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Carter County Times

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CARTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY

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Mother still seeking answers

Son, Clifton Sigman, has been missing since 2014

By: Jeremy D. Wells
Carter County Times

This December will mark ten years since the last time anyone in his family saw Paul Clifton Sigman. Sigman, who would have celebrated his 40th birthday this week, left his family home late on the evening of December 1 or in the early morning hours of December 2, 2014, disappearing without a trace; or at least without much of one.

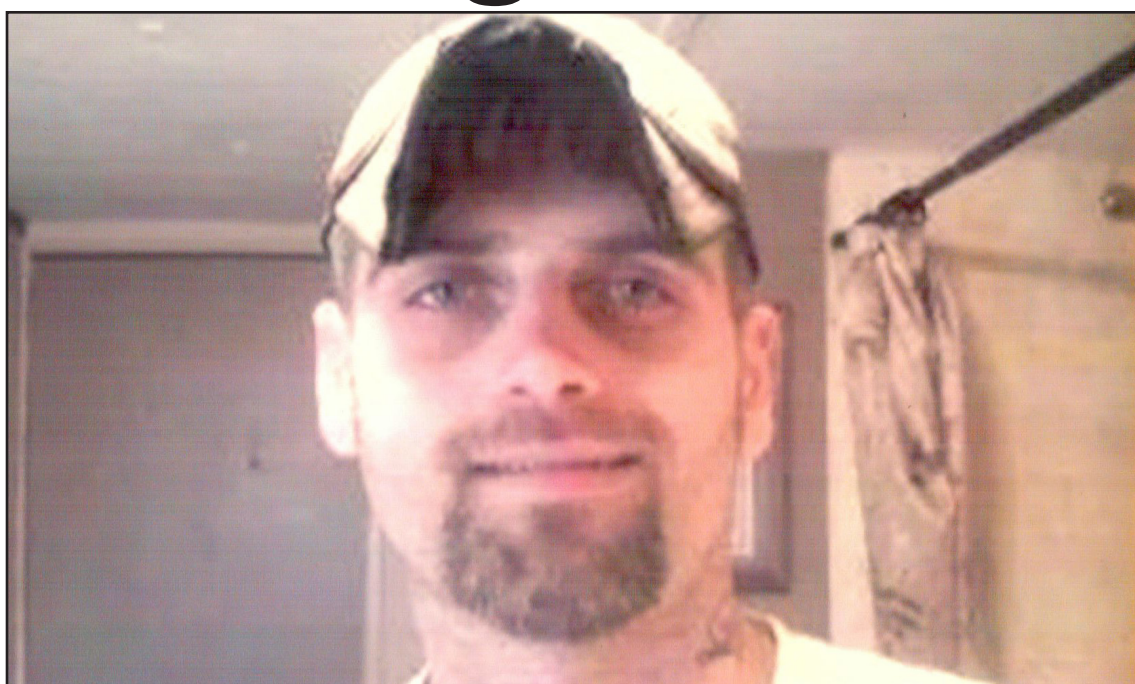
Clifton, as he was known by

friends and family, is believed to have walked from his home on Stump Run Road to another family property, according to his mother Sabrina Sigman. She said she heard rumors that he was picked up by someone in a dark colored Mustang, but police made no progress in following that lead.

Emergency Management also made multiple searches of the area around his home with no results.

The only evidence found were a pair of boots, a pair of gloves, and a pack of cigarettes at Sigman's last suspected location. A voicemail was also left on the answering machine of a family member, but it didn't provide

See SIGMAN on A-3



Paul Clifton Sigman (Submitted photo)

Inspiring the next generation of healthcare

AHEC and PrimaryPlus partner for CHASE camp

By: Charles Romans
Carter County Times

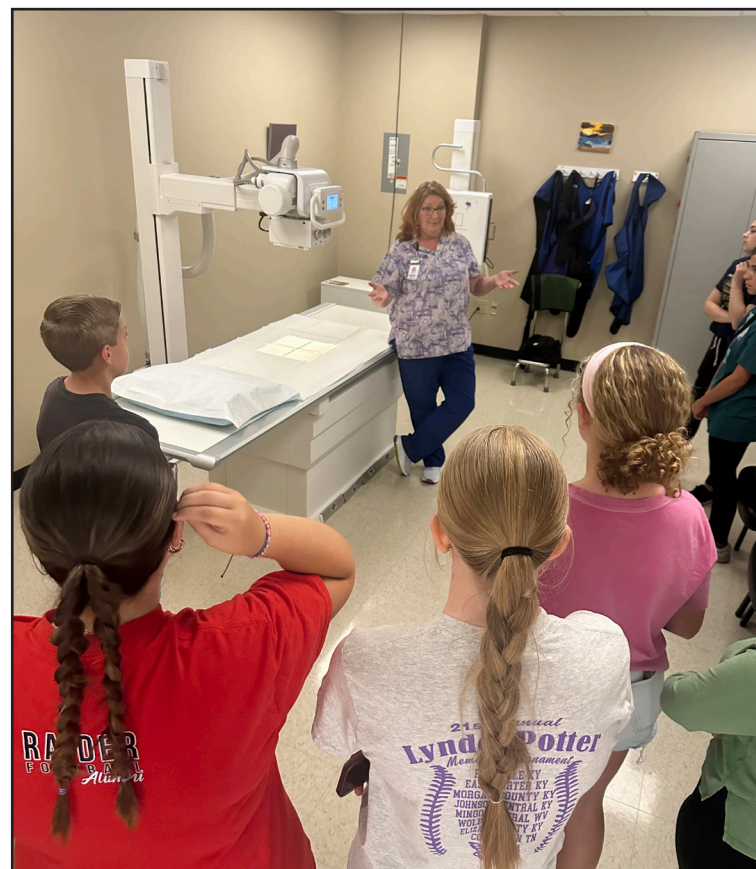
Northeast AHEC and PrimaryPlus partnered to host a CHASE (Careers in Health Advanced Summer Experience) camp at the PrimaryPlus Location in Grayson, last Friday. The camp was designed to both educate and inspire students to consider a career in healthcare, Coordinator of Outreach Services for AHEC Katie Stumbo said. Northeast AHEC is

a program through St. Claire Healthcare in Morehead, with the goal of reaching out to different schools and students throughout the region and combatting the healthcare shortage.

"We're hoping to come out to the different areas and talk to students, and maybe help them realize a passion for healthcare," Stumbo said.

Students met at the Grayson location at 9 a.m. and received a tour of the facility. Along the way they learned about HIPPA, and were given a 'behind the scenes' insight into what healthcare entails. The students, from East Carter, West Carter, and Carter Christian Academy, were also able to visit the infusion lab

See CHASE on A-3



(submitted photo)

Tourism Commission approves budget

Plans for Sports Park and Blue Goose pass on a 4-3 vote

By: Charles Romans
Carter County Times

The Grayson Tourism Commission called a special meeting last week to discuss their budget for the upcoming year. Typical items on the budget included both old and new construction projects at the Grayson Sports Park and the Blue Goose building. For instance, the commission discussed making a business plan to move forward with the Blue Goose and complete the project using available funds.

The commission also discussed additional full-time employees that would be added



Grayson Tourism discusses budgets. (Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

to the upcoming budget. The new employees would include an assistant maintenance position at \$40,000 per year plus health benefits and a clerical employee

at \$24,000 per year.

"I've come to the conclusion that we need a clerical person," treasurer Don Combs told the

See TOURISM 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.

- Christopher Carpenter, 34, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on charges of failure to appear, first degree wanton endangerment – police officer, resisting arrest, first degree fleeing or evading police (motor vehicle), and attempted murder – police officer, arrested and booked June 11.
- Jessica Prichard, 51, of Grayson, arrested by Department of Corrections, on a probation violation (for a felony

- offense), arrested and booked June 11.
- April Swanigan, 34, address unavailable, arrested by Olive Hill PD, for failure to appear, arrested and booked June 12.
- Cody Lyons, 31, address unavailable, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on three counts of non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked June 12.
- Richard Bausano, 64, of Olive Hill, arrested by Elliott County Sheriff, on a probation violation (for a felony offense), arrested and booked June 12.
- Amos Reynolds, 35, address unavailable, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, charges unavailable, arrested and booked June 12.

- Shannon Preston, 47, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County Detention Center, upon sentencing in drug court, arrested and booked June 13.
- Adam Lucas, 42, of Denton, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of first degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), fourth degree assault – dating violence (with minor injury), fourth degree assault – domestic violence (with minor injury), and a probation violation (for a felony offense), arrested and booked June 13.
- Regina Childers, 45, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of first degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), first degree trafficking in a controlled substance (two

See ARRESTS on A-3



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This Week's Obituaries

Ezekiel "Zeke" Conn, 65
Peggy Ann Skaggs Maddix, 65

Gary Miller, 74
Phillip Michael Tackett, 76

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LIFESTYLE



Stay cool and hydrated with delicious agua fresca

This week summer officially arrives in all its sunny, sizzling glory. With temperatures climbing, often higher than usual, it's crucial to stay hydrated. But let's face it, not everyone -- especially kids -- jumps for joy at the idea of drinking plain water. I'd like to introduce you to agua fresca, the delightful, refreshing and incredibly affordable beverage that's here to save the day!

Agua fresca, which translates to "fresh water" or "cool water," is a beloved drink in Mexico and beyond. It's essentially water infused with fruit, sometimes herbs, and other natural flavorings. Unlike sodas and fruit punches, which can be expensive and are often loaded with sugars

and artificial ingredients, agua fresca is a healthy, homemade alternative that's as kind to your wallet as it is to your body.

One of the best things about agua fresca is its versatility. You can mix and match fruits and herbs to create your own signature flavors. It's a beautiful way to enjoy the bounty of seasonal produce and a fun project to experiment with different combinations. It's also a great kitchen project to do with children, teaching them about healthy choices and involving them in the joy of creating something delicious at home.

Why choose agua fresca?

- Hydration is key: In the sweltering heat, staying hydrated is more important than ever. Agua fresca provides a tasty way to keep up with your daily water intake.
- Health benefits: Most sugary drinks do more harm than good. They are not only less hydrating but also packed with ingredients that can be detrimental to health. Agua fresca, on the other hand, is as natural as you make it, with minimal added sugar.
- Cost-effective: Making agua fresca at home is incredibly inexpensive. With a few simple

ingredients, you can prepare a large batch that will last for days.

AGUA FRESCA

Yield: 6 cups
Prep Time: 1 hour, 5 minutes

2 cups of your favorite fruit (watermelon, cantaloupe, pineapple, strawberries or cucumber work great)

4 cups of cold water

Juice of one lime or lemon

1-2 tablespoons of sugar or a natural sweetener (optional, to taste)

In a blender or food processor, blend the fruit with one cup of water until smooth. Strain the mixture through a fine mesh sieve to remove any pulp or seeds. In a large pitcher, combine the fruit puree with the remaining water and citrus juice. Stir in the sugar or sweetener as desired. Let this chill in the refrigerator for at least an hour before serving. Enjoy over ice.

Delicious Variations

- Watermelon Mint: Add a handful of fresh mint leaves to the blender with the watermelon.
- Cucumber Lime and Mint: Mix mint and lime juice with cucumber for a refreshing twist.



Refreshing cucumber, lime and mint agua fresca -- a perfect summer beverage to keep you cool and hydrated. (Photo credit: www.JasonCoblentz.com)

- Strawberry Basil: Blend strawberries with a few basil leaves for a unique flavor.
- Pineapple Coconut: Mix pineapple with a splash of coconut water for a tropical treat.

Diva Tip: Agua Fresca Ice Pops

Turn your agua fresca into a fun summer treat by pouring it into ice pop molds and freezing it. These ice pops are a fantastic way to beat the heat and make for a healthy snack that kids and adults alike will love.

A Special Note: While you're staying cool and hydrated, don't forget to check on the elders in your family and neighborhood.

Older adults can be more susceptible to dehydration, so ensure they're drinking enough fluids and staying cool during these hot months. Surprise someone nearby with a pitcher of agua fresca.

Stay hydrated, stay healthy and enjoy the refreshing benefits of homemade agua fresca this summer!

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

Watch, we must

By: Sling 'n Stone Ministry for Carter County Times

Recently, we've urged folks to weep for, and to warn, the lost. What else must we do? We must watch. (Mark 13:37 "I say unto you all, watch.") Watch for what? Watch for His return. "Watch therefore: for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." (Matthew 24:42) Matthew 25 explains how to watch, and warns what befalls those who don't. First, we must stay always ready (Matthew 25:1-13); and second, we must always be about His business, the work He gives us each to do for His kingdom (Matthew 25:14-30; Mark 13:34).

Remember the foolish virgins? They arose at midnight to go meet their lord, and readied their lamps to light. Then, they shockingly realized they'd not kept enough oil to light their journey (Matthew 25:7-8). Their lord had arrived, and their time to prepare had passed. They got left behind (Matthew

25:10-12).

Remember the three servants? Their lord gave each his goods to work with (Matthew 25:14-15). Two worked faithfully for their lord, awaiting his return. One, although he preserved his lord's goods, he faithlessly hid what the lord gave him. Out of fear, he did nothing for his absent lord. After a long absence, the lord returned and rewarded his faithful two. The third? The lord punished his "wicked and slothful servant" (Matthew 25:26, 30).

Like yesteryear's five foolish virgins, those today who neglect staying always ready will be left behind when Jesus returns. They will beg to come along, but our Lord will say: "I know you not" (Matthew 25:12). Like yesteryear's wicked and slothful servant, those today who refuse to stay ready and then go sinning without one care will be "cast into outer darkness... weeping and gnashing" their teeth (Matthew 25:30; Luke 12:45-47).

How do we avoid get-

ting left behind or ending up in outer darkness? We avoid getting left by daily, and by gladly, paying discipleship's cost: "let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me" (Luke 9:23; 14:26, 33). How do we avoid outer darkness? We must live holy lives because "without holiness, no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). We must use for Him all He's given us. That means soul-winning; pitying the poor; loving; and forgiving all (Matthew 5:48).

To those who stay ready for Jesus' return and occupied with His business until He does, Jesus will reward them, saying: "Well done, thou good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21). Wow! To those who don't, Jesus will punish them, saying: "I never knew you, depart from Me" (Matthew 7:23). Awful! God reminds us of many who thought He means not, or does not, all He says. Remember Pharaoh in Exodus? Pharaoh found out the hard way that God meant, and did, all He said. Beloved, God never changes. Daily we must do as He says; and so, watch, we must.

Introducing youth to the outdoors

Introducing youth to the outdoors

By: Charles Romans
Carter County Times

Carter Caves State Resort Park in Carter County Kentucky is an excellent example of the natural resources and beauty Kentucky has to offer. Visitors come from around the state, the country, and even the world to experience



Rachael McClurg (left) and Nate Shelton (right) with the Carter Caves Junior Naturalist Program. (Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

See **OUTDOORS** on A-8

Kentucky Dept of Agriculture Livestock and Grain Market Report

Compared to last week, feeder steers sold mostly steady to 4.00 higher with exceptions to 10.00 higher. Feeder heifers were mostly steady with instances 3.00 lower to 3.00 higher. There was good demand for feeder classes. Slaughter cows and bulls sold mixed throughout the week with prices ranging from 5.00 lower to 5.00 higher. There was good demand for slaughter classes.

Courtesy of <https://www.kyagr.com/>

Week ending 6/15/24

STATE AVERAGES			
	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
Steers (M&L 1-2)			
350-400 lbs	330.41	332.91	243.41
400-450 lbs	325.45	329.68	252.13
450-500 lbs	321.00	324.84	238.11
500-550 lbs	308.73	310.48	240.82
550-600 lbs	301.22	307.41	234.53
600-650 lbs	284.99	284.26	233.76
650-700 lbs	273.33	275.06	222.57
700-750 lbs	254.13	262.05	210.16
750-800 lbs	245.58	253.55	214.45
800-850 lbs	239.14	235.05	202.49
850-900 lbs	242.20	231.08	206.49
Heifers (M&L 1-2)			
300-350 lbs	302.55	303.69	218.25
350-400 lbs	301.48	303.96	223.90
400-450 lbs	292.26	291.66	221.23
450-500 lbs	280.47	287.37	222.28
500-550 lbs	269.78	273.29	216.48
550-600 lbs	262.07	265.79	215.90
600-650 lbs	249.30	251.44	208.93
650-700 lbs	237.72	246.22	199.56
700-750 lbs	225.20	229.11	184.26
750-800 lbs	218.39	224.28	187.25

WEEKLY COW SUMMARY			
	Average	High	Low
Slaughter Cows			
Breakers	122.00-149.00	130.00-169.00	116.00-138.00
Boners	119.00-149.50	130.00-169.00	106.00-138.50
Lean	85.00-140.00	118.00-177.00	76.00-122.50
Slaughter Bulls			
Yield Grade 1&2	140.00-190.00	155.00-213.00	90.00-180.00

June 13, 2024 Bowling Green, KY

SLAUGHTER GOATS: 374

Kids: Selection 1 57 lbs 340.00; 67 lbs 385.00; 123 lbs 290.00.

Selection 2 54 lbs 245.00; 68 lbs 380.00; 90 lbs 275.00.

SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 1,177

Hair Breeds-Choice & Prime 1-2 56 lbs 170.00; 60 lbs 200.00; 71-75 lbs 212.50-312.50; 80-86 lbs 205.00-297.50; 91 lbs 222.50; 118 lbs 202.50; 135 lbs 155.00.

Wooled-Choice & Prime 1-2 54 lbs 202.50; 76 lbs 252.50; 89 lbs 250.00; 102 lbs 230.00. **Choice 2** 55 lbs 202.50; 86 lbs 192.50; 200 lbs 110.00..

Week ending 6/15/24			
GRAINS			
	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
Corn	4.20-4.72	4.09-4.64	5.95-6.70
Soybeans	11.12-12.12	11.12-12.22	13.38-15.07
Red Winter Wheat	5.23-6.17	5.43-6.63	5.66-6.83

See **FIREFLIES** on A-3

Fireflies provide nighttime beauty; Help control some garden pests

Remember how much fun it was to chase fireflies when you were young? Once you caught a firefly, you would hold it in your hand to watch the flickering light for a few moments and then release it unharmed to fly away.

Interestingly, fireflies do more than generate entertaining childhood memories; they also help control some pests in the garden. On summer nights, glow worms (luminescent firefly larvae) often emerge from their underground homes to forage for food. A typical menu includes slugs, snails and caterpillars including cutworms. The larvae feed much like a spider by injecting a paralyzing toxin into their prey; then, injecting digestive juices to dissolve the prey and allow it to

be more easily consumed.

The adults probably feed on plant nectar to sustain their energy requirements.

There are several theories about why fireflies glow. One is that the flashing light is a homing beacon for the opposite sex. The male flies around flashing the signal to attract a female's attention. A female on the ground or on low-growing foliage will signal back when a male visits her vicinity. To avoid confusion, each firefly species has its own specific signal to attract a mate.

Another theory is that firefly larvae use their luminescence to warn a potential predator that they taste bad. Larvae contain defensive chemicals in their bodies. When disturbed, larvae also increase their glow's intensity and

frequency.

Typical nighttime habitats for adults and larvae take place in rotting wood or other forest litter, or on the edges of water sources such as streams, ponds, marshes and ditches. The highest species diversity is in tropical Asia and Central and South America. Incidentally, some Asian species have tracheal gills that enable them to live under water where they feed on aquatic snails.

To attract fireflies to your property, reduce or eliminate lawn chemicals. Add low, over-hanging trees, tall grass and similar vegetation to give adult fireflies a cool place to rest during the day. Reduce extra lighting on your property because this light interferes with fireflies' luminous signals, making it harder for them to locate mates in the area. Fireflies also determine the time of



Rebecca Konopka
Carter County Extension Agent

University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Cooperative Extension Service carter.ca.uky.edu

Extension Notes

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Arrests from A-1

or more grams of methamphetamine), first degree possession of a controlled substance (fentanyl), possession of drug paraphernalia, two counts of giving an officer false identifying information, and two counts of failure to appear, arrested and booked June 13.

- David Walker, 40, address unavailable, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on a charge of resisting arrest, arrested and booked June 15.
- Chris Smith, 48, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of flagrant non-support and failure to appear, arrested and booked June 15.
- Candace Daniels, 34, of Coal Grove, Ohio, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of failure to appear, public intoxication on a controlled substance (excludes alcohol), menacing, second degree disorderly conduct, and resisting arrest, arrested

and booked June 15.

- Crystal Clay, 32, address unavailable, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, for failure to appear, arrested and booked June 15.
- Eric Hannah, 33, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on two counts of failure to appear, arrested and booked June 15.
- James Paulsey, 60, address unknown, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of speeding 12 MPH over limit, failure to or improper signal, careless driving, no registration receipt, and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, arrested and booked June 16.
- Russell Kelly, 59, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, for failure to appear, arrested and booked June 16.
- Charles Wiley, 46, of River, KY, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of third degree assault – on a peace officer, fourth

degree assault – dating violence (no visible injury), resisting arrest, second degree disorderly conduct, menacing, and disarming a peace officer, arrested June 16, booked June 17.

- Seth Ross, 29, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of failure to appear, and a probation violation (for a felony offense), arrested and booked June 17.
- Shawn Herrmann, 45, of Ripley, Ohio, arrested by Mason County Sheriff, for failure to appear, arrested and booked June 17.
- Joshua Ballman, 47, address unavailable, arrested by Grayson PD, for non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked June 17.
- Dearl Sexton, 50, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of alcohol intoxication in a public place,

and fourth degree assault – domestic violence (no visible injury), arrested and booked June 17.

- Susan Little, 70, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of first degree criminal abuse – child 12 or under, and first degree criminal abuse, arrested and booked June 17.
- Michael Little, 71, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of first degree criminal abuse – child 12 or under, and first degree criminal abuse, arrested and booked June 17.

All of the charges listed are arrest charges only, and do not indicate an indictment 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.

CHASE from A-1

that PrimaryPlus offers. CHASE is available to students from freshman through senior classes. For more information, visit www.neahec.org/.

“The overall goal is to inspire these kids to pursue a career in healthcare and come back and serve their communities,” Tracy McGuire of PrimaryPlus said. “We want them to come back, which is why it’s so important for PrimaryPlus to host the event. This program is showing all of the career paths possible in healthcare. It’s not just being a physician or nurse. There are radiology

services we showcase here, infusion, women’s health, and just technology. We have to have someone to run the IT department in healthcare as well.”

“The key is to realize that it’s not all ‘cut and dried,’ but that there is a very wide range of careers and interests that go into providing healthcare,” she added

As a way to highlight the perception of what healthcare is versus what it truly can be, McGuire used PrimaryPlus Infusion as an example. Most people, she said, think of oncology treatment when they think

of infusion therapy. But in reality, infusion services cover any medication that is administered through an IV. PrimaryPlus does not do chemotherapy or pain management, but they do have other infusion services on site such as iron infusions or infusions for osteoporosis, with some being administered through an IV and others administered through shots.

Both McGuire and Stumbo said that the hope is to educate area students about what the healthcare field has to offer them, and that it is a career that might suit them better

than they might initially believe. Whether it is in pharmacy, patient care, or what initially might seem unrelated interests such as computer software program, IT support, or a host of other medical support fields. PrimaryPlus’s one stop shop model, where many different aspects of healthcare are provided, is a perfect example to use to inspire the next generation of healthcare providers, the duo said.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Sigman from A-1

any information to indicate where he might have gone.

His mother, though, says she has long suspected the voice on the recording isn’t her son, but rather someone impersonating him. She also said she wasn’t confident the boots, gloves, and cigarettes left behind belonged to Clifton – though she has no more inclination why someone else would have left them than she has to

why her son would have stripped them off and left them behind on a cold, winter night.

She said Kentucky State Police, who still have an open investigation into her son’s disappearance, did look into some of her son’s acquaintances, and searched some properties in the Willard area her son had been associated with. But they never found any evidence of what may

have happened to Clifton Sigman.

His mother, Sabrina, says she just wants closure. With his birthday approaching, she said, she wants to remind people that her son is still missing and to ask anyone out hiking, kayaking, or off-roading this summer to keep their eyes open for any evidence that might give her that closure.

The six-foot-tall Clifton

was last seen wearing a pair of blue jeans and a blue hoodie sweatshirt. Anyone with any information is encouraged to contact the Kentucky State Police at 800-222-5555 or (606)928-6421. All reports can remain confidential.

Contact the writer at editor@cartercountytimes.com

Do it again!

Carter Caves host rappelling event

By: Charles Romans
Carter County Times

It might have taken a moment or two to acclima-

tize herself, but Olive Hill native Autumn Thornsberry dropped the sixty feet through the top of the Natural Bridge at Carter Caves State Resort Park like a trooper. With spotters at the top and bottom, Thornsberry was able to experience firsthand, in an up close and personal way, what most only see as a light shining through

from a natural cathedral of stone. And as she spoke with her father after her trip down the rappelling line, she breathlessly said, “I want to do it again!”

On Saturday, the park hosted the Natural Bridge Rappelling Adventure, and dozens were able to share Autumn Thornsberry’s unique experience. Carter Caves Park naturalist Coy Ainsley said the event was something special the park does a couple of times during the summer months.

“We call it the Natural

Bridge Rappel, where people ages six and up can come out and rappel. There is no experience necessary to take part in the event,” Ainsley said. “And they are going to do a sixty-foot rappel through the skylight of the Natural Bridge.”

Ainsley said that a lot of people are familiar with the Natural Bridge, because the hiking trail goes all around it.

“That’s the way most people see it, but we are

See **RAPPELLING** on A-4

Fireflies from A-2

night they’ll flash by the intensity of ambient light. This is why you don’t see many fireflies flashing on clear nights with a full moon.

For more information 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.

Upcoming Events

- The Grayson Farmer’s

Market is open Saturdays from 9:00 AM until noon and on Thursdays from 2:00-6:00 PM. The market is located in the shed behind the Extension Office. The Olive Hill Farmer’s Market is located in the Save-a-Lot parking lot and is open on Saturdays and Wednesdays at 8:00 AM and Mondays at 3:00 PM until sell out each day. There

will be a pop-up market on the first Tuesday of the month in the Friendship & Chapel House parking lot from 6:00-8:00 PM.

- Ag Development Board Meeting – Monday, June 24th @ 6:00 PM – Extension Office
- Little Sandy Beekeepers Meeting – Tuesday, July 2nd @ 6:30 PM – Speaker: Wes Mattox; Topic: Bear Control

CALENDAR

- **6/19: Olive Hill Farmer’s Market @ 8 a.m.** | Save-A-Lot parking lot
- **6/20: Grayson Farmer’s Market @ 2 p.m.** | Carter County Extension Office Shed
- **6/20: Grayson Book Club @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **6/20: Olive Hill Area Chamber of Commerce meeting @ 6 p.m.** | Giovanni’s of Olive Hill
- **6/21: Sit and Sew @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions or to RSVP call 606-474-6686
- **6/22: Olive Hill Farmer’s Market @ 8 a.m.** | Save-A-Lot parking lot
- **6/22: Grayson Farmer’s Market @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Office Shed
- **6/24: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 606-474-6686
- **6/24: Homeschool group meeting @ 12 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **6/24: Olive Hill Farmer’s Market @ 3 p.m.** | Save-A-Lot parking lot
- **6/24: Ag Development Board Meeting @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Extension Office
- **6/24: Girl Scouts meeting @ 6:30 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **6/25: Homeschool group meeting @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **6/26: Olive Hill Farmer’s Market @ 8 a.m.** | Save-A-Lot parking lot
- **6/26: Olive Hill Book Club @ 5:30 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill

Have an event to add to the calendar?
Email info to advertise@cartercountytimes.com



Pet of the Week

Buster is a three-year-old male, boxer mix. This big boy loves attention, and is ready to be someone’s best friend. His \$100 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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**CITY OF GRAYSON
CODE ENFORCEMENT**

If you are planning on building in the city limits of Grayson, a building permit is required and you must first apply for the permit and submit building plans.

This includes commercial, residential, etc. properties including any alterations to a current structure and the building of new structures.

Other projects that require a permit are improvements such as porches, decks, fences etc. Signs in the city also require an application and permit.

Any contractors operating in the city limits are required to obtain a business license and remit employee documentation.

Code Enforcement will also be targeting parking violations with special focus, but not limited to, handicap parking spots and Fire Lanes.

Please contact Grayson Code Enforcement Officer Joe Hammer with any questions or assistance in obtaining the proper permits between the hours of 8 AM to 4 PM Monday – Friday in person at 302 E. Main St. Phone (606) 474-6651. You can also contact by email at jhammer@graysonky.net

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OBITUARY

Ezekiel "Zeke" Conn 1958 – 2024



grandson, Tyler Branham; two brothers, Robert "Holly" (Amelia) Conn, Donnie Conn all of Elliott County, Kentucky; three sisters, Berlela Brown of Lexington, Kentucky, Patricia Conn of Olive Hill, Kentucky, Chasity Logan of Vanceburg, Kentucky, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss him.

Ezekiel "Zeke" Conn, age 65, of Olive Hill, Kentucky, passed away day, June 12, 2024, at his residence surrounded by his loving family.

He was born Wednesday, November 5, 1958, in Elliott County, Kentucky, to the late Troy Dempsey and Sharlene Prince Conn.

Zeke enjoyed farming, being outdoors, spending time with his family, especially, his grandson, Tyler and his dog, "Trooper".

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Stanley Conn.

Zeke is survived by his loving wife of 40 years, Anna Conn; one daughter, Stacey (BJ) Branham; his

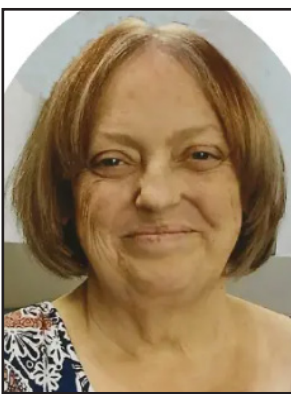
Funeral services were held 1 p.m., Tuesday, June 18, 2024, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Brother Elijah Sexton officiating. Burial followed in Olive Hill Memorial Park, Olive Hill, Kentucky.

Friends visited from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., Monday, June 17, 2024, and after 9 a.m., Tuesday, June 18, 2024, until the service hour at Globe Funeral Chapel.

Bobby Howard, BJ Branham, Dillon Howard, Mike Logan, Kenny Gilbert and Clyde Logan served as pallbearers.

Globe Funeral Chapel in Olive Hill, Kentucky is honored to serve the family of Ezekiel "Zeke" Conn.

Peggy Ann Skaggs Maddix 1958 – 2024



Peggy Ann Skaggs Maddix, age 65, of Grayson, Kentucky, passed away Monday, June 10, 2024, at Community Care Hospice in Ashland, Kentucky.

She was born Thursday, November 20, 1958, in Elliott County, Kentucky, a daughter of Joyce Holbrook Skaggs of Olive Hill, Kentucky, and the late Raymond Skaggs.

Peggy enjoyed going out to eat, cooking for family events and spending time with her family.

In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by her husband of 40 years, Cleadith Maddix and one sister, Pam Richmond.

Peggy is survived by one son, Joshua (Stephanie) Maddix of Olive Hill,

Kentucky; two daughters, Deanna (Brian) Conley of Grayson, Kentucky, Jennifer (Shane) Mauk of Morehead, Kentucky; 11 grandchildren; two brothers, Phillip (Mary) Skaggs of Olive Hill, Kentucky, Darl (Marie) Skaggs of Olive Hill, Kentucky; one sister, Trish (Jeff) Hay of Hillsboro, Kentucky, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss her.

Funeral services were held 11 a.m. Friday, June 14, 2024, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky with Brother Ron Johnson officiating. Burial followed in the Holbrook Cemetery in Olive Hill, Kentucky.

Friends visited from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., Thursday, June 13, 2024, and after 9 a.m., Friday, June 14, 2024, until the service hour at Globe Funeral Chapel.

Andrew Mauk, Laten Conley, Jon Hay, Justin Hay, Jeff Hay and Brian Conley served as pallbearers.

Globe Funeral Chapel in Olive Hill, Kentucky is honored to serve the family of Peggy Ann Skaggs Maddix.

Phillip Michael Tackett 1948 – 2024



Phillip Michael Tackett, 76, of Morehead, Kentucky, loving and devoted husband, father, brother, and grandfather, passed away peacefully on June 10, 2024 at St. Claire HealthCare, after a long courageous battle with cancer. He was surrounded by his loving family at the time of his passing.

He was born May 16, 1948, to the late John Hubert Tackett and Marjorie Geraldine Tackett of Soldier, Kentucky. In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by one brother, Stephen Dwayne Tackett in 2004, and an infant sibling in 1964.

Phillip Michael is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Edith Lue King, who he wed on June 10th, 1967, and their two daughters, Madonna Lynn (Gary) Hanshaw of Morehead and Amy Elizabeth (Jay) Thacker of Mt. Sterling. Madonna & Amy blessed him with five grandchildren: Savannah (Sebastian) Munoz of Flatwoods, Nathan (Haylee) Hanshaw of Auburn, Alabama, Jacob Hanshaw & fiancée, Brianna of Morehead, and Addyson Elizabeth and Amberley Jae Thacker both of Mt. Sterling. Also surviving are two brothers, Danny (Joyce) Tackett of Olive Hill, and Jerry (Connie) Tackett of Knoxville, Tennessee and one sister, Dianna (Donnie) Stevens of Olive Hill. He will also be missed by many nieces, nephews, family and friends.

Never having met a stranger, Phillip's many doctors, nurses, friends, and family, would all agree that he was a man of many questions. Not because he wanted to interfere in their lives, but because he truly cared and always had the desire to give something in return to those who gave just a little of their time.

Phillip was an avid businessman and entrepreneur in Morehead. He owned and operated a very successful and well-respected CPA office for nearly 45 years, until his vision forced him into retirement. He also was involved with many

property and local business endeavors in Morehead throughout the years and was always willing to help those who came to him with a good business proposition. But his fun and enjoyment came on four tires and a steering wheel. He loved old cars. Whether it be looking at, talking about, traveling to, working on, buying or selling, it didn't matter. His idea of a perfect vacation was traveling to a good car show with friends, or vacationing with family, while eating at every good restaurant he came across, especially the ones with good desserts.

Although down through the years, Phillip was a member of many clubs and organizations, too many to list, and gave unselfishly of his time and financial support. But he joined the one with the highest honor on January 2, 2024. He accepted Jesus Christ into his heart from his hospital room during a visit with family. He was excited, as was his family, to share of his good news and the love he now had for his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. And even though his illness caused him many struggles with mobility, he was determined to make it to church as many times as he was able, the last being the day before he left this old world behind. He was a member of the Soldier Church of God, Soldier, Kentucky.

Funeral services were conducted at 1:00 P.M. Friday, June 14, 2024 at the Soldier Church of God with Brother Clifford "Tippy" Price, Brother Jared DeAtley and Brother Byron Hargett officiating.

Burial followed in the McFerren Cemetery in Olive Hill.

Visitation at the Michael R. Gray Funeral Home in Morehead was from 5:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. Thursday and after 11:00 A.M. Friday at the church.

Pallbearers were Randy Wagoner, Rodney Fouch, Gary Highley, Jeff Highley, Leroy "Tunk" Hodges, and Glen Stephens.

Honorary pallbearers were Nathan Hanshaw and Jacob Hanshaw.

The Michael R. Gray Funeral Home, 808 Old Flemingsburg Road, Morehead, Kentucky 40351 cared for all arrangements for Phillip Michael Tackett.

To view the online memorial and sign the guest book, please visit www.mrgrayfh.com.

Rappelling from A-3

giving them a new way to see it. It gives them all different kinds of perspectives," Ainsley said. "Because they are hanging from a rope, rappelling down through the hole, and into the bridge."

If you missed out this time, and want to try rappelling, the park has another event coming up next month.

"We have one more coming up this summer, on July 20, if people are interested," Ainsley said. "You can call the park at 606-286-4411 extension 0. You can make reservations, and it's just ten dollars per drop. Some people will want to do it twice, and you can just purchase two tickets. Drops are from 10 am until 3 p.m."

Ainsley said that the drop is definitely an adventure worth adding into your visit, and compli-

ments all the other sights and adventures the park has to offer. He said people enjoy cave tours, hiking, or in many cases just hanging out in or near the creek. And enjoying the beauty of nature, however you choose to do it, is always time well spent.

Anyone rappelling is encouraged to go at their own pace, Ainsley said.

"We would never want anyone to go too fast, because we want them to enjoy the view of the bridge from many different perspectives. But the whole process should take less than a half hour."

And as definitely is the case with Autumn Thornsberry, it will be thirty minutes most will remember for a lifetime.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com



Autumn Thornsberry of Olive Hill Rappels through the skylight of the Natural Bridge at Carter Caves. (Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

Gary Miller 1950 – 2024



Gary Miller, age 74, of Grayson, Kentucky, passed away Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at his residence surrounded by his loving family.

He was born April 9, 1950, in Ashland, Kentucky, a son of the late William Henry and Mary Ellen Deerfield Miller.

Gary was the owner of Miller's Body Shop, spending his lifetime doing body work and painting cars. He loved going to dirt track races, watching NASCAR and westerns on tv, riding 4-wheelers and spending time with his family.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one daughter, Diana Kay Miller; six brothers, Fred Deerfield, Charles Miller, Jimmy Miller, Ray Miller, Roscoe Miller and Johnny Miller; three sisters, Sheila Lass-

ley, Brenda Bringer and Wanda Cains.

Gary is survived by his loving wife of 56 years, Betty Ann Baker Miller; one son, Gary Michael Miller; two granddaughters, Ally Shae (Josh) Ford of Lexington, Kentucky, Abigail Miller; one great-granddaughter, Emma Shae Ford; two special girls that he thought of as daughters, Faith Ann Sias, Teresa McKinney; one brother, Oscar (Donna) Miller; two sisters, Karen Young, Sylvia McDavid all of Grayson, Kentucky, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss him.

Funeral services were held 11 a.m., Saturday, June 15, 2024, at Grayson Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 49 McCoy Road, Grayson, Kentucky with Brother Phillip Roe officiating. Burial followed in Everman Cemetery.

Friends visited after 9:30 a.m. until the service hour at Grayson Funeral Home.

Eddie Young, Pat Young, Barry, Bledsoe, Tim Martin and Josh Ford served as pallbearers.

Grayson Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the family of Gary Miller.

Carter County Times

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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.

AS WE SEE IT

Still a long road to drug recovery

Kentucky has gotten some good news in the fight against drug abuse recently. The Commonwealth reported last week that drug overdose deaths in Kentucky are down by almost ten percent, marking the second straight annual drop in drug overdose related deaths.

The wider availability of Narcan, including efforts to educate the public and get the life-saving drug into the hands of those who might encounter an overdose, seem to be having an impact. But there is still a long way to go.

According to the Kentucky Drug Overdose Fatality Report for 2023, just under 2,000 Kentuckians are reported to have died in the previous year from a known drug overdose. As noted that's down nearly ten percent from the year before. But it's still a huge number, with Fentanyl indicated as the main culprit in overdoses, accounting for 79 percent of the overdose related deaths in 2023.

But while there is an overall trend towards fewer deaths, the risks are increasing in some communities. For instance, the figures show an increase in the deaths of black Kentuckians from overdose – with those numbers growing by five percent.

So, while things are improving, there is still a long way to go – something that politicians on both sides of the aisle have acknowledged.

While the availability of Narcan has been one factor in preventing deaths (this editor keeps two doses of the drug in his vehicle after receiving doses of the narcotic blocker and instructions in its use during a drug awareness event at Greenbo Lake last year), education has been another factor.

Our courts continue to engage in diversion programs, helping those who sincerely seek treatment to find a bed in a treatment center rather than the county jail. And, according to data shared this week by our guest columnist Nick Hayes, young people are making more responsible choices because of the drug education offered to them.

Hayes notes that Kentucky teens are more than 15 percent less likely to have used drugs over the last month than the average American teen.

But that doesn't mean our teens are drug free. More than seven percent of children aged 12 to 17 reported some drug usage in the past month, with marijuana topping the list.

Because of this, Hayes said, it's more important than ever for parents to talk with their kids about the dangers of drug use – especially designer drugs which may be laced with Fentanyl or other unknown substances.

And all it takes is a quick look at the arrests, indictments, and court dockets to see that while drug use may be down among some youth, there are still plenty of adults engaging in risky, self-destructive behavior.

While we applaud all efforts from the state, drug treatment professionals, and volunteers to educate our youth and families on the risks and dangers of drug use – as well as the promotion and distribution of life saving Narcan – the drug epidemic that has plagued our communities is still far from over.

Organizations like the Galaxy Project and their Pathfinder program are still necessary. They still need our support.

We truly believe they can make a difference by giving young people something to say “yes” to other than drugs and alcohol.

Because while efforts to provide treatment and support to the current generation of addicts is a laudable and worthwhile pursuit, we need to work to break the cycles of poverty, desperation, and hopelessness that lead young people to seek solace in drugs in the first place.

If we don't do that, this brief glimmer of hope we see in the current numbers could easily fade as our communities relapse and the pushers of poison targeting our region seek new markets to replace those customers lost to recovery, overdose, or other drug related deaths.

The current trend is a good thing; but we need to remain vigilant. And we need to support those doing the work to educate and repair the damage drugs have caused in the lives of our addicted community members and their families. Because, as the saying goes, “There but for the grace of God go I.” Or you. Or any of us.



Fathers have a responsibility to speak to their kids about drugs and alcohol

Being a father is not easy; it takes sacrifice, which means playing an essential role in a child's life by being there for them and loving them unconditionally.

Every father knows they need to provide abundant love and support. A father is always there for their children, offering guidance, support, and education. The greatest joy, of course, for any father is seeing their children thrive, do well in life, and be healthy.

Yet things happen in life, and kids and teens experiment with risks while testing their limits and boundaries, such as trying drugs or alcohol. Fathers have a responsibility to speak to their kids about drugs and alcohol and help them understand the risks and consequences.

Fortunately, drug education and prevention campaigns have proven effective in Kentucky, helping young people make responsible choices. According to drug abuse statistics, teenagers in Kentucky are 15.60% less likely to have used drugs in the last month than the average American teen. Roughly 7.03% of 12 to 17-year-olds surveyed reported using drugs in the previous month, with marijuana being the most widely used substance.

Illegal drugs today are more readily available than ever before. According to the DEA, drug traffickers have turned smartphones into a one-stop shop to mar-

ket, sell, buy, and deliver deadly fake prescription pills and other drugs. Amid this ever-changing age of social media influence, kids, teens, and young adults are easily influenced.

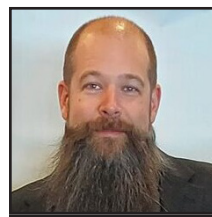
Drug traffickers advertise on social media platforms like Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, Twitter, YouTube, and Facebook. The posts are promptly posted and removed with code words and emojis used to market and sell illicit drugs. Unfortunately, digital media provides an increased opportunity for both marketing and social transmission of risky products and behaviors.

Fathers are responsible for protecting and preparing our children for the world. Drug education is essential. Take the time to speak to your kids about the dangers of illicit substances, how to avoid and manage peer pressure, and what to look for. Be prepared to share personal experiences and help them understand that some choices have consequences.

Along with bearing this responsibility, fathers must not neglect their well-being and mental health. Raising children can be a lot; there are many challenges along the way, and the pressure of being a good influence can get the best of us. We may second guess our choices and decisions and stress over the small things.

All of this makes it vital not to ignore our mental health; children, especially younger kids, mimic

See **FATHERS** on A-6



Letting go of things

I don't like to think of myself as materialistic. I'm not driven by consumption, or the accumulation of products and things. Sure, I like nice things, just like anyone else. There are lots of things – particularly musical instruments – that I don't own that I'd like to. But otherwise, I like to think of myself as someone who makes full use of what they have before they retire or replace it.

I don't like it whenever things go to waste.

I especially don't like it when technology is made obsolete by design.

Gaming systems come to mind immediately. Many folks, when the next Xbox or PlayStation comes out, will switch immediately to the new system. Meanwhile, I still haven't upgraded to the PlayStation 5. My PlayStation 4 (PS4) still has a huge back catalog of unplayed games to work through, and I even still play my PS3 on occasion. My PS2 is in the attic, but I fantasize about setting up a hub with all my systems – old and new alike – connected to a single display; ready to play the latest release or the classics that inspired it.

But sometimes the companies who sell these products make their continued use difficult. In the past I've lamented changes to Google's media ecosystem over the years; for instance, how the migration from Google Play Music to YouTube Music caused me to lose

access to digital versions of albums I bought with real money unless I want to pay a monthly fee or listen to advertisements between songs.

Similarly, Sony has made it increasingly difficult to access existing purchases and make new purchases on legacy systems. Want to pay the exact purchase price for a game with your credit card? Tough. Purchases can only be made on the digital storefronts for the PS3 and the handheld PlayStation Vita if the account holder adds funds in whole dollar increments through a PC, phone, or a modern game system like the PS4 or PS5. Then those “wallet funds” can be used to make a purchase.

The company also makes it difficult to access your previous purchases, requiring users on the Vita and the older handheld PlayStation Portable (PSP) to scroll through a downloads list to locate a title they've previously purchased. This can be tedious, especially as the list includes free demo titles, and titles across platforms – meaning that before you can get to that PSP game you bought in 2007, you might have to scroll through every game you downloaded and played on PS4, PS Vita, and PS3 before you get to it. If you game as much as I do (or at least as much as I did before I had kids) that can be hundreds of games.

It's even worse when a company purposely bricks a product, or renders it useless, as Spotify threatened to do recently after ending support for their in-car

See **LETTING GO** on A-8



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.

Veterans jobs highlight of Chamber meeting

Northeast Community Action plans job fair for July

By: Charles Romans
Carter County Times

The Grayson Chamber of Commerce met last Tuesday for their regularly scheduled meeting. The chamber discussed the success of the recent Memory Days event and cited positive community response through social media and other channels. With Memory Days 2024 wrapped up, the chamber is already discussing ideas for the 2025 annual event slated for Memorial Day weekend next year. The Chamber also discussed the fall Golf Scramble, a chamber fundraiser. That event is coming up on October 4, 2024, and will be the first such fundraiser since the onset of the COVID pandemic.

The featured speaker for the meeting was Sarah Ramey from Northeast Community Action Agency. Ramey told the cham-



Mike Nelson addresses the Grayson Chamber of Commerce. (Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

ber that Northeast was currently wrapping up their fiscal year, but that new funding for programs will begin in July. Northeast, Ramey said, was focused on helping job seekers. Part of that help comes in the form of gas cards for transportation and planning such as assessments for potential job seekers.

“We can also help job seekers with resumes,” Ramey said. “And if they don’t have a resume, we can help them make one.”

Ramey said that many individuals have problems

compiling a resume, but that Northeast can help them to gather and arrange pertinent information that will give a clear picture of their experience and qualifications to a potential employer.

Ramey told the chamber that Northeast was also very excited about their programs designed to help veterans reenter the workforce. There will be an upcoming event on July 11 at the Olive Hill Armory where there will be a large number of businesses set up to showcase

available jobs and meet with potential applicants. Businesses will be interviewing for jobs ‘on the spot,’ Ramey said, and the event will also include live entertainment, along with free health screenings for veterans. Ramey said that Northeast also has programs coming up highlighting work from home jobs as well.

Northeast also helps with job placement in ways that benefit the potential employer as well, Ramey told the chamber. Programs exist that will subsidize

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PUBLIC NOTICES

CLERK'S NOTICE OF FIDUCIARIES ACCOUNTING
Upon requirements of Section 424.129 Kentucky Revised Statutes, the following fiduciary appointments have been filed with the Carter County District Court Clerk.

Final Settlement, Megan Stapleton-Prater, Administratrix, in the estate of: Charles Justin Stapleton. Attorney for Estate, Hon Brandon T Hamilton, July 17th, 2024 at 10:30am having been set as date of hearing, no cause for exceptions, having been shown, the settlement will be confirmed at date of hearing.

ACCEPTING BIDS

The Grayson Tourism Commission (the Owner) will accept competitive bids from General Contractors on two (2) separate contracts for work in conjunction with the renovation of the Blue Goose Collective, 166 E. Main Street, Grayson, KY.

1. Plumbing waste, drain, vent, water supply piping, fixtures, trim and gas piping.
2. Removal of asphalt paving and installation of new concrete floor slabs.

The Owner will accept sealed bids on either or both of these projects until July 10, 2024 at 1:00 pm..

Bidding documents may be obtained only by email request to the architect, rjs@architecturalplanning.biz. Additional instructions to bidders are included in the bidding documents.

- A. required pre-bid meeting will be held at the above address at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, July 3rd.
- B. the bid opening will be held at the above address at 1:00 pm on Wednesday, July 10.

Questions should be directed to the architect, Robert J. Summerfeldt, 540.915.8333 or rjs@architecturalplanning.biz.

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a percentage of the new employee’s wages for up to twelve weeks as an incentive for both the job seeker and the employer. This facilitates training, on the job training, as well as working in the position. Ramey said the goal of the program is for the twelve-week subsidy to end with full-time employment.

The chamber of commerce is not a government entity, but rather a coalition of small business owners in the community who have joined together to help promote business in their communities.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Grayson tourism discusses current projects

Sports park plans addition of basketball, pickleball, and inclusive playground areas

By: Charles Romans
Carter County Times

The Grayson Tourism Commission met for its regularly scheduled meeting last Thursday, to discuss the business of promoting tourism in the city of Grayson. Minutes were approved from both the previous month and for the special meeting from the day before.

Next on the agenda was the treasurer’s report, submitted by Treasurer Don Combs. Budget items included a comparison of the restaurant tax revenue

for the month of May, and current account balances and capital expenditures.

Grayson sports park manager Grant Harper reported to the commission on the closing of a local restaurant, which would result in a loss to the restaurant tax revenue for the tourism commission. The restaurant in question, Harper reported, was currently in arrears by five months on those taxes, and there was a question of whether those taxes could be collected. The business closure was not a result of any action taken by the city, but rather of the business owner’s own volition.

Harper also discussed a grant for the 2024 grant cycle that would fund basketball courts, pickleball courts, lighting, and fencing. He said the estimates for the construction have already been submitted and are ready to submit with that application.

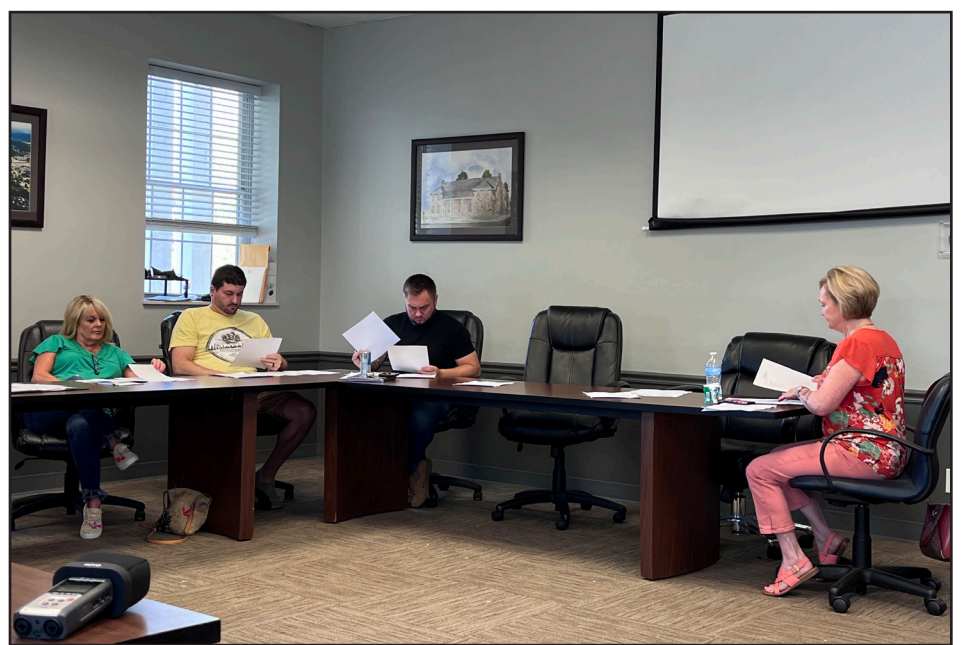
“I submitted a total

project of \$250,000,” Harper told the commission.

But he also made them aware that estimates are subject to change depending upon how long the approval process takes.

The estimate included an asphalt surface for the courts, which Harper said is superior to concrete on that application due to being a less rigid surface. The company that submitted the estimate also does striping and painting of courts, Harper said. The project will ideally be completed in 2025, he said.

Another sports park project, the inclusive swing project, would ideally be a fall of 2024 and spring of 2025 project Harper said. He recognized the Kiwanis Club for doing a lot of work toward bringing the latter project to fruition. This would include wheelchair swings and buddy swings, rubber surfacing, and a sidewalk around the



Grayson Tourism meets in the Grayson City Building. (Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

area. The inclusive swings will be adjacent to the current playground area.

Harper told the commission that he had ordered directional signage for the sports park in an effort to mitigate parking issues. The goal is to direct traffic in a single direction to improve traffic flow

both entering and exiting the park.

“I ordered some signage, painted some arrows, and I am going to do a PSA on the park’s social media page,” he said. “It means a lot to people to have an adequate parking area and defined spaces; and that is a huge factor in

being able to draw people to your park.”

The next scheduled meeting for the Grayson Tourism Commission will be July 11 at 10 a.m.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Fathers from A-5

what they see. How we cope with frustration, anger, sadness, or isolation impacts our children in several ways.

Our actions have consequences. Children see how

we handle every situation, and while no father is perfect, we must be conscious of the fact they are impressionable when they are young. They look up to us, mimic our actions,

and see when we are doing well in life mentally.

The key for fathers caring for children is to take the time to care for themselves. However, if you are struggling, contact

988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline. Taking care of your mental health is the same as taking care of your physical health; it is an integral part of your well-being and contributes

to you being the best father you can be.

Nickolaus Hayes is a healthcare professional in the field of substance use and addiction recovery and is part of the editorial team

at Drug Rehab Services (DRS). His primary focus is spreading awareness by educating individuals on the topics surrounding substance use.

Special task forces provide preview of 2025 Regular Session priorities

One of the questions I get asked most often is about our priorities for upcoming sessions. While a few bills are drafted to address last minute issues, most of the legislation that becomes law is the result of

months long of hard work, preparation and study by committees and working groups. During the 2024 Legislative Interim, the House and Senate developed four task forces to study specific issues impacting our state today.

All but one of the task forces will consist of a bipartisan group of 10 legislative members from throughout the state. The exception is the Efficient and Effective School District Governance Task Force, which will have

a total of 13 members, including five private citizens. Each task force will hear from stakeholders, collect and review data, and investigate how other states approach similar issues. Each will meet during the 2024 Interim and submit its findings and recommendations to the Legislative Research Commission by December 1, for referral to the appropriate committee or committees.

Artificial Intelligence Task Force: The direct result of conversations around House Concurrent Resolution 38, this task force will continue efforts to address the exponential growth in both the current use and future potential of artificial intelligence. Artificial intelligence (AI)

is technology that allows computers and other machines with computers to simulate human intelligence and problem-solving skills. Members will look into AI’s role in both the public and private sector, what can be done to ensure security; and how other states are addressing it.

Kentucky Housing Task Force: Like most of our nation, Kentucky faces a shortage in housing. In fact, a recent study showed the state needs 200,000 or more housing units and the shortage impacts rural, urban, and suburban communities throughout the state. While some have advocated for investing billions in free or low-cost housing, the issue is far more complex than that and task force members will look at the housing market, financing, and how state and local rules

and ordinances impact construction, rentals, and housing in general.

Workforce Attraction and Retention Task Force: Kentucky has experienced tremendous economic growth over the past seven years, with historic investments in new employers, the creation of new jobs, and a stable economy. We even managed to navigate the effects of the shutdown during the pandemic. However, the need for more workers of all skill levels continues to plague our efforts. In fact, we have one of the worst workforce participation rates in the nation – which means too many people who could be and should be working are not. We all know what having a job can mean to individual Kentuckians – to borrow the old adage, jobs are the best anti-poverty program in existence.

But, thousands of Kentuckians remain out of the workforce. We know some do not want to work, but far more face hurdles like transportation, education, and child care. Ultimately, we need to come up with solutions that get everyone into a productive role. This task force will continue our effort to identify barriers to employment and how the state might help prepare Kentuckians for the workforce.

Efficient and Effective School District Governance Task Force: Systemic issues within Jefferson County Public Schools led to the creation of this working group. The 13-member panel will focus on the district’s governance and administration and how it impacts its ability to educate students. Almost 100,000 students attend school in the dis-

trict, an enrollment that is larger than the population of all but two of Kentucky’s cities. Members will take a comprehensive approach to identifying potential improvements to the district, including engaging parents, teachers, students, local leaders, and advocates along the way.

For more information about these panels, or to access meeting materials and other information, visit the special committees section of the committees page on legislature.ky.gov.

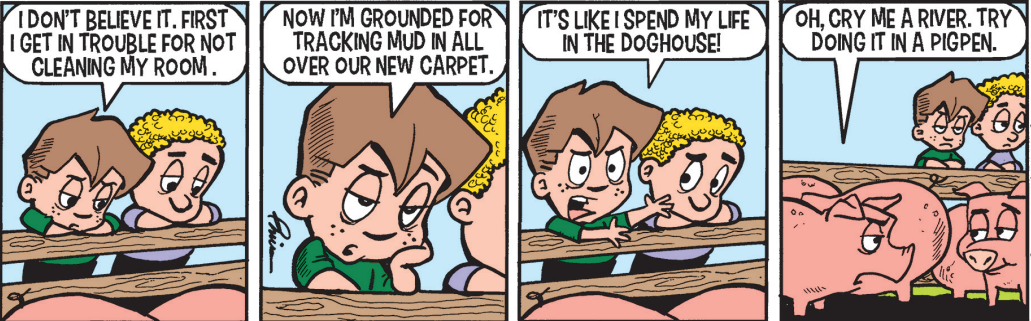
As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via e-mail at Patrick.Flannery@lrc.ky.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature’s website at legislature.ky.gov.



Patrick Flannery
Representative
State of Kentucky

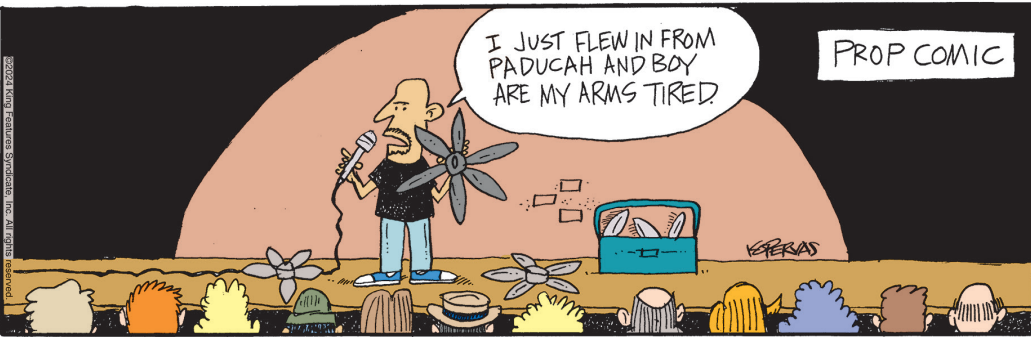
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



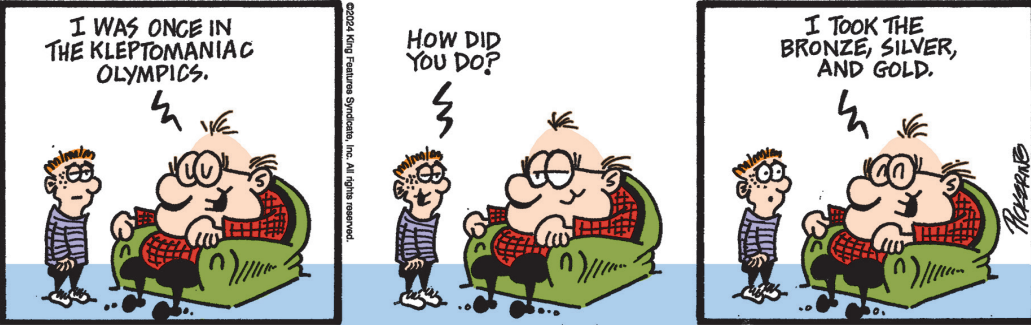
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



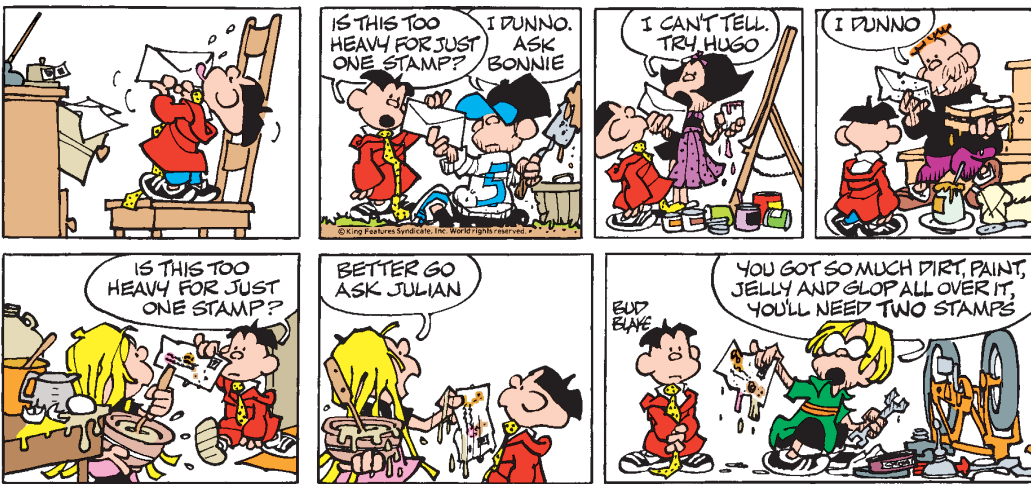
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



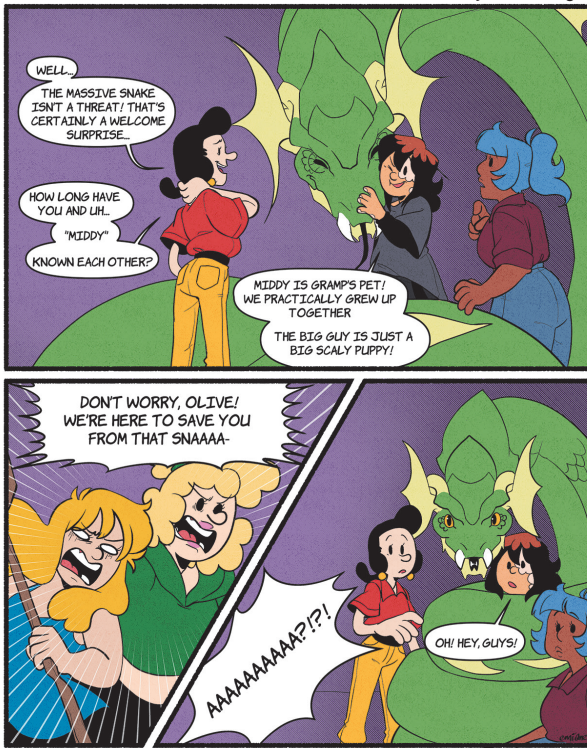
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



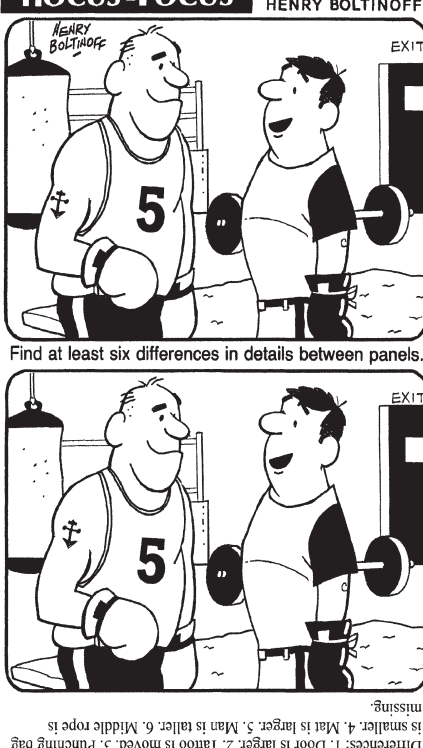
OLIVE

By Emi Burdge



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: E equals W

ETSI EZLQN KZL YSQQ SYIXHUU
 IZRQPW PJ THX TZRH EHXH
 ZW S WSXXZE UPNH XZSN?
 QPQK ZJ ITH SQQHK.

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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!

Design **SLYTE**

Doze **RUMBLES**

Stage **SHAPE**

Refuse **SWEAT**

TODAY'S WORD

"I'm writing another check for the _____ salon—when are they going to finish the job?"

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. Landowner	_____ E	Wiggle	_____ M
2. River's entrance	M _____	Child	Y _____
3. Carnival promoter	_____ R _____	Moneylender	_____ N _____
4. High-pitched	_____ P _____	Hammerhead, e.g.	_____ K _____
5. Walk a beat	_____ L _____	Customer	_____ N _____
6. Kit or Johnny	C _____	Preacher	P _____
7. At no time	N _____	Prybar	L _____
8. Restaurant server	_____ A _____	Author	_____ R _____
9. Stockpile	_____ R _____	Pebble	_____ N _____
10. Bow treatment	_____ S _____	Spring harbinger	_____ B _____

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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.

	-	+		= 8				
+		+	+					
	+		+	= 21				
÷		×		+				
	+		+	= 14				
=		=		=				
5	24	23						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

DIFFICULTY: ★
 ★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
 ★★★ GO FIGURE!

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Even Exchange

ANSWERS

1. Squirt Squirm	6. Carson, Parson
2. Mouth, Yacht	7. Never, Laver
3. Barber, Banker	8. Walter, Whiter
4. Sharp, Shark	9. Stone, Stone
5. Patrol, Patron	10. Rosin, Robin

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14		
15				16				17		
18				19			20			
			21			22				
23	24	25			26			27	28	29
30				31			32			
33				34			35			
			36			37				
38	39	40			41			42	43	44
45				46			47			
48				49			50			
51				52			53			

ACROSS

1 — of Sandwich
 5 Saigon soup
 8 URL opener
 12 Coagulate
 13 Charged bit
 14 Pitcher Hersher
 15 Romantic appointments
 17 Skater Lipinski
 18 Like aspirin, briefly
 19 Ozone, for one
 20 Governing gp.
 21 That chap's
 22 —Magnon
 23 "Evita" sur-name
 26 Gym gear
 30 "— Rhythm"
 31 Chum
 32 Cowgirl's footwear
 33 Spider's traps
 35 Baby collie
 36 Owns
 37 Prohibit
 38 Sound of Washington
 41 Flushed
 42 Aunt, in Acapulco
 45 Skin soother
 46 Donna Summer hit song
 48 Sagan or Sandburg

DOWN

1 Canyon sound
 2 Oodles
 3 Campus mil. group
 4 Old Ford
 5 Pocket breads
 6 Works the soil (travel bags)
 7 Carry—
 8 Frank holder
 9 Streetcar
 10 Actress Hatcher
 11 Scheme
 16 Opposite of "fer"
 20 Onassis nick-name
 21 Toy car brand
 22 Cartoon frame
 23 Photo, for short
 24 Conceit
 25 Steal from
 26 Existed
 27 Jump
 28 Pinnacle
 29 Hog haven
 31 "Nova" airer

49 Ambulance VIP
 50 Luminary
 51 Singles
 52 Horse chow
 53 Prefix with pilot

8 Nosh
 9 Cushions
 10 White of "The Golden Girls"
 11 Designer Rabanne
 12 — Bator
 13 Slasher film fare
 14 Capital of Italia
 15 Ballet attire
 16 "— first you ..."
 17 Roundish do
 18 Devilish laugh
 19 Airport screening org.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

- GEOGRAPHY:** Which country's native name is Cymru?
- HISTORY:** Which country is the first to recognize same-sex marriage?
- MOVIES:** Who voices the character of Frozone in the animated movie "The Incredibles"?
- FOOD & DRINK:** What is the primary ingredient in baba ganoush?
- LITERATURE:** The movie "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button" is based on a short story written by which American author?
- MEASUREMENTS:** How many grams are in a pound?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE:** What cultural phenomenon is celebrated on May 4?
- TELEVISION:** Rhoda Morgenstern is a sidekick in which 1970s TV sitcom?
- SCIENCE:** What is the process called when iron is coated with zinc?
- U.S. STATES:** What is the only vowel that is NOT the first letter of a state?

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WORD LADDERS

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

PALES

RAGED

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SCRAMBLERS

Today's Word: **BEAUTY**

1. Style; 2. Slumber; 3. Phase; 4. Waste

WORD LADDER

ANSWERS

1. Wales; 2. The Netherlands; 3. Samuel L. Jackson; 4. Eggplant; 5. F. Scott Fitzgerald; 6. 454 grams; 7. "Star Wars" movies; 8. "The Mary Tyler Moore Show"; 9. Galvatron; 10. E.

King Crossword

Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

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

Weekly SUDOKU

ANSWERS

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

What word would you call a dress Tomlin if her home were on a narrow side road? Lily of the valley.

Outdoors from A-2

cave tours and soak up the scenery. In the spirit of all things nature, on Saturday Carter Caves launched their Junior Naturalist Program.

“National Parks have their Junior Ranger Programs,” Nate Shelton said. “So, we decided to have a Junior Naturalist Program.”

Shelton explained that in general a naturalist is someone who interprets for nature itself.

“It encompasses the entirety of outside,” Shelton said. “Geology, ecology, biology, hydrology, basically all of it.”

Junior Naturalists are given workbooks, with each page representing a different number of points based upon your age, Shelton said. All the points gathered work toward earning a Junior Naturalist patch. The workbooks are ten dollars each, but most of the activities the park offers are free. The sched-

ule of events is available every Sunday on the park’s Facebook page.

“We sort of put this all together here at the park,” Rachael McClurg said. “It was all put together by us, and it ties in a lot of the programming we’ve already done here.”

The workbook, she said, is where you can put together all the various stickers you get for activities like going on cave tours.

“It’s kind of like a little guidebook for everything you can do here,” she said. “It isn’t just about the caves.”

“Working here we realized that we have a lot of people from all over the country and from other countries as well,” Shelton said.

But, he continued, sometimes the surprising thing to them is that people who actually live in the area take for granted all that the park and region

has to offer.

“So, what we are hoping is that this will be a reach out to the youth of our community to get involved,” he said.

“We have also been doing things with the Olive Hill Library Summer Reading Program to raise awareness,” McClurg said. “We have been going out every week, and hopefully we will be heading out to Grayson soon.”

“We are trying to get as much youth involvement as we possibly can,” Shelton added. “And hopefully there will be an entirely new generation to preserve and enjoy the park.”

Carter Caves has a long list of things to enjoy this summer. The Natural Bridge Rappelling Adventure also happened on Saturday, where participants could rappel down through the opening at the top of the natural bridge for ten dollars a drop – an opportunity that will be

returning on July 20. Also in July, from July 22 – 27, visitors will be able to enjoy Pioneer Life complete with tomahawk throwing, black powder rifle demonstrations, pioneer games, and so much more.

On August 10, the popular Crawlathon returns where visitors can explore caves through tight passages, water, mud, and dust in a true up close experience of Cascade Cave, the Bat Cave, and Tarklin Cave. On September 7 – 8 the Fraley Festival celebrates traditional music of the region, and more Cave Adventures happen on September 21. And in October there is Cascade After Hours, where visitors can tour through Cascade Cave after hours and enjoy a series of legends from the area.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Foundation for the Tri-State Community announces Deborah's Porch Scholarship winner

ASHLAND – Emersyn Elliott, a graduate of East Carter High School, is the 2024 recipient of the Deborah's Porch Scholarship. She is the daughter of Jason and Melissa Elliott and plans to attend West Liberty University.

This award was established in 2016 by the Combs family to provide a scholarship to a graduating senior at East Carter High School who demonstrates an outstanding record of community service, good behavior, and proven leadership skills. The Friends of Deborah's Porch are a special group of friends who were inspired by Deborah Meenach Combs. She loved to sit on her porch to read, contemplate, study,

and dream of getting things done for her community, whether that community was her classroom, school, neighborhood, civic group or county. It was a place of comfort and relaxation. Deborah was proof that a small place like a porch can be a jumping off point to help people and places far beyond your own backyard.

The Deborah's Porch Scholarship is one of 43 scholarships and awards, totaling \$65,250, that have been presented in 2024 to young men and women from funds at the Foundation for the Tri-State Community, Inc., according to Foundation CEO Kathryn Lamp.



Emersyn Elliott (submitted photo)

Tourism from A-1

Commission.

Combs said the new hire would be responsible for filing paperwork and ensuring that bills were delivered when required. Paperwork is both necessary and challenging, Combs said, “and the position would require someone with good organizational and clerical skills.”

The tourism commission also discussed a reallocation of funds (\$187,000) that is now being proposed to go toward a cover for the amphitheater and a sensory garden at the Sports Park. The money earmarked for this was originally designated as matching funds for a Land and Water grant

that will expire before all details can be submitted, and so will no longer be received.

Budget items such as the \$18,500 set aside for staging events in the city were also discussed. That figure could potentially be offset by new revenue for that purpose. There is currently \$5,000 designated for sponsoring events the commission feels will benefit their overall mission of promoting tourism in the city and county. Currently there is \$55,000 in the budget for overall advertising and marketing.

The commission also discussed the need to escalate the Blue Goose project due to time constraints.

The money received through a grant for the project came with a stipulation that it must be used within a two-year period after receiving the funds, and currently nine months have passed. Action was needed immediately during this budget, because of the risk of the time expiring if it was held over until the 2026 budget year.

The commission was divided on the subject, with some commissioners stating a belief that the current plan for the Blue Goose would not be the best use of money to ultimately generate tourism dollars. An alternative plan for the Blue Goose was suggested that might

include a theater or a convention center as opposed to the market style plan currently in place for the property. Some commissioners expressed concern that the current plans for the Blue Goose were not in line with the original vision, but no change to the current plan was adopted.

The commission voted to approve the current budget with a divided vote of three against and three in favor, with the president casting the determining vote in favor of adopting the current budget.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Letting Go from A-5

streaming device. While most folks today have smart phones, and use them for a variety of entertainment, not everyone has a modern automobile interface, or even Bluetooth connectivity, to connect their media to their car’s sound system. The Spotify device allowed older cars to do just that, and Spotify customers to listen to their playlist. However, the company announced re-

cently that they planned to not only end support, but they would purposely render the hardware unusable. They told the customers who shelled out cash for the device that they should throw them in the garbage.

While I didn’t use one of these devices, the very idea of this struck straight at the heart of all my angst surrounding planned obsolescence, and the lack of ownership of things we’ve

paid for.

It also triggered something in me that I believe relates to what I call my “poverty mentality.”

Growing up, I didn’t get new things very often. Birthdays and Christmas were always special, my parents made sure of that. But I didn’t get new toys just because I asked. I waited all year, and whittled down my list to what I really wanted under the

tree on Christmas morning.

Because of this, I took care of what I received. I treasured these things I’d waited so long for. This is why, 40+ years later I not only still have my Masters of the Universe figures, but the original comic books that came with them.

I also think it’s why I get so emotionally invested in the things I do own, even if I don’t see myself as materialistic. Something

deep inside me just balks at the unnecessary disposal of perfectly usable products. Maybe it’s a remnant of that little kid who waited all year for those precious things his peers took for granted.

Ultimately, though, they’re mine. I paid for them. I want to use them. I want to repair them. I want to keep them in service – and out of the landfill – for as long as is possible. Prac-

ticality and consumerism be damned.

Maybe I do need to work on letting go, and find a better balance. But that doesn’t mean I need to abide by the tech industries needless waste and cynical cash grabs. Not today. Not ever.

Jeremy D. Wells can be reached at editor@cartercountytimes.com

Good jobs guaranteed for ECU manufacturing engineering graduates

RICHMOND — “It’s booming,” said Ken Tinnell, about manufacturing in Kentucky.

According to Tinnell, president of TIDAS Automation and board member of the Kentucky Manufacturing Extension Program (KY MEP), there are more than 5,000 manufacturers in the state, from the small manufacturer with a few employees to the larger manufacturers, like General Electric and Ford. With the significant growth in manufacturing, companies are competing for resources, including people.

“We don’t have enough people in the manufacturing sector,” Tinnell said. It’s the biggest problem he consistently hears from

companies across the state. “There is no doubt that 100% of ECU’s manufacturing engineering students will have easy access to internships while pursuing their degree, and then full-time job placement even before they graduate.”

That’s why Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) launched a new bachelor’s degree in manufacturing engineering in 2023. When Kentucky’s Council on Postsecondary Education released its Engineering Sector Gap Analysis reporting a need in Kentucky to graduate manufacturing engineers and provide talent for the continued growth of manufacturing companies, ECU stepped up.

“Our manufacturing engineering program was specifically designed to meet the workforce needs of the state while offering a secure career path for students who want to be part of this growing industry and have opportunities to stay in Kentucky,” said ECU President David McFaddin. “Collaborating with industry leaders like Ken and TIDAS Automation is essential to providing Kentucky’s companies with well-trained graduates and creating valuable internship and career opportunities for our students.”

Tinnell sees immense opportunity for graduates from ECU’s new manufacturing engineering program—the only one of its kind in the state. He’s eager to hire ECU interns and graduates at his company, which specializes in custom automation equipment to help manufacturers continuously improve their operations and grow their companies with advanced robotics conveyors and machinery. More importantly, he wants Kentucky talent to stay in Kentucky. “Whatever we can do to retain our talent in

Kentucky versus exporting it, will turn Kentucky into the No. 1 manufacturing state in the U.S.A.,” he said. With a large gap in the availability of manufacturing engineers, he continued, “EKU’s new manufacturing engineering program has the energy and potential to be a game changer for manufacturers in this state.”

Explaining the role of manufacturing engineering, Tinnell said, “Manufacturing engineering is really that focus on how to manufacture and how to solve the problems in manufacturing.”

An engineer himself, Tinnell continued, “We do cool stuff. If you’ve ever seen the show ‘How it’s Made,’ that’s what we do. Manufacturing engineers are the luckiest people on the planet—getting to see how so many things are made and then getting to design machines to improve those manufacturing processes. It’s an engineering dream come true to design and install new manufacturing systems in our state!”

Located in the heart of Kentucky’s robust manu-



Ken Tinnell (submitted photo)

facturing industry, ECU’s new degree program encourages students to create innovations for the future. Students have access to high-technology equipment and labs, bringing products to life from start to finish and exploring possibilities in prototyping, 3D printing and robotics. Through a curriculum guided by industry experts, students will graduate

prepared to succeed and contribute to a growing industry in Kentucky. ECU’s manufacturing engineering program welcomed its first cohort of students in Fall 2023.

“I want to see hundreds, if not thousands, of students coming out of ECU and staying in Kentucky doing manufacturing—we need them,” Tinnell emphasized.

