
Lean	72.00-119.00	100.00-149.00	80.00-109.00
Slaughter Bulls	Average	High	Low
Yield Grade 1&2	120.00-155.00	130.00-187.00	107.00-134.00

March 28, 2024 **Bowling Green, KY**
SLAUGHTER GOATS: 162
Kids: Selection 1-2 56 lbs 355.00. **Selection 2** 52 lbs 340.00; 70 lbs 305.00; 108 lbs 255.00. **Selection 2-3** 53 lbs 250.00; 65 lbs 245.00.
SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 660
Hair Breeds-Choice & Prime 1-2 51-54 lbs 285.00-290.00; 69 lbs 300.00; 73 lbs 280.00; 89 lbs 255.00; 110 lbs 230.00. **Choice 2** 53 lbs 277.50; 67 lbs 270.00; 75 lbs 280.00; 85 lbs 250.00; 115.00 lbs 200.00. **Wooled-Choice & Prime 1-2** 60 lbs 265.00-305.00; 71 lbs 290.00; 83 lbs 255.00; 104 lbs 237.50.

Week ending 3/30/24			
GRAINS	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
Corn	3.82-4.49	3.91-4.46	6.32-6.94
Soybeans	11.07-12.21	11.21-12.27	14.17-15.51
Red Winter Wheat	4.74-5.56	4.73-5.50	6.20-7.01

Arrests from A-1

•Deven Adams, 24, address unknown, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, and disregarding a stop sign, arrested and booked March 29.

•James Clark, 40, of Ashland, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and

booked March 29.

•David Clay, 61, address unknown, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of speeding 10 MPH over limit, failure to or improper signal, and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, arrested and booked March 30.

•Austin Miller, 19, address

unknown, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on charges of inadequate silencer (muffler), and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol while less than 21 years of age, arrested and booked March 30.

All of the charges listed are arrest charges only, and do not indicate an indict-

ment or a conviction for the charges in question. All subjects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Information is compiled from publicly available sources, but may not be comprehensive.

Contraband from A-1

said.

But it was her cooperation that identified Ronald and Barbara Carroll as the source of the cell phone. Officers with the Grayson Police Department were then able to obtain warrants and affect the arrest the next day, Monday, July 24, 2023.

The Carrolls changed their pleas back in February, while appearing before circuit court judge, the Honorable Rebecca Phillips, but paperwork on the case was only released last week.

Both Barbara and Ronald entered pleas of guilty to charges of promoting contraband, second degree – a reduction of their original charge of promoting contraband, first degree – and were sentenced to twelve months in jail, plus court costs. The Common-

wealth also recommended in both cases that the twelve month sentence be conditionally discharged for a period of two years.

Ronald Carroll's discharge is unsupervised on the condition that he does not commit another offense during the period, refrains from the use of drugs or alcohol, pays any associated cost, and avoids "vicious habits" and "persons or places of disreputable or harmful character." Carroll was also ordered to stay off the premises of the Carter County Detention Center.

Barbara Carroll's release is to be supervised for the first year, with the opportunity for supervision to be lifted after the first year if she complies with the terms of her probation. These include the terms laid out in her husband's conditional release, but

includes admonishments to remain within the area designated by her probation, to report to her probation officer as directed, to pay a supervision fee of \$20 per month, permit the probation officer to visit her at home and elsewhere, and to submit to periodic drug and alcohol testing at the direction of her probation officer and pay a one-time drug testing fee of \$120.

Kevin Carroll had a charge of being a persistent felony offender dropped, and pleaded guilty to a charge of promoting contraband, first degree. In exchange for that plea the Commonwealth agreed to offer his parents the reduction in charges from the Class D Felony promoting contraband in the first degree to charges of promoting contraband in the second degree, which

are Class A Misdemeanors. The younger Carroll was sentenced to five years of imprisonment, with court costs waived.

Phillips ruled that probation was not a consideration in the younger Carroll's case because of the likelihood that he would commit another crime while on probation – he was incarcerated on a parole violation at the time of his contraband offense – and because an alternate sentence "would unduly depreciate the seriousness of (his) crime."

The five years will run consecutively to the sentence he is serving in his other parole violation cases.

Contact the writer at editor@cartercountytimes.com

Ambulance from A-1

vided through Commercial Bank of Grayson on a five-year term.

During their regular meeting for March the board reviewed the minutes for these previous two meetings, and accepted reports from the executive director and finance director.

Woods gave an update on the new ambulance from Burgess, which passed state inspection at the end of February and is

now in service at the Olive Hill station.

The executive director also discussed other truck maintenance issues and seasonal illnesses and their impact on staffing.

In financial reports, the service reported that income for February was \$317,083.02 – which was higher than the amount budgeted for the month and \$75,428.83 more than the same period in the previous year. In other

good news, expenses for the month came in at \$102,710.34 under budget for the month, at \$142,415.66 and \$111,097.62 less than the same month in 2023.

Payroll still consumed the greatest amount of income for year to date (YTD) taking 55.87% of total income. But, even at that, payroll came in under budget for February as well – at \$199,276.02 which is \$723.98 less

than was budgeted for the month; but \$8,55379 more than the same month in the previous year.

Unscheduled overtime made up some of that increased cost, with 5.28% of time reported for the month consisting of unscheduled overtime, an increase of 2.92% over the previous month.

Contact the writer at editor@cartercountytimes.com

ARC encourages life-saving connection to treatment amid study highlighting widespread impact of overdose deaths

LOUISA — Addiction Recovery Care (ARC) is reminding individuals about the vital importance of connecting loved ones to evidence-based substance use disorder (SUD) treatment, following a recent report underscoring the devastating toll of the drug epidemic.

In a study released last month by RAND Corporation, more than 42 percent of Americans reported personally knowing someone who has died of a drug overdose; and nearly one-third of those individ-

uals say their lives were disrupted by the death.

The research, published in the American Journal of Public Health, further noted that "rates of exposure were significantly higher in New England...and the East South Central region (including Kentucky)."

"Tragically, the results of this national study are not surprising to those of us working every day in the treatment arena," said Matt Brown, ARC Chief Administration Officer and President of ARC Healthcare. "Each individual's

struggle with addiction impacts the lives of countless friends, family members and loved ones. And it is imperative that we all seek to identify and help those around us find life-saving care before it is too late."

Substance use disorder remains a stubbornly persistent public health crisis, with more than 1.1 million overdose deaths documented nationwide since the year 2000 — including 2,100 annually across Kentucky.

ARC offers a full continuum of care including

detox, residential, transitional, intensive outpatient, outpatient, medically assisted treatment (MAT), vocational rehabilitation, and job training through its network of over 30 licensed addiction treatment centers across Kentucky.

For more information or to connect to an Addiction Recovery Care professional, please call 606-268-3931 or visit www.ARCcenters.com.

Bugs from A-2

helpful.

•Throughout the summer, stink bugs will most likely produce two generations, so keep a careful eye on your crops. Early summer is when the first generation will emerge, and late summer or early fall is when the second generation does.

•Brown marmorated stink bugs may begin to appear in your home as the weather cools off and they seek cover from the elements. Toward the end of August, they can also begin to cluster on the exterior of homes. If homeowners spot these stinkbug parties, they can

spray them with soapy water and kill them before they end up inside.

For more information on pest control, contact your Carter County Extension office. Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.



Other Upcoming Events:

- Hike & Learn – Friday, April 5th @ 1:00 PM – Laurel Gorge Cultural Heritage Center
- Farmer's Market Training

- & Meeting – Monday, April 8th at 6:00 PM
- Extension District Board Meeting – Tuesday, April 9th at 10:00 AM

CALENDAR

- **4/3: Interagency Coalition** @ 1 p.m. | Carter County Extension Office | Contact Whitney.Morrow@uky.edu
- **4/4: Lunch & Learn: Self-Care** @ 12 p.m. | Carter County Extension Office
- **4/4: Bruce's Magazine Club** @ 1 p.m. | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **4/4: Carter County Library Board** @ 6 p.m. | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **4/5: Sit and Sew** @ 9 a.m. | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions or to RSVP call 606-474-6686
- **4/5: Hike & Learn** @ 1 p.m. | Laurel Gorge Cultural Heritage Center
- **4/8: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days** @ 9 a.m. | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 606-474-6686
- **4/8: Homeschool group meeting** @ 12 p.m. | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **4/8: Game Night** @ 5 p.m. | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **4/8: Carter County Fiscal Court meeting** @ 6 p.m. | Carter County Courthouse
- **4/8: Farmer's Market Training & Meeting** @ 6 p.m. | Carter County Extension Office
- **4/9: Carter County Extension District Board meeting** @ 10 a.m. | Carter County Extension Office
- **4/9: Grayson Area Chamber of Commerce meeting** @ 12 p.m. | KCU meeting room | Speaker: Kristine McNeil, Project Manager, KY Innovation & Kentucky Cabinet for Economic Development
- **4/9: Grayson City Council** @ 5:30 p.m. | Grayson City Hall
- **4/9: Homeschool group meeting** @ 6 p.m. | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **4/10: Girl Scouts meeting** @ 6:30 p.m. | Carter County Public Library - Grayson



Pet of the Week

Jett is a three-year-old German shepherd mix. He walks well on a leash and is ready for his forever home. His \$50 adoption fee includes rabies vaccination and being neutered. Stop by the Carter County Animal Shelter and meet him or call 475-9771 for more information. Shelter hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Saturday by appointment.

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 606-286-8788

Can you pass this test?

Don't risk it.

DUIs are expensive and may cost you your license or your life. Never drink and drive. Always buckle up.

A message from the City of Grayson and the Alcoholic Beverage Control Office

Bank like a local, no matter where life takes you.

Commercial Bank of Grayson
 Here for a century, here for you.

cbgrayson.com

Member FDIC LENDER

Health care immunity measure signed into law

Frankfort — Following the full passage and enrollment of HB 159, sponsored by Representative Patrick Flannery, R-Olive Hill, the measure was signed into law on Tuesday.

"I consider this a win for healthcare practitioners across the commonwealth," Representative Flannery said. "It was an honor to work on this legislation with my colleagues in both chambers, and I believe that this measure will serve as a peace of mind for providers simply trying to do their jobs."

HB 159 grants criminal immunity to frontline healthcare providers in the event they make simple mistakes while they treat their patients. It does not, however, grant criminal immunity for providers

who are found to be guilty of gross negligence or wanton, willful, malicious, or intentional misconduct. The law will still permit a path of legal recourse for patients in civil court.

"As we continue our efforts to navigate the complex nature of healthcare in Kentucky, it is crucial that we put our best foot forward in supporting our frontline heroes who work tirelessly to provide care," Flannery added. "While today was a large step, there is still much work to do with healthcare policy in the commonwealth."

For more information regarding HB 159, as well as current and past legislative measures, please visit legislature.ky.gov or click here.

Frankfort hosts Child Abuse Prevention Month Statewide Kick-off

Frankfort — Statewide child abuse prevention leader, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky, was joined by the Governor and First Lady, Lt. Governor, Attorney General and other state officials on the grounds of the Capitol today as they kicked off Child Abuse Prevention Month.

One of the rallying points for the bipartisan gathering was the passage of House Bill 207, which was a legislative priority for Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky. The bill, sponsored by Rep. Stephanie Dietz who represents District 65 in Northern Kentucky, defines "child sex dolls" as well as "computer generated images" and "digitization." The legislation is heralded as groundbreaking by Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky Executive Director, Jill Seyfred. "Our partnership with the KY State Police and the Attorney General's Office in working with Rep. Dietz to get this bill across the finish line will prove to save countless children from on-line victimization. We know lives will be saved because of the passage of this Bill," Seyfred said.

The child abuse prevention organization also unveiled a new tool designed to appeal to children and promote on-line safety. A coloring book featuring KSP canines May and Cam is available statewide by contacting the organization at pcaky@pcaky.org. The coloring book is the first of its kind in the nation between a statewide law enforcement entity and a statewide child abuse prevention organization.

The Governor and Department for Community Based Services Commissioner Lesa Dennis also provided details about a \$9 million investment in Kentucky's child welfare system by the Doris Duke Foundation. Kentucky is one of four sites selected by the Foundation, joining OR, SC and Washington DC.

More than 150 people packed the Rotunda to hear the dignitaries speak, prior to planting 4,000 blue and silver pinwheels on the grounds of the Capitol. Each pinwheel represents 12 children born in Kentucky last year. The event was sponsored by Managed Care Organizations WellCare and Aetna.

Join the fun at 4-H camp!

Summer is quickly approaching, and many students and their parents are making plans for summer break, some of which may include summer camp. If you enjoy making friends, being active and learning about the environment, 4-H camp could be a perfect summer activity for you.

4-H camps are open to all Kentucky youth graduating out of the 3rd grade up to 15 years of age. Many exciting activities and adventures await campers. Students can spend their days participating in activities ranging from swimming to archery. Not only do many youth find these activities fun, but they will likely learn new skills and develop a greater appreciation for the environment and wildlife.

4-H personnel want your child to have a

camping experience that is not only memorable, but safe. All 4-H camp staff and volunteers are trained and undergo background checks prior to camp. Each camp location will have an on-site health care provider at all times to take care of campers' needs.

Carter County 4-H youth will attend North Central 4-H Camp in Carlisle, Kentucky from July 1-5, 2024. The cost of 4-H Camp is \$150 per person which includes transportation, lodging, three meals a day, two snacks a day and class materials. Some of the classes offered at North Central 4-H Camp include swimming, archery, fishing, crafts, high ropes, nature, canoeing, trap-shooting, and many more. Applications are available at the Carter County Extension Office.

See *CAMP on A-6*

OBITUARY

Floyd Elwood Hall 1932 – 2024



Floyd Elwood Hall, 91, formerly of Morehead, Kentucky, passed away peacefully on Friday, March 22, 2024 at Sunrise Assisted Living in Cary, North Carolina. His parents were the late Hettie Smith Hall and the late Charles Hall.

Mr. Hall served in the US Army in the U.S. Signal Corps in communications and worked 36 years at AT&T and its Chesapeake and Potomac (C&P) subsidiary. His work took him to the White House, the FBI, the CIA, and the Goddard Space Flight Center where he worked on the Apollo and Skylab missions until he retired. He was a proud member of the Telephone Pioneers of America.

He created a scholarship at Morehead State College university in honor of a friend who died in service.

He was predeceased by his wife of 44 years, Ruth Mary Tolson Hall and his thirteen brothers and sisters.

He is survived by his son Brandon L. Hall,

and his stepson Barry L. Hutchinson, his six grandchildren, his eight great grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews, and other family and friends.

On Saturday, April 13, 2024, at 1 p.m. there will be a visitation time for family and friends, followed by a 2:00 p.m. church service with Pastor Curtis Lucy officiating. Mr. Hall will be buried beside his beloved wife at Franktown Cemetery after the service.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial gifts be made to either of the following:

- Major James Scott Dehart Memorial Scholarship Endowment. This endowment was established by Floyd Hall at Morehead State University and is named in memory of his friend and fellow veteran, Major Dehart. The scholarship is managed by the MSU Foundation and contributions can be made online at <https://alumni.moreheadstate.edu/hall-memorial> or sent via mail to MSU Foundation, 121 E. 2nd Street, Suite 107, Morehead, KY 40351.
- Johnston's United Methodist Church Memorial Fund, 11175 Bayside Road, Machipongo, VA 23405.

Family and friends may sign the guest book at www.hollandfuneral.net.

Arrangements by Holland Funeral Home in Nassawadox, VA.

James Delmar White 1944 – 2024



Mr. James Delmar White, age 79, of Grayson, Kentucky, went home to be with the Lord, Wednesday morning, March 27, 2024, at his residence, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born Saturday, June 24, 1944, in Carter County, Kentucky, a son of the late William Delmar and Opal Johnston White.

Jim was a member of Stinson Church of Christ and loved going to church. He was a retired truck driver from TNT Holland in Romulus, Michigan. He enjoyed eating out, going to bluegrass shows, hanging out with his friends and spending time with his family.

In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his loving wife of 56 years, Wanda Sue Baker White, one son, James Delmar White Jr. and his beloved dog, Princess.

Jim is survived by one daughter, Carolyn (Dave) Bailey of Grayson, Kentucky; four grandchildren, James Ray (Carolyn) White of Rush, Kentucky, Dawnielle (Jake) Fannin

of Rush, Kentucky, Jessica (Kevin) Duty Of Grayson, Kentucky and David Bailey of Grayson, Kentucky; 11 great-grandchildren; daughter-in-law, Nancy White of Rush, Kentucky; two special cousins, George Johnston and Konetta Littleton, whom he thought of as a brother and sister; sister-in-law, Shirley Blevins of Michigan, along with many other family and friends that will sadly miss him.

Funeral services were held 11 a.m. Saturday, March 30, 2024, at Grayson Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 49 McCoy Road, Grayson, Kentucky with Brother Ronnie Hall and Brother Charlie Blevins officiating. Burial followed in East Carter Memory Gardens in Grayson, Kentucky.

Friends visited from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., Friday, March 29, 2024, and after 9 a.m., Saturday, March 30, 2024, until the service hour at Grayson Funeral Home.

James Ray White, David Bailey Jr., Jake Fannin, Colten White, Kevin Duty and John Levitski served as pallbearers.

David Bailey, Ashton Bailey, Tim Littleton, Mike Johnston and Richard Glancy served as honorary pallbearers.

Grayson Funeral Home and Cremation Services is honored to serve the family of Mr. James Delmar White.

James Edward Humphries 1946 – 2024



James Edward Humphries, 77 of Olive Hill, KY passed away unexpectedly, Wednesday Morning March 27, 2024, at King's Daughters Medical Center in Ashland, KY. He was born July 30, 1946, in Carter County, KY, a son of the late Homer and Rebecca Marie Baker Humphries.

Known by many James worked for 20 years in the Meat Department at Stamper Brother's Market in Olive Hill, KY. He also farmed & logged. He enjoyed Gardening, sitting on the porch and telling stories.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one daughter Mary Humphries; two sisters-in-law, Betty Hedge, Alice Fay Middleton;

three brothers-in-law Glen Hedge, Vernon Middleton, and Paul Middleton.

He is survived by his Loving Companion of 20 Years, Kay McGlone Carpenter, and her children; Paul and Loretta Carpenter, Paulette and Roberto Marshall and Willie Carpenter; 10 grandchildren, 10 great grandchildren; one sister, Dortha Preston; one sister-in-law Bonnie McGlone Middleton and one brother-in-law Ruffus Middleton; Two special Friends Howard Puckett and Birdie Stamper. In addition to these James is survived by a host nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends that will miss him and his stories.

Celebration of Life Service were conducted 8:00 PM Saturday March 30, 2024, at the Duvall & Moore Funeral Home & Cremation Service in Olive Hill, KY with Kyle Jordan Officiating.

Visitation was from 6:00 – 8:00 PM Saturday March 30, 2024, at the Duvall & Moore Funeral Home & Cremation Service, 149 Whitt Street, Olive Hill, KY 41164.

Online Condolences may be left at www.duval-landmoore.com

If you are 65+ years old or if you are 100% disabled

Stop by the PVA office in the old courthouse or give us a call at 606-474-5663 to see if you qualify for the **Homestead Exemption**. This exemption is a discount for older or disabled taxpayers on the home in which they reside.

Leslie Kiser-Roseberry, Carter County PVA
300 W Main St, Suite 214, Grayson, KY 41143

www.carterpva.com

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OPINION

EDITORIALS | LETTERS | COLUMNS | COMMENTARY

First Amendment: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Guest Editorial

High-dollar lobbyists are moving bills in Frankfort

By: John Schaaf

As the last days of the Kentucky General Assembly unfold, big-dollar lobbyists in Frankfort are pushing their most controversial bills toward passage.

Lobbyists recently shoved their private school voucher amendment across the finish line to set up a massive fight this fall between Kentucky taxpayers and a handful of multi-billionaires who probably couldn't find this state on a map.

The school voucher amendment passed the House and Senate and goes straight to the November election ballot. This costly proposal would allow politicians to funnel taxpayer money into private schools run by businesses and churches.

From now until November, one side of the election fight will be out-of-state billionaire voucher promoters who want Kentucky tax dollars to flow straight into private bank accounts.

On the other side will be Kentuckians who pay enough taxes, and don't want to pay more for other people's private schools. They are businesses and individuals, and their state and local taxes support public schools in every county.

They don't want their local schools to lose jobs, or cut high school sports, marching bands, science fairs, or other extracurricular activities while private schools grab scarce public dollars.

A few extremely rich people have spent liberally on lobbying and campaign gifts to politicians to push vouchers in Kentucky and other states. They make more from stock dividends in one day than most Kentuckians earn from years of working.

In Frankfort, the billionaire and church-based lobbying push comes from groups like Americans for Prosperity (Arlington, Va.), Catholic Conference of Kentucky, EdChoice (Indianapolis, Ind.), Excellence in Education in Action (Tallahassee, Fla.), Family Foundation, Heritage Action for America (Washington, D.C.), Institute for Justice (Arlington, Va.), National Alliance for Public Charter Schools (Washington, D.C.), and Yes, Every Kid, Inc. (Arlington, Va.).

Americans for Prosperity (AFP) and Yes Every Kid, Inc. (YEK) are tax-exempt and funded by the billionaire owners of Koch Industries, an international corporation involved in chemicals, natural gas, oil, plastics, and other businesses. The Koch network has spent billions on lobbying and campaign contributions to influence politicians all over the U.S., and they're also aligned with EdChoice, Institute for Justice, and many other privatization promoters.

Excellence in Education in Action and Heritage Action for America, like AFP and YEK, are 501(c)(4) tax-exempt organizations. They can develop relationships with politicians by pouring dark money into campaigns, then hiring armies of lobbyists to persuade politicians to support radical ideas like school vouchers.

The Catholic Conference and the Family Foundation are also tax-exempt, but they want Kentuckians who do pay taxes to pay for vouchers to generate income for schools operated by four Roman Catholic dioceses (Archdiocese of Louisville and the Dioceses of Covington, Lexington, and Owensboro) and for Christian schools that would also get state handouts. They'll accept millions of tax dollars, but they'll pay little or no taxes themselves.

While the churches are motivated to get Kentucky tax dollars, AFP and the other national organizations are motivated by their scheme to privatize public services. Many of the groups are located in and around the lobbyist swamp in Washington, D.C., but they lobby all over the U.S., and they're backed by billionaires like the Kochs, the Bradley Foundation, DeVos Foundation, the Walton Foundation, and other privatization backers.

During this year's campaign, they'll pump streams of cash into TV commercials and social media, trying to force Kentucky taxpayers to pay for private and religious schools, on top of what they're already paying for public schools.

The billionaires and church lobbyists call it "choice," but if it passes, taxpayers will have no choice, and politicians will spend outrageous amounts of public money on private and religious schools — mostly in urban areas.

Except for their lobbyists, the billionaires don't know anybody in Kentucky, and they don't care that Kentuckians will pay more taxes when politicians siphon hundreds of millions of dollars out of the state budget into private schools.

Vouchers are busting budgets in states like Arizona, Florida, and Indiana, where most of the voucher handouts go to people

See **LOBBYISTS** on A-6



Why didn't all of our state university presidents fight the anti-DEI bill?

Dr. Eli Capilouto, president of the University of Kentucky, deserves the respect and admiration of every Kentuckian because of his courageous public opposition to the failed attempt in the 2024 General Assembly to dismantle the funding of DEI initiatives at our public universities and colleges.

For those unfamiliar with DEI, it stands for diversity, equity and inclusion and ensures the fair treatment of students and faculty and staff members at our eight public universities and 16 community and technical colleges.

Some misguided lawmakers in the GOP-dominated House and Senate had decided to try to turn back the clock to when persons of color, women and others with differences were denied basic rights such as equal pay, access to college, advancement in the workplace and safe, affordable housing.

President Capilouto spoke out against the legislation and made it clear that its passage would be a major setback to efforts to guarantee the rights of non-white citizens, women, handicapped individuals and those with different gender preferences.

He spoke eloquently about how such a change would violate the historic tradition of public higher education as an open, welcoming place of opportunity where all could thrive.

Sadly, none of Dr. Capilouto's seven university

presidential colleagues or the newly-named president of the Kentucky Community and Technical College System found the courage to speak out publicly against such an abuse of power.

It was especially distressing to me that the president of Morehead State University chose to remain silent on this issue, despite the fact that MSU was the first of the regional schools to integrate in 1956 with black students enrolled and living on campus. And then MSU broke another color line two years later with the first black athlete on scholarship in the Ohio Valley Conference.

The removal of barriers to higher education access is good public policy and our state continues to benefit greatly from the culturally and intellectually rich learning and working environments on our public campuses.

Regrettably, the Republican supermajority in both chambers of the General Assembly chooses to ignore the important lesson from history that British historian Lord John Acton expressed nearly 150 years ago:

"Power tends to corrupt and absolute power corrupts absolutely".



Keith Kappes
Columnist
Carter County Times

Keith Kappes can be reached at keithkappes@gmail.com

For love and basketball

It's often advised not to talk about politics or religion when in polite company. There is merit in that advice as there is no reason to seek out divisions when there is plenty of room for unity. However, today I'm going to violate that and talk about a topic that falls into both categories: high school basketball in Kentucky.

Kentuckians have long been known for our love of college basketball. Despite none having been on the sidelines in over 47 years, figures like Adolph Rupp, Peck Hickman and Ed Diddle are still revered. The rivalries are so intense that even after WKU won their initial game against UK in 1971, it took 19 years for them to schedule another match. Despite both being among the 15 schools with the most wins ever, they have only faced off four times in the regular season.

Purists know that our affinity for college basketball doesn't hold a candle to our love for high school hoops. In Kentucky, there are two types of sports: "ball" and everything else. And, trust me, when someone mentions their grandson plays ball for a school, it's never about golf.

High school basketball in our Commonwealth can be both intense and entertaining, and not just on the court. I've witnessed family members of opposing teams engage in shouting matches, referees fleeing as soon as the final buzzer sounds, and even one normally genteel lady transform into a fervent fan, wielding

her high heel as a hammer as she beat the wooden bleachers. I've even been on a bus quickly leaving Campbellsville where we were advised to keep our heads down as objects were hurled at the windows.

Needless to say, our passion runs deep for this sport.

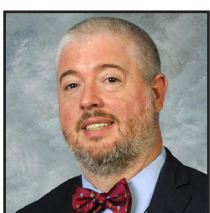
This last month, the state title game between Lyon County (pop. 8,680) and Harlan County (pop. 26,831) drew over 13,500 fans to Rupp Arena. To put that in perspective, only 16 colleges in the nation have higher attendance per game. That's 3,000 more people than reigning NCAA champs UConn draws per game!

Despite our many differences, the love of high school basketball unites most everyone regardless of background, race, gender or age. While age may mellow us a bit, deep down we still know that our high school rivals are lyin', cheatin' sacks of... well you get the picture, don't you, you snotty Scotties?

As intense as we play and watch the game, integrity is paramount. Losing to a better team or being outcoached may not be fun, but it's accepted. Facing stacked odds is a different matter altogether. And that brings us to the current state of affairs with the Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA).

In 1994, I was a member of the small but mighty Metcalfe County Hornets. Better than average, we made it to the state All "A" Classic tournament, which is designed for smaller schools. Our first-round game was against University Heights, a private school in

See **BASKETBALL** on A-6



Tommy Druen
Guest Columnist
Carter County Times

Carter County Times
Members of the Editorial Board
Nicole Wells, publisher
Jeremy Wells, editor Keith Kappes, columnist

Policies

General

Advertisers should check their ad the first time it runs. The Times shall not be liable for any typographical errors or for failure to publish an ad or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first insertion. Adjustment for errors is limited to the portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. The Times reserves the right to reject any advertisement and submitted editorial copy, and reserves the right to edit any copy submitted for publication. Corrections will be made at the discretion of the editor.

Circulation

A one-year in-county subscription costs \$26.00 plus tax. Due to additional mailing fees, any subscriptions mailed out of county will cost \$52.00 plus tax.

Letters & Opinion

The Times welcomes all letters to the editor.

Letters should be limited to 300 words or less. Letters should focus on issues that affect the community as a whole, and not personal or business disputes.

Letters must include a verifiable address, along with the phone number and signature of the writer. Letters submitted via e-mail need only include a phone number in lieu of a signature.

Letters, columns and cartoons do not necessarily reflect the views of the Times or EK Newsgroup, LLC.

General interest guest columns are welcome. For details email editor@cartercountytimes.com.

Deadlines

The deadline for news copy and letters to the editor is noon on Monday prior to publication. The deadline for display and classified advertising is 5 p.m. on Monday prior to publication.

Smoothies from A-2

- Enjoy smoothies right after you prepare them. When you have leftovers, you can drink smoothies within 24 hours if you store them in an airtight container in the refrigerator. You can also pour leftovers into an ice tray with a toothpick or a popsicle tray to freeze and enjoy later.
- Smoothies are a healthy way to supplement meals. They are an easier way to take in calories when eating a meal may be difficult. This is an important consideration during sickness, if someone is managing a chronic condition, or needs to gain weight.
- Smoothies offer variety. You can easily change

smoothies to your liking. The next time you make one, try adding a new ingredient or removing one you may not have liked.

- Store-bought smoothie options can be more convenient, but not typically healthier. These options are generally more expensive, high in added sugar and less nutritious than homemade. At home, you can add what you want and simultaneously save food dollars.
- You may have heard of “juicing.” When you juice a fruit or vegetable, you remove fiber and most micronutrients. This is what makes a smoothie a more nutritious option. Smoothies include fiber, vitamins, minerals, anti-

oxidants and phytochemicals you only get when you eat the entire fruit or vegetable.

- With the right ingredients, smoothies can be a balanced meal. Add multiple food groups to your smoothie to meet nutrient needs. For example, a smoothie made with yogurt, strawberries, a banana, spinach, and oats provide nutrients from the dairy, fruit, vegetable and grain food groups.
- Smoothies are an easy clean up. To make clean up a breeze, fill the blender or food processor halfway up with water, add a dash of dish soap, and blend. It’s that simple. For other creative ideas for adding nutritious foods

to the diet, look for upcoming programs and classes at your local Carter County Extension office.

Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

Source: Heather Norman-Burgdorf, UK Extension Specialist for Food and Nutrition; Anna Cason, UK Senior Extension Associate

Lawmakers send budget, investment bill to governor

After almost two years of work to craft a responsible spending plan that balances the state’s current needs and its long-term well-being, the Kentucky General Assembly is sending a two-year, \$128.4



Patrick Flannery
Representative
State of Kentucky

billion spending plan and a \$2.7 billion one-time investment bill to Governor Andy Beshear. The budget continues our commitment to education, infrastructure, public safety, and human services. The two-year spending plan includes record funding for K-12 public schools, and strategic investments in public safety, infrastructure, and health services. HB 6 also includes major investments in mental health and substance abuse recovery, and programs serving our most vulnerable.

- **Education:** Education represents the largest portion of our budget and we made every attempt to get funding to the level closest to students. The education investments included in HB 6 represent the largest increase in funding since the passage of the Kentucky Education Reform Act (KERA). The final version of the bill includes a provision that encourages school districts to utilize additional SEEK resources to provide raises for certified and classified staff.
- An increase in SEEK funding by 3% in the first fiscal year, and 6% in the next fiscal year for a total of \$612 more per pupil over the two-year period.
- Funding to cover 90% of transportation costs in FY 25, and fully fund the costs in FY 26
- Increased General Fund monies by \$4.8 million in each fiscal year for a Pilot Teacher Recruitment Student Loan Forgiveness Program
- An additional \$2.6 million over the biennium for the Teacher Scholarship

Programs

- \$7.3 million in additional funds in each fiscal year for a new Student Teacher Stipend Program

Child Care: Kentuckians need access to safe, quality, and reliable child

care and we have been working for several years to address the state’s shortage in child care providers. The budget we passed includes a heavy focus on the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP), a proven program that subsidizes child care costs for parents and guardians who are working and/or in school and meet other eligibility criteria:

- \$2 million in each fiscal year for the Employee Child Care Assistance Partnership
- An additional \$56 million funding over the biennium to maintain CCAP reimbursements to child care providers for families at the 80th percentile of the market rate survey
- \$17.8 million more in FY 25 and \$19.8 million in FY 26 to support CCAP initiatives, including an income exclusion for eligibility determinations for child care providers; a six-month transition for families no longer eligible for CCAP, background check fees; and the establishment of an Innovation in Early Childhood Education Delivery Grant Program
- An additional \$2.5 million in fiscal year to support the Early Childhood Development Scholarship Program

Health & Human Services: A substantial portion of our budget goes to providing for the state’s most vulnerable citizens. It was a critical priority for us to fund additional social worker positions, as well as to increase foster care per diem rates and maintain the increase in child care assistance funds.

Health Services – which includes Medicaid funding – represents another big portion of our budget. With more than a third of Kentuckians receiving Medicaid, the state must commit billions to draw down federal funding. The budget includes:

- An additional \$1.1 billion in funding for Medicaid benefits growth in FY 24, \$1.2 billion in FY 25, and \$2.1 billion in FY 26.
- An additional \$726.8 million in FY 25 and \$767.8 million in FY 26 for the continuation of KCHIP benefits and services.
- Increases for nursing home facility reimbursement rates with an additional investment of \$455 million over the biennium.
- Funding for additional slots for the Michelle P. Supports for Community Living; and Home and Community Based waiver programs. Includes funding for a waiver for those with serious mental illness.
- **Public Safety:** We’re investing in those who protect and serve our citizens. HB 6 includes significant resources for the Kentucky State Police (KSP), forensic crime laboratories, and the body armor grant program administered by the Attorney General’s Office. The budget we passed includes the following:
 - \$22.5 million in additional funds over the biennium to the KSP for pay increases for 1,013 troopers and commercial vehicle enforcement officers.
 - Increases funding by \$6 million in FY 25 and \$16.6 million in FY 26 to support classes of 75 Trooper cadets in each fiscal year.
 - Provides \$2.6 million in FY 26 towards the purchase of a total of 50 marked and 50 unmarked KSP cruisers.
 - Increases KSP funding by \$6 million in FY 25 and \$16.6 million in FY 26 to fund Trooper cadet classes of 75 in each year.

State Employees, Public Pensions, & Retiree Benefits: Decades of neglect have left the state’s personnel system uncompetitive with other public sector employers and made it difficult to attract talented individuals to serve Kentuckians through state agencies and programs. While efforts to improve the situation continue, lawmakers approved raises for the second consecutive budget. HB 6 includes funding for a 3% raise in each year. We also allocated more than \$20 billion to shoring up our public pensions. We have made major reforms to ensure they are viable and have worked to ensure that those who make decisions have the right priorities in mind. Now more than ever, it is imperative that we keep a mindful eye on how our retirement dollars are managed.

In addition to the budget, we sent the Governor HB 1, which provides \$2.7 billion over the next two years to fund projects within state government and in communities throughout the Commonwealth. With this funding, we are making targeted investments in road, rail, river, air, and water infrastructure and school facilities, public pensions, tourism, and community development.

The Governor has 10 days to consider these two bills and all others we sent him while the legislature recesses. We will return on April 12 and 15 to consider overriding any vetoes and finish any pending issues we still have on the agenda.

As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via e-mail at Patrick.Flannery@lrc.ky.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature’s website at legislature.ky.gov.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Carter County Fiscal Court will be accepting sealed bids for a 20,000 LB Excavator with hydraulic thumb, 2-foot digging bucket, and 3-foot ditching bucket. Sealed bids are to be turned into the Judge Executive’s Office located at 300 West Main Street, Room 227, Grayson KY 41143 no later than April 19, 2024, at 3pm.

Please call the road foreman Jason Carroll at 606-316-8096 for further information. A Special Meeting will be held April 22, 2024, at 4pm to open and award the bid.

Looking to buy, sell or trade?

Having a yard sale?

Looking to hire or trying to find work?

Post it in the CLASSIFIEDS!

Contact advertise@cartercountytimes.com

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE

The Commercial Bank of Grayson will offer at Public Sale the following vehicles to satisfy the indebtedness due under the terms of a security agreement.

2017 Chevy Cruze, 4dr, Gray, Mileage 84,769, VIN# 1G1BE5SN3H7256023

2014 Jeep Cherokee Limited, White, 4dr, Mileage 179,899, VIN# 1C4PJMD56EW142078

2009 Case JX65 4X4 Farm Tractor, 2302 Hrs., VIN# HFJ011657

2009 Chevy Equinox, Dark Gray, 4dr, Mileage 145,474, VIN# 2CNDL63F696204040

Public Auction will be held on **Friday, April 5, 2024, at 3:00 PM at COMMERCIAL BANK, OLIVE HILL BRANCH, 155 TOM T. HALL BLVD., OLIVE HILL KY.**

Seller reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Announcements made the day of the sale will take precedence over any printed material.

Terms will be cash.

For more information, please contact Patricia Carper, at (606)475-4156 OR Tina Knipp at (606)475-4150

Lobbyists from A-5

who already send their kids to private schools. If that happens in Kentucky, local school boards will have to raise taxes to pay increasing costs, and school jobs and extracurricular activities will be on

the chopping block. *John Schaaf is an attorney and co-author of “The Hidden History of Kentucky Political Scandals” (History Press). His email address is John.Schaaf1975@gmail.com*

Basketball from A-5

Hopkinsville. Imagine our eyes as we walked out on the court and first caught sight of the Blazers team that not only featured six future college players, but two who would play in the NBA!

The next year we made a repeat visit, only to face off against Covington Holy Cross. Not as talented as University Heights, the team still had Todd Clark, who went on to be a starter for NKU, who twice was the NCAA D-II runner-up, and Joe Harney who played four years for WKU, averaging nearly 10 points per game.

After being bit twice, it became obvious to me that private schools have a distinct advantage when it comes to their roster. And that isn’t just limited to basketball. As prospects begin to be identified at earlier ages, private schools can swoop in and “sell” their athletic and academic programs in ways that public schools are not able.

It only takes one or two solid years and suddenly a tradition is born. And while many private schools quickly note their rosters are full of players who came all the way through their system, it makes me wonder how many of those kids’ parents were initially attracted to those winning traditions.

A glance at the past 25 years reveals a concerning trend. When looking at all sports, for both boys and girls, private schools have claimed 45% of the championships, despite comprising only 18.5%

of the KHSAA member schools. This imbalance underscores the inherent advantage private schools enjoy.

That advantage is akin to playing poker where your opponent shuffles through the deck to get their hand while you’re stuck with what you’re dealt. There may be still be a chance of winning, but the odds are not in your favor.

In a world where education is increasingly politicized, I want to make it clear that I am not talking about the academic merits of public versus private schools. I believe a free public education is a great equalizer and the catalyst that led to American supremacy. However, I also believe that most all private schools are wonderful and often meet needs that public schools cannot. My criticism is simply reserved to athletics.

While the KHSAA technically prohibits high school recruitment, investigation and enforcement remains lackluster. Additionally, their oversight does not extend below the high school level, simply pushing recruitment to an earlier age. Something must be done to enable and require the KHSAA to genuinely crack down on recruiting. I challenge them to ensure equitable treatment of both public and private schools, placing them under a standard that both must meet. In the alternative, perhaps the time for separate postseason tournaments is warranted.

Camp from A-4

For more information about 4-H Camp, contact the Carter County Cooperative Extension Service at 94 Fairground Drive, Grayson, KY 41143 or by phone at 606-474-6686. Applications can be found on carter.ca.uky.edu.

Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of

economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

Local program receives community awareness project funding for 2024 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week

ASHLAND – Ramey-Estep/Re-group has received funding from the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators (NAVAA) through a grant from the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC), within the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, to promote community awareness of crime victims’ rights and services during the 2024 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

The awarded funding will be used to sponsor a “How Would You Help?”

Resource Fair in Ashland’s Central Park as part of a Community Awareness Project. The Project is part of National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, an annual observance that takes place April 21-27, 2024.

“The support from NAVAA and OVC for our 2024 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week activities will help us help crime victims,” said LaKeisha Dennis, Ramey-Estep/Re-group’s Director of Prevention Services. “Members of our community are encouraged to help promote

justice through service to crime victims by joining our 2024 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week activities and supporting victim assistance programs on a daily basis.”

First designated by President Ronald Reagan in 1981, National Crime Victims’ Rights Week increases general public awareness of, and knowledge about the wide range of rights and services available to people who have been victimized by crime. The theme for 2024 National Crime Victims’

Rights Week is “How Would You Help? Options, services and hope for crime survivors”.

Since 2004, the NCVR Community Awareness Project has provided financial and technical assistance to more than 1500 community projects that promote victim and public awareness activities, and innovative approaches to victim outreach and public education about victims’ rights and services during National Crime Victims’ Rights Week. Ramey-Estep/Re-

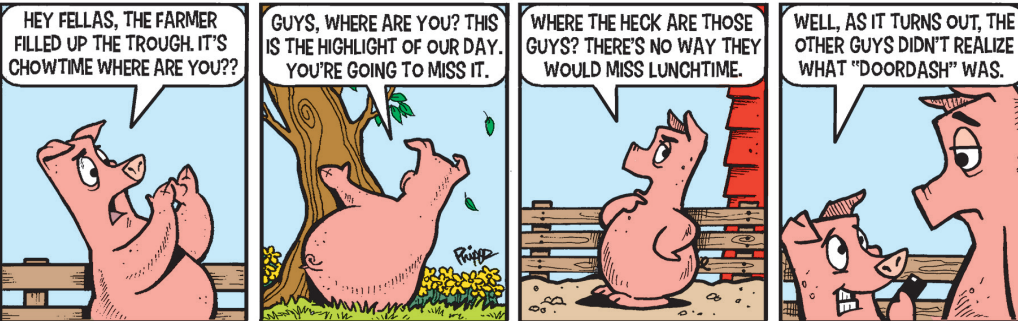
group was one of the 105 recommended by NAVAA and selected for funding by OVC for 2024 from the 223 applications that were submitted nationwide.

For additional information about 2024 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week activities or about victims’ rights and services in the Ashland, KY area,

please contact LaKeisha Dennis at 606.928.6648. For information about national efforts to promote 2024 National Crime Victims’ Rights Week, please visit the Office for Victims of Crime website at www.ovc.gov.

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



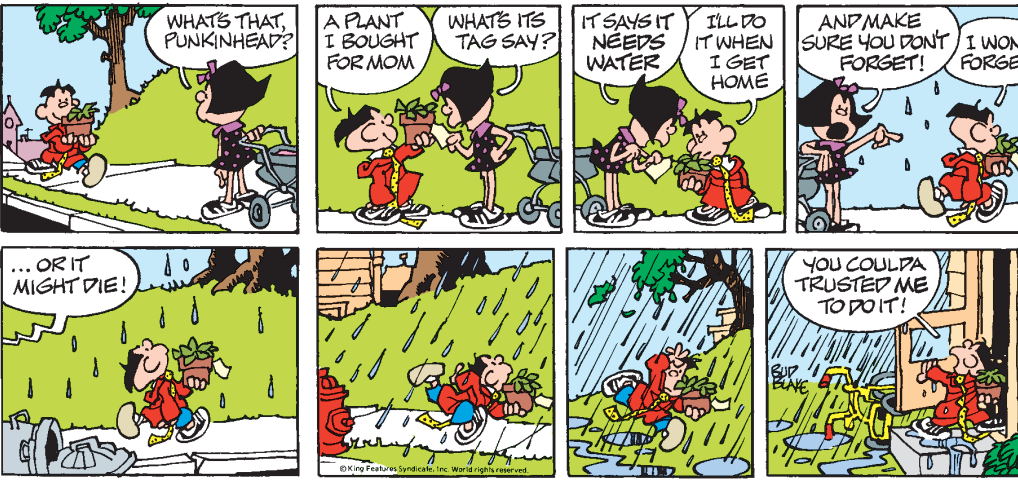
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

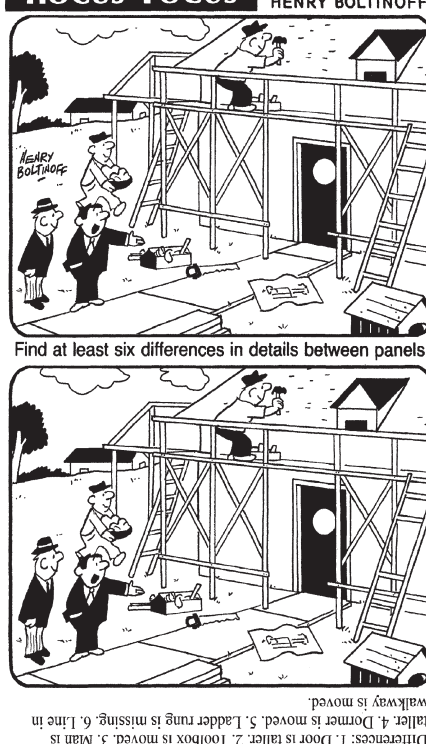


OLIVE



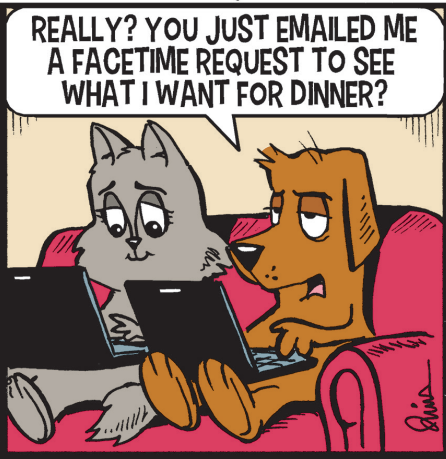
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



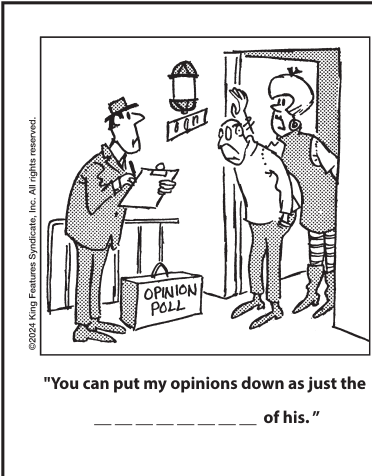
CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: Y equals X

PZNM AV MZX MXHO EQH
VQOXQWX PZQ'V XYNOAWAWF
MZX UAEX QE CHXVASXWM
FXHNUS? N EQHS XYCUQHXH.

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SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Seek **UPUSER**

Entry **LOPART**

Sniff **HALIEN**

Dense **TUBEOS**

TODAY'S WORD

Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Hard-hitting	___ G ___	Affect emotionally	___ C ___
2. Clothing get-up	___ F ___	Get the better of	___ W ___
3. Subsequent	___ F ___	Fall bloom	___ S ___
4. Protect	___ F ___	Rely upon	___ P ___
5. Bit by a hive-dweller	___ G ___	Daring act	___ T ___
6. Blue ribbon, e.g.	___ Z ___	Cost	___ C ___
7. Junction	___ R ___	Trumpet's kin	___ T ___
8. Dish	P ___	Election choices	S ___
9. Take heed	___ T ___	Apprentice	___ V ___
10. Grid	___ R ___	Mantra	___ N ___

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GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- Goal
- Hosp. hook-ups
- "Peter Pan" pooch
- "Pygmalion" writer
- Use a straw
- Bone-dry
- Teeny bit
- Capita lead-in
- Makes lace
- Tic
- Laptop connection
- Deli choice
- Radiated
- Reach
- Battery part
- King of the jungle
- Dog's foot
- Similar
- Canal vessel
- iPads, e.g.
- "In America" writer Susan
- Perignon
- Partially mine
- Chip choice
- First light
- Suitable
- Roller coaster feature
- "Zounds!"
- Three, in Rome
- Links org.
- Pear variety
- Storm center

DOWN

- Tag sale words
- Breakfast chain
- Hari
- AOL, for one
- Perspective
- Parsley piece
- Site of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial
- Coach Parseghian
- Quibble
- Billboards
- Capital on the Potomac and 7-Down locale
- Astronaut
- Ga. neighbor
- Super Bowl VIP
- Stirred
- Tend texts
- Cozy rooms
- Priestly vestments
- Pisa farewell
- Trumpet
- Chow down
- Bankroll
- Vichy water
- "— voyage!"
- Shred, as cheese
- Agile
- Mimic
- Swine
- October birthstone
- Cotillion celeb
- Previously
- Existed
- Golf peg

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: When did April Fools' Day come into being?
- GEOGRAPHY: In which nation is the Great Victoria Desert located?
- MOVIES: What sport is featured in the movie "The Mighty Ducks"?
- HISTORY: What is the name of the island where Napoleon was exiled in 1814?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is the largest rodent in the world?
- LITERATURE: What is the name of Ron Weasley's pet rat in the "Harry Potter" book series?
- U.S. STATES: Which letter of the alphabet is not in any U.S. state's name?
- TELEVISION: Which iconic 1960s sitcom inspired two spinoff hits, "Petticoat Junction" and "Green Acres"?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for bravery in WWII?
- ANATOMY: How many pairs of spinal nerves exist in humans?

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WORD LADDERS

Can you go from BLEAK to CREAM in 6 words?
Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

BLEAK

CREAM

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King Crossword

Solution time: 22 mins.

Answers

ACROSS: 1. Goal, 4. Hosp. hook-ups, 7. "Peter Pan" pooch, 11. "Pygmalion" writer, 13. Use a straw, 14. Bone-dry, 15. Teeny bit, 16. Capita lead-in, 17. Makes lace, 18. Tic, 20. Laptop connection, 22. Deli choice, 24. Radiated, 28. Reach, 32. Battery part, 33. King of the jungle, 34. Dog's foot, 36. Similar, 37. Canal vessel, 39. iPads, e.g., 41. "In America" writer Susan, 43. — Perignon, 44. Partially mine, 46. Chip choice, 50. First light, 53. Suitable, 55. Roller coaster feature, 56. "Zounds!", 57. Three, in Rome, 58. Links org., 59. Pear variety, 60. Storm center.

DOWN: 1. Tag sale words, 2. Breakfast chain, 3. — Hari, 4. AOL, for one, 5. Perspective, 6. Parsley piece, 7. Site of the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial, 8. Coach Parseghian, 9. Quibble, 10. Billboards, 12. Capital on the Potomac and 7-Down locale, 19. Astronaut, 21. Ga. neighbor, 23. Super Bowl VIP, 25. Stirred, 26. Tend texts, 27. Cozy rooms, 28. Priestly vestments, 29. Pisa farewell, 30. Trumpet, 31. Chow down, 35. Bankroll, 38. Vichy water, 40. "— voyage!", 42. Shred, as cheese, 45. Agile, 47. Mimic, 48. Swine, 49. October birthstone, 50. Cotillion celeb, 51. Previously, 52. Existed, 54. Golf peg.

Answers

1. Likely in the late 16th century, when calendars changed from Julian to Gregorian.
2. Australia.
3. Ice hockey.
4. Elba.
5. Capybara.
6. Scabbers.
7. Q.
8. "The Beverly Hillsbillies."
9. George H.W. Bush.
10. 31 pairs.

SCRAMBLERS

1. Pursue; 2. Portal; 3. Inhale; 4. Obuse.

OPPOSITE Today's Word

WORD LADDER

Answer: BLEAK, BREAK, BREAD, DREAD, DREAM, CREAM

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

Even Exchange

Answers

- Tough, Touch
- Offit, Omit
- After, Aster
- Deland, Depend
- Sting, Stunt
- Prize, Probe
- Conner, Corner
- Plate, Stale
- Notice, Novice
- Chart, Chant

Go Figure!

Answers

1	+	6	+	4	=	11
5	+	8	-	2	=	11
1	+	6	+	4	=	11
13	=	23	=	5	=	13
13	=	23	=	5	=	13

Short-term workforce programs offered this summer at ACTC

ASHLAND – Ashland Community and Technical College's Workforce Solutions advances Kentucky's workforce through short-term career training, customized business and industry training, assessments, and continuing education for industry professionals.

Open enrollment classes for the summer include short-term programs such as Nurse Aide, Phlebotomy, CPR, CDL, and more.

"Our summer short-term programs are de-

signed to guide you into employment upon completion or serve as a stepping stone toward a two- or four-year degree," said Robin Harris, ACTC Director of Workforce Solutions. "With classes ranging from 2 to 8 weeks, we provide a range of scheduling options, ensuring accessibility for anyone seeking training opportunities."

The schedule for summer 2024 is below:

Nurse Aide:

• 5/13/2024 – 5/24/2024,
6/3/2024-6/19/2024,

7/8/2024 – 7/19/2024
• Monday through Friday.
• 9 AM to 4:30 PM.
• Location: Roberts Dr
• Tuition/Student Fee: \$593
• Book: \$79.99

Phlebotomy:

• 6/4/2024 – 8/1/2024
• Tuesday/Thursday
• 5 PM – 8 PM.
• Location: Technology Dr
• Instructor: Anita Colley
• Tuition: \$744
• Mandatory Student fee: \$32
• Liability insurance: \$11

• 5/13/2024 – 7/2/2024

• HYBRID CLASS
• 8 AM – 12 PM
• Location: Roberts Dr
• Instructor: Lori Hunt
• Tuition: \$744
• Mandatory Student fee: \$32
• Liability insurance: \$11

ECG Tech:

• 5/20/2024 – 5/31/2024
• HYBRID CLASS
• Meets Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs
• 1 PM to 4 PM
• Location: Roberts Dr
• Tuition: \$930
• Mandatory Student fee: \$40

Medication Aide:

• 5/15/2024 – 7/10/2024
• HYBRID CLASS (partially online)
• Class meets Wednesdays
• 4 PM to 8 PM
• Location: Roberts Dr
• Tuition/Student Fee: \$1125
• Liability insurance: \$11
• Plus book cost

CPR:

• 5/24/2024, 6/07/2024,
6/28/2024, 7/12/2024,
8/02/2024
• Friday
• 10 AM – 1 PM
• Location: Roberts Dr

• For Credit Tuition/Student Fee: \$190
• Non-credit class fee: \$70
CDL classes will begin every 2 weeks throughout the summer. This class meets 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM Monday through Friday for four weeks. Evening CDL classes begin on May 13th and last for 8 weeks. It meets from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

For more information and to enroll in summer programs, email as_workforce@kctcs.edu.

Olive Hill Chamber to begin planning for Homecoming 2024

By: Cory Claxon,
for *Carter County Times*

It's that time of the year again! The Olive Hill Chamber of Commerce has set the date and time of the first meeting of the Homecoming 2024 Committee. They will meet at 5 p.m. on Thursday, April 4, 2024, at the Olive Hill Center for Arts & Heritage.

The committee will be responsible for organizing the list of events, gathering ideas for a theme, planning

for the parade, securing road closures, coordinating the fireworks and that evening's entertainment.

Some dates are already known. The Olive Hill Center for Arts & Heritage is already planning for their annual "On with the Show!" production, which is slated for Friday, June 28. The parade will follow a day later, Saturday, June 29. Fireworks and music will take place on July 4, as always. However, additional events organized

both by the Chamber and its member businesses will be announced as planning progresses.

If you have thoughts or feedback about last year's festivities, we encourage you to attend these committee meetings and offer them up and lend a hand. Planning for this annual event is a 100% volunteer effort, meaning no one's getting paid or benefiting in any other way in organizing our town's biggest yearly event.

In other Chamber business, a new website will soon be launched that will feature the most comprehensive community calendar to exist in Carter County. The calendar is cross-linked with the Grayson Chamber's calendar. Visitors to either website will be able to see events posted by member businesses from across the county.

Additionally, chamber members will be offered a free page that is search

engine optimized (SEO), which will greatly help their online presence. They'll also be able to post job opportunities and special offers.

The new Olive Hill Chamber of Commerce website will be set up with tourism in mind. A business directory broken down by dining, shopping, lodging, and other services will be available for all visitors to the website. We are extremely excited to bring this offering to our

Chamber members as we continue to support our local businesses.

The Olive Hill Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit group working for our local businesses and is a completely volunteer organization. The Chamber meets on the third Thursday of each month at Giovanni's in Olive Hill at 6 p.m. April 18 is the date of the next meeting.

Republican-backed budget bill with increased K-12 funding sent to governor

By: Bruce Schreiner
Associated Press

FRANKFORT (AP) — Kentucky's legislature delivered on a new two-year state budget Thursday that would increase funding for K-12 schools as lawmakers accomplished their biggest responsibility of this year's legislative session.

The spending plan won final passage in the House and now heads to Gov. Andy Beshear, who has line-item veto authority over state budget bills. The Senate gave its approval late Wednesday as lawmakers hurried to finish work on the budget and many other issues before starting a two-week break.

The main budget measure represents the state's signature policy document and completing the two-year budget was the biggest task for the GOP supermajority legislature when this year's session started in early January. The final version was the product of negotiating sessions by legislative leaders.

Later Thursday, lawmakers gave final passage

to a separate spending bill tapping into the state's massive budget reserves to make one-time investments, including in infrastructure and economic development.

During the debate on the state's main budget bill, much of the focus, as usual, was on education funding.

Per-pupil funding under SEEK — the state's main funding formula for public K-12 schools — would increase by more than 9% during the next two-year budget cycle.

"This is a solid budget," Republican Senate President Robert Stivers said Wednesday night. "It is the best budget that has been proposed or passed by the General Assembly."

Decisions on teacher pay raises would be left up to local school boards. Republican leaders said they hoped the influx of additional state funding would enable districts to award raises to teachers.

Republican Rep. Timmy Truett, a school principal, said Thursday that he had received upbeat

assessments of the spending plan from a number of school superintendents

"They're excited that with these significant increases, that they're going to be able to maintain their staff and also give some sort of a raise," he said during the House debate.

Critics of the spending plan said the legislature missed a prime opportunity — during a time of massive budget reserves — to award even more generous funding to K-12 schools. Democratic Rep. Adrielle Camuel said the funding levels in the bill would not tackle the shortage of classroom teachers.

"Without a dedicated raise for teachers and school employees, Kentucky school districts will still struggle to fill these vacancies," she said.

The decision to leave those salary decisions up to local schools boards reflected an ongoing philosophical difference between Republican lawmakers and Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear. The governor, who won reelection last year, proposed an

11% pay raise for teachers and all other public school employees.

Beshear has said an 11% raise would lift Kentucky to the middle of the pack nationally in average teacher starting pay and average teacher pay. The state now ranks near the bottom in both categories.

The spending plan approved by lawmakers also would boost state funding for school districts' transportation costs. The state would fund 90% of those costs in the first year of the next budget cycle and would fully fund those expenses in the second year, legislative leaders said.

The budget bill also would steer more state funding to less-wealthy school districts to balance out funding disparities with wealthier districts.

Republican Senate President Pro Tem David Givens said Wednesday that the emphasis on education funding signals that teachers are appreciated and that Kentucky is a good place to work as an educator.

"Any rhetoric that makes you feel like you're

not appreciated, please disregard that," Givens said. "We value what you do, day in and day out, and this budget reflects that."

Another Beshear priority that made no headway was his proposal to provide preschool for every 4-year-old in Kentucky. Republican lawmakers included no money in the budget for his proposal. The governor's budget plan included \$172 million each year of the two-year budget for his universal pre-K plan. The program would extend preschool education to an estimated 34,000 additional 4-year-olds, he said.

The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence praised the funding for full-day kindergarten and public universities but said the budget bill fell short of needed investments in early childhood education. The Prichard Committee is a statewide citizens' group that advocates for improved Kentucky schools.

"Significantly more funding and policy innovation is needed to expand access to quality,

affordable early childhood education, which is a critical missing piece to growing Kentucky's economy both today and in the future," Prichard Committee President/CEO Brigitte Blom said in a statement Thursday.

The other appropriations measure that won final passage would make a number of one-time investments, financed by a portion of the state's budget reserves. It would allocate \$450 million over two years to the road fund to support projects to help spur economic development and improve quality of life, a Senate GOP news release said. Other funding would help pay down state pension liabilities and finance school improvements, community development, water projects and substance abuse treatment programs.

After Thursday, lawmakers will return to the Capitol for a two-day wrap-up session in mid-April, when they will take up any gubernatorial vetoes as well as remaining bills.

Kentucky Senate approves expanding access to paid family leave

By: Bruce Schreiner and
Dylan Lovan
Associated Press

FRANKFORT (AP) — A bipartisan bill aimed at expanding access to paid family leave won final passage Thursday as Kentucky's legislature shifted into overdrive before a two-week break.

The Senate voted 36-0 to send the family leave legislation to Gov. Andy Beshear.

Supporters said House Bill 179 would amend state law to allow voluntary paid family medical leave to be offered as an insurance product. Such policies would be available to Kentucky employers, who

would choose whether to offer it as a benefit to their employees.

"This is a market-driven policy proposal that includes no mandates on employers, workers or families," Republican Sen. Amanda Mays Bledsoe said while presenting the bill to her colleagues.

Supporters say the goal is to expand the benefit to more Bluegrass State workers who now can't afford to take time away from work in times of need at home, without forcing anything onto employers. They're characterizing it as a good first step, while acknowledging it won't be enough to help everyone.

If employers chose to

offer the benefit, it would provide temporary wage replacement for workers who need to be away from work to care for a sick relative, bond with a newborn child or care for a relative in the military or is a first responder and was injured in the line of duty. Still more reasons could be outlined in an employer's benefit plan. Supporters see it as a way to help employers attract and retain workers.

The bill's leading sponsors are Republican state Reps. Samara Heavrin and Stephanie Dietz.

The vote came as lawmakers worked through stacks of bills as they neared the start of their

extended break, which will give the governor time to review bills and decide whether to sign or veto them. Lawmakers will return to the Capitol in mid-April for the final two days of this year's session.

Also on Thursday, lawmakers voted to give themselves authority over what statues are installed or removed from the state Capitol's Rotunda. The Senate passed the bill 31-7, sending it to Beshear.

The legislation comes nearly four years after a statue of Confederate President Jefferson Davis was removed from the ornate Rotunda — a popular place for rallies when the legislature is in session. For

decades, the Davis statue stood just feet away from a statue of Abraham Lincoln — his Civil War adversary and the president who issued the Emancipation Proclamation. Both were Kentucky natives.

Republican Rep. David Hale has said his bill was not a response to the Davis statue's removal.

"I have no intention of making any kind of a request to bring anything back that's gone," he said in an interview after the measure won House passage several weeks ago.

Beshear led the push for the Davis statue's removal and the Historic Properties Advisory Commission voted to take it out of the

Rotunda.

The bill headed to Beshear's desk would require legislative approval before any statue, monument or artwork could be installed or removed from permanent display in the Rotunda. The Historic Properties Advisory Commission could submit proposals to lawmakers but it would have no authority to add or remove any such permanent Rotunda display without legislative approval. Commission members would be liable to pay all removal or reinstallation costs if they violated terms of House Bill 513.

Unexplained from A-1

depending upon whom you might ask, but the stories themselves remain. And that, at the end of the day, is what I am interested in. After all, who doesn't love a good story?

That's why I started a podcast called Shadows of Legend (www.shad-

owsoflegend.com) and let people just tell me their stories. I have interviewed people who swear they have seen ghosts and those who make it their business to hunt ghosts. I've interviewed psychics and mediums and spoken with individuals who swear they

have had encounters with extraterrestrials. I have interviewed people who have encountered Bigfoot and Dogmen, and those who have studied all these and more.

My guests hail from all over the world. I've interviewed psychics from En-

gland, a hunter from above the tree line in Canada who witnessed a Bigfoot chase down a herd of caribou, and ghost hunters that you've probably seen on television. I even recently interviewed a tarot card expert who was born and raised in the Lexington,

Kentucky area. And not one single time did I try to prove or disprove their stories. Why? Well, there is a simple answer to that.

There isn't proof that everyone will accept. So, I just share their stories, ask a few questions along the way, and let the listener de-

cide. It's up to you which side of that 'coin' lands face up when you toss it. Belief or disbelief — or will you flip the coin again? The next story might just help you decide...

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com