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Sensitivity and responsibility

Family of Conner Stafford raise concerns about coroner's professionalism

By: Jeremy D. Wells
Carter County Times

The family of Conner Stafford say he left behind a wonderful legacy of caring and friendship – touching the lives of classmates and everyone he met. He was also curious, like many other kids his age. But his parents worry that curiosity may have contributed to his passing; and they don't want it to happen to anyone else's children.

That's why they're warning other parents to pay close attention to the content their children consume online, and asking Carter County coroner George Sparks to change what they see as the insensitive description of their son's passing on his death certificate. It isn't that they contest the facts presented in the coroner's investigation. It's that they feel the specific details are unnecessary and potentially dangerous for any classmates who, out of their own curiosity, might pay the minimal fee to obtain a copy of their son's death certificate. This is on top of the pain and distress caused to the family any time they have to refer back to the documentation.

The official cause of Conner's death, according to the autopsy conducted in Frankfort, was asphyxiation. The details of how that came to pass – which we will not discuss out of respect to the family – are relevant according to Sparks. The family, however, disagrees.

They believe that Conner's fascination with another young person's death led him to engage in experiments, to try to make sense of how it could have come to pass. His mother said the 14-year-old found several videos about the death on TikTok, and would continually show them to her and discuss them.

"Leading up to the day Conner had passed, Conner was

See SENSITIVITY on A-8



Conner Stafford (bottom center) is pictured with his brother, sister, and parents. (submitted photo)

Networking and growth

Grayson Chamber approaches membership milestone

By: Charles Romans
Carter County Times

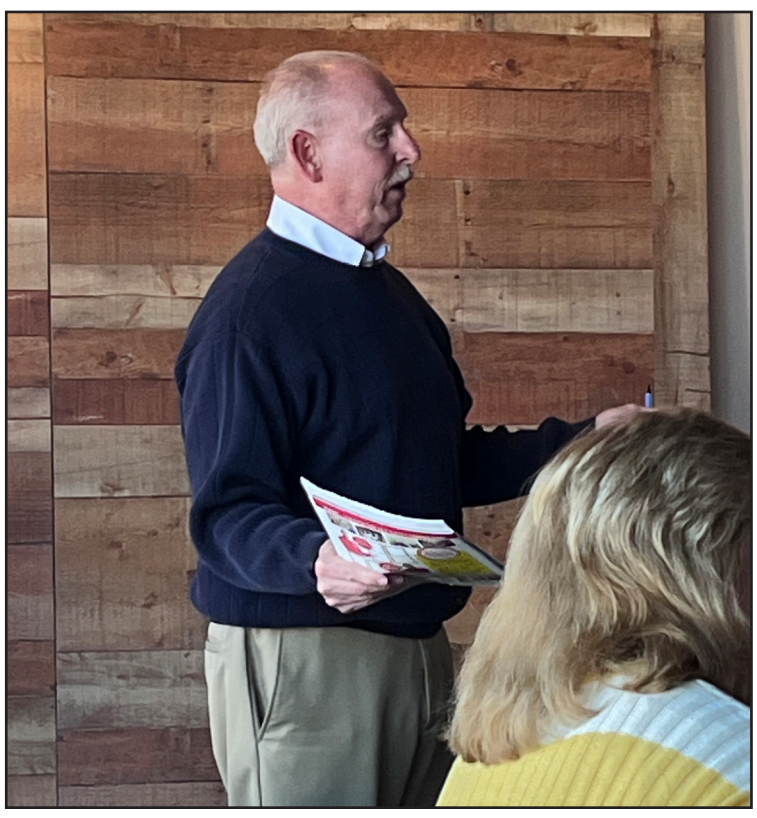
The Grayson Chamber of Commerce reported another great month during their regular October meeting, and is now eight away from the 200 mark for members. New members welcomed to the chamber were Second Sister Studio web design, MCS Shipping, Healer's Touch Holistic Massage, Cell Tech, Collins & Company, and Business Cultivation Foundation.

John Whitt of Kentucky Living Magazine was a guest speaker at the Chamber meeting.

"Our tag line is 'Nobody covers Kentucky better'," Whitt told the chamber. "And that is really the case. We have about 522,000 in circulation every month, and about 1.2 million readers. So, if you want to get a message out, we get the message out to the whole state of Kentucky."

"Something a little different we do with Kentucky Living Magazine that no one else does is we provide three travel issues per year; April, June, and September," Whitt added. "And in those issues, we partner around the state for a travel giveaway. And part of the advertiser's portion of that is when people enter that program, you are listed. So, for example, Grayson could be listed and we take all the 'clicks' they take for information and provide that as direct leads back to you."

See NETWORKING on A-6



Kentucky Living Magazine's John Whitt addresses the Grayson Chamber. (Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

Making the most of a buck

Tourism discusses potential interest products

By: Charles Romans
Carter County Times

The Grayson Tourism Commission isn't ready to move their accounts just yet, but they're discussing ways to maximize the funds they're currently holding in surplus. During their regularly scheduled meeting on October 10, the commission approved the treasurer's report, and heard the report from sports park manager Grant Harper, who brought the issue to their attention. Harper prefaced his report with the financial suggestion, telling the commission he would like them to consider investing surplus funds held in the maintenance account.

"We typically carry a rather large balance in the maintenance fund," Harper said. "And I think there is a potential for some interest earnings that we are not currently getting."

Harper said he believed that currently the maintenance

See TOURISM on A-3



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

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.

- Joseph Parsons, 24, of Olive Hill, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of driving on a DUI suspended license – second offense, no registration receipt, no registration plates, failure to produce an insurance card, and three counts of failure to appear, arrested and booked October 13.
- John Parsons, 29, of Olive Hill, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of first degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) second offense, first degree possession of a controlled substance (carfentanil or fentanyl derivatives), possession of drug paraphernalia, and failure to appear, arrested and booked October 14.
- Todd Tolliver, 31, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of failure to or improper signal, disregarding traffic light or other control devices, failure to wear seat belts, and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, arrested and booked October 14.
- Ashley Tolliver, 37, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky Department of Corrections, on a probation violation (for a technical violation), arrested and booked October 14.
- Ashley O'Neil, 39, of Ashland, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on three counts of non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked October 14.
- Hunter Eldridge, 21, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of theft of identity of another, theft by unlawful taking or disposition – shoplifting, and resisting arrest, arrested and booked October 15.
- Sarah Terry, 42, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on a charge of first degree forgery, arrested and booked October 15.
- Tasha Adkins, 39, of Huntington, WV, arrested by U.S. Marshal Service, charges unavailable, arrested and booked

See ARRESTS on A-3

ISSN 2692-420X

This Week's Obituaries

Betty Ann Castle Hampton, 82

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LIFESTYLE



Monster marshmallow kabobs: A spooky treat on a stick!

What's better than a bunch of mischievous monsters? Monsters made of marshmallows on a stick, of course! Because, let's face it, everything is more fun when it's on a stick!

These Monster Marshmallow Kabobs are a festive and frightfully fun Halloween treat the whole family can create together. All you need are marshmallows and a few inexpensive decorating supplies to craft your very own marshmallow monster mash.

Here's what you'll need:

- Marshmallows (regular or jumbo for extra spookiness)
- Bamboo skewers, lollipop sticks or straws (for little goblins, opt for straws or lollipop sticks for safety)
- Assorted decorating supplies: gelatin powder, colored sugars, candy melts, candy eyeballs, edible markers and melted chocolate

Monster mash time:

1. Line cookie sheets with wax paper to keep things tidy.
2. Gather small bowls and fill them with your spooky decorating materials.
3. Now, let's create your creepy creatures!

Decorating tricks & tips:

- Gelatin Powder Magic: Dip marshmallows in water, blot with a paper towel and roll in gelatin powder for a burst of color and flavor. Orange makes perfect pumpkins, while lime makes fun green monsters. Bonus tip: orange gelatin marshmallows + dark chocolate = delicious!
- DIY Colored Sugars: Don't have pre-colored sugar? No problem! Toss white sugar into a jar or bag, add food coloring (start with 6 drops and add more as needed) and shake it up until the sugar is vibrantly hued. Roll marshmallows in your homemade sugar for a colorful sugary coating.
- Candy Melts: Melt candy melts in the microwave (30-second increments, stirring in between) and dip marshmallows for a smooth, glossy coating. Pro tip: A teaspoon of shortening or coconut oil makes the candy coating easier to work with. Once coated, let them harden on wax paper.

Here's how we created our spooky squad:

- Frankenstein's Monster: Coat marshmallow with green candy melts. Press mini chocolate chips or chocolate sprinkles on top while the coating is tacky for "hair." Add candy eyeballs, then use a toothpick dipped in melted chocolate to draw stitches, eyebrows and a ghoulish grin.
- Pumpkin Faces: Dip marshmallows in orange gelatin powder, then use a toothpick dipped in chocolate to draw jack-o'-lantern faces. Add green candies on top for stems.
- Mummies: Dip marshmallows in white sugar, then drizzle with white candy melts for "bandages." Attach candy eyes using melted chocolate.
- Ghosts: Coat marshmallows with white candy melts, letting the excess pool at the bottom to form a ghostly shape. Once hardened, use a toothpick and chocolate to create spooky faces.
- Googly Monsters: Roll marshmallows in green sugar, then attach three candy eyes and draw silly monster faces with melted chocolate.
- Bloodshot Eyeballs: Use red food coloring or an edible marker to draw bloodshot squiggles on marshmallows. Top with a candy eyeball for extra spook factor.



These Monster Marshmallow Kabobs are the perfect Halloween treat. (Photo credit: www.JasonCoblentz.com)

Bonus tips for a smooth (and safe) sticking experience:

- Butter your bamboo skewers before impaling sticky marshmallows -- it makes a world of difference! A little goes a long way; I used just a 1/4 teaspoon to coat a whole bunch of skewers.
- For younger kids, swap bamboo skewers for lollipop sticks or straws. If using straws, snip the ends at an angle to make inserting them easier.
- Avoid choking hazards for toddlers by serving decorated marshmallows on a festive plate instead of kabobs. And keep an eye on those sugar eyeballs!

Whether you're hosting a Halloween bash or just adding a little spooky fun to snack time, these Monster Marshmallow Kabobs are sure to be a hit. Get creative, make memories and enjoy every sweet bite! Happy haunting!

***

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

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Joyful Noise

Caution for believers (Part II)

By: Pastor Naomi Mitchell for *Carter County Times*

2 Timothy 3:1 says, "This know (it is mandatory to understand) also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, truce-breakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God."

According to Paul, the conduct of the people will create these perilous times. The translated word for "perilous" in 2 Timothy 3:1 is 'chalepos', which means troublesome, dangerous, harsh, fierce, full of risk, hazardous, harmful, dreadful, threatening.

Fierce – wild or violent, having or displaying an intense, ferocious aggressiveness. Psalm11:5 says, "The LORD trieth the righteous: but the wicked and him that loveth violence his soul hateth."

Despisers of those that are good – all forms of lies, evil speaking against true believers and godliness. Romans 1:30 says, "Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, without understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful."

Traitors – a betrayer of trust. Acts 7:52 says, "Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? And they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers."

Heady – to be rash, reckless, or head strong. Proverbs 21:29a says, "A wicked man hardeneth his face: but as for the upright, he directeth his way."

Highminded – those who are full of themselves, puffed-up. 1Timothy 3:6 says, "Not a novice, lest being lifted up with pride he falls into the condemnation of the devil."

Lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God – all forms of immorality and ungodliness that satisfy the flesh. Philippians 3:19 says, "Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things, whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things."

Being religious but not victorious above sin, outwardly looking good but inwardly rotten in unrighteousness. Matthew 23:27 says, "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness."

Scriptures admonish all believers living in the 'last days' to turn away from all ungodly practices in order not to be caught in the web of perilous times. 2 Timothy 3:5 says, "Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof: from such turn away." As true believers, we must therefore receive the prophecies/warning and always be conscious of it.

We must separate from the company and fellowship of people with the characters listed above. We are living in perilous times. Every believer that wants to get to Heaven must heed the warning, careful to live a separate life from the world and false brethren to please God. Jesus is coming soon! Be ready! AMEN! SO BE IT!

JOYFUL House of Prayer, 2519 Quicksand Road, (P.O. Box 856), Jackson, Kentucky 41339. Send Comments/Prayer Requests: Pastornaomi-4god@gmail.com. FB: JoyfulHoprayer. Services: 10am Sunday and 6:30pm Thursdays. Radio Broadcast: WJSN 97.3 FM & WEKG 81.0 AM Sundays 1-2pm.

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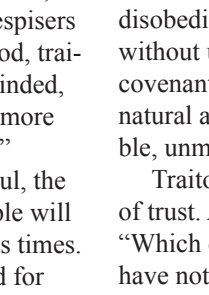
Extension Notes

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AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Mums make the fall garden pop with color

This is the time of year when farm stores and garden centers tempt us with big and little pots of fall mums, drawing our eyes to their bright yellow, gold and burgundy flowers. Mums are an easy way to bring new life to the fall garden or spruce up your front porch.



Rebecca Konopka
Carter County Extension Agent

Mums are a common fall decorative plant, because fewer daylight hours and longer nights triggers flowering. Nurseries often do this artificially by pulling dark cloth over the plants in late summer and early fall, which stimulates blooming. If you have mums growing in the landscape, the natural decrease in daylength as fall approaches will do the trick as well.

There are dozens of varieties, but generally mums can be identified in one of two groups, the garden or hardy mums, and the cutting variety. These latter are usually referred to as florist mums. Florist mums are generally tender and will not survive a winter in the garden.

If you want to enjoy blooms for the longest period of time, buy mums that are covered in buds, with only a few that have opened. It's always good to buy a plant that has one or two blooms open, so you're sure of the color you're purchasing. You should be able to enjoy flowers for two to three weeks or more. Water the base of the plant, not the foliage and flowers. Water on flowers may promote floral diseases that will shorten the flower display.

Mums perform well in containers and will flourish inside or out. Many hardy varieties can also be planted after they bloom, so you may be able to enjoy their color the following year.

If you're planning to enjoy your garden mum inside, find a good location near a south-facing window, out of direct sunlight and away from drafts caused by heating or air conditioning vents that tend to dry the flowers. A bright spot, with indirect light is the best. Keep the soil moist, but not soggy.

Mums prefer moderate temperatures at night, about 60 degrees Fahrenheit. If frost is expected, protect outdoor mums by moving them under cover overnight.

Once the plants have finished blooming, they will stop growing. You can either contribute them to your compost pile or plant them in your garden. Be aware, however, even the best gardeners often find that mums planted in the fall fail to establish in our Kentucky climate. Some may, but most do not. Mums as landscape plants

See MUMS on A-3

Kentucky Dept of Agriculture Livestock and Grain Market Report

Compared to last week, feeder steers and heifers sold unevenly steady. Market trends ranged from 5.00 lower to 6.00 higher with instances sharply higher. Demand was good to very good with active buyer participation showing best interest for weaned packages. Yearlings were trending up to 6.00 higher with limited comparisons. Slaughter cows sold mostly 2.00 to 5.00 higher and slaughter bulls were steady to 3.00 higher with good demand.

Courtesy of https://www.kyagr.com/ **Week ending 10/19/24**

STATE AVERAGES			
Steers (M&L 1-2)	**This Week**	**Prior Week**	**Last Year**
350-400 lbs	310.05	288.19	266.52
400-450 lbs	294.65	293.68	249.79
450-500 lbs	283.96	280.83	248.27
500-550 lbs	272.58	274.11	245.04
550-600 lbs	268.23	263.93	240.15
600-650 lbs	254.08	249.96	241.21
650-700 lbs	249.89	242.13	234.80
700-750 lbs	240.11	240.62	222.60
750-800 lbs	238.83	232.14	229.24
800-850 lbs	227.68	241.25	227.88
850-900 lbs	225.85	238.42	225.58
Heifers (M&L 1-2)			
300-350 lbs	268.70	257.05	227.69
350-400 lbs	264.33	254.08	220.41
400-450 lbs	258.93	248.81	222.86
450-500 lbs	248.59	248.11	220.32
500-550 lbs	242.91	238.19	213.20
550-600 lbs	237.74	234.45	214.36
600-650 lbs	229.23	225.98	211.03
650-700 lbs	223.98	224.26	211.10
700-750 lbs	215.15	214.10	207.00
750-800 lbs	208.06	212.62	205.12

WEELKY COW SUMMARY

Slaughter Cows	**Average**	**High**	**Low**
Breakers	111.00-137.50	123.00-149.00	102.00-119.00
Boners	109.00-139.50	122.00-157.00	102.00-123.00
Lean	90.00-131.50	107.00-153.00	100.00-119.50
Slaughter Bulls	**Average**	**High**	**Low**
Yield Grade 1&2	158.00-167.00	185.00-190.50	144.00

Oct 10, 2024 **Bowling Green, KY**

SLAUGHTER GOATS: 227

Kids: Selection 1 54 lbs 315.00; 70 lbs 290.00. **Selection 1-2** 82 lbs 260.00. **Selection 2** 53 lbs 300.00; 67 lbs 285.00; 113 lbs 210.00.

SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 525

Hair Breeds-Choice & Prime 1-2 60 lbs 265.00; 70-75 lbs 207.50-235.00; 82-83 lbs 185.00-207.00; 91 lbs 200.00. Choice 2 50-58 lbs 270.00-275.00; 68 lbs 225.00; 75 lbs 217.50; 85 lbs 195.00; 108 lbs 160.00. **Good & Choice 2-3** 49 lbs 242.50; 58 lbs 252.50; 63 lbs 232.50; 73-76 lbs 210.00-217.50.

Week ending 10/19/24

GRAINS	**This Week**	**Prior Week**	**Last Year**
Corn	3.49-4.15	3.62-4.09	4.31-4.97
Soybeans	8.59-10.16	9.01-10.18	11.60-13.14
Red Winter Wheat	4.80-5.37	4.81-5.51	5.28-6.23

Arrests from A-1

October 15.

- Jacqueline James, 50, of Winchester, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a substance, careless driving, failure to wear seat belts, failure to produce an insurance card, no registration receipt, possession of drug paraphernalia, and third degree possession of a controlled substance – drug unspecified, arrested and booked October 16.
- Sherri Mayle, 34, of Rush, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on a probation violation (for a felony offense), arrested and booked October 17.
- Scotty Estepp, 57, of Barbourville, KY, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear, arrested and booked October 17.
- Dylan Adams, 26, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, for non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked October 18.
- Brayan Machado-Rodriguez, 26, of Louisville, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, for failure to appear, arrested and booked October 18.
- John O'Brien, 39, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked October 18.
- Jeffrey Blankenship, 45, of Olive Hill, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and booked October 18.
- Bryan Preston, 57, of , arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on a charge of fourth degree assault (child abuse), arrested and booked October 20.
- Paul Mabry, 38, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, for failure to appear, arrested and booked October 21.

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.

Tourism from A-1

account was in a standard checking account, and he thought it would be a good idea to research options on an interest-bearing account of some sort.

"Whether it is through a CD or some higher yield savings of some kind, I think there is probably the potential for some interest-bearing account of some sort. Most current high yields are around four percent," Harper said. "And if you take our current balance, that would be about eight to ten thousand a year."

Harper said the drawback would be that he wasn't aware of this type of account offered locally, and there is a hesitance to move money out of local institutions. The commission discussed the potential, and though no vote was taken, commissioners agreed that looking into interest bearing accounts or other means would be beneficial.

Tourism director Lana Axtell discussed the upcoming Octoberfest in Grayson, and told the commission that the first meeting had been held for Hometown Holidays.

"There were a lot of good ideas," Axtell said. "Including piping the music down Main Street sidewalks."

The idea, she said, was to give the city of Grayson a more Christmas feel as that season approaches, much like one typically sees in the popular seasonal Hallmark movies.

The commission discussed the Blue Goose Project, and commissioner Deana Miller discussed information that she had received on the project. Miller said the reports she studied, many from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet that are available online, had a lot of good information on them and she suggested it would be beneficial to the commission to familiarize themselves with the reports. The reports include a lot of informative studies on main streets and roads, Miller said, as well as development.

"What I took from it is that there are a lot of organizations in Grayson and Carter County that want to do good things," Miller said. "The City of Grayson, the Chamber of Commerce, the Tourism Commission, the Main Street Group, that all have specific things they can and can't do. And I personally think that if we can coordinate with other groups, we can get a lot more done."

Miller proposed the commission go over the reports before their next scheduled meeting in order to have a clearer idea of how to proceed.

Miller also discussed in part the Blue Goose, including a structural analysis of the building.

"Basically, what it says, and it was just a visual inspection of the roof only, was that looking at it from Main Street, the right side is basically a pole barn."

Miller said that according to the report there are essentially two different structures, one consisting of wooden beams and trusses that are not even connected to the masonry wall on the other side. The other side of the building (the section formerly used for the business of the previous owner) has properly connected beams, etc.

Many of the issues with the building are due to the age of the structure, and the current codes of that time such as 4-foot beams, which by current code should be 2-foot beams, Miller said.

"So, there is a lot of structural reinforcement that needs to happen," Miller said. "Not only on the roof but the walls as well. And what the engineer and the architect have actually written down in their report is that they both agree that the building roof is unsound, and it should not be used for anything but storage until the roof has been reinforced."

The commission discussed the report, but the general consensus was that a meeting should be arranged with both the architect and the engineer in question before any decisions were made.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

A harvest of hope

Kiwanis plans Harvest Pack event

By: Charles Romans
Carter County Times

Food insecurity is a major issue in our region and around the world. According to godspantry.org, "Nearly 265,000 people in Central and Eastern Kentucky are experiencing hunger, representing a 20 percent increase from last year's data release. This includes 1 in 4 children who are not being nourished. These numbers represent real people who are going to bed unfed every night."

The numbers represent a stark reality that our region – where the predominant household income is barely above the poverty level – is starving. And with a struggling economy being outpaced by inflation at every turn, many find it impossible to cover the basic necessities of life such as shelter and food. Added to this is the fact that those who suffer most, unfortunately, are those most at risk, such as the very young and the very old.

Marc Bentley, the President of the Carter County Kiwanis Club, said the Kiwanis are dedicated to doing something to change that.

"The Kiwanis Club is a service club," Bentley said. "Its focus is on the youth of a community and their families. Investing in programs, sports teams, playgrounds, and whatever a community needs to fill gaps regarding young people and their wellbeing. That's where the Kiwanis step in."

Service can be direct service or fundraising for projects, Bentley explained.

The current project the Carter County Kiwanis Club is dedicated to is the Harvest Pack food program. Harvest Pack is a company, Bentley said, that specializes in packing nutrient rich meals for those in need.

"There are two options, and we are taking the option for oatmeal. So, we are going to get together on Tuesday, November 19, and all the volunteers are going to work in an 'assembly line' process," he said.

The Kiwanis and volun-

See HARVEST on A-4

Mums from A-2

tend to do much better when planted in the spring. However, you may need to visit your local garden center or shop from a mail-order source for early mum plants since they are not generally sold in the mass market in spring.

If you choose to plant them in the fall after they finish blooming, choose a spot that will get about six hours of direct sunlight a day during the growing season. Mums that don't receive enough sunlight will grow leggy and have more stems than blooms. Cut back all the stems to about 8 inches. Mix some compost into the soil, and dig a hole no deeper than the depth of the pot the mum is growing in. Keep the top level of the garden soil at the same point on the plant as the container soil was. Mums should be spaced 18 to 24 inches apart, since mature plants can become a good size in the garden. Water them in, then cover the ground around the plant with a thick layer of mulch, keeping the mulch from piling up against the stem.

For more information contact the Carter County office of the University of Kentucky 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

- The Grayson Farmer's Market is open on Saturdays from 9:00 AM until noon. The market is in the shed behind the Extension Office. The Olive Hill Farmer's Market is in the Save-a-Lot parking lot and is open on Saturdays and Wednesdays at 8:00 AM and Mondays at 3:00 PM until sell out each day.
- Northeast Area Livestock Association – Tuesday, October 29th @ 6:00 PM; Topic – Livestock Drinking Water; Speaker: Dr. Steve Higgins, UK Director of Environmental Compliance
- Beginning & Small Farmer School – Friday, November 1st from 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM @ Morehead State University Farm Arena Classroom – Call 474-6686 to register.
- Little Sandy Beekeepers Association – Tuesday, November 5th @ 6:30 PM; Topic – Baking with Honey & Using a Refractometer

CALENDAR

- **10/23: Olive Hill Farmer's Market** @ 8 a.m. | Save-A-Lot parking lot
- **10/23: Olive Hill Book Club** @ 5:30 p.m. | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **10/24: Grayson Farmer's Market** @ 2 p.m. | Carter County Extension Office Shed
- **10/25: Final Friday** @ 6 p.m. | Grayson Gallery and Art Center
- **10/26: Olive Hill Farmer's Market** @ 8 a.m. | Save-A-Lot parking lot
- **10/26: Grayson Farmer's Market** @ 9 a.m. | Carter County Extension Office Shed
- **10/28: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days** @ 9 a.m. | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 606-474-6686
- **10/28: Homeschool group meeting** @ 12 p.m. | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **10/28: Olive Hill Farmer's Market** @ 3 p.m. | Save-A-Lot parking lot
- **10/28: Girl Scouts meeting** @ 6:30 p.m. | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **10/29: Homeschool group meeting** @ 6 p.m. | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **10/29: Northeast Area Livestock Association** @ 6 p.m. | Carter County Extension Office | Topic: Livestock Drinking Water; Speaker: Dr. Steve Higginss, UK Director of Environmental Compliance
- **10/30: Olive Hill Farmer's Market** @ 8 a.m. | Save-A-Lot parking lot
- **10/31: Grayson Farmer's Market** @ 2 p.m. | Carter County Extension Office Shed
- **10/31: Olive Hill Trick or Treat** @ 6 p.m. | Olive Hill Community
- **10/31: Grayson Trick or Treat** @ 6 p.m. | Grayson Community

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

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670 E Tom T Hall Blvd, Olive Hill
606-286-8788



Pet of the Week

Ernie is an adult, male, mixed breed. He weighs 43 pounds, walks on a leash, loves attention, and is very playful. He's up to date on all shots, and already neutered. Ernie, and all adult dogs currently in the shelter, have free adoptions to approved homes. Stop by the Carter County Animal Shelter and meet him, or any of the other dogs looking for their forever home, or call 475-9771 for more information.

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





Harvest from A-3

teers will be packaging the nutrient rich oatmeal meals for distribution.

"But it's not just oatmeal," Bentley said. "There are vitamins and minerals that are necessary for a person's life."

Bentley said the company had been in contact with food pantries, and that those food pantries expressed a need for nutrient rich breakfasts, and Harvest Pack was their response to that need.

"So, we are going to get together and package these packages of oatmeal, and our goal is to have 30,000 bags."

Each bag, he said, contains multiple meals, and the cost of each bag is 30 cents. Bentley said that the Kiwanis Club is working with other service clubs, churches, and community organizations to raise the $9,000 necessary to make the 30,000 goal a reality. The Kiwanis accept donations from individuals and even corporate sponsors, and all donations are tax deductible. In person donations can be made to Stephanie Kidd at City National Bank in Grayson.

Bentley said that some people might be hesitant simply because they are unable to donate a large amount of money.

"But the beauty of this is if you donate just ten dollars, that's around 33 meals," he explained.

Bentley said that just because you might not be able to give a lot, doesn't mean that any donation you make doesn't do a lot.

"And even if you can't make a monetary donation, showing up to help is invaluable."

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Octoberfest returns

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

Octoberfest is set to return to downtown Grayson on Saturday, October 26. Tourism Director Lana Axtell said the event went really well last year, the first year for the seasonal celebration, and that everyone that attended or heard about it was waiting for the event to return.

"It went really well last year," Axtell said. "People said they really enjoyed it and were looking forward to us adding more to it this year. And we obliged by adding a parade and a Queen of Octoberfest this year. And with vendors, food trucks, pumpkin face painting for the kids, and chili cook offs - not to mention the Petting Zoo and Trunk or Treat - I think everyone is going to have a great time."

Axtell said the list goes on with inflatables and too many other things that aren't listed on the schedule. People have the opportunity to go out and enjoy an evening with their friends, shop, eat, and soak up all the live entertainment. There are the main events everyone is sure to love, she said, but there are also a lot of mini events to enjoy as well.

Setup will begin at noon on the day of the event and will open to the public at 1 p.m. There will be a Chili Cookoff inside the Blue Goose at 2 pm, and at the same location there will be Zombie Face Painting and Pumpkin Face Painting, both starting at 2:30 pm. On the Main Stage the Queen's Sashing and Crowning will happen at 3 p.m., and at 3:30 the parade line up will begin at the Michelle Wilhoit State Farm Insurance office at 603 W. Main Street.

Beginning at 4 p.m. the First Church Youth Band will perform on the Main Stage and the Dance with Hope Studio will put on a "Thriller Dance."

The parade will kick off at 4:30 p.m. and after the parade more performers will take the Main Stage. Various Artists will perform at 5:30, Levi Fields will perform at 6:00 p.m., and Dustin Burchett will take the stage at 7:30. Also immediately following the parade there will be a Car Show and Jeep Show.

The Spooky Story Hayride will be across from the Gazebo at 6 p.m., and there will be a Brush & Boos with Haley at Bayso's Sports Bar at 6:30 p.m. At 9 p.m. there will be a Lights Out Scavenger Hunt in the Bit-O-Thyme Treasures building, and though the event closes at 10 p.m., Dustin Burchett will be live at Bayso's Adult Only Costume Party at that time.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Legislative update



Robin L. Webb
Senator
State of Kentucky

FRANKFORT— As the Kentucky General Assembly prepares for the 2025 Regular Session, much of the groundwork is being laid now, through a series of important interim joint committee meetings. This week, I had the privilege of attending and participating in several of these meetings, which address critical issues that affect every Kentuckian. From environmental protection and natural resource management to workforce challenges and modernizing our state's legal frameworks, the discussions happening in Frankfort are setting the stage for the policies that will shape Kentucky's future.

The Interim Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Energy met this week, and the meeting centered around ongoing efforts in the state to manage hazardous waste and protect our environment. The Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet presented the Hazardous Waste Management Fund (HWMF) Report, which provided an in-depth look at revenues, expenditures, and recent projects. The HWMF has been a cornerstone of environmental efforts since its creation, responding to major contamination events like the infamous Valley of the Drums. The fund plays a vital role in the remediation of hazardous waste sites where no responsible party can be identified. Most recently, the fund was used to clean up a crude oil spill in Perry County, preventing potential harm to the local environment and communities.

However, the Cabinet's report raised concerns about the future of the fund. Revenues have been steadily declining, driven by a reduction in hazardous waste production—a positive sign for industry—but also exacerbated by legislative exemptions that have reduced the number of contributors to the fund. This decline in revenue puts future projects at risk, but I am proud that the legislature recently voted to extend the fund to 2032. This extension ensures we will continue to have the resources necessary to respond to environmental emergencies and address legacy contamination issues.

The committee also received a presentation from the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources (KDFWR) on their Hunger Relief Program for Fiscal Year 2024. This program, funded through donations made during vehicle registration, is a unique initiative that leverages wildlife resources to address food insecurity across Kentucky. Though the program received just $24.68 in donations last year, KDFWR committed $25,000 from its Game and Fish Fund to promote hunger relief efforts further. Additionally, they secured federal funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, totaling over $145,000 to support conservation-driven hunger relief programs. One of the standout elements of this program is the partnership with Hunters for the Hungry, a nonprofit organization that processes and distributes donated hunter-harvested deer to food banks and charities throughout the state. I'm proud of the work being done by the department and the sportsmen and women in the commonwealth, helping families access nutritious food through innovative programs like this.

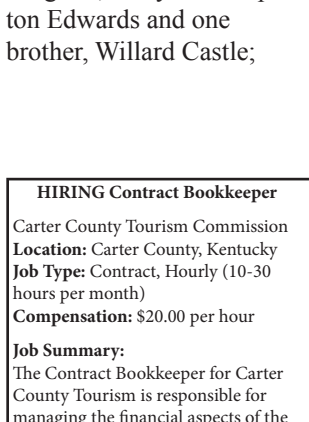
In addition to our discussions on natural resources, I participated in the Workforce Attraction & Retention Task Force meeting, where members delved into one of the most pressing issues facing Kentucky's economic outlook—our workforce challenges. With labor force participation rates declining and population growth stagnating, particularly among working-age adults, Kentucky faces significant hurdles in meeting its workforce demands. Ted Abernathy of Economic Leadership delivered a thought-provoking presentation, highlighting the growing competition for skilled workers on both a national and global scale. While Kentucky was ranked fourth in CNBC's "America's Top States for Business" in 2024, we must take proactive steps to maintain this momentum.

One of the key discussions was Kentucky's fertility rate, which has now fallen below replacement levels. This demographic shift poses long-term challenges for our state's workforce. Abernathy outlined four key strategies to address these challenges: increasing migration into Kentucky, encouraging those currently out of the workforce to re-enter, promoting higher birth rates, and strengthening educational programs to align workers' skills with market demands. I found it particularly enlightening to learn about the success of other states,

See UPDATE on A-6

OBITUARY

Betty Ann Castle Hampton
1942 – 2024



Betty Ann Castle Hampton, age 82, of Rush, Kentucky, passed away Monday, October 14, 2024, at Kingsbrook Lifecare Center in Ashland, Kentucky.

She was born Wednesday, December 16, 1942, in Rush, Kentucky, a daughter of late Elmer and Juanita Dickens Castle.

Betty loved going to church, cooking, working in her flower garden and spending time with her family and friends, especially her grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Donald Hampton; one daughter, Betty Jo Hampton Edwards and one brother, Willard Castle; two brothers-in-law, Tim Shaffer and Dennis Jackson.

Betty is survived by one son, Danny (Cathy) Hampton of La Salle Michigan; two grandchildren, Cody Harris of Ashland, Kentucky, Kelsey Hampton of Toledo, Ohio; two brothers, Fred (Penny) Castle of Clarkston, Michigan, Wayne (Shelia) Castle of Rush, Kentucky; two sisters, Janie Shaffer of Grayson, Judy Jackson of Helenwood, Indiana, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss her.

Funeral services were held 3 p.m., Wednesday, October 16, 2024, with Brother Roger Wireman officiating. Burial followed in East Carter Memory Gardens in Grayson, Kentucky.

Friends visited after 2 p.m., Wednesday, October 16, 2024, until the service hour at Grayson Funeral Home.

Grayson Funeral Home & Cremation Services is honored to serve the family of Betty Ann Castle Hampton.

HIRING Contract Bookkeeper

Carter County Tourism Commission
Location: Carter County, Kentucky
Job Type: Contract, Hourly (10-30 hours per month)
Compensation: $20.00 per hour

Job Summary:
The Contract Bookkeeper for Carter County Tourism is responsible for managing the financial aspects of the organization, including budgeting, incoming receivables, expense documentation, and financial requests related to local events and grants. This role requires precise bookkeeping, timely financial reporting, and collaboration with the commission on grant management.

Key Responsibilities:
- Receivables and Payables Management:
  - Track incoming funds from tourism activities and grants.
  - Process payments related to tax collection from lodging and camping.
  - Regularly reconcile bank accounts and financial records.
- Budgeting and Financial Reporting:
  - Assist in the development and maintenance of the annual budget for Carter County Tourism.
  - Prepare regular financial reports for the commission and fiscal court.
  - Monitor budget performance and analyze variances.
- Event and Grant Management:
  - Support financial aspects of ongoing sponsorships for local events.
  - Manage the financial components of one-time grants awarded to events or initiatives.
  - Ensure compliance with grant requirements, including documentation and reporting.
- Record Keeping and Compliance:
  - Maintain accurate financial records for all transactions.
  - Ensure compliance with applicable laws and regulations in all financial operations.
  - Collaborate with external auditors or accountants as needed for the annual
  - audit.
  - Submit required reports to the Kentucky Department of Local Government.
- Ongoing Support:
  - Assist with additional financial tasks as assigned by the commission.

Qualifications:
- Proven experience in bookkeeping or financial management.
- Familiarity with budgeting, accounts receivable, and accounts payable.
- Knowledge of grant management and sponsorship accounting is advantageous.
- Proficiency in accounting software (e.g., QuickBooks, Excel).
- Strong organizational and time management skills.
- Ability to work independently and meet deadlines.

Preferred Certification:
- Certified Public Accountant (CPA) is a plus.

The Carter County Tourism Commission is an equal opportunity employer. We encourage applications from all qualified individuals.

Application Timeline:
Please submit cover letter and resume to the Carter County Tourism Commission for consideration by November 1, 2024.

Carter County Tourism Commission
c/o Office of the Judge Executive
300 W Main Street
Grayson, KY 41143
ccjudgeexecutive@gmail.com

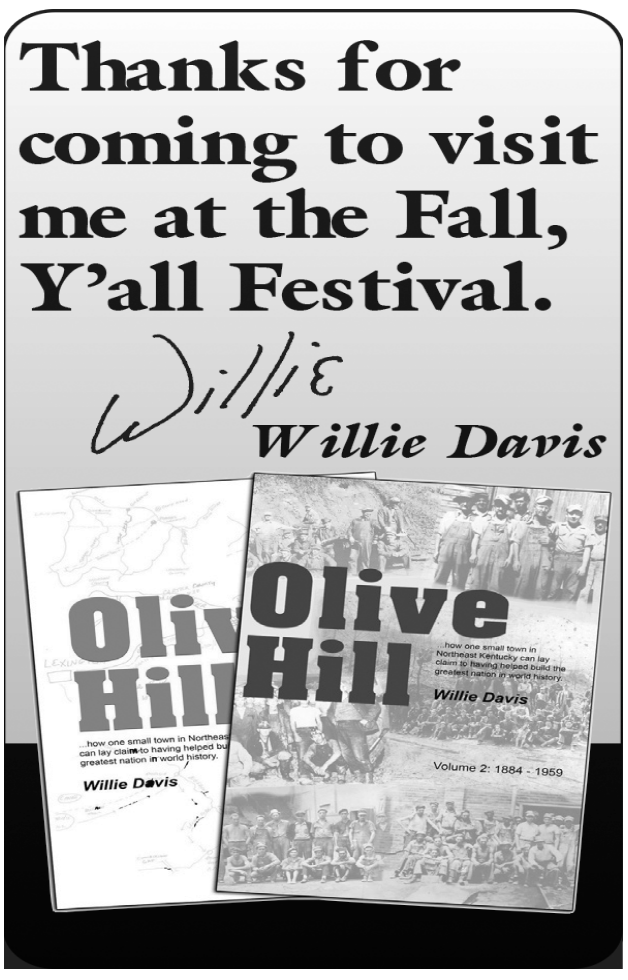
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OPINION

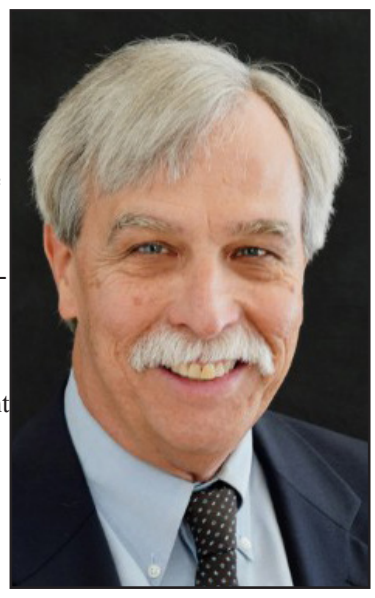
EDITORIALS | LETTERS | COLUMNS | COMMENTARY

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

School vouchers bring theft of tax dollars and other crimes

B: John Schaaf



John Schaaf (submitted photo)

If Amendment 2 passes, and Kentucky adopts a dangerous school voucher plan like other states, there will be unaccountable private school operators who will misuse or steal millions of taxpayer dollars and be involved in other criminal activity.

That's exactly what's happened in states that bought into the radical policy of throwing hundreds of millions of tax dollars at private and church school operators, with taxpayers having no oversight of how it's spent or who's spending (or stealing) it.

Earlier this year, three private school operators in Indiana were indicted by a grand jury on 76 counts of money laundering and wire fraud. According to the indictment, the operators inflated enrollment numbers at their schools to get taxpayer money for kids who did not actually attend.

The Indiana Attorney General is suing the operators for $154 million, as they're accused of steering massive cash payments to themselves and family members.

Milwaukee was one of the first places to give out taxpayer-funded vouchers with no oversight, resulting in years of criminal activity, including when the head of a voucher school was sentenced to 18 months in prison for mail fraud and money laundering after he was convicted of stealing public dollars.

In Arizona, the state's Attorney General is investigating the use of private school vouchers to purchase kayaks, espresso machines, Broadway tickets, and ski passes. The investigation comes after a grand jury indicted three people for fraud and theft in connection with Arizona's voucher program.

In Florida, the owner of Touch By an Angel Learning Academy in Lake City was recently charged with grand theft and fraud after investigators found that the private school collected more than $1.3 million in public money, and used much of it to pay for restaurants, hotel rooms, and possibly engaged in human trafficking.

These examples are just the tip of the iceberg.

There is a sad history of problems in private schools that often employ unlicensed staff who work in unsupervised settings. In recent months, there have been numerous arrests, indictments, and convictions of private school teachers for sex-related crimes involving students.

In voucher systems in other states, most taxpayer money goes to church schools where the public has no oversight, sometimes allowing troubled individuals to have unfettered access to children. At least two examples of breach of religious trust are currently being investigated in Kentucky:

1) A Lexington pastor and youth minister who police say admitted to having sex with a child is facing multiple charges related to sexual abuse. Attorney General Russell Coleman indicted the pastor on numerous felony counts, including rape and sodomy; and

2) The owner and employees of Pilgrim's Rest School, a private school in Ohio County, were indicted on dozens of counts, including first-degree criminal abuse of a child under 12, fourth-degree assault (child abuse), and first-degree sexual abuse.

Most churches operate honorably. However, these are local examples of the type of child sex abuse cases that have plagued Catholic and other Christian churches for years. It would be a huge mistake to give these churches millions of tax dollars, with no public oversight.

Amendment 2 would create dangerous public policy, leading to theft of Kentuckians' tax money and other criminal activity.

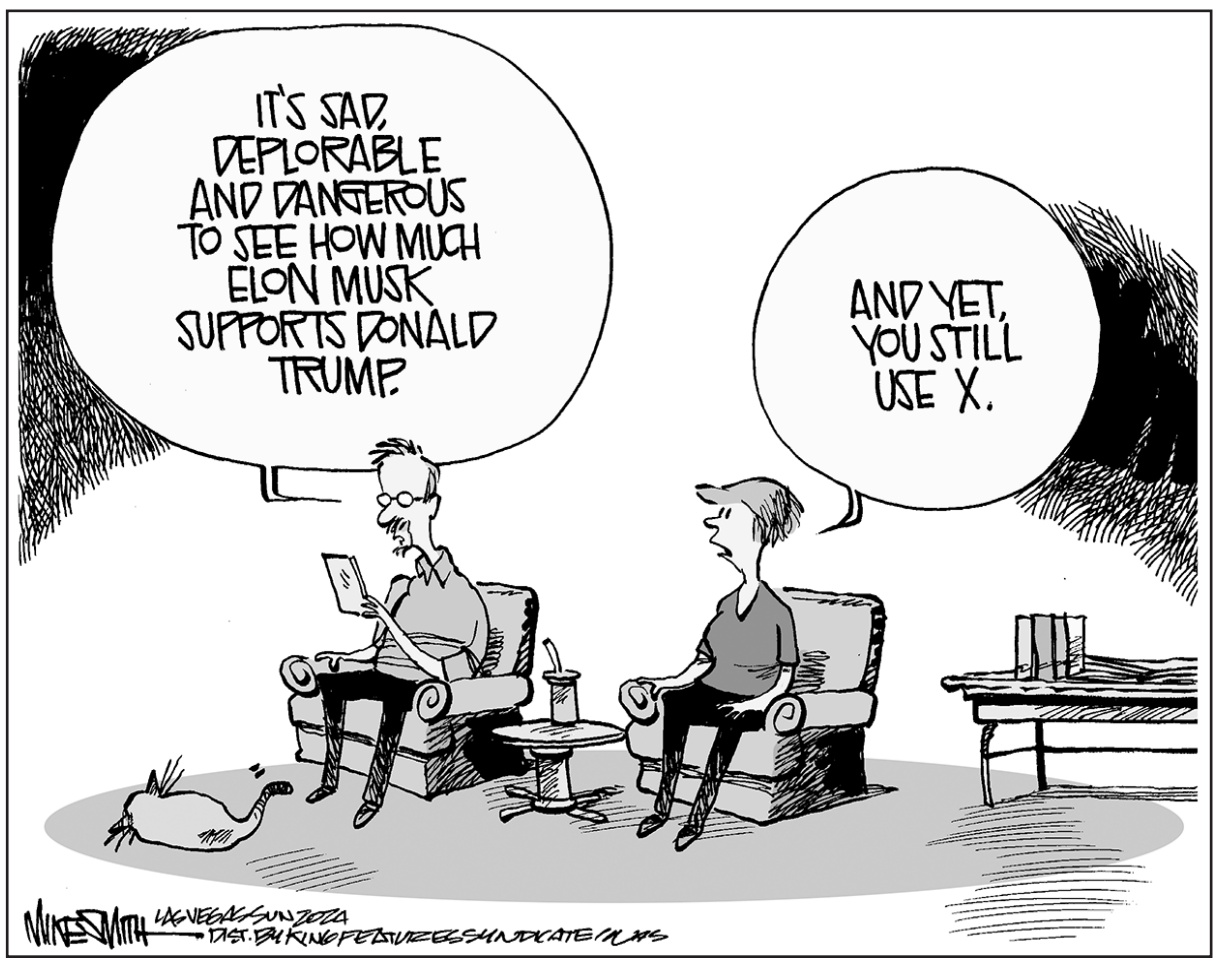
John Schaaf is a retired attorney and co-author of "The Hidden History of Kentucky Political Scandals" (The History Press, 2020). His email is John.Schaaf1975@gmail.com

Carter County Times

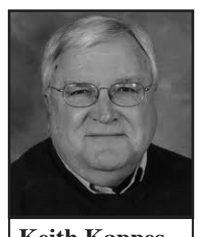
Members of the Editorial Board

Nicole Wells, publisher

Jeremy Wells, editor **Keith Kappes**, columnist



Rand Paul's billionaire buddy wants to buy your vote for Amendment 2



Keith Kappes
Columnist
Carter County Times

In case you didn't know, the multi-million-dollar television advertising campaign supporting the so-called "school choice" amendment on the November ballot is being single-handedly funded by Jeff Yass, a Pennsylvania billionaire and apparently a close political ally of Sen. Rand Paul.

Paul and his wife, Kelley, are featured in the TV ads but are delivering a false impression about their interest in Kentucky's K-12 schools. Their children went to public schools in Bowling Green and have moved on from high school. They will not be affected by whether Amendment 2 passes or fails on Nov. 5.

Our junior senator no doubt is shilling for Yass because the Republican megadonor has long bankrolled political action committees supporting him. Yass has long been a massive donor to PACs affiliated with Paul. In fact, he gave $5 million to a PAC that backed Paul's reelection in 2022.

The $5 million given by Yass in support of Amendment 2 was channeled through a national PAC called Protect Freedom which is closely aligned with Paul since it was formed by the senator and his rich friends in 2017.

Protect Freedom began running television ads in September in support of Amendment 2 which would change Kentucky's Constitution to allow the General Assembly to spend tax dollars for educating students at private schools.

As of last week, Protect Freedom had bought $4.1 million in ads promoting the amendment, according to Protect Our Schools, a watchdog group opposing the amendment that tracks advertising buys in the campaign.

Yass is said to be worth $44.3 billion and is America's second largest political donor, reportedly making $79.7 million in political contributions since Jan. 1, 2023, not including the $5 million he gave in September to Protect Freedom for the TV blitz in Kentucky.

Those of us opposing Amendment 2 can only hope the rich dude's political judgement is as keen this year as it was last year when he gave millions to various PACs backing Republican Daniel Cameron's failed campaign for governor.

Keith Kappes can be reached at keithkappes@gmail.com

Bullying prevention raises awareness helping kids and adults



Marie Garceau
Guest Columnist
Carter County Times

October is National Bullying Prevention Month, increasing awareness about bullying and prevention programs designed to help kids and adults. Anti-bullying campaigns help communities and individuals within them create supportive and safe schools, organizations, family units, and neighborhoods.

The local, state, and national bullying prevention programs, such as StopBullying.gov, also act as early interventions, helping those individuals struggling with substance use disorders or suicidal ideation as a result of bullying.

According to the PACER's National Bullying Prevention Center, one in five students report being bullied, but the actual number of bullying incidents can be far more significant. Roughly 41% of students who reported being bullied at school indicated that they think the bullying would happen again.

Anyone can be the victim of bullying. A poll conducted by the American Osteopathic Association found that 31% of Americans have been bullied as an adult. The most common reasons for being bullied reported included physical appearance, race, ethnicity, gender, disability, religion, and sexual orientation.

The effects of bullying are serious because it increases the risk of depression, anxiety, substance use, and even suicidal ideation. According to the National Center for Drug Abuse Statistics (NCDAS), 7% of 12 to 17-year-olds in Kentucky used drugs in the last month, along with over 137 thousand adults aged 18 to 25. Suicide is also the second leading cause of death among residents aged 10 to 34 in the state, per the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention.

While there are countless reasons why someone would use drugs or alcohol or struggle with suicidal ideation, bullying is often an underlying factor for many people. Fortunately, there are practical ways to help someone who is being bullied.

It is vital to know the signs of bullying. For example, you could see shifts in behavior, such as becoming more withdrawn. The person may lose self-esteem, become ill, or change eating or sleeping habits. Students may begin to lose interest in school, impacting their performance.

Self-destructive behavior is also typical, such as using drugs or alcohol or self-harm. Parents may see unexplained injuries or lost or destroyed property as a result of physical bullying. You may also notice the person has become anxious, stressed, and even depressed.

Additionally, kids or adults being bullied are not quick to talk about it. It's a good idea to listen to them, assure them you want to help, and let them know this is not their fault. Understand that it is painful for any-

See BULLYING on A-6

Policies

General

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

Circulation

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

Letters & Opinion

The Times welcomes all letters to the editor.

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

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

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

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

Deadlines

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

Networking from A-1

Whitt said that to put that into perspective, in June Kentucky Living gave out over 28,000 leads.

"That might not seem like a lot," Whitt told the chamber. "But I Googled today how much a lead would cost if you had to purchase it. It's $106 dollars per lead. And for someone promoting Grayson, that's a gold mine. We provided over three million dollars in leads just in June."

Whitt told the chamber that it would be difficult to go out and buy that number of leads as a tourism entity.

"Another thing is that every day we do a thing called 'Best of Kentucky.' We have been doing it for about 15 years and it involves the whole state," Whitt said adding examples. "So, in February, you can nominate your favorite hamburger, pizza, whatever you like by category. Then the top three vote getters go into the final, and after that you have all month to vote."

Votes are tabulated after that, he said, and the results are announced in August.

"Then in September in our fall travel issue we post all the winners and all the information about them," Whitt told the chamber.

"That's just a couple of the things we do at Kentucky Living Magazine to promote communities across the state because we are East, West, North, and South. So, when we say no one covers Kentucky better, we mean it."

Johnathan Lewis from Commercial Bank was also a guest speaker.

"This is something that is very near and dear to my heart," Lewis told the chamber. "Communicating about the successes of not only Commercial Bank, but all of the activities throughout our market area."

"Isn't it frustrating?" Lewis asked. "When you hear about something after it happens, and people ask why weren't you there? You hear about it too late to participate, and that is really frustrating."

Lewis gave the example of someone saying it was 'all over' a certain media another individual might not follow, and pointed out that this particular instance highlights why a marketing strategy is so crucial in bringing businesses together with their potential clients.

"There are different channels available as a business that you can utilize for free or at a very limited cost," Lewis said. "And this can be used to help your business with day-to-day operations and special events."

Both guest speakers pointed out new avenues to grow and improve business, which is the overall goal of the Chamber of Commerce. Regularly connecting its members with knowledgeable and insightful speakers, as well as offering an ongoing support network to the business community, helps the chamber to fulfill that goal.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

The City of Grayson will be holding a public auction on October 25th, 2024, at noon, at the City impound lot located at 591 East 5th Street, Grayson, Kentucky.

Preview of the vehicles will be by appointment only, beginning 72 hours before the day of sale. Vehicles are sold "as is", without title (unless indicated), all sales are final. The City of Grayson reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

YEAR	MAKE	MODEL	VIN
2008	Hyundai	Accent	KMHCN46C38U261209
2005	Dodge	Caravan	2D4GP44L95R462904
2004	Jeep	Grand Cherokee	1J4GW58N84C357841
2006	Pontiac	Torrent	2CKDL63FX66107660
1999	Oldsmobile	Alero	1G3NL52E1XC310587
2019	KYMC	K PIPE	LC2B3G084KC100115
2010	Ford	Fusion	3FAHPOHA1AR124345
2007	Chevrolet	Impala	2G1WB58K579405500
2007	GMC	Canyon	1GTCS199X78156718
2000	Buick	Lesabre	1G4HP54K8YU104601
2008	Chevrolet	Silverado	2GCEK19J581216461
2007	Ford	Explorer	1FMEU73E87UB65044

There is also a homemade trailer with a wench that will be sold.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the City of Olive Hill has filed an application with the Energy and Environment Cabinet to construct a sanitary sewer lift station adjacent to Tygart Creek. The property is located near 385 Chili Street in Olive Hill and approximately 40 feet from the creek. Any comments or objections concerning this application shall be directed to: Kentucky Division of Water, Surface Water Permit Branch, Flood Plain Management Section 300 Sower Boulevard Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. Phone: (502) 564-3410.

Looking to buy, sell or trade?

Having a yard sale?

Looking to hire or trying to find work?

Post it in the CLASSIFIEDS!

Contact advertise@cartercountytimes.com

Update from A-4

like Michigan, which has launched campaigns to attract talent through innovative marketing and strong regional branding. We must take these lessons to heart and work together to make Kentucky a top destination for skilled professionals.

One success story highlighted during the task force meeting was the Live in Lou initiative, a talent attraction campaign led by Greater Louisville Inc. The campaign targets key demographics, particularly individuals aged 25-54, by promoting Louisville as a destination to live and work. Through social media outreach, employer partnerships, and a focus on quality of life, the campaign has reached millions helping to fill critical workforce gaps in the Louisville area. This initiative demonstrates that in order to retain and attract talent, we must offer more than just jobs—we must offer a community where people want to live, raise families, and build their futures.

Finally, during the Interim Joint Committee on Judiciary, we took a deep dive into modernizing Kentucky's estate planning and guardianship laws. One of the key pieces of legislation under discussion was the Kentucky Qualified Dispositions in Trust Act, which provides much-needed protections for assets placed in irrevocable trusts. This act provides that when trusts are established in good faith, those assets are shielded from creditors, giving peace of mind to Kentuckians who want to plan for their families' futures. The Uniform Directed Trust Act was also a major topic of discussion. This act clarifies the roles of trustees and trust directors, allowing for more flexible trust management while delineating fiduciary responsibilities.

Another important proposal discussed was the Uniform Electronic Estate Planning Documents Act, which updates Kentucky's estate planning laws to reflect the realities of the digital age. The idea is that allowing for the creation and maintenance of non-testamentary documents—such as trusts and powers of attorney—in electronic form, will streamline the estate planning process and reduce the need for cumbersome paperwork. These updates will make it easier for Kentuckians to ensure their wishes are respected and their assets are protected.

As always, I encourage you to stay informed and reach out with any questions or concerns. Together, we will build a stronger, more prosperous Kentucky for future generations.

If I can assist you, feel free to email me at Robin.Webb@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.

Week in review: Workforce, education, and fire districts



Patrick Flannery
Representative
State of Kentucky

Lawmakers continued efforts to prepare for the upcoming session as eight legislative committees and task forces met to hear from stakeholders on issues ranging from the potential to establish a veterinary medicine school to how artificial intelligence can be used in education. Another way I am preparing for session is my legislative survey. This document includes basic information about the session and questions about how you as a constituent feel about the issues we may be considering and will mail in November. If you would like to receive a copy by mail or email, please reach out to me at 1-800-372-7181 or by emailing Patrick.Flannery@kylegislature.gov.

Now, for a brief summary of the week's interim joint committee (IJC), task force, and statutory committee meetings:

Workforce Attraction and Retention Task Force: Lawmakers met with stakeholders invested in Kentucky's workforce to discuss ways to improve retention rates across the state. The task force heard from Economic Leadership about the 'Talent Wars' and the increasing competition for skilled and motivated workers. Members also heard from the Greater LEX Talent Campaign on how to bring those skilled workers to Kentucky and how best to encourage them to stay. Live in Lou! testified about promoting Kentucky as an attractive place to start or advance a career. Lawmakers also heard from Kentucky State AFL-CIO and the Kentucky State Building and Construction Trades Council about the need for more access to vocational and trade schools across Kentucky.

Administrative Regulation Review Subcommittee: Legislators reviewed several administrative regulations and discussed two in-depth. One administrative regulation that discussed related to adding educational licensing requirements for behavioral health associates. The administrative regulation that garnered the most discussion concerned the air emissions fee. The proposed amendment to the current administrative regulation would remove the fee exemption for certain types of emissions/pollutants. Distillers use certain fire suppression systems that emit regulated chemicals, meaning they would be subject to an emissions fee, even though the systems are only regularly used for annual testing. The regulation was deferred until next month's meeting to give the parties involved an opportunity to come to a compromise.

Education Assessment and Accountability Review Subcommittee: Lawmakers heard from the Office of Educational Accountability (OEA). OEA presented an overview of their School District Governance Models and Interventions Report, which compares Kentucky's school district structure to structures across the nation. Members also approved OEA's 2025 Study Agenda.

IJC on Agriculture: Members received updates from the Kentucky Livestock Innovation Center. Its mission is to enhance Kentucky's agricultural capital through industry collaboration, field demonstrations, and training sessions. The Murray State Hutson School of Agriculture shared an update on their upcoming School of Veterinary Medicine and the Veterinary Sciences building along with what Kentucky Agriculture Water Quality Authority presented a fiscal report and additional information for members to review, including the Statewide Agriculture Water Quality Plan.

IJC on Appropriations and Revenue: Legislators met to receive an update on tax expenditures, the current process for the position compression study by the Kentucky Personnel Cabinet, and to discuss the structure of fire departments. Presenters from the cabinet recommended a tiered approach to address compression. They believe that their approach is the best way to address the employee compression issue by capturing those years that they didn't receive an annual increment. The committee also heard from local fire departments. Presenters proposed an initiative to increase the fire district tax rate. The current rate hasn't increased since 1944, when most fire departments in the Commonwealth were volunteer-based.

IJC on Education: Members discussed assessment and accountability data, artificial intelligence, and educator placement services in the state. The Kentucky Department of Education presented data from the assessment and accountability datasets released to the public on October 3 of this year. The Southern Regional Education Board presented on the organization's AI Commission. This commission, comprised of 68 members, is investigating the role of Artificial Intelligence in K-12 and postsecondary education. Finally, the Kentucky Department of Education discussed vacancy data for employment across school districts.

IJC on Judiciary: Lawmakers met to discuss uniform law proposals and Medicaid for the incarcerated, as well as to receive an update on guardianship law. Presenters discussed five different types of uniform law proposals: the Uniform Electronic Estate Planning Documents Act, Uniform Directed Trust Act, Uniform Trust Decanting Act, Uniform Electronic Wills Act, and Kentucky Qualified Dispositions Trust Act. Committee members heard from three different departments on Kentucky's opportunity to improve health care for incarcerated individuals and juvenile offenders. Finally, members discussed guardianship and conservatorship.

IJC on Natural Resources and Energy: Members received an update from the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority regarding a new program lawmakers created earlier this year to provide relief to financially struggling water and wastewater systems. The committee also discussed the issues facing the state's electric cooperatives and a report from the Public Service Commission on another legislative measure aimed at speeding up the delivery of broadband to Kentuckians in underserved and unserved areas.

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.

Bullying from A-5

one to speak up about this, but begin discussing what can be done.

Please encourage them to speak to someone, such as a teacher, co-worker, friend, counselor, or someone in a position of authority who could intervene and end the bullying.

Moreover, work to remedy the situation, get people involved, and follow up, as bullying does not stop immediately. The bully should also be informed that their behavior is wrong, harmful, and, in some instances, illegal; make it known that it will not be tolerated.

National Bullying Prevention Month raises awareness, but it is up to us to use these prevention techniques in the school, home, or workplace. No one should be a victim of bullying, and we can all work together to strengthen our communities with effective bullying awareness and prevention campaigns.

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.

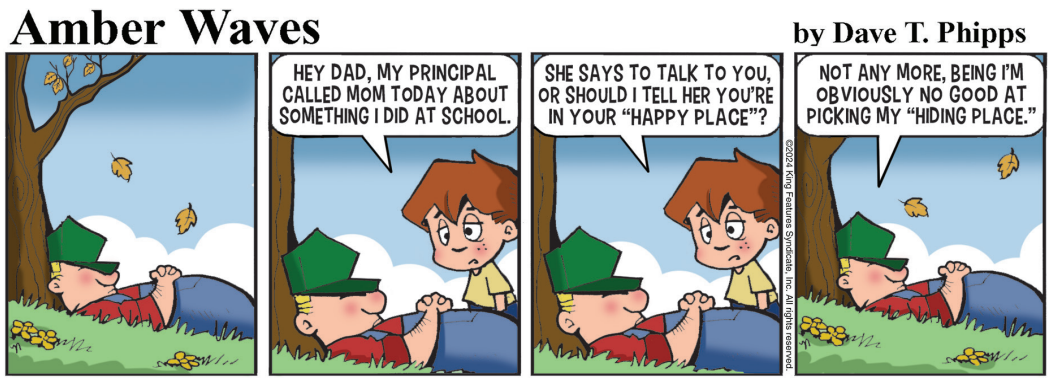
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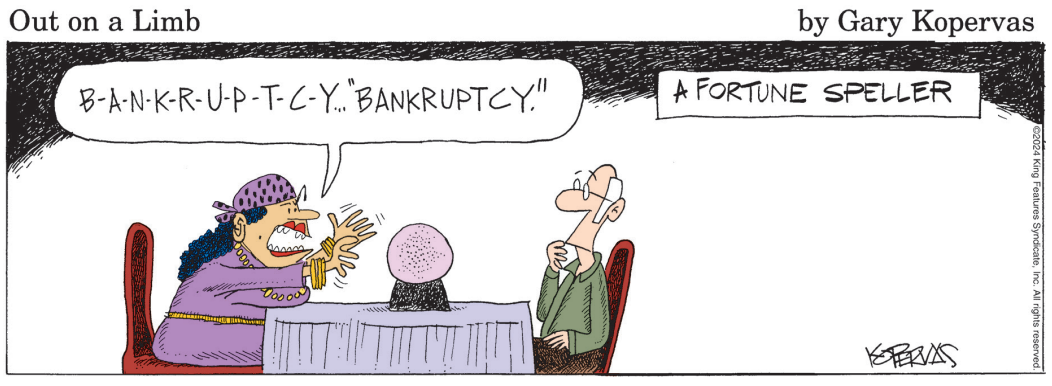
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



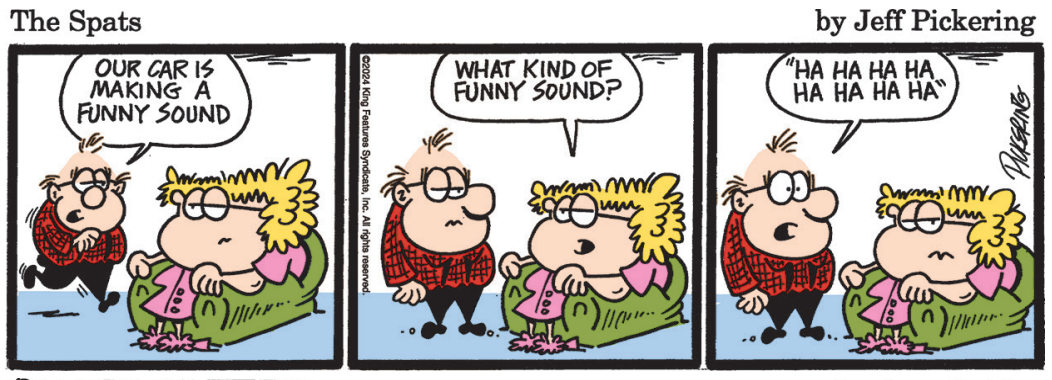
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



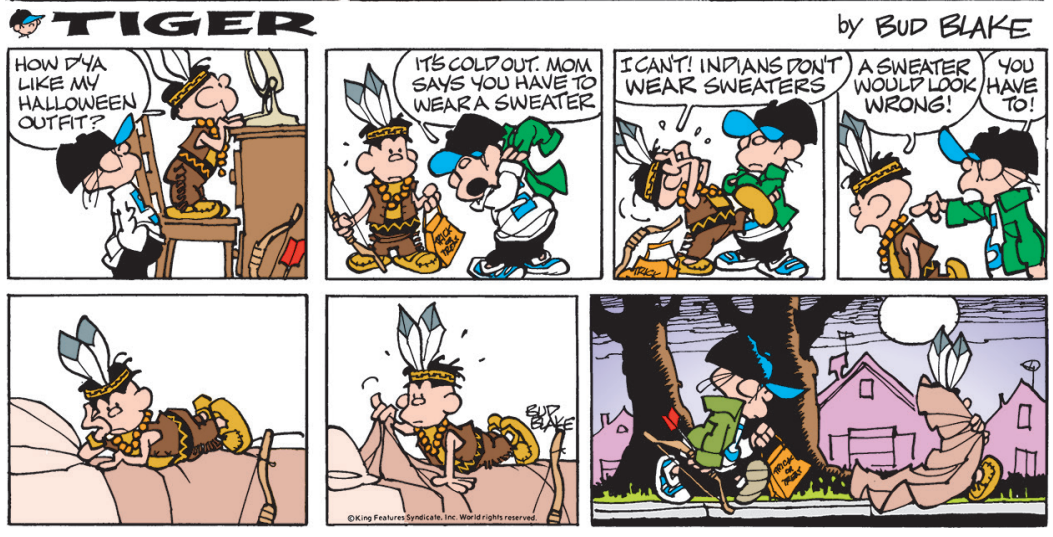
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



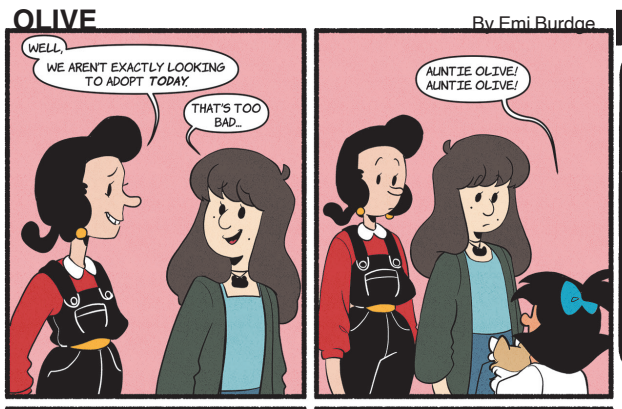
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



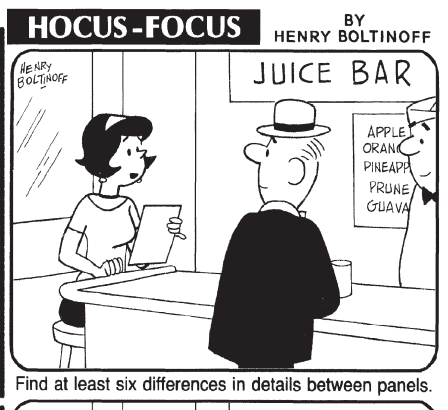
OLIVE

By Emi Burdge



HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Man is moved. 2. Tie is different. 3. Menu sign is different. 4. Hat is smaller. 5. Hair is different. 6. Stool is different.

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.

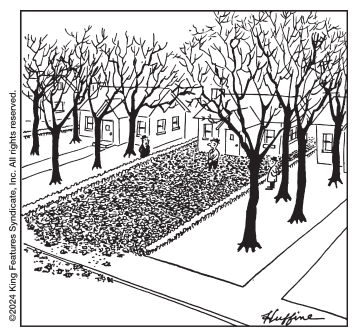
Clue: **C** equals **B**

RZRS GWPMIW CPGW CRYTGT PJ CMFQRS YFR UPZRFRQ LS QRSTR JMF, GWYG PSR LT GWR WYLFLRF UYFFLRF.

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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!



" Jones, over there, and I feel we owe you some sort of _ _ _ _ _ _ _."

Glance **DANGER**

Essay **SPORE**

Command **CORNLOT**

Crave **NEARY**

TODAY'S WORD

Even Exchange

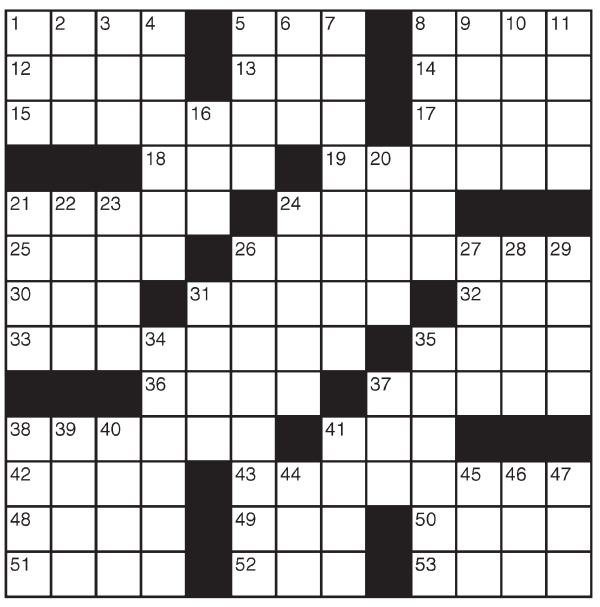
by Donna Pettman

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

1. Struthers or Sally	_ _ _ L _		Brackish	_ _ _ T _	
2. Circular	R _ _ _ _		Discovered	F _ _ _ _	
3. Law enforcement	_ _ _ _ _ E		Guiding principle	_ _ _ _ _ Y	
4. Two score	_ _ _ _ Y		Specialty	_ _ _ _ E	
5. Clamor	_ _ I _ _		Relating to Norway	_ _ R _ _	
6. "Jane Eyre" author	_ _ _ _ T _		Third place medal	_ _ _ _ Z _	
7. Country house	G _ _ _ _ _		Prominent Fall color	O _ _ _ _ _	
8. Gospel group	_ _ O _ _		Rocker or recliner	_ _ A _ _	
9. Crystal	_ _ A _ _		Luster	_ _ O _ _	
10. Ladle	_ I _ _ _ _		Debonair, like Dan	_ A _ _ _ _	

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King Crossword



ACROSS

1 Pop singer Celine
5 "It's c-c-cold!"
8 Cicatrix
12 Vicinity
13 Fib
14 Sharpen
15 Huge kudos
17 Assess
18 Blue
19 Shadowed
21 Pretended
24 Decorate
25 Rapscallions
26 Campus cafeteria offering
30 Carnival city
31 Long skirts
32 Oklahoma tribe
33 '80s arcade game
35 Castle defense
36 Eyeglass frames
37 Smooths, as wood
38 Source of gum arabic
41 Numerical prefix
42 Composer Bartok
43 Performance bonus
48 Japanese noodle
49 "Rocks"
50 Rights org.
51 Head, to Henri
52 Fine, at NASA
53 Detail

DOWN

1 River blocker
2 A Gershwin brother
3 British ref. work
4 Italian port
5 Huff and puff
6 Wardrobe malfunction
7 Check
8 Tempura
9 Furnace fuel
10 Pay to play
11 Clarinet insert
16 Scepter
20 Feels unwell
21 Mattress option
22 Writer Kingsley
23 Music genre for BTS
24 Plano's state
26 Abba-inspired musical
27 Lake bird
28 Slightly
29 Forget-me-not choice
31 1102, to Nero
34 Esoteric
35 Rum cocktail
37 Hindu honorific
38 Border on
39 Give up
40 Oodles
41 Arduous journey
44 Author Umberto
45 Agt.'s cut
46 Hearty brew
47 "Tasty!"

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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 BORED to BOUTS in 6 words? Change one letter for each rung in the ladder.

BORED

_____

_____

_____

_____

BOUTS

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. U.S. STATES: Which is the least populated state?
2. TELEVISION: Which character on "The Office" has a heart attack during a fire drill?
3. HISTORY: Why is Delaware's nickname The Diamond State?
4. LITERATURE: Which children's book features the characters Tweedledee and Tweedledum?
5. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of The Bahamas?
6. MOVIES: What is the name of the villain in "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre"?
7. SCIENCE: Which unit measures food energy?
8. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of swimming ducks called?
9. MUSIC: Where does the pop group name The Bee Gees come from?
10. PSYCHOLOGY: What irrational fear is represented in the condition called globophobia?

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Answers

1. A waddle
2. Wyoming
3. Thomas Jefferson said it was a "jewel" among states because of its strategic location
4. "Through the Looking-Glass"
5. Nassau
6. Leatherface
7. The calorie
8. A raft or a paddling
9. The Brothers Gibb
10. Fear of balloons

SCRAMBLERS
solution
1. Gander; 2. Prose; 3. Control; 4. Learn
Today's Word
APOLOGY

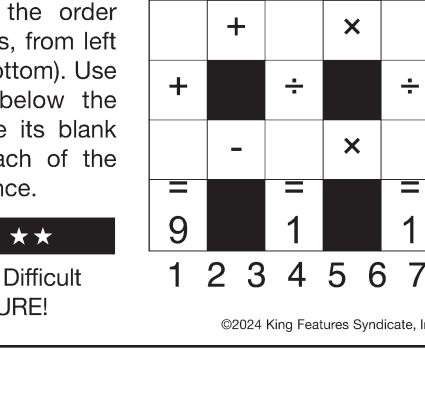
WORD LADDER
Answer
BORED, PORED, PORES, PORTS, POUTS, BOUTS

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

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

CryptoQuip
answer
Even though both beasts of burden are covered in dense fur, that one is the hairier carrier.

King Crossword
Answers



Solution time: 23 mins.

Go Figure!
answers

3	+	7	×	9	= 90			
-		-		-			=	
2	+	1	×	4	= 12		1	
+		÷		÷			=	
8	-	6	×	5	= 10		1	
=		=		=			=	
9		1		1				

Even Exchange
answers
1. Sally, Salty
2. Round, Found
3. Police, Policy
4. Forty, Forte
5. Noise, Norse
6. Bronte, Bronze
7. Grange, Orange
8. Choir, Chair
9. Glass, Gloss
10. Dipper, Dapper

Sensitivity from A-1

sitting on the couch and he was showing me videos of this (name removed) girl that was all over TikTok," his mother Patty explained. "She was all over everything. All over everything… and Conner was showing me all these little videos. Every so often he would show me."

She explained how in one particular video, the mother of the young girl discussed the bullying her daughter had endured, including videos the bullies had sent to the girl. Conner, who always stood up for the underdog according to his parents, couldn't understand why they would do such a thing. He also didn't understand how it could drive someone to take their own life. His mother, however, assured him that some people could be driven to desperation by such cruelty.

Conner was never bullied, according to his parents; quite the opposite in fact. He was a popular young man – tall and athletic and outgoing – and was known for taking up for others. If someone like Conner, a happy young man whose life was untouched by tragedy, could become so fascinated with a subject that he would engage in risky activities to try to understand it, they worry others could too.

That's one of the driving reasons behind their repeated requests to have Sparks amend the cause of death on the certificate.

Sparks explained that coroners are "compelled to do three things" when filling out a death certificate. Those things include determining the time of death, the manner of death (e.g. homicide, suicide, accident, or natural causes), and the cause of death.

According to the family – who do not dispute the time or manner of death listed on the certificate – asphyxia should be sufficient for the cause. The details of how that asphyxia occurred, while relevant to determining the manner of death and the full report, are not necessary for the death certificate. They said they've talked to other medical examiners, coroners, and funeral directors and were told that not only could Conner's death have been ruled accidental, but that the coroner wasn't required to include the details of how the asphyxiation occurred.

They claim that Sparks himself even acknowledged that in a phone call, but that he would not change the listed cause of death, except to append asphyxiation to the detailed description noted by his deputy.

Sparks said he was sympathetic to the family's hurt, but that he stood behind his deputy's report and would not make any further changes than the addition of asphyxia to the detailed description.

"It's super tragic," Sparks said, adding that the "mother was very emotional," so his deputy, Ronnie Wallace, "got a statement from the boy's father." (The family notes that because of their wait time, Patty was transported to the hospital before he arrived on scene.)

Sparks said they waited for the medical examiner's finding before filling out the death certificate, and then they made an initial set of changes after it was pointed out to them they had the mother's maiden name on the certificate instead of her married name. But he said they won't be making the changes to the details as requested.

"Asphyxia is not a cause of death," Sparks said.

Because of the family's insistence, he said he would change it from the detailed description to, "asphyxia due to (detailed description)."

"I called the medical examiner and told him we have a distraught family, caught in the anger stage of grief," he said. "He had no problem with asphyxia on the first line."

Sparks said he had sent that amended copy to the family the day before our September conversation. However, the family said they still have not seen the amended copy, and that they would not be satisfied with any amendment that still included details.

They said that the insensitivity they feel Sparks continues to exhibit is just a continuation of the insensitivity displayed by his deputy on the night of their son's death. This included failing to show up for more than an hour after being contacted, failing to get accurate statements, and making gross assumptions about the nature of the family and the situation surrounding the death.

For instance, they said the first report they saw included erroneous details surrounding the death (which we will not repeat) that can be confirmed by security camera according to the family. While Sparks said this was not reflected in the final report, he said detectives had been asked to retrieve the video.

"I've read Ronnie's report," Sparks said, stating that it didn't include the information the family claimed it did. "But that's not going to change anything (about the listed cause)."

Sparks then confirmed that they "don't have any evidence of (the detail in question)."

The family said they also initially had information in the report that the parents were separated, which they felt insinuated there were problems at home. Sparks acknowledged that this, along with the mother's maiden name being listed, were "two mistakes" that were in the initial notes, but that otherwise he stood behind the work, and that none of those details were in the report, "because evidently that was wrong information," which he said he believed came from a deputy sheriff on the scene. He said none of those details were relevant to the information on the death certificate, however, and that he felt the family were still processing their grief.

"I've seen this before," Sparks said. "We feel bad. It's a tragedy. And we don't want to antagonize the family any more than we have to, because (this type of death) is already difficult."

The family, however, said Sparks and Wallace have been antagonistic, uncooperative, and unsympathetic from the outset, and continue to dismiss their legitimate concerns and heartfelt requests for sensitivity.

They aren't the only family to issue complaints about Sparks office, either.

After hearing the Staffords' complaints, Treyleigh Howard shared her family's experiences with the coroner. When her uncle passed, she said the coroner was dismissive of the family, treated her uncle's body roughly, and held the body for six weeks – delaying their ability to hold a memorial service. She said that while the death certificate listed the cause of death as an overdose, he had no heroin in his system.

Sparks, however, noted that the toxicology report did indicate that Howard's uncle, Doug Evans, had methamphetamine in his system. Despite this finding, the family weren't convinced overdose was the cause of death. They said there were many other people in the home at the time of Evans' death, and that the scene was not properly secured. They also said they couldn't be sure foul play wasn't involved. Because of this, they asked for an independent autopsy, but said they were denied.

"Whenever George Sparks had to come out to do his job, he was just very unprofessional," Howard said. "A complete lack of compassion, and then wouldn't even allow us to have an autopsy, even after we offered to pay for it numerous times."

Independent autopsies are allowed by Kentucky law, but they must be paid for by the family. It is not necessarily the role of the coroner to provide families with contact information or details of how to schedule an autopsy. According to funeral directors contacted for this story, it is a service typically coordinated by the family's funeral director, who may also offer assistance with transport services.

But while the Staffords, like the Howards, allege that Sparks is "unprofessional" and lacks compassion, their biggest concern is still more related to the potential for copycats. They said they've learned about recent lawsuits alleging TikTok feeds "addictive" content to teens to keep them engaged and they agree it's a problem. Especially for young people who don't completely understand the consequences of all their actions.

But, they said, TikTok isn't the only way information is spread among young people. That's why they want the coroner to do what they feel is the responsible thing, and allow the family to keep the specific details of their son's death private.

Contact the writer at editor@cartercountytimes.com



