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# Carter County Times

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CARTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY

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## Replacing old cars and damaged trucks

### Olive Hill discusses need for new vehicles

By Charles Romans  
Carter County Times

The Olive Hill City Council discussed the purchase of a new vehicle for Emergency Director Jeremy Rodgers during their scheduled meeting on Tuesday, January 21. Rodgers was involved in an accident with the vehicle on December 21, 2024, which resulted in the vehicle being 'totaled'. He was responding to another accident at the time. The vehicle was insured for \$20,000, Rodgers told the council, and there were no loans

or leases held against the 2011 year vehicle at the time of the accident.

The individual who struck Rodgers' vehicle was insured, but Rodgers said the insurance the city held on the vehicle would kick in to pay anything that individual's insurance did not pay up to the \$20,000 coverage.

"I would like to upgrade," Rodgers told the council.

Upgrading would help him continue to do the work he was doing with the old truck, and would give the city and fire department access to a vehicle that was better suited to moving equipment and pulling trailers.

"I have found a 2500 series truck which is one step bigger at

See CARS on A-3



Emergency Director Jeremy Rodgers vehicle took a hit just before Christmas, while working an automobile accident along I-64 near Olive Hill. (submitted photo)

## Carter County Times brings home awards

### Paper takes first place for general news, editorial page, and website

By Jeremy D. Wells  
Carter County Times

The staff of the Carter County Times brought home a number of awards during this year's Kentucky Press Association (KPA) conference and 2024 Excellence in Kentucky Newspapers awards banquet. For the second year in a row the Carter County Times was recognized for our Editorial Page, with editor Jeremy Wells and columnist Keith Kappes taking home silver mint julep cups in the category for weekly newspapers. The Times also brought home the first place award for

best website in the Weekly 1 category, for design and layout work from Nicole Wells and continuing maintenance and upkeep by Miranda Holbrook-Lewis.

Editor Jeremy Wells also brought home a first place award for General News story, for his coverage of the Carter County School District police chief's debunking of threat hoaxes circulating on social media.

"This story clearly lays out the circumstances surrounding a threat of violence at a local school," the judges wrote, "then provides helpful context of the potential consequences of spreading such threats."

The paper also brought home a second place certificate for use of social media, for their coverage and updates of officer related shootings in Grayson, and second place in feature stories for their story on the lavender

See AWARDS on A-3



Winners at the KPA Contest are awarded silver mint julep cups for a first place win, and certificates for second and third place wins. (Photo by Jeremy D. Wells, Carter County Times)

## Protection for those who help

### Troy's Law aims to save lives

By Charles Romans  
Carter County Times

*Editor's Note: This is part one in a planned series exploring the impact of Troy Caldwell's death on his community and the need for greater roadway safety.*

Traveling the highways and byways of the United States without encountering some sort of light, whether fixed or flashing, is virtually impossible. Traffic lights, illuminated traffic signs, even business signs, shine during the daylight hours and break up the darkness after the sun goes down. They are

ever present, competing for the attention of a driver who is ideally focused on determining potential dangers as they rush from one destination to another.

This highlights the genesis of the problem; the fact that it is almost impossible to drive without distractions. Compounding this is the (unfortunately) ever-present lure of cellular phones and 'media centers' built into modern cars that are designed to limit distractions, but all too often provide even more. But regardless of whether it is lights, texts, or even a digital map, we do become distracted.

And worse, we become desensitized. All those lights unfortunately can just blend into

the visual 'background noise' of our commutes. We see them, but they fail to completely register sometimes. Still, whether we focus on them or not, those warning lights are there for a reason. In the case of flashing emergency lights, that reason is to keep both the traveler and the emergency responder safe – but unfortunately they don't always work well enough.

On September 25, 2024, Troy Caldwell was answering a call to pick up a disabled vehicle on I-64 in Bath County Kentucky. The call should have been no different than the hundreds of other calls just like it that Caldwell had successfully completed; but unfortunately,

See HELP 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.

- Preston Ledbetter, 35, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of fourth degree assault – dating violence (no visible injury), arrested and booked January 21.
- Barry McAlister, 62, of Louisville, arrested by Jefferson County Detention Center, on a hold for court, arrested and booked January 21.
- McKayla Shaffer, 23, of Grayson, self-surrender, charges unavailable, arrested and booked January 21.
- Phillip Porter, 40, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, serving a warrant for a parole

violation, and for non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked January 22.

- Connor Kiser, 19, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of third degree terroristic threatening, and harassment (no physical contact), arrested and booked January 22.
- Randy VanHorn, 64, of Proctorville, Ohio, arrested by Grayson PD, on a charge of receiving stolen property valued at \$10,000 or more, arrested and booked January 22.
- Christopher Woods, 38, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of first degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), public intoxication on a controlled substance (excludes alcohol), possession of drug paraphernalia, and non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines,

arrested and booked January 22.

- Ronald Bland, 35, of Morehead, arrested by Rowan County Detention Center, serving three bench warrants for court, arrested and booked January 23.
- Michele Littlejohn, 52, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on a warrant as a fugitive from another state, arrested and booked January 23.
- Dalton Thomas, 27, of Olive Hill, arresting agency not listed, charges unavailable, arrested and booked January 24.
- Toss Auer, 59, of Olive Hill, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and booked January 24.
- Melissa Pennington, 40, of Hitchens, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and booked January 24.
- Kimberly Sexton, 53, of Ashland, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, and no registration receipt, arrested and booked

See ARRESTS on A-3

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### This Week's Obituaries

William McArthur "Mickey" Brown, 81

Glenda Mae Miller Geisler, 64

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# LIFESTYLE



## Skip the takeout: Make sesame chicken at home for a frugal feast!

Chinese New Year (Jan. 29) is a time to celebrate fresh beginnings and cherished traditions. Making sesame chicken at home is a delicious way to honor the occasion with a dish that's both festive and satisfying.

If you don't celebrate the Lunar New Year, this recipe is still a winner. It's a fantastic takeout favorite you can easily re-create at home.

Sesame Chicken is a dish that brings the perfect balance of crispy chicken and a glossy, savory-sweet sauce, and when you make it at home, you're in charge. You decide the ingre-

dients, whether to add veggies or not, and the sodium level. No MSG (unless you want it), and the best part? You'll have bragging rights when your sesame chicken rivals your favorite restaurant's version.

Cooking your takeout favorites at home doesn't just save you money -- it's a chance to learn, experiment, and create. Plus, the process of cooking can be a celebration in itself, filled with aromas and textures that make it more than just a meal -- it's an experience.

### SESAME CHICKEN

Yield: 4-6 servings  
Total Time: 1 hour

- 1/2 cup water
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons soy sauce or tamari
- 2 tablespoons rice vinegar
- 1 tablespoon toasted sesame oil
- 1/3 cup plus 2 teaspoons corn starch, divided
- 2 pounds boneless, skinless chicken thighs or breasts, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 3 tablespoons vegetable oil, divided
- 2 teaspoons fresh garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon fresh ginger, minced

- 2 tablespoons sesame seeds
- 1 green onion, thinly sliced
- Cooked rice, for serving
- Optional vegetables: steamed broccoli, red pepper, celery, onion

Whisk the water, brown sugar, soy sauce, vinegar, sesame oil and 2 teaspoons of the cornstarch together in a small bowl; set aside.

Place the chicken into bite-size pieces. This is the most time-consuming part of this whole recipe. Place the chicken in a medium bowl and season with salt. Sprinkle the remaining 1/3 cup cornstarch over the chicken and toss with your hands until the pieces are separated and evenly coated.

Heat 2 tablespoons of oil in a large nonstick or cast-iron frying pan over medium-high heat until shimmering. Add half the chicken and spread into an even layer. Cook without stirring until golden brown on the bottom, about 4 minutes. Turn the pieces and cook until the chicken is browned on the second side and cooked through, about 4 minutes more. Transfer to a platter and keep warm. Add the remaining 1 tablespoon oil to the pan and repeat cooking the remaining chicken.

Optional -- Sauté the Vegetables: If you'd like to sauté the



Crispy, saucy sesame chicken that's budget-friendly and totally irresistible. (Photo credit: www.JasonCoblentz.com)

vegetables instead of steaming them, add them to the skillet now. Cook to your desired doneness, then proceed with the recipe as written. No specific quantities are suggested, as the choice and amount depend on your household's preferences. Adding extra veggies is also a great way to stretch the meal and feed more people without greatly increasing costs.

Return all the chicken to the pan, add the garlic and ginger, and cook until fragrant, about 30 seconds.

Give the sauce another whisk, then pour the sauce into the pan. Cook, tossing constantly, until the sauce thickens, is glossy and coats the chicken, about 30

seconds.

Sprinkle with sesame seeds and toss to coat. Garnish with green onion and serve over rice if desired.

With this simple, frugal and fabulous recipe, you can bring the joy of sesame chicken to your table -- no takeout menu required. Here's to celebrating deliciously and affordably!

\*\*\*  
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](http://www.divasonadime.com) and join the conversation on Facebook at [DivasOnADimeDotCom](https://www.facebook.com/DivasOnADimeDotCom). Email Patti at [divapatti@divasonadime.com](mailto:divapatti@divasonadime.com)  
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## Joyful Noise

# Reset your sight on the prize

By: Pastor Naomi Mitchell for Carter County Times

What will really matter at the end of your life on earth? Will what you are giving attention to now still be important then? Will you be filled with regret for what you did -- or didn't do? Philippians 3:14, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." Distractions abound on every hand 24/7. TV, phone calls, web sites, books, movies. It might be a good idea for you to stop and evaluate how you are investing your time. 1 Corinthians 9:24, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize? Run in such a way as to get the prize. Run to win." Win what? The true prize is to know God intimately and be His friend. 2 Corin-

thians 4:18, "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." One day, possibly soon, you will stand before God. Why not order your life now based on that "final reckoning?" A wise person would not invest everything in something temporary. A wise person invests in something that will last. Invest your life wisely! Say this: Lord, help me to keep my eyes on what is important and lasting. You can start right this minute! The prefix "re" means "again" or "repeat". Refocus, reset, rethink, reprioritize, rekindle, rediscover. "Re" is just a part of life. It means go back or do it again.

How to reset your sight on the prize? You must refocus and follow the scriptures. Colossians 3:2, "Set

your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth."

Philippians 4:8, "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things."

Colossians 3:1-4, "If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."

2 Corinthians 4:18, "As we look not to the things that are seen but to

the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal."

Matthew 16:23, But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man."

Romans 12:1, "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to

present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship."

1 John 4:1-21, "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from

God, and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. Little children,

you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are from the world; therefore, they speak from the world, and the world listens to them..." AMEN! SO BE IT.

JOYFUL House of Prayer, 2519 Quicksand Road, (P.O. Box 856), Jackson, Kentucky 41339. Send Comments/Prayer Requests: [Pastornaami4god@gmail.com](mailto:Pastornaami4god@gmail.com). FB: JoyfulHoprayer. Services: 10am Sunday and 6:30pm Thursdays. Radio Broadcast: WJSN 97.3 FM & WEKG 81.0 AM Sundays 1-2pm.

## Kentucky Dept of Agriculture Livestock and Grain Market Report

Compared to last week, feeder cattle sold mixed with prices trending steady to 4.00 higher in the early markets and increasing as the week progressed finishing mostly 5.00 to 10.00 higher. The markets were active with good buyer participation showing good to very good demand for all feeder and yearling classes. Slaughter cows and bulls sold mostly steady to 3.00 higher with good to very good for slaughter classes.

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

Week ending 1/25/25

STATE AVERAGES	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
<b>Steers (M&amp;L 1-2)</b>			
350-400 lbs	352.76	356.86	276.73
400-450 lbs	344.47	347.29	270.10
450-500 lbs	337.61	332.86	264.83
500-550 lbs	318.89	319.97	253.45
550-600 lbs	315.91	303.50	244.31
600-650 lbs	294.16	285.63	234.61
650-700 lbs	278.86	279.40	227.86
700-750 lbs	261.82	261.21	215.55
750-800 lbs	258.86	257.42	212.91
800-850 lbs	249.64	245.92	205.74
850-900 lbs	241.36	242.85	200.39
<b>Heifers (M&amp;L 1-2)</b>			
300-350 lbs	319.72	312.51	221.27
350-400 lbs	313.46	317.89	228.09
400-450 lbs	310.94	306.62	224.69
450-500 lbs	300.72	289.44	222.61
500-550 lbs	277.79	279.96	217.87
550-600 lbs	269.05	270.30	215.50
600-650 lbs	256.83	256.70	204.28
650-700 lbs	246.76	248.14	201.72
700-750 lbs	238.76	233.84	195.00
750-800 lbs	234.92	230.05	194.00

WEEKLY COW SUMMARY			
Slaughter Cows	Average	High	Low
Breakers	120.00-153.00	133.00-170.00	117.00-122.00
Boners	110.00-149.00	130.00-175.00	85.00-132.00
Lean	86.00-135.00	100.00-163.00	65.00-119.00
Slaughter Bulls	Average	High	Low
Yield Grade 1&2	140.00-181.00	155.00-196.00	110.00-156.00

**Jan 23, 2025 Bowling Green, KY**  
**SLAUGHTER GOATS: 66**  
**Kids: Selection 1** 50 lbs 425.00; 60 lbs 425.00. **Selection 1-2** 83 lbs 292.50. **Selection 2** 53 lbs 370.00; 68 lbs 350.00.

**SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 522**  
**Hair Breeds-Choice & Prime 1-2** 55-57 lbs 335.00-337.50; 60-66 lbs 342.50-352.50; 72-75 lbs 332.50-340.00; 88 lbs 265.00; 91 lbs 275.00; 120 lbs 142.50; 135 lbs 142.50. **Choice 2** 51-57 lbs 330.00-340.00; 65 lbs 297.50; 78 lbs 290.00; 88 lbs 270.00; 120.00 lbs 142.50. **Wooled-Choice 2** 73 lbs 290.00; 118 lbs 140.00.

GRAINS	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
<b>Corn</b>	4.69-5.10	4.69-5.04	4.01-4.72
<b>Soybeans</b>	9.71-10.94	9.19-10.61	11.54-12.73
<b>Red Winter Wheat</b>	4.74-5.79	4.79-5.53	5.27-6.35

## Extension Notes

# Grafting: A revolutionary technique for fruit tree cultivation

As gardening enthusiasts seek more productive and resilient fruit trees, grafting has emerged as a game-changer in horticulture. This age-old technique, which involves joining two plant parts to grow as one, has gained popularity for its ability to combine desirable traits from different plants, resulting in healthier and more fruitful trees.



Rebecca Konopka  
Carter County Extension Agent

Grafting involves the careful joining of a scion (a young shoot or twig of a plant) and a rootstock (the lower part of the plant that includes the root system). The process begins with selecting compatible scion and rootstock species. The scion is typically chosen for its superior fruit quality, while the rootstock is selected for its disease resistance, hardiness, and adaptability to soil conditions.

The scion and rootstock

are precisely cut to match their vascular tissues, which are then bound together with grafting tape. This ensures the alignment of the cambium layers, the part of the plant responsible for growth. With proper care and environmental conditions, the two parts fuse, allowing nutrients and water to flow seamlessly, fostering the growth of a new, productive tree. Due to this required precision home gardener grafting often fails. Unless you are trying to preserve a favorite tree, it may be better to purchase a tree that has already been successfully grafted from a reliable nursery or greenhouse.

Commercially grown fruit trees are grafted because of these benefits:  
 •Disease Resistance: Grafting allows the combination of a disease-

resistant rootstock with a high-quality fruit-bearing scion, reducing the risk of pest and disease issues.  
 •Improved Fruit Quality: Gardeners can graft scions from trees known for producing superior fruits, ensuring a higher yield of top-quality produce.  
 •Space Efficiency: Dwarf rootstocks can be used to control the size of the tree, making it possible to grow fruit trees in smaller gardens or even containers.  
 •Genetic Diversity: Grafting preserves genetic diversity by allowing the propagation of varieties that may not reproduce true to type through seeds.

The Carter County Extension Office is currently taking orders for apple and pear rootstock. Order forms are available online at <https://carter.ca.uky.edu/rootstock2025> and at the Extension Office. A limited amount is available so orders will

See TREES on A-3

Arrests from A-1

January 25.

- Melanie Fraley, 25, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on a charge of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, arrested and booked January 25.
- Kristen Skeens, 39, of Huntington, WV, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of public intoxication on a controlled substance (excludes alcohol), and second degree disorderly conduct, arrested and booked January 25.
- Jeremy Bryant, 38, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of third degree burglary, first degree possession of a controlled

substance (methamphetamine), trafficking in a controlled substance (heroin), no registration receipt, no registration plates, failure to produce an insurance card, failure to or improper signal, operating a motor vehicle on a suspended or revoked operator's license, first degree fleeing or evading police (on foot), and three counts of non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked January 26.

- Michael Carter 71, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of no registration plates, no registration receipt, failure to produce an insurance card, and operating a motor vehicle under

the influence of alcohol, arrested and booked January 26.

- Margaret Conlon, 77, of Flatwoods, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, and failure to produce an insurance card, arrested and booked January 26.
- Kyle Skaggs, 26, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on a charge of first degree sexual abused of a victim under 12 years of age, arrested and booked January 26.
- Eddie Young, 49, of Irvine, arrested by Grayson PD, on a probation violation (for a felony offense), arrested and booked

January 27.

- Jeffery Willis, 55, of Granville, Ohio, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of leaving the scene of an accident – failure to render aid or assistance, and improper display of registration plates, arrested and booked January 27.

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.

Cars from A-1

Mark Porter Chevrolet in Ashland," he told council. Rodgers said the dealership reduced the price on the gasoline engine vehicle to \$51,115. After the \$20,000 the city was guaranteed through insurance, the cost would be roughly \$31,000.

If the city chooses to simply purchase the vehicle without applying the insurance payout, then the monthly payments would be around \$900 per month. This of course would be reduced based upon what amount the city chose to apply towards a downpayment, with the payment being reduced to approximately \$760 per month if the city decided on a \$10,000 downpayment. Rodgers told the council he

would recommend making a downpayment of the \$10,000 and holding the balance in reserve which would result in approximately 20 months of payments. The Council voted unanimously to approve the purchase.

The Council also had the first reading of an ordinance that would allow city council members to attend meetings remotely. The language of the ordinance stated that those council members attending remotely must be listed on the agenda prior to the meeting, and that it is permissible if the meeting itself is held in a public location where the public can attend as regulated by Kentucky Statutes. Other stipulations includ-

ed requiring any council members making use of remote attendance to use technology that allows them to be heard clearly by both the other council members and the public, with accompanying video preferred.

Those council members attending remotely under these conditions will be able to fulfill their responsibilities by participating fully, including being counted as a necessary member to give the city a quorum to hold the meeting and being able to cast votes as if they were physically present. The ordinance notes that remote attendance by council members is intended for specific situations and not to be used as simply an

alternative to in person attendance.

The city also had the first reading of an ordinance adopting an agreement approving the execution and delivery of a lease agreement with the Commercial Bank of Grayson for a maximum principal amount of \$240,000 to finance the acquisition and equipment of five police cruisers. The cruisers are to be used by the Olive Hill Police Department and includes one canine police cruiser. The lease will be payable over a period of five years.

Contact the writer at [charles@cartercountytimes.com](mailto:charles@cartercountytimes.com)

Awards from A-1

growing operation at Whippoorwill's Holler farm.

Local government reporter Charles Romans also brought home a second place win in the breaking news category for his coverage of the Carter County Tourism financial

embezzlement and the resignation of treasurer Renee Stewart.

The Carter County Times also brought home several awards in 2023, winning first place for their editorial page, breaking news coverage, extended and ongoing news cov-

erage, and best feature photo, second place for best editorial writer, and third place for best photo essay. In 2021 the paper brought home a first place award for best advertising series, second place wins for columnist and holiday ad series, and third place

for sports feature story. The Times did not submit entries for the 2022 or 2020 contest season.

Contact the writer at [editor@cartercountytimes.com](mailto:editor@cartercountytimes.com)

# Kicking off a new year of art

By Dan Click for Carter County Times

The Grayson Gallery & Art Center, Inc. (GGAC) will present their annual "Kicking Off the Arts" event during the monthly Final Friday's opening reception on January 31, 2025, from 6 – 9 p.m. Artwork by creatives from across the Tri-State and Eastern Kentucky region will be on display and for sale, including several newcomers both to the area and the arts organization.

In addition to the nearly 45 works on exhibit over the next month, the GGAC Artist Market's selection of pieces on hand will be set up in different areas, in "flip racks" for artist-



submitted photo

prints and via special displays. Visitors are also encouraged to see what's available, changing up and expanding on the retail side of the gallery,

with special sale prices and discounted items. The GGAC reinvests all proceeds from art sales into marketing and promotion to help create

income for the artists as well as to help cover expenses for the space. Awards and announcements will take

See ART on A-6

Trees from A-2

be taken until February 3rd or until sold out. All rootstock will need to be picked up at the Extension Office around the first week of March. Gardeners will need to provide their own scion wood.

For more information contact your Carter

County Cooperative Extension Service. 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:**

- Northeast Area Livestock

Association – Tuesday, January 28th @ 6:00 PM – Topic: - Cattle Traceability Rule & Electronic Identification Tags

- Extension District Board – Friday, January 31st @ 10:00 AM

# CALENDAR

- **1/31: Extension District Board meeting @ 10 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Office
- **1/31: Final Friday @ 6 p.m.** | Grayson Gallery & Art Center
- **2/3: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 606-474-6686
- **2/3: Homeschool group meeting @ 12 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **2/3: Carter County Tourism @ 5:30 p.m.** | Carter Caves State Resort Park
- **2/4: Rattlesnake Ridge Water District Board meeting @ 4 p.m.** | Rattlesnake Ridge Water District office
- **2/4: Homeschool group meeting @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **2/6: Carter County Library Board @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **2/7: Sit and Sew @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions or to RSVP call 606-474-6686
- **2/10: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 606-474-6686
- **2/10: Homeschool group meeting @ 12 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **2/10: Game Night @ 5 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **2/10: Carter County Fiscal Court @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Courthouse
- **2/11 Grayson Area Chamber of Commerce meeting @ 12 p.m.** | Johnny's Pizza

**Have an event to add to the calendar?**  
Email info to [advertise@cartercountytimes.com](mailto:advertise@cartercountytimes.com)

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606-286-8788



## Pet of the Week

Bella is a female mixed breed, believed to be around three-year-old. This little girl weighs in at 47 pounds, and is good with other dogs. Her \$100 adoption fee includes rabies vaccination and being spayed. Stop by the Carter County Animal Shelter and meet her or call 475-9771 for more information.

Shelter hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Saturday by appointment.

## You aren't the only potential victim



**Think of others**  
Never drink and drive. Always buckle up.

A message from the City of Grayson and the Grayson ABC office

**Equip your business for success.**

**Commercial Bank of Grayson**  
[cbgrayson.com](http://cbgrayson.com)

# Legislative update

FRANKFORT— As legislators remain in recess until Tuesday, February 4, when we reconvene in Frankfort for Part II of the 2025 Session, it has been a busy schedule meeting with constituents, community leaders, and officials to address our district's needs. While this recess provides a break from formal legislative proceedings, it is an important opportunity to listen, learn, and make certain the work we do in Frankfort reflects the voices and priorities of our communities.



**Robin L. Webb**  
Senator  
State of Kentucky

Recently, I had the opportunity to visit the Fuzzy Duck and meet with representatives from the regional Family Resource and Youth Service Centers (FRYSCs). These centers serve as a lifeline for many families in our district, offering vital resources and programs that meet basic needs and help students and families thrive.

In Greenup County, for instance, more than 36 group programs were offered between June and December 2024, including Kindercamps, Parent Nights, Literacy Nights, Guardian groups, and clothing drives. During the summer, over 100 students participated weekly in free camps that provided meals, thanks to partnerships like

Greenup 21st Century Programs. These camps also gave 19 high school students the opportunity to work as camp counselors, providing them with valuable work experience and a way to give back to the community. Altogether, more than 1,500 students and families were served by Greenup County's FRYSC programs, highlighting their broad impact.

Boyd County's FRYSC programs have also made a significant difference in the last year, meeting nearly 12,000 individual needs for food, clothing, and other essential items. They have provided academic support to 3,517 students, served 4,700 meals, and helped more than 3,200 individual students succeed both in and out of the classroom. Programs like these demonstrate the importance of investing in our children and families. They address immediate needs while empowering our communities to thrive over the long term. I remain dedicated to supporting these programs with the resources and funding they need to continue their vital work.

In addition to activities here at home, my son, Troy Combs, Mayor of Grayson, and I recently traveled to Washington, D.C., for the

inauguration festivities, including the Kentucky Society Bluegrass Ball. This annual celebration is a wonderful way to highlight Kentucky's heritage and connect with leaders from across the commonwealth and the nation. The Kentucky Senate was well-represented with Senators Phillip Wheeler and Brandon Smith, along with several other members of our legislative body in attendance.

I also had the opportunity to network with members of our congressional delegation, including Congressman James Comer and Congressman Hal Rogers, as well as state leaders like Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell and Ryan Quarles, the current President of KCTCS and former Agriculture Commissioner. Events like these provide more than a chance to celebrate—they create opportunities to strengthen the relationships critical to advancing the needs of our district. From infrastructure improvements to agricultural development and educational initiatives, these connections help drive meaningful progress for Kentuckians.

Looking ahead, I encourage you to mark your calendars for the 2025 Woods & Wildlife for Your Wallet event on Thursday, February 27, at Greenup County High School from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM. The gathering will provide valuable information for

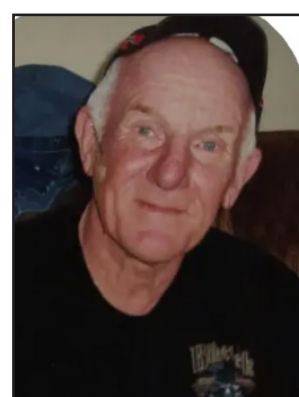
landowners and outdoor enthusiasts, including forestry management, pond management, estate planning, land transitioning, and working with consultant foresters. Attendees can also earn Continuing Education Credits (CEUs) for Master Loggers. These topics are particularly important for our rural communities, as they help protect and enhance natural resources to generate economic growth and stability. Events like this offer practical knowledge while also guiding discussions on state policy regarding conservation, land use, and rural development. To RSVP, please call 606-473-3228 by February 20. I hope to see many of you there!

As we approach Part II of the legislative session, my focus remains on meeting with community members and stakeholders to discuss potential policies in Frankfort ensuring my decisions align with the needs of the people of northeast Kentucky. For more information about the General Assembly, my legislative work or to share your thoughts, visit [www.legislature.ky.gov](http://www.legislature.ky.gov).

If I can assist you, you can contact me by email at [SD18@cm.kylegislature.gov](mailto:SD18@cm.kylegislature.gov) or call the General Assembly Message Line at 1-800-372-7181. Kentuckians with hearing loss can use Kentucky Relay by dialing 711.

# OBITUARY

## William McArthur "Mickey" Brown 1943 – 2025



Brown; two sisters, Thelma Bays and Wilma Crum. Mickey is survived by one brother, Roy Brown of Olive Hill, Kentucky; one sister, Levon Lilly in Northville, Michigan, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss him.

Funeral services were held 1 p.m., Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Brother Bobby Day officiating. Burial followed in the Brown Cemetery, in Globe, Kentucky.

Friends visited after 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, January 19, 2024, until the service hour at Globe Funeral Chapel.

Roy Brown, Jason Brown, Joey Brown, Jeff Brown Jr., Mark Brown and Brandon Jones served as pallbearers.

Globe Funeral Chapel in Olive Hill, Kentucky is honored to serve the family of William McArthur "Mickey" Brown.

William McArthur "Mickey" Brown, age 81, of Olive Hill, Kentucky, passed away Friday, January 24, 2025, at UK-St. Claire Healthcare in Morehead, Kentucky.

He was born Friday, April 23, 1943, in Carter County, Kentucky, a son of the late Orville and Ethel Reeves Brown.

He enjoyed playing with his dog, Boxin, feeding the birds, deer and telling stories about old times.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, Orville Eugene Brown, Earl Brown, Talmadge

## Glenda Mae Miller Geisler 1960 – 2025



the point she earned the nickname FLASH. Glenda absolutely loved listening to music, especially if it was being played live by friends or family. She was always the life of the party without even trying to be.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by three brothers, Von Loy Miller, Gary Miller, Rodney Miller; one sister, Nancy Sue Brumley.

Glenda is survived by one son and daughter-in-law, Shannon and Caroline Geisler of Richmond, Kentucky; one granddaughter, Winter Geisler; one brother, Owen Miller of Olive Hill, Kentucky; five sisters, Betty Butler, Sandy Boggs both of Olive Hill, Kentucky, Diane Satterfield of Mansfield, Ohio, Venna Jordan of Owensville, Kentucky, Valentinia Boggs of Morehead, Kentucky, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss her.

Funeral services were held 2 p.m., Monday, January 27, 2025, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Brother Daniel Miler officiating. Burial followed in the Dean Cemetery, in Globe, Kentucky.

Friends visited after 12:30 p.m., Monday, January 27, 2025, until the service hour at Globe Funeral Chapel.

Globe Funeral Chapel in Olive Hill, Kentucky is honored to serve the family of Glenda Mae Miller Geisler.

Glenda Mae Miller Geisler age 64, of Oxford, Ohio, passed away Saturday, January 18, 2025, at her son's residence.

She was born Sunday, November 20, 1960, in Carter County, Kentucky, to the late Burgess and Lula Irene Logan Miller.

In her earlier years, Glenda liked to go dancing. She was always ready for a yard sale and could find a good deal. She enjoyed the art of the jungle, especially the big cats, tigers, leopards and panthers, but wasn't fond of spiders or snakes. Glenda enjoyed going for drives in the country and if you decided to light a campfire she could show you how.

She loved to sit at the kitchen table with a cup of coffee in one hand and a conversation in the other, whether it be on the phone or sitting in a chair across from her. Glenda loved to laugh and joke with everyone. To be such a small person, she had a huge heart and was always ready to help others. If you dropped by, you were going to get a plate, whether you were hungry to not. Was she fast? Yes, even to

# Fiscal court takes bids on grader

By Charles Romans  
Carter County Times

The Carter County Fiscal Court held a special meeting Monday night to discuss problems with county road equipment and to hear quarterly reports from county departments.

The county equipment in question was a road grader that was experiencing multiple malfunctions necessitating repairs. The court discussed the possibility of replacing the grader with either a new or used piece of equipment during the regularly scheduled January meeting, but agreed to postpone any decision until a mechanic's report had been submitted and the magistrates had ample time to go over the



(Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

information. Carter County judge executive Brandon Burton provided the court with the information that had been gathered since the regular January meeting.

Burton told the court that he had discussed the malfunctioning grader with the mechanic who was still troubleshooting to determine the exact problem. One problem was

that there were leaking hydraulic hoses. The grader was also leaking transmission fluid in the same manner it had previously, and there was

See GRADER on A-8

# OHCAH to host Valentine's performance

Tickets on sale now

Staff Report  
Carter County Times

The Olive Hill Cen-

ter for Arts and Heritage (OHCAH) will host their annual Valentine's Day on the Hill performance on Friday, February 7, at 6 p.m. in the OHCAH theater inside the old high school building on the Hill.

"This highly anticipated event brings together local artists, musicians, and performers for an evening filled with love, and the beauty of artistic expression," explained program director Jessica Price. "The event will showcase a dynamic blend of classical and contemporary music, and captivating dance performances, all designed to evoke the timeless emotions of love and affection. This year's performance promised to be a truly memorable experience."

Tickets are on sale now,

Price said, and can be purchased by visiting the Center for Arts and Heritage online at [OHCAH.org](http://OHCAH.org), or by contacting the Center by telephone at (304)972-2440 or via e-mail at [jprice@ohcah.org](mailto:jprice@ohcah.org).

"Whether you are looking for a romantic night with your sweetheart," Price noted, "or just a fun night out with friends, this is a show you won't want to miss!"

**WUGO**  
99.7 FM YOUR VARIETY STATION  
Grayson, Kentucky

**Friday, January 31**  
**East Carter Girls**  
**vs**  
**West Carter Girls**

The Guns, Gold & Cash Pregame show begins at 7:04 p.m. on 99.7 WUGO & 100.9 FM WGOH. Also listen on [wgohwugo.com](http://wgohwugo.com) and on the Go Radio Grayson app.

**Country Gold & Bluegrass**  
**WGOH**  
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**Carter County Times**  
[www.cartercountytimes.com](http://www.cartercountytimes.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

### Mixing a sober lifestyle with romance is not impossible

By Marie Garceau

Romantic relationships are complex and transformative. They offer profound joy but can pose significant challenges. It can be particularly difficult for someone newly sober and in recovery from a drug or alcohol addiction.

For individuals in recovery from substance use, dating and relationships can carry an added layer of complexity as sobriety and personal growth intersect with the emotional demands of intimacy. Understanding these dynamics is crucial for anyone navigating the delicate interplay between love and recovery.

Fortunately, there are practical resources and tools to help navigate love and romance during recovery and local support options for anyone struggling or needing someone to talk to.

One of the primary challenges for individuals in recovery is maintaining the stability and focus required for sobriety while engaging in the inherently unpredictable nature of romantic relationships. Another critical concern is the potential for codependency, which is a common dynamic in relationships involving individuals with a history of substance use.

Additionally, there is the risk of relapse. Engaging in social situations that might involve alcohol or drugs, often a feature of modern dating, can be triggering for someone in recovery. According to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 13.05% of adults aged 18 and older in Kentucky used illicit drugs in the past month. National drug abuse statistics also show that 15.8% of Kentucky adults binge drink at least once per month.

Despite these challenges and potential obstacles, romantic relationships can provide tremendous strength for individuals in recovery. Healthy partnerships can foster accountability, emotional growth, and resilience.

Mixing a sober lifestyle with romance is not impossible. Some helpful tips include prioritizing your recovery. Make sobriety the non-negotiable foundation of your life, ensuring you are on stable ground and feel confident you can maintain it.

Be honest about your recovery journey; this can set the tone for building healthy relationships. Discussing boundaries and triggers early is also okay to avoid misunderstandings. Transparency about the recovery journey can foster mutual understanding.

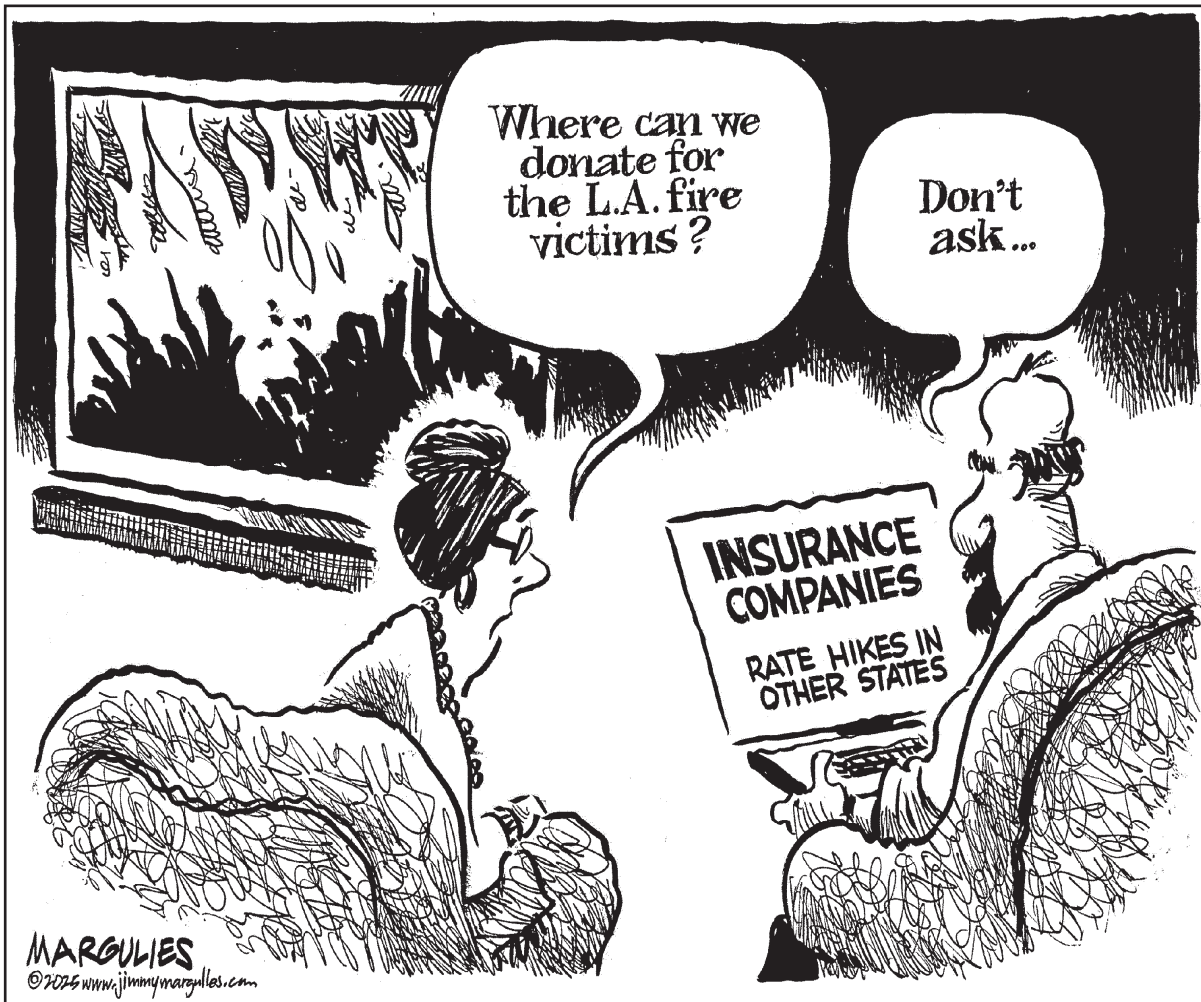
Recovery often involves relearning how to connect with others. Romantic relationships can become a platform for practicing effective communication, empathy, and conflict resolution.

Additionally, choose sober-friendly activities and opt for dates that do not involve drugs or alcohol. Most importantly, stay connected with sponsors, therapists, or support groups to process emotions that arise during dating and relationships. Love and sobriety are not mutually exclusive; they can coexist harmoniously when approached with care and intention. Yet, if you are struggling, there is support.

Some of the state resources include the Kentucky Division of Mental Health, which supports the implementation of prevention, treatment, crisis, and recovery services for Kentuckians. There is also the KY HELP Statewide Call Center 1-8338-KYHELP (1-833-859-4357), a toll-free line providing personalized, compassionate assistance and resources for Kentuckians seeking help for a substance use disorder and offering support to their families. Finally, there is the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline in the state.

Despite the endless commercialization of Valentines, any other day of the year, love in recovery is a powerful reminder of the human capacity to heal, connect, and grow. When nurtured with care and mutual respect, romantic relationships can be a profound source of strength and inspiration.

*Marie Garceau has been working in the field of substance use and addiction recovery for over a decade. She works at DRS and primarily focuses on reaching out to the community and spreading awareness.*



### If we want efficient government, why fire the inspectors general?

Like many other former soldiers, I learned during my 22 years in the Army and Kentucky National Guard that the best way to get someone's attention in the chain of command was to say you were taking your complaint to the "IG".

Those initials strike fear in the heart of military commanders and other top leaders because the letters stand for Inspector General. That system also is used in state government and by some corporations.

Inspector Generals outrank everyone and have unfettered authority to investigate any and all alleged mismanagement, particularly involving the big three ills of fraud, waste and abuse.

A negative finding by an IG can get you fired, demoted, suspended with or without pay, forced to reimburse whatever funds you wasted or even sent to jail or prison, depending on the nature of the misdeed involved.

That's why I am baffled by President Trump's decision to authorize the firing of 12 federal IGs last Saturday night, especially those from most of the largest departments in the federal government.

This so-called "Saturday night massacre" robbed us taxpayers of the services of individuals already

trained in spotting fraud, waste and abuse in the massive federal bureaucracy.

Now it will take time to find and train other competent persons who can help the Trump Administration ferret out those we really don't need in Washington or any other workplace in the world with folks on our federal payroll.

My educated guess is that those 12 IGs and perhaps many others who work for Uncle Sam had been patiently waiting for a leader like President Trump who clearly has expedited the process of "Making America Great Again" by fixing things in government that don't function for the common good...and trying to do so as quickly as possible.

All this talk about smaller government reminds me that some media wag once wrote that finding ways to fix the federal government was like eating hospital Jello – the more you chew, the bigger it gets



**Keith Kappes**  
Columnist  
Carter County Times

Keith Kappes can be reached at [keithkappes@gmail.com](mailto:keithkappes@gmail.com)

### Yesterday's news

Every now and then I'll have someone ask me what I do with the old newspapers I collect when I drop off new retail copies. I usually respond by telling them they can have them if they like, and asking what they need them for.

In the past I've given them away to veterinarian's offices for lining crates, and to art classes for use as papier mâché. Folks have used my old newspapers to wrap their glassware when moving, and in commercial cleaning projects for streak free windows. They've been packing material for Goose Bridle Coffee shipments. They've been kindling for bonfires. They've even been shredded into dry bulk material for worm farming. (There's something about that last one that speaks to the poet in me. In the end we're all worm food anyway. Why should our words and work be any different?)

Usually, though, I just burn them. Weather permitting, of course.

Because I don't burn them in a barrel, or a fire pit. No, for the last year and a half or so, I've been using my unsold newspapers to reclaim a section of our property overrun by multiflora rose.

Newspapers, bound together in a bundle by twine, will burn forever; almost like a log. But those same papers, spread out over the branches of a living rose bush, will burn up very quickly, killing the leaves and roasting any rose hips on the thorny branches so they won't sprout new plants when they fall.

I use both techniques, with newspaper logs slow

roasting the base of the plant and its roots, and have reclaimed a sizable portion of our property from the pernicious thorns. Enough that I could plant a garden plot, build another small storage shed, or – my preferred plan for this area on the edge of our woods – erect a comfortable hunting blind for deer and turkey seasons.

It didn't start with newspapers, though. For the longest time I was stockpiling them; waiting for someone to do something useful with them. I practically begged people to take them off my hands, because I didn't want them to go into the garbage and a landfill.

Recycling? Fine. But we didn't have the facilities available, and it's apparently frowned upon to drive an entire bundle of newspapers to the recycling box the next county over.

Then, we replaced the kids' swing set. The old one needed taken apart, and hauling off. If it had still been useful to someone I'd have given it away. But we were replacing it because, at more than a decade old the wood was starting to dry rot, and we didn't feel safe with the youngest playing on it. With it in such rough shape, I decided instead of struggling with rusted bolts and busted knuckles, I'd take a reciprocating saw to it and haul it off in manageable chunks. I piled those pieces up on the edge of the enormous rose bush that was slowly encroaching on the far edge of our backyard and – on a day with no wind after a light rain – I crumpled newspapers underneath and set it all aflame.

See NEWS on A-6



**Jeremy D. Wells**  
Editor  
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](mailto: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.

# CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC NOTICES

### NOTICE OF ADOPTION AND SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE 2025-1

The City Council of the City of Olive Hill, Kentucky, at a meeting held on 1/22/25, adopted an Ordinance entitled:

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OLIVE HILL, KENTUCKY APPROVING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF GRAYSON IN A MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$240,000 TO FINANCE THE COSTS OF THE ACQUISITION AND EQUIPPING OF POLICE CRUISERS; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT AND SECURITY OF THE LEASE AND DEPOSITS TO A SINKING FUND; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF VARIOUS DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE LEASE; AND MAKING CERTAIN DESIGNATIONS REGARDING SUCH LEASE.

It is hereby certified that the Ordinance approves a lease with The Commercial Bank of Grayson in a maximum principal amount of \$240,000 (the "Lease") to finance the costs of acquiring and equipping five police cruisers to be used by the Olive Hill Police Department, including one K-9 police cruiser (the "Project"). The Lease will be payable over [five] years and will bear interest at a rate not to exceed 6% per annum. The Ordinance further provides a general obligation pledge to assess sufficient taxes to comply with the obligations to pay lease payments, designates the Lease as a qualified tax-exempt obligation, memorializes certain expectations regarding the Lease, incorporating the preambles to the Lease into the body thereof, and contains additional provisions regarding severability, inconsistent actions, open meetings, conflicts of laws, and its effective date. The full text of the section relating to the pledge to levy and assess a tax to pay the Lease follows:

**Section 5. General Obligation Pledge.** Under the Constitution of the Commonwealth, the General Obligation Act, and the Governmental Leasing Act, the obligation of the City created by the Lease Agreement shall be a full general obligation of the City and, for the payment of the Lease Payments (as defined in the Lease Agreement), the full faith, credit, and taxing power of the City are hereby pledged for the prompt payment thereof. During the period the Lease Agreement is

outstanding, there shall be and there hereby is levied on all the taxable property in the City, in addition to all other taxes, without limitation as to rate, a direct tax annually in an amount sufficient to pay the Lease Payments when and as due, it being hereby found and determined that current tax rates are within all applicable limitations. The tax shall be and is hereby ordered computed, certified, levied, and extended upon the tax duplicate and collected by the same officers in the same manner and at the same time that taxes for general purposes for each of the years are certified, extended, and collected. The tax shall be placed before and in preference to all other items and for the full amount thereof provided, however, that in each year to the extent that the other taxes of the City are available for the payment of the Lease Payments and are appropriated for such purpose, the amount of such direct tax upon all of the taxable property in the City shall be reduced by the amount of such other taxes so available and appropriated.

### EXHIBIT A FORM OF LEASE AGREEMENT

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF OLIVE HILL, KENTUCKY APPROVING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF GRAYSON IN A MAXIMUM PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$240,000 TO FINANCE THE COSTS OF THE ACQUISITION AND EQUIPPING OF POLICE CRUISERS; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT AND SECURITY OF THE LEASE AND DEPOSITS TO A SINKING FUND; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF VARIOUS DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE LEASE; AND MAKING CERTAIN DESIGNATIONS REGARDING SUCH LEASE.

WHEREAS, the City of Olive Hill, Kentucky (the "City"), a municipal corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Kentucky (the "Commonwealth"), has determined and does hereby confirm that it is a public purpose of the City to acquire and equip five police cruisers to be used by the Olive Hill Police Department, including one K-9 police cruiser (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, under the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, including, particularly, Sections 66.011 through 66.191, inclusive, of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, as amended (the "General Obligation

Act"), and Section 65.940 et seq. of the Kentucky Revised Statutes (the "Governmental Leasing Act"), the City has the power to enter into a lease agreement with a third-party lender (the "Lease Agreement") to finance all or a portion of the costs of the Project and to pledge the full faith, credit, and taxing power of the City to secure the payment of the obligations of the City under the Lease Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to enter into a Lease Agreement with The Commercial Bank of Grayson, a banking corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth (the "Lessor") to finance the Project under the General Obligation Act and the Governmental Leasing Act.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF OLIVE HILL, KENTUCKY:

**Section 1. Affirmation of Preamble.** It is hereby found, determined, and declared that the facts, recitals, declarations, and definitions set forth in the preamble of this Ordinance are true and correct, and such facts, recitals, declarations, and definitions are hereby Affirmed, adopted, and incorporated as a part of this Ordinance, and all acts described in the preamble of this Ordinance are hereby ratified.

**Section 2. Necessity, Authorization and Purpose.** The City hereby declares that it is desirable and necessary to enter into, and hereby authorizes the execution and delivery of, a Lease Agreement by and between the City and the Lessor in a maximum principal amount of \$240,000, for the purpose of (a) financing all or a portion of the costs of the Project, and (b) paying all or a portion of the closing costs associated with the Lease Agreement.

**Section 3. Form of the Lease Agreement Terms.** The Lease Agreement shall state that it is entered into by the City under the authority of the General Obligation Act and the Governmental Leasing Act and shall be substantially in the form set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto. Principal owed under the lease shall accrue interest at a rate not to exceed 6% per annum. Interest and principal shall be paid as set forth in the Lease Agreement.

**Section 4. Execution and Delivery:** The Lease Agreement shall be executed by the manual or electronic signature of the Mayor and duly attested by the manual or electronic signature of the City Clerk (which, together with

any other person as may be authorized by resolution or municipal order, are referred to herein as the "Designated Officers") and may have the seal of the City or a facsimile thereof affixed thereto. The Designated Officers of the City are hereby further authorized and directed (i) to deliver the Lease Agreement to the Lessor upon the terms and conditions provided in this Ordinance; (ii) to receive the proceeds of the Lease Agreement; and (iii) to execute and deliver such certificates and other closing documents and to take such other action as may be necessary or appropriate in order to effectuate the Lease Agreement.

**Section 5. General Obligation Pledge.** Under the Constitution of the Commonwealth, the General Obligation Act, and the Governmental Leasing Act, the obligation of the City created by the Lease Agreement shall be a full general obligation of the City and, for the payment of the Lease Payments (as defined in the Lease Agreement), the full faith, credit, and taxing power of the City are hereby pledged for the prompt payment thereof. During the period the Lease Agreement is outstanding, there shall be and there hereby is levied on all the taxable property in the City, in addition to all other taxes, without limitation as to rate, a direct tax annually in an amount sufficient to pay the Lease Payments when and as due, it being hereby found and determined that current tax rates are within all applicable limitations. The tax shall be and is hereby ordered computed, certified, levied, and extended upon the tax duplicate and collected by the same officers in the same manner and at the same time that taxes for general purposes for each of the years are certified, extended, and collected. The tax shall be placed before and in preference to all other items and for the full amount thereof provided, however, that in each year to the extent that the other taxes of the City are available for the payment of the Lease Payments and are appropriated for such purpose, the amount of such direct tax upon all of the taxable property in the City shall be reduced by the amount of such other taxes so available and appropriated.

**Section 6. Sinking Fund.** There is hereby established, or it is acknowledged that there has heretofore been established, a sinking fund (the "Sinking Fund") with the City in accordance with the requirements of the General Obligation Act, which is hereby ordered to be continued and maintained as long as the Lease Agree-

ment shall remain outstanding. The funds derived from the tax levy hereby required or other available taxes shall be placed in the Sinking Fund and, together with interest collected on the same, are irrevocably pledged for the payment of all bonds issued under the General Obligation Act and tax supported leases, as defined in the General Obligation Act, including the Lease Agreement, when and as the same fall due. Amounts shall be transferred from the Sinking Fund to the Lessor at the times and in the amounts required by the Lease Agreement.

**Section 7. Designation as Qualified Tax Exempt Obligation.** Under Section 265(b)(3)(B)(ii) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (the "Code"), the City hereby specifically designates the Lease Agreement as a "qualified tax exempt obligation" for purposes of Section 265(b)(3) of the Code. In compliance with Section 265(b)(3)(D) of the Code, the City hereby represents that the City (including all "subordinate entities" of the City within the meaning of Section 265(b)(3)(E) of the Code) reasonably anticipates that it will not issue in calendar year 2025, "qualified tax exempt obligations" in an amount greater than \$10,000,000.

**Section 8. Expectation Regarding the Lease Agreement.** The City, by the adoption of this Ordinance, certifies that it does not reasonably anticipate that less than 95% of the proceeds of the Lease Agreement will be used for "local government activities" of the City or that the aggregate face amount of all tax exempt bonds issued by the City during calendar year 2025 will exceed \$5,000,000.

**Section 9. Severability.** If any section, paragraph, or provision of this Ordinance shall be held to be invalid or unenforceable for any reason, the invalidity or unenforceability of such section, paragraph, or provision shall not affect any of the remaining provisions of this Ordinance.

**Section 10. Open Meetings Laws.** The City Council hereby finds and determines that all formal actions relative to the adoption of this Ordinance were taken in an open meeting of the City Council and that all deliberations of the City Council of its committees, if any, which resulted in formal action, were in meetings open to the public, in full compliance with applicable legal requirements.

**Section 11. Conflicts.** All ordinances, resolutions, orders, or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such

conflict, hereby repealed and the provisions of this Ordinance shall prevail and be given effect

**Section 12. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall take effect from and after its passage and publication of a summary thereof, as provided by law. INTRODUCED, SECONDED, AND ADOPTED, at a duly convened meeting of the City Council of the City of Olive Hill, Kentucky, held on 1/22, 2025, after first reading held on January 21, 2025, signed by the Mayor of the City, attested by the City Clerk, ordered published in summary form and filed and indexed as provided by law.

/s/ Jerry Callihan, Mayor

/s/ Stephanie Thomas, City Clerk

First Reading: 1/21/25  
Second Reading: 1/22/25  
Published: 1/29/25

A complete copy of the Ordinance may be reviewed at the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Olive Hill, 225 Roger Patton Drive, Olive Hill, Kentucky 41164.

/s/ Stephanie Thomas  
City Clerk  
City of Olive Hill, Kentucky

### PREPARATION CERTIFICATE

The undersigned Attorney-at-Law, licensed to practice in Kentucky, hereby certifies that the foregoing Notice of Adoption and Summary of Ordinance of the City of Olive, Kentucky, was prepared by the undersigned and constitutes a general summary of essential provisions of the Ordinance, reference to the full text of which Ordinance is hereby made for a complete statement of its provisions and terms.

/s/ Mark S. Franklin  
Dinsmore & Shohl LLP  
101 South Fifth Street, Suite 2500  
Louisville, Kentucky 40202

### CERTIFICATE

I, the undersigned Clerk of the City of Olive Hill, Kentucky (the "City"), certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an Ordinance adopted by the City Council held on 1/22/25. I further certify that all actions taken in connection with the Ordinance were in compliance with the requirements of KRS 61.810, 61.815, 61.820, and 61.823, and that the Ordinance is now in full force and effect, all as appears from the official records of the City in my custody and under my control.

### News from A-5

After that, I started taking every box we'd emptied, along with a week's worth of newspapers or two, to the rose bush after every decent rain. It took nearly a year to get to the heart of the rose bush, and several weeks' worth of burning to reduce that gnarled tangle of branches to a blackened stump. But, eventually, the biggest part of the rose bush was burned away.

Now, I'm cleaning up the far edges of the growth, and taking down the smaller clusters growing from the still living roots of the

original plant. There's still plenty of work to do, but it feels good knowing that my words, once they've had their impact for the week that has been, can help reclaim our land from these choking tangles of briars – giving back to the thin clay soil all they've taken away and building it up for new, healthy growth.

It's not quite as poetic as worm food, but it's close. Ashes to ashes, and all that.

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

### COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY CITY OF GRAYSON SUMMARY OF: CITY ORDINANCE NO. 2024-04 ANIMAL CONTROL ORDINANCE

Ordinance 2024-04 provides for the control of animals within the City of Grayson, Kentucky, for the protection of the public and for the animals therein, also providing penalties for the violations of the provisions set forth. More specifically, this ordinance addresses public nuisance, cruelty to animals, requirements of rabies vaccinations, identification tags, limitations on the number of dogs or cats allowable at any one residence, humane treatment of animals, abandonment of domestic animals, leash requirements, impoundment of unrestrained animals and the procedures of reclamation or disposition thereof, and penalties and citations for the violations of the Ordinance provisions.

THE FULL TEXT OF THE ORDINANCE IS ON FILE AND MAY BE REVIEWED AT GRAYSON CITY HALL, LOCATED AT 302 EAST MAIN STREET, GRAYSON, KENTUCKY, BETWEEN THE NORMAL WORKING HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M., MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY.

I certify that I am a licensed and practicing attorney in the Commonwealth of Kentucky and the foregoing summary was prepared by myself in accordance with KRS 83A.060(9).

/s/ R. Jason Greer  
PO Box 145  
Grayson, KY 41143  
Phone: (606) 474-6359  
Email: jason@greerattorney.com

First reading and approval this 20th day of November, 2024

Second reading, approval and adoption this 23rd day of December, 2024

ATTEST:

/s/ Troy Combs, III, Mayor

/s/ Dawnita Lewis, City Clerk

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Carter County Fiscal Court will be accepting sealed bids for the purchase of a used grader. Sealed bids are to be turned in to the Judge Executive's Office located at 300 West Main Street, Room 227, Grayson KY 41143 no later than February 10, 2025 at 3pm. Requirements are as follows: \$60,000 or less purchase price and less than 5,000 hours. Please call the road foreman Jason Carroll at 606-316-8096 for further information. Bids will be opened and awarded February 10, 2025, at 6pm at the Regular Fiscal Court meeting.

graysongallery@gmail.com for questions about showing artwork, booking entertainment, classes and volunteering opportunities; you can also look for them on Facebook and Instagram. For current information, phone the GGAC Info Line at 606-474-7651 for pre-recorded announcements.

Contact us at news@cartercountytimes.com

### Art from A-3

place at approximately 7:45 p.m. and, in addition to sharing details on what's coming up at the gallery, Emily LaDouceur, of Berea, Kentucky, will present her "Appalachian Spirit" card deck project. LaDouceur will share her crowd-funding successes and lessons along with details on how and why she started the creative procedure.

You can find out more at www.appalachianspirit.com and look for her on Facebook. Her 60 card decks will be available for purchase at the gallery.

Four \$50 cash (or equivalent purchase) prizes will be handed out for Pen Lady's Choice, the Brandon Click Memorial

Award, the GGAC Board Choice and – awarded by popular vote – the People's Choice Award, along with blue ribbons to each winner.

Entertainment will be by the "Kill Devil Hillbillies", a regional duo, performing acoustic versions of songs from their repertoire exploring the genres of Americana and traditional and vintage rock, throughout the evening. Check them out on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/kill\_devil\_hillbillies and be sure to catch them at various local festivals all year long as well.

Coming up will be February's annual "Peace & love" art show and

event, set to open on February 28. Women in the Arts is set for March 28, featuring all female artists' work with live music by the Appalachian Ladies Revue. Please make note that a year-long calendar of events is posted on the front door of the Grayson Gallery, 301 East Third Street in Grayson, and is updated as needed.

The GGAC is a proud Arts & Entertainment venue for the Grayson Main Street District and will be co-sponsoring the upcoming "Love Your Downtown" celebration on Valentines Day, February 14 at the Blue Goose Collective on Main Street.

Contact Dan Click, director, via email:

# Visit Now: Last session in historic capitol for several years as renovation closes campus

As we prepare for part two of the 2025 Regular Session

of the General Assembly. This historic building,



Patrick Flannery  
Representative  
State of Kentucky

to resume on February 4, it is worth noting that this will mark a significant moment in our legislature's history. It will be the final session held in the Capitol building for at least three years, as extensive renovations are set to begin immediately following adjournment

which has stood as the heart of the Commonwealth since 1910, will close its doors to the public, elected officials, and staff while the necessary upgrades and restorations that are part of the \$300 million project take place. Those who have visited Frankfort recently have seen the

scaffolding that covers the dome as exterior work began several years ago. Interior work will begin as we enter the next phase. While this project is expensive, it would be far more expensive to replace the facility or wait longer to make improvements. The fact is, while still an architecturally beautiful symbol of our state's potential, it is old, out-of-date, and requires structural upgrades to ensure it remains a part of our state for generations to

come.

This project also means that those who have yet to visit or wish to visit again need to do so now. For everyone's safety, the Capitol building itself will be completely off limits until all renovations are complete.

During this time, the legislature will be meeting in the temporary chambers constructed in the parking lot on the east side of the Capitol Annex.

See CAPITOL on A-8

### ORDINAICE NO. 02-2024

AN ORDINANCE relating to the compensation of the elected officials of the city of Grayson, Carter County, Kentucky.

WHEREAS: The Grayson City Council has reviewed Ord. 05-2014 and determined it invalid'

WHEREAS: The Grayson City Council is obligated by KRS 83A.070 (1) to set compensation for the elected officials of Grayson by valid city ordinance.

WHEREAS: Ord. 05-2014 purported to fulfill the obligation of KRS 83A.070 (1) but has failed.

WHEREAS: The Grayson City Council is obligated by KRS 83A.070 (1) to set compensation for the elected officials of Grayson by valid city ordinance.

WHEREAS: The Grayson City Council has resolved to satisfy its statutory mandate and set compensation of the elected officials of Grayson by valid city ordinance.

NOW THEREFORE, be it ordained

by the City Council of the City of Grayson, Carter County, Kentucky, as follows:

Section 1. Ordinance No. 04-2010, enacted on March 13th, 2010, and relating to compensation for the elected official of the City of Grayson, Carter County, Kentucky, is repealed.

Section 2. The compensation of the Mayor of Grayson shall be set at (\$32,000.00) per year, payable in equal monthly installments.

Section 3. The compensation for each member of the Grayson City Council shall be set at (\$6,000.00) per year, payable in equal monthly installments.

Section 4. This ordinance shall be effective after its passage and upon publication.

Enacted this 20th day of November, 2024

/s/ Troy P. Combs, III, Mayor

12/23/24

ATTEST:

/s/ Dawnita Lewis, City Clerk

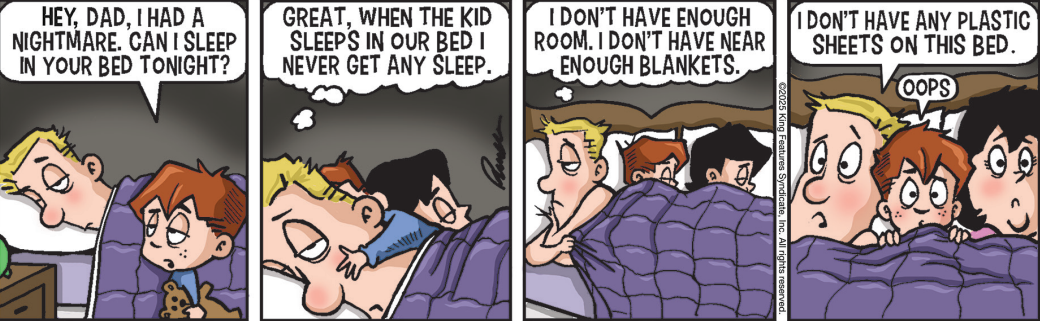
12/23/24

### Notice of Noncompliance

Pursuant to KRS 65A.040, the Kentucky Department for Local Government hereby gives public notice that as of January 21, 2025, Olive Hill Housing Authority is in violation of Kentucky Law for failure to comply with the reporting requirements of KRS 65A.020. The last known point of contact for Olive Hill Housing Authority is Starlene Harris, who may be reached at (606) 286-4721 and/or 501 TYGART ST, OLIVE HILL, KY 41164. The last known Board Members are: Not Reported. The district was noncompliant with FY2025 - Housing Authority Exclusion, FY2025 - Registration, FY2025 - Registration Fee, FY2025 - Budget Estimates. The Auditor of Public Accounts has been notified and state funding for this entity will be withheld until further notice. Department for Local Government encourages this entity to comply with the law.

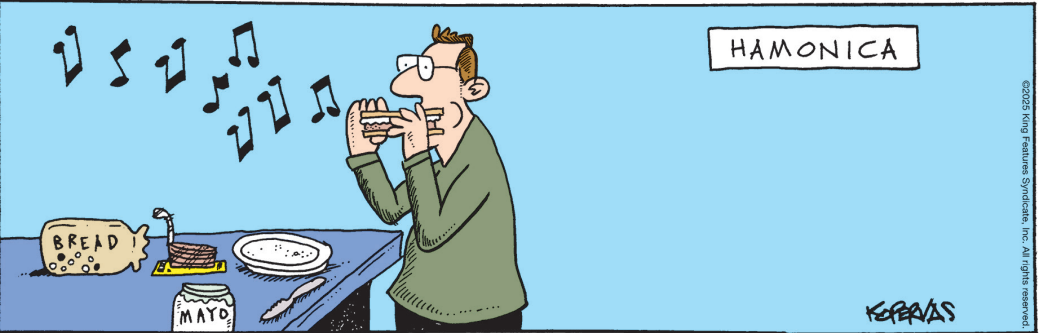
### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



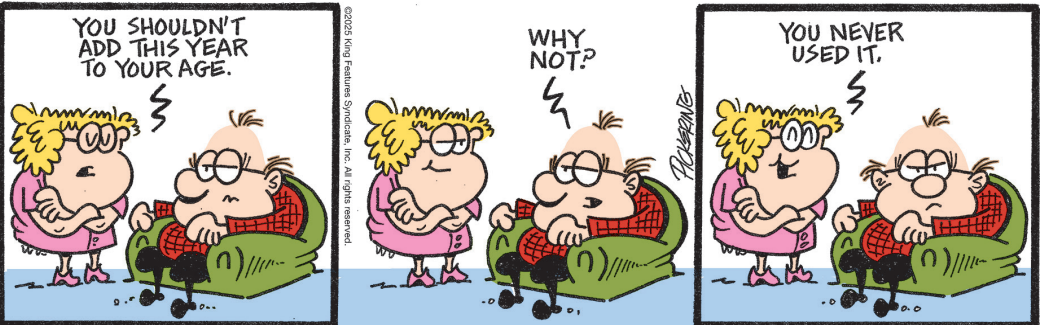
### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



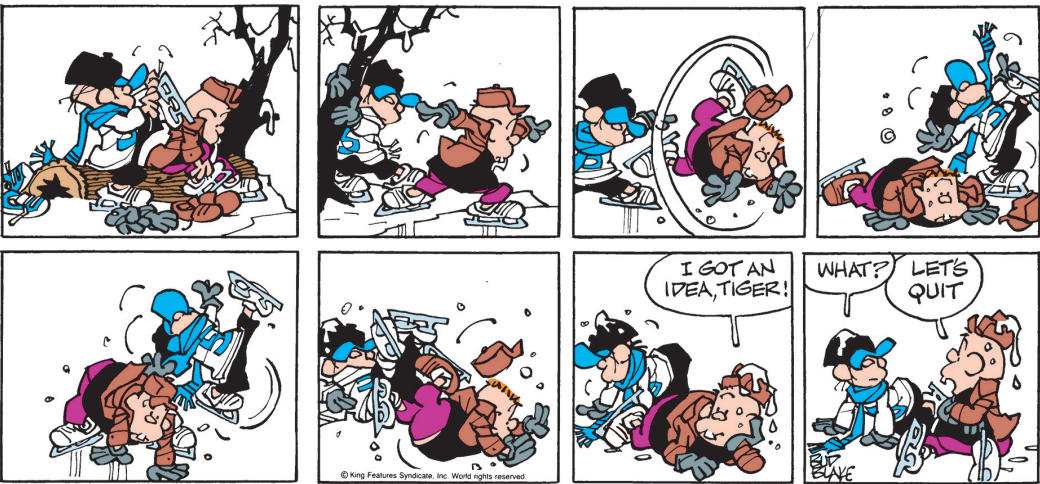
### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



### TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



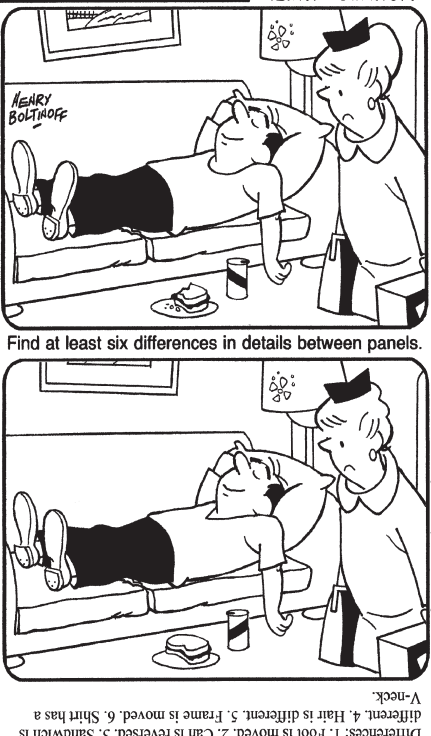
### OLIVE

By Emi Burdge



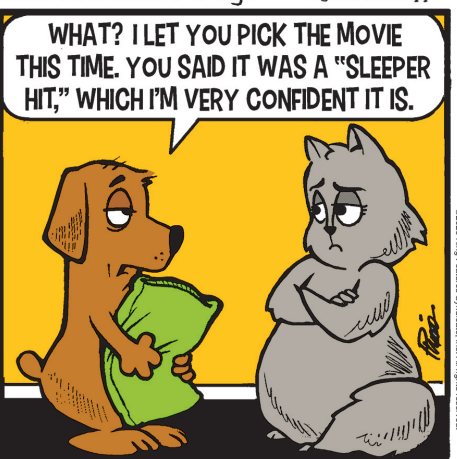
### HOCUS-FOCUS

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: Q equals R

RY SIUGLIQO, N'U YJXXIYGT HI  
 QGRT HSNY MIIO ME LQNHGQ  
 TRSZ NA IAG TRE. HNUG HI  
 SNH HSG QIRZT!

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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!

Vision **MADRE** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Swish **ULSTER** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Weird **BRAZIER** \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cuddle **TENSEL** \_\_\_\_\_



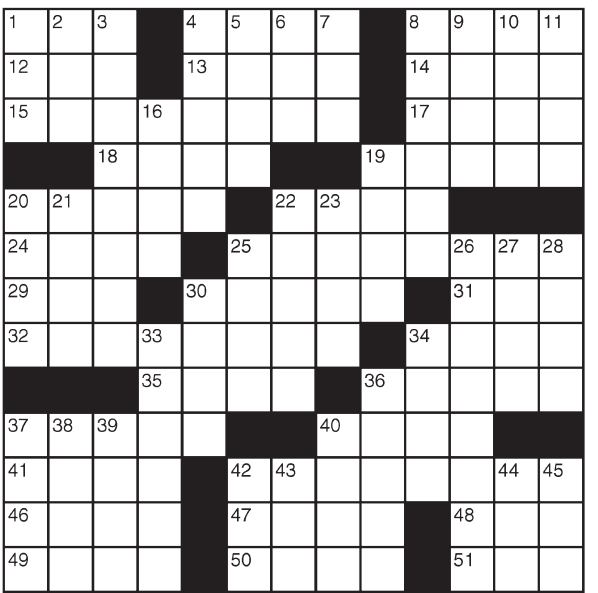
"How do you convince a man that some things belong in the \_\_\_\_\_?"

TODAY'S WORD

### King Crossword

#### ACROSS

- 1 Dime portrait
- 4 "Phooey!"
- 8 Chow
- 12 Singer Reed
- 13 Aachen article
- 14 Russo of "The Intern"
- 15 Top floor cooler
- 17 Roman poet
- 18 Farm fraction
- 19 Corrodes
- 20 Monk's home
- 22 Raw minerals
- 24 Paint layer
- 25 Skillet with low sides
- 29 Gearwheel tooth
- 30 Prefix with "logical"
- 31 Bathroom, to a Londoner
- 32 Refuse holder
- 34 Lacking slack
- 35 New Mexico resort
- 36 Desert flora
- 37 Passe
- 40 Achy
- 41 Breakfast chain
- 42 Village People classic
- 46 Air-show stunt
- 47 Sneeze syllable
- 48 Latin 101 word



#### DOWN

- 1 Ga. neighbor
- 2 Speck
- 3 Yellow turnip
- 4 Belittle
- 5 Teeming
- 6 Political strategist Navarro
- 7 Hamilton bill
- 8 Complain
- 9 Guns the engine
- 10 One
- 11 Hotel furniture
- 16 "Cold As Ever" rapper
- 19 Seized vehicle
- 20 Bank statement no.
- 21 Rude dude
- 22 Killer whales
- 23 Check
- 25 Designer
- 26 Table protector
- 27 Summer month in Paris
- 28 Terse denial
- 30 Roe provider
- 33 Treeless tract
- 34 Poi base
- 36 Some Pacific salmon
- 37 Pickling herb
- 38 "Hi, sailor!"
- 39 Implement
- 40 Garbage barge
- 42 Roast VIPs
- 43 "Caught ya!"
- 44 "I - Rock"
- 45 Eggy quaff

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### Weekly SUDOKU



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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### WORD LADDERS

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

SLAKE

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PRANK

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### Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What year was the first Barbie doll released?
2. MOVIES: What is the name of the island in the "Jurassic Park" film?
3. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What are baby rabbits called?
4. U.S. STATES: Which state is the home of Mount Rushmore?
5. INVENTIONS: When were emojis invented?
6. TELEVISION: In the TV series "The Walking Dead," what was the character Rick Grimes' profession previously?
7. CHEMISTRY: Which element is also known as quicksilver?
8. SCIENCE: What is the name for the pivot on which a lever turns?
9. GEOGRAPHY: Which country is home to the ancient city of Petra?
10. MUSIC: Which of Taylor Swift's songs was first to appear on the Billboard Hot 100?

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- Answers
1. 1959
  2. Isla Nublar
  3. Kits
  4. South Dakota
  5. 1999
  6. Sheriff's deputy
  7. Mercury
  8. Fulcrum
  9. Jordan
  10. "Tim McGraw"

### BASEMENT

Today's Word

1. Dream
2. Rustle
3. Bizarre
4. Nettle

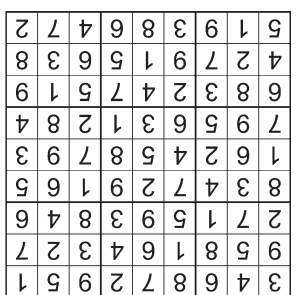
### SCRAMBLERS

solution

SLAKE, SLATE, PLANK, PRANK

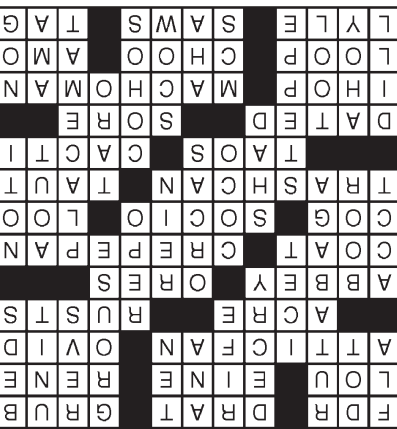
Answer

WORD LADDER



Answer

Weekly SUDOKU



Solution time: 26 mins.

### King Crossword

Answers

As homework, I'm supposed to read this book by writer Dahl in one day. Time to hit the Road!

### Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

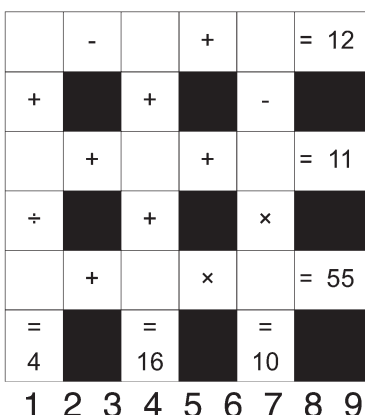
Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

- |                     |           |                    |           |
|---------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| 1. Fancy dress      | ___ R ___ | Shepherd's herd    | ___ L ___ |
| 2. Friendly specter | ___ S ___ | Tent dweller       | ___ M ___ |
| 3. "Nevermore" bird | R ___     | Refuge             | H ___     |
| 4. Godfather Marlon | ___ O ___ | "Moesha" star      | ___ Y ___ |
| 5. Georgia's fruit  | ___ A ___ | Roost              | ___ R ___ |
| 6. The very edge    | ___ N ___ | ___-and-mortar     | ___ C ___ |
| 7. Bridle           | ___ L ___ | Alice's mad friend | ___ T ___ |
| 8. Light breeze     | ___ A ___ | Wander aimlessly   | ___ I ___ |
| 9. Yellow belly     | C ___     | Stern or Hughes    | H ___     |
| 10. Welcome warmly  | ___ T ___ | Like a lime        | ___ N ___ |

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### GO FIGURE!

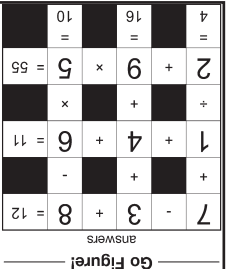
The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each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



DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult  
 ★★★ GO FIGURE!

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Answers

Even Exchange

1. Frock, Brack
2. Casper, Camper
3. Raven, Heven
4. Brande, Brandy
5. Peach, Perch
6. Brink, Brick
7. Hater, Hatter
8. Dirt, Dirt
9. Coward, Howard
10. Greel, Green

## Capitol from A-6

These chambers have been designed to accommodate both the House and Senate. They will serve as our working home until the Capitol is ready to reopen.

The transition to the temporary structure was initially scheduled to occur this session. However, the Governor's administration decided to delay the construction project a year.

While change is often bittersweet, the renovation project represents our investment to preserve our Capitol for future generations. We look forward to seeing our Capitol restored to its full glory, coupled with some modern enhancements while maintaining its history.

For now, I encourage you to take the opportunity to visit while we are in session. Use this time to make

the most of our last session in the Capitol building as we prepare to turn the page on a new chapter in our Capitol's history. For your convenience, I will include information on how to visit the Capitol and the Capitol Annex:

### Capitol Building:

Hours of Operation:  
Monday–Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. (Excluding specific holidays)

Saturday- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (Excluding specific holidays)

Sunday- Closed

Parking: On-site parking is available on Capital Avenue. Large groups and school tours are asked to call (502) 564- 3449 to make arrangements and get information about providing identification. Bus parking is available along

Capitol Avenue in front of the Capitol building.

Tours: For tours or additional information, please contact my office at 1-800-372-7181 or 502-564-8100, or email me at Patrick.Flannery@kylegislature.gov.

### Capitol Annex:

Legislative Committee Meetings: Legislative committee meetings are held throughout the year and are open to the public. No special passes are needed. Most committee meetings occur on the first floor of the Capitol Annex, although some are held in various spaces in the Capitol during a legislative session. Visitors should consult the Legislative Calendar on legislature.ky.gov for dates, times, and room numbers, and be prepared for last-minute changes.

Parking: A large parking garage is located on the east side of the Capitol Annex (the office building directly behind the Capitol). The surface lot of the garage provides public parking, and several ADA spaces are in the row closest to the Annex. Levels 4-6 also provide parking for the public, and Levels 4 and 5 offer ADA accessible parking near the elevators. Level 2 and half of Level 3 are reserved for vehicles with permits.

### Resources for Teachers:

School Group Tours: The Legislative Research Commission (LRC) is great resource for teachers and students who are interested in learning about the legislative process! To schedule a school group tour, please contact my

office at 502-564-8100 or email me at Patrick.Flannery@kylegislature.gov.

Alternatives to Capitol Visit: While the Capitol is closing for at least three years, Frankfort is still a place rich with history. Bring children to visit the Thomas D. Clark Kentucky History Center, the Old Capitol, or the Military History Museum. I also have some resources for groups that cannot make the trip – including a video tour and activity books.

Watching Online: If you are not able to visit in person, we use a variety of tools to keep the legislature's work accessible and transparent. For decades, Kentucky Educational Television (KET) has televised committee meetings and the work we do on the House Floor. In addition,

the legislature now offers a YouTube channel and broadcasts live from all committees, including those that KET is unable to cover. To access the KET and YouTube coverage, visit www.legislature.ky.gov and click on the Live Coverage box. You may also go directly to them via www.ket.org and KY LRC Committee Meetings on YouTube.

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 email at Patrick.Flannery@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature's website at legislature.ky.gov.

## Grader from A-4

air in the lines causing further problems.

"That is all I know about it so far," Burton told the court. "We had discussed maybe buying one, but I will leave that up to the court. But if we do decide to buy one, we are probably looking at sometime in March for delivery. And we also discussed putting out bids to buy a used grader."

"Jason (Carroll, road department supervisor) and I looked around and have found a used one," Burton continued. "It's a

Challenger, it was Greenup County State Garage's, and it has about 3,900 hours on it. It's a two-wheel drive like our old one, but the hours are good on it and it's a pretty solid old grader."

"We can get some other bids on a used grader if you want to go that route. But I don't want to get caught without one," Burton stressed to the court. "We need something, and we are going to have to improve that equipment if we are going to keep having

trouble with that grader."

The grader being worked on currently is the newest grader with only about 7,000 hours on it, Burton said. The repairs to it so far have totaled approximately \$50,000, but the transmission work currently being done is warranty work that does not cost the county anything. The transmission, however, is not the only part of the grader requiring repairs.

"We even checked on the price of leasing a grader," Burton told the

court. "But the lowest interest rate would be five percent."

Should the county decide they want to purchase a new grader, Burton told the court, the county's old grader could be sold and those funds applied to the purchase of the new equipment. Burton said that they were offered \$60,000 for it as a trade in, but he believes selling it outright would yield a higher price. The purchase price of a new replacement road grader would be approximately \$322,000 at

state contract price.

The need for the grader to be operational was pointed out by not only Burton, but also by several of the magistrates. The snow from the recent winter storms might be melting, but the cleanup will go far into the spring and a properly functioning grader will be needed for that and the potential damage that comes with seasonal spring rains.

The court did not vote for the purchase of a new grader, but voted to take bids on used

graders. Those bids can be submitted until February 10, 2025, and will be discussed in the February scheduled meeting.

In other business the court voted to accept the Sheriff's quarterly report, the Clerk's quarterly report, and the Clerk's 2024 Settlement. The court also voted to authorize Marilee Fugitt as Couty Applicant Agent.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

# Kentucky's education chief points to funding shortfall for school districts in current academic year

By Bruce Schreiner  
*Associated Press*

FRANKFORT (AP) — Kentucky's education commissioner on Tuesday pointed to an estimated \$40 million shortfall in funding to school districts and said officials are looking at ways to fill the gap.

Education officials are working with legislative budget committee chairmen and the state budget director on funding options to "minimize impacts" to public schools, Kentucky Education Commissioner Robbie Fletcher said.

His warning comes two weeks before the state's Republican supermajority legislature reconvenes in February. Lawmakers met for four days early this month, then returned home for the rest of January — the customary schedule for

their 30-day sessions in odd-numbered years. Legislators passed a two-year state budget in 2024, but they can reopen the budget to make changes during this year's session.

Legislative leaders did not immediately respond to emails to their offices Tuesday seeking comment on the projected funding shortfall. It comes as a student-led lawsuit seeks a ruling that the state is failing in its constitutional duty to provide all Kentucky schoolchildren with an adequate and equitable education.

Fletcher on Tuesday pointed to an estimated \$12 million shortfall in so-called SEEK funding for Kentucky's school districts in the current academic year. The Support Education Excellence in Kentucky, or SEEK,

program is the state's main funding formula for public K-12 schools. The formula includes a base per-pupil allocation, as well as additional funding for transportation costs and special-needs students.

"While we know this estimated shortfall is critical to our public schools, it is important to keep in mind that it represents 1.43% of our overall SEEK funding of \$2.7 billion," Fletcher said.

SEEK shortfalls occurred four times in a 14-year period stretching back to the 2010 fiscal year, he said.

On Tuesday, Fletcher also pointed to estimates of "an additional shortfall of \$28 million for funding to public school districts that is specifically conditioned on the availability of funds," he said.

Fletcher stressed the complexities in developing a two-year state budget for school funding. It involves collecting data to project property values, enrollments and special-needs student populations. The information is sent to lawmakers as they craft the next two-year state budget.

"But these projections are always estimates using the best data available at the time," the commissioner said. "If estimates are too low, a funding shortage is always a possibility."

His comments on the projected funding shortfall come as the student-led lawsuit claims the Bluegrass State has been backsliding for years since the state enacted education reforms.

The students, who attend high schools across Kentucky, say they want to

hold the state accountable for what they see as its shortcomings in guaranteeing a quality education — regardless of whether a child lives in an affluent or impoverished school district.

Plaintiffs include the Kentucky Student Voice Team, consisting of about 100 students statewide who attend public schools. Some of its members are plaintiffs. Defendants include the top leaders in the Republican-dominated legislature, the state Board of Education and the state education commissioner.

The lawsuit seeks to reopen the case that led to a landmark 1989 Kentucky Supreme Court ruling that the state's K-12 system was inequitable and inadequate and ordered the legislature to fix it.

The result, a year later,

was the Kentucky Education Reform Act, which reshaped the foundations of education, including a new school funding formula the new lawsuit says increased funding for all students and aimed to ensure equity in funding among school districts.

In the past two decades, however, the state has failed to maintain adequate base funding amounts, putting a heavier financial burden on districts, the suit says. The result, it says, is a gap in per-capita spending between the poorest and wealthiest districts that exceeds the disparities deemed unconstitutional a generation ago by the state Supreme Court.

# Vanderbilt fined \$500,000 by SEC for allowing fans to storm court after victory over Kentucky

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (AP) — Vanderbilt was fined \$500,000 by the Southeastern Conference on Sunday for allowing fans to storm the court

Saturday after the Commodores' 74-69 victory over No. 9 Kentucky.

Vanderbilt was penalized for a third offense under the conference's revised access to competition

area policy. The fine will be paid to the University of Kentucky.

The first violation — and a \$100,000 fine — came when fans stormed the football field after a 40-

35 victory over Alabama in October. The second — and a \$250,000 fine — came a week ago after fans rushed onto the court in celebration of a victory over No. 6 Tennessee.

Additional offenses also will carry \$500,000 fines.

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## Help from A-1

that call would be his last. As he was stepping down from the bed of his truck, a semi passed near his vehicle, too close and too fast, and Caldwell was pulled from his truck and killed.

"He was a good friend of mine, and someone I had worked with for years," Bubba Johnson, of Bubba's Towing and Recovery in Olive Hill, said of Caldwell.

Johnson said he had known Caldwell for years, and that Caldwell had been in the towing business for thirty years or more. He knew the job and how to do it safely.

"The day he got killed he was just working a

simple call," Johnson said. "It wasn't a wreck or anything, he was just picking up a vehicle that had broken down. He was still on the bed of the rollback and the eighteen-wheeler just pulled him off and drug him down the road. It never even contacted the vehicle, just Troy."

Johnson said the accident was heartbreaking and tragic, but was made more so by Caldwell's reputation.

"Troy was the safest guy you would ever meet," Johnson said of his friend. "If you were going to have a safety meeting for your company, he was the guy you set up from and

told everyone to be like him. He was always in full safety gear and super cautious. And he had been doing it for thirty years, so he knew what he was doing when he went out on a call. He had a flawless record, but that didn't do any good.

"I thought that if the safest man that you know can still get run over, then what about the rest of us?"

Johnson said those thoughts weighed heavily on his mind. He was concerned about his colleagues and himself, but also for the future of his 22 year old son who also operates a recovery vehicle. The tragic, preventable death of his

friend and what he saw as the need for added safety to all emergency vehicles on the road are what led him to advocate for Troy's Law. The law, if passed, will allow tow truck drivers to install rear facing blue lights, in addition to their other safety lights, to increase visibility and enhance safety.

"Other states have adopted this blue light law with a lot of success," Johnson said. "They are going to be rear facing only, and won't be run by themselves."

Because of this, there's no chance of anyone thinking a police officer is trying to pull them

over when a tow truck pulls up behind them. But, Johnson said, for vehicles approaching the tow trucks from the rear, "it gives the illusion that there might be a cop there, so automatically the driver is going to pump the brakes. And even if they can't change lanes, it will make them take a better assessment of what is going on."

Johnson said he has encountered some opposition from lawmakers to Troy's Law, but he has also received phenomenal support from others, most notably State Senator Robin Webb, State Representative Patrick Flannery, and State

Representative Richard White. Community support has also been phenomenal and is constantly growing, he said.

"Everyone is coming together on this," Johnson said.

Johnson wants to honor Troy Caldwell's memory, and the best way he knows to do it is to do everything possible to help protect his family, friends, and coworkers. And if one life is saved, a single needless death prevented, Troy's Law will do just that.

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