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Carter County Times

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CARTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2024

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Tourism theft tops \$21,000

Documents show Stewart used county funds for dining, clothing, manicures, and more

By: Jeremy D. Wells
Carter County Times

Former Carter County Tourism treasurer Renee Stewart was indicted in August on charges of theft by unlawful taking of more than \$10,000.00, a Class C Felony.

However the full extent of Stewart's alleged embezzle-

ment has now been revealed in the Commonwealth's answer to discovery order from Stewart's attorney. That accounting shows that Stewart reportedly used the tourism debit card to withdraw more than \$14,700 in cash, including ATM fees, which account for the lion's share of lost funds.

She allegedly spent another \$2,800 plus on grocery and department store purchases for personal use, more than \$650 on clothing, \$234 on dining out (including DoorDash fast food delivery), \$207 on gas, and \$545 on digital purchases through Apple. Purchases from other vendors in the accounting included \$380 spent at Walgreens, \$340 at Dollar General, and \$485 on items labeled miscellaneous – including \$117 for fingernails

and multiple Venmo payments. "Questionable items," amounting to \$316 of purchases, included items from Hobby Lobby and Rural King.

Though the discovery documents do not explicitly explain what a questionable item is, given the vendors involved it's probable that these are items that could have potentially been legitimate purchases for tourism events.

Receipts also show that Stewart used the tourism account to pay \$800 of her personal utility bills, including payments to KY Power and the City of Grayson.

In total, Stewart's alleged misuse comes to \$21,494.84 of unapproved and personal purchases.

When first approached by
See THEFT on A-8



Renee Stewart (submitted photo)

Trump takes Carter County

Locals embrace medical marijuana

By: Jeremy D. Wells
Carter County Times

Based on available results at press time Carter County voters overwhelmingly cast their ballots for Donald Trump in this year's federal election. Trump received 8,981 votes to Harris 2,305. Following behind the major party candidates, Jill Stein on the Kentucky Party ticket (Stein runs as a Green Party candidate in other states) received 22 votes, Libertarian candidate Chase Oliver received 24, while Independent candidates Robert Kennedy Jr. took 81 vote and Shiva Ayyadurai 4.

In non-partisan races Michael

Sammons was elected to the Carter County School Board in the first district with 43 percent of the vote and 744 votes. Rachel Fankell received 692 votes and Melissa Carter 302 votes. In the third district the new board member will be Brooke Holley with 992 votes to opponent Michael Burnett's 792. In the fourth district Patrick Ferry ran unopposed, receiving 1,129 votes.

In the race for Grayson City Council, new council members Tersa Griffith and Willis Johnson will join incumbents Jennifer McGlone, Bradley Cotten, Sudy Walker, and Dustin Burchett. Former interim council member Johnson received 434 votes. Incumbent council member Terry Stamper took 419 votes, McGlone 509, Cotten 590, Walker 450, Michael Harper 420 and Burchett 560. Newcomer Jason

See ELECTION on A-8



Carter County Clerk Mike Johnston greets poll workers delivering votes to the courthouse on Tuesday evening. (Photo by Jeremy D. Wells, Carter County Times)

Buck Road neighbors continue feud

Resident contesting removal of road ejected from meeting

By: Charles Romans
Carter County Times

The Carter County fiscal court convened a hearing to discuss the removal of Buck Road (CR 1617H, length 0.11 miles) from county maintenance last Wednesday (October 30, 2024). During the hearing landowners of property along the road in question were allowed three to five minutes to express their opinions on whether or not the road should be removed. The first resident to address the court was Jamie Lou Rodkey, who began by reading a statement from her husband who she said was not allowed to be at the meeting.



Carter County fiscal court hears prepared statements from Corey and Jamie Rodkey. (Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

"My name is Corey Rodkey, and my wife and I adamantly oppose the removal of Buck Road from the county road maintenance schedule," Rodkey read from her husband's statement.

The statement addressed the fact that the Rodkeys paid taxes and that they deserved to have good road conditions when they called emergency services.

"Our neighbor, however, is

of the opinion that Buck Road should be dissolved because she does not like the shape or path of the road, including its turnaround, which she herself has blocked with green fence stakes, tree limbs, and yard waste," Rodkey noted.

"Those reasons are not enough to risk our health, safety, and welfare for ourselves, ex-

See FEUD on A-3

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.

- Kalo Price, 41, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of theft of identity of another without consent, third degree fleeing or evading police, possession of drug paraphernalia, first degree possession of a controlled substance (heroin) second offense, contempt of court – libel/slander – resistance

to order, non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, and failure to appear, arrested and booked October 29.

- Nathan Boatman, 44, of Morehead, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear, arrested and booked October 30.

- Victoria Willis, 56, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of first degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), arrested and booked October 30.

- Jeffery Willis, 55, of Granville, OH, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on a charge of operating

a motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance, arrested and booked October 31.

- Chadwick Hall, 40, of Bellefonte, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on a charge of first degree criminal abuse of a child 12 or under, first degree criminal abuse, and two counts of failure to appear, arrested and booked November 2.

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.

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This Week's Obituaries

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LIFESTYLE



A slow cooker Mississippi pot roast: Your holiday gift to yourself

As the holiday season approaches, finding time for homemade meals becomes more challenging. That's why this Slow Cooker Mississippi Pot Roast is not just a meal, it's a gift to your future self. Make a double batch, enjoy half now and freeze the rest for one of those crazy-busy days ahead.

This clean version of the classic pot roast skips the usual processed flavoring packets, using whole food options instead. With just 20 minutes preparation, you can have this roast simmering in the slow cooker, leaving you with a savory, fall-apart meal that's perfect over mashed pota-

toes with a side of green beans or salad.

SLOW COOKER MISSISSIPPI POT ROAST

Yield: 6-8 servings
Total Time: 8 hours, 20 minutes

- 2 tablespoons cooking oil
- 3-4 pounds boneless beef chuck roast
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/4 cup butter
- 1 cup yellow onion, coarsely chopped
- 3 tablespoons all-purpose flour
- 1/2 cup water
- 1 tablespoon Better than Bouillon Beef Base
- 1/2 cup liquid from a jar of pepperoncini
- 1/2 cup sliced or 5 whole pepperoncini

Ranch Herb Blend:

- 1 tablespoon dried parsley
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 2 teaspoons dried chives
- 2 teaspoons dried dill weed
- 1 teaspoon onion powder

Heat the oil in a skillet over medium heat. Season the beef with salt and pepper. Add the beef to the hot skillet and sear until golden brown and lightly crusted on both sides, about 5

minutes per side. Transfer the seared beef to a 5- or 6-quart slow cooker. Leave the skillet over the heat.

Reduce the heat to medium-low and add butter to the skillet. Once melted, add onions and cook, stirring, until soft, about 4 minutes. Stir in the flour and cook for 1 minute. Meanwhile heat 1/2 cup water and dissolve the beef base in the water. Add the water and 1/2 cup pepperoncini liquid to the skillet, scraping up the browned bits. This mixture will quickly thicken into a lovely, velvety sauce. Pour this sauce over the roast in the slow cooker. On top of the roast and sauce, evenly distribute the pepperoncini, and sprinkle the ranch herb blend.

Cover and cook on LOW for 8 hours or 4 hours on HIGH or until the beef is tender and easily shredded.

After cooking, transfer the beef to a cutting board and rest it for 5 minutes. Next, shred with a fork. Serve with the cooking liquid drizzled over the top, alongside mashed potatoes, green beans and/or a green salad.

For Oven Roast Mississippi Pot Roast: Preheat oven to 275 F. In a Dutch oven, heat oil and sear roast. Remove roast, cook onions in butter, then stir in flour.



A go-to comfort meal that's perfect for busy days and holiday prep. (Photo credit: www.JasonCoblentz.com)

Add water and pepperoncini juice and stir to combine. Return roast and add pepperoncini and Ranch Herb Blend. Cover and cook for 5-6 hours. Shred beef and serve with juices.

Freezer Instructions: Cool ingredients completely, then transfer to a freezer-safe container. Freeze for up to 6 months. Thaw overnight and reheat as desired.

If you're lucky enough to have leftovers, you're in for a treat! This makes the most delicious sandwiches. You've heard of French Dip? Meet Mississippi Dippi! Serve shredded meat on buttered, toasted ciabatta rolls

spread with mayonnaise and top with sliced provolone cheese melted under the broiler. Dip the sandwiches in the remaining jus from the crock pot thinned with beef broth if desired.

With this meal prepped and ready, you'll have one less thing to worry about during the busy holiday season

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

Jesus is the truth

By: Pastor Naomi Mitchell
for Carter County Times

There are a whole lot of untruths flooding the airways today. They are pouring out from every outlet in social media to an extent that it is frightening. Many people are gullible and will believe anything they hear. If you are confused and you don't know who and what to believe, then I have good news for you!

In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE. No one comes to the Father except through me." Truth means that which is true,

pure from all error or falsehood. I want to know the truth like that. A word or promise you can depend on.

Deuteronomy 32:4 states that, "He is the Rock, His work is perfect; for all His ways are judgment; a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He." This is powerful. Proverbs 12:19 says, "The lips of truth shall be established for ever; but a lying tongue is but for a moment." In Jeremiah 4:2 it says, "And thou shalt swear, the Lord liveth, in truth, in judgment and in righteousness; and the nations shall bless

themselves in Him, and in Him shall they glory."

The United States of America needs to experience this revelation and start glorifying the Lord. John 1:14 reads, "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld his glory as of the only begotten of the Father full of grace and truth." Romans 1:18 says, "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness."

This truth from God's Word is telling us plainly that GOD CAN NOT LIE

as stated in Numbers 23:19 that, "God is not man, that He should lie, nor the son of man, that He should change his mind. Has He said, and will He not do it? Or has He spoken, and will He not fulfill it?" Titus 1:2 tells us that, "In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies, promised before the ages began."

No matter what you are facing and can't seem to get it together the scriptures tell us that even when we are faithless, he remains faithful for he cannot deny himself (2 Timothy 2:13). Why? Because He is TRUTH and cannot lie.

John 8:44 is very plain

about who is not telling the "truth." It says, "You are of your father the devil, and your will is to do your father's desires. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies. Lies have a father. That father's name is 'devil'."

Romans 3:4 boldly tells us, "By no means! Let God be true though everyone were a liar, as it is written, that you may be justified in your words, and prevail when you are judged." Which is summed up in Psalm 119:160, "The

sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever." Praise God! You can depend on His WORD and His PROMISES. They do not fail for Jesus is the Truth. AMEN. SO BE IT.

JOYFUL House of Prayer, 2519 Quicksand Road, (P.O. Box 856), Jackson, Kentucky 41339. Send Comments/Prayer Requests: Pastornaomi4god@gmail.com. FB: JoyfulHoprayer. Services: 10 a.m. Sunday and 6:30p.m. Thursdays. Radio Broadcast: WJSN 97.3 FM & WEKG 81.0 AM Sundays 1-2pm.



Extension Notes

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

Bird feeding

Fall is the time many of us start to think about feeding the birds. While some folks provide birds with food all year, others only feed during the colder, food-scarce months. For many people, watching birds through their

jays, tufted titmice, finches and chickadees love it.



Rebecca Konopka
Carter County Extension Agent

The seed is high in fat, fiber and protein. It's more expensive than sunflower, but you'll get more bang for your buck, because the squirrels won't be gobbling it up.

Goldfinches love thistle or nyjer seed. Because it is so small, it requires a special finch feeder. These are usually clear tubes with small holes and perches. Some come with the perches above the holes, which discourages other small birds from eating the seed. It's also fun to watch finches feed using their unique ability to hang upside down.

Suet is animal fat and a good source of protein. It's usually hung in cages. Suet will attract many birds, but woodpeckers, in particular, love a good suet cake, and with their striking plumage, are a welcome visitor to the winter garden. Seed mixes, found anywhere seed is sold, are often popular with beginning birders. They're often the least expensive choice and attract many different birds. But be aware that they can cause quite a mess, because birds scatter the seed looking for the type they prefer.

Different birds prefer different foods, so if you want to attract a variety of birds, provide a variety of seeds. Black oil sunflower seed is a favorite of many bird species, including cardinals, blue jays, chickadees, finches, nuthatches and sparrows. If you're new to feeding the birds, this is a good seed to start with. It's inexpensive and available everywhere, from grocery stores to feeder supply outlets.

If you want to dissuade squirrels from plundering your feeders, safflower is a good seed for that. Squirrels will not eat safflower, but cardinals, mourning doves, woodpeckers, blue

types of food, too, such as pieces of apples and oranges, peanuts, peanut butter and cracked corn. Though if you don't want squirrels, you might want to avoid these.

There are many styles of feeders and the choice often depends on the type of seed you're offering and the birds you want to attract. House or hopper feeders are good, all-purpose feeders that usually have walls, a platform and a roof to keep the rain off. Platform or tray feeders are ideal for ground-feeding birds, such as grosbeaks, cardinals and mourning doves, and are good ways to lay out a buffet of fruit and nuts. Squirrels, however, will find it very easy to feed from tray feeders, but if you use safflower in them, squirrels will move on.

Birds also love other

If you live in an apartment or townhouse, there are feeders available that adhere to the outside of your windows or attach to a balcony. Squirrel-proof feeders are widely available, but keep in mind that squirrels are smart creatures, and they can usually think their way around most obstacles we humans set for them. But that can be fun to watch, too.

You will attract more birds by using more than one feeder and placing them in different areas of your yard. It's a good idea to position feeders near a tree or shrub, so birds have nearby cover in the

Week ending 11/2/24

Kentucky Dept of Agriculture Livestock and Grain Market Report

Compared to last week steers and heifers sold mostly steady to 4.00 higher with moderate to good demand. Yearlings were steady to 2.00 higher with good demand. Buyers were active and willing to pay premiums for weaned and pre-conditioned packages. Slaughter cows and bulls sold steady to 4.00 lower with moderate to good demand.

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

Week ending 11/2/24

STATE AVERAGES			
	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
Steers (M&L 1-2)			
350-400 lbs	306.20	306.64	255.38
400-450 lbs	289.39	295.77	259.11
450-500 lbs	281.74	286.47	250.15
500-550 lbs	269.59	271.04	243.40
550-600 lbs	265.90	269.43	241.17
600-650 lbs	253.81	253.55	235.89
650-700 lbs	248.74	247.94	229.99
700-750 lbs	240.92	238.17	226.01
750-800 lbs	236.38	239.78	230.03
800-850 lbs	232.59	238.32	217.01
850-900 lbs	240.81	235.15	219.50
Heifers (M&L 1-2)			
300-350 lbs	263.23	262.30	223.39
350-400 lbs	255.74	260.94	219.83
400-450 lbs	250.10	251.00	222.33
450-500 lbs	242.25	246.42	219.25
500-550 lbs	239.01	239.58	212.68
550-600 lbs	234.81	233.56	209.25
600-650 lbs	227.20	232.07	202.43
650-700 lbs	219.59	222.56	194.68
700-750 lbs	212.09	207.70	187.65
750-800 lbs	209.32	208.60	196.69

WEEKLY COW SUMMARY			
	Average	High	Low
Slaughter Cows			
Breakers	110.00-134.00	120.00-140.00	101.00-122.00
Boners	103.00-135.00	120.00-157.00	84.00-122.00
Lean	88.00-129.00	103.00-142.00	64.00-117.00
Slaughter Bulls			
Yield Grade 1&2	130.00-161.00	150.00-184.00	100.00-151.00

Oct 24, 2024 Bowling Green, KY
SLAUGHTER GOATS: 163
Kids: Selection 1 60 lbs 300.00; 74 lbs 252.50. **Selection 2** 54 lbs 270.00; 70 lbs 260.00. **Selection 2-3** 46 lbs 212.50.
SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 633
Hair Breeds-Choice & Prime 1-2 53-59 lbs 282.50-305.00; 65-68 lbs 257.50-272.50; 76 lbs 252.50-265.00; 86-88 lbs 232.50-265.00; 118 lbs 205.00.
Choice 2 56 lbs 277.50-280.00; 66 lbs 267.50; 75 lbs 240.00; 88 lbs 220.00.
Wooled-Choice 2 48 lbs 235.00; 60 lbs 200.00; 91 lbs 245.00.

Week ending 11/2/24			
	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
GRAINS			
Corn	3.70-4.29	3.58-4.37	4.15-4.69
Soybeans	8.80-10.14	8.70-10.38	11.88-13.37
Red Winter Wheat	4.84-5.19	4.94-5.28	5.28-6.03

See BIRDS on A-3

■ **Feud** from A-1

tended family, and loved ones,” the statement continued. “We have health issues and deserve to have snow cleared and potholes fixed so that we can get to a hospital if necessary.”

The statement went on to say that Corey Rodkey had been present at the August fiscal court meeting and voiced the opinion of himself and his wife.

“But in the October meeting our neighbor gave a ten-minute rant which was full of lies, full of slander, and was not on topic at all about the removing of Buck Road from the county maintenance schedule,” Rodkey’s statement read.

In the statement, Rodkey also quoted comments on ordinances from the September fiscal court meeting listing the requirements per ordinance that any county road that dead ends must have a turnaround. Rodkey’s statement proposed ‘in the spirit of cooperation’ an alternative solution of having the turnaround be set at the end of the Rodkey’s lower driveway. The Rodkeys stated that it was already being used as such, with half on their property and half on the neighbor’s property. The statement asked the court to clearly mark and maintain that turnaround for the good of all neighbors.

“I don’t like bullies either,” the statement con-

tinued. “We’re not the bullies. We are the ones being bullied. We have reviewed both the September and October videos of these meetings and can’t go ten words at a time without our neighbor identifying another lie. Whoever lies best should not be allowed to win any argument. We however have come armed with truth on every one of the lies stated, if we be given the same platform and red carpet or audience that she enjoyed.”

In that vein, the statement accused Cynthia Anderson, after her return from Florida in late July of 2024, of habitually calling law enforcement at least ten times, blaming the Rodkey’s for, “all her problems.”

According to the statement, all law enforcement reports were deemed unsubstantiated. The same statement included the Rodkey’s belief that they were being bullied by law enforcement on the neighbor’s behalf.

“She has spread her lies to so many law enforcement entities that when we call for legitimate complaints, with which we try to show evidence, we get denied service,” the statement said. “We don’t get to file reports on harassment, stalking, and voyeurism, as evidenced by the October 14 meeting video.”

In his read statement, Rodkey accused the fiscal

court of giving Anderson a platform to dispense lies and slander that had nothing to do with the removal of the road issue. The statement also accused the Carter County Times of abuse and slander on behalf of the Andersons.

“Yes, she has taken me to court on trumped up charges,” the statement read, accusing Anderson of attempting to win her case in the court of public opinion. The statement then reiterated the position that the Rodkeys were not the bullies, but rather those being bullied.

“Ms. Anderson saw that she had an audience October 14 that included community leaders, the county sheriff, county prosecutor, and local newspaper reporter and took opportunity to spew her venom. But that does not make anything she said during the October meeting true,” Rodkey’s statement explained.

The statement directly accused both Anderson and the reporter from the Carter County Times of slander, libel, and defamation of character. The statement continued, denying accusations of assault or harassment on the part of either Rodkey. It also demanded an apology from both the Andersons and the Carter County Times.

Following this reading, Jamie Lou Rodkey read from her own prepared

statement. In that statement Rodkey offered pictures and videos she said disproved the accusations from her neighbor. Her statement also included accusations of slander by the fiscal court and the Carter County Times, and calling the court hypocritical for opening the meeting with prayer and allowing “slander.”

The reading of statements from both of the Rodkeys exceeded the three to five minutes allowed by the court, coming in at more than 20 minutes in total length, and Rodkey was reminded multiple times that she was exceeding her allotted time. After continuing to speak over multiple admonitions that she had exceeded her limit of speaking time, Rodkey became insulting to the court and the newspaper reporter, began using profanities, and was ejected from the meeting.

(Editor’s note: Our original story on the Buck Road dispute did not identify either Corey Rodkey or Jamie Rodkey by name, and only reported on the statements made by Cynthia Anderson during an open public meeting. Our reporter has further stated that his efforts to offer the Rodkeys a chance to respond were also rejected.)

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Shoring up the banks

Fiscal court discusses erosion issues

By: Charles Romans
Carter County Times

The Carter County fiscal court held a special session last Wednesday to conduct regular business and discuss pressing issues with erosion along Wright’s Branch. Other items on the agenda included the clerk’s quarterly report, claims, transfers, and discussion of Wright’s Branch.

The meeting opened with the clerk presenting the quarterly report to the court, and the court voting unanimously to accept the report as presented. The court also voted unanimously to accept the claims as presented.

There were no transfers that needed to be approved during the special session. The court then opened discussion on Wright’s Branch.

“We had put a bridge in on Pennington Road,” Judge Executive Brandon Burton told the court. But, he continued, “the water that is coming through Wright’s Branch Creek is eroding into Gary Jackson’s property.”

“We have put rock in there, which is what state inspectors wanted us to do,” Burton said, explaining the issue. “But Gary says that is still trying to slip out. He’s wanting us to go probably a hundred feet, strengthen that rock and wall, and probably add some more rock.”

Burton said that he and road department head Jason Carroll have looked at the area, and the approx-

imate cost for the project would be around \$3,000.

“It is off county right of way,” Burton told the court. “Our bridge is turning (the water), water is flowing into that, and flooding could cause some damage, so I see his concerns.”

“If its doing damage, we need to fix it,” Magistrate Harley Rayburn told the court.

His sentiments were echoed by Magistrate Millard Cordle.

“The way the bridge is turned and the way the creek flows, it is causing some slippage there,” Burton confirmed. “But I want the court’s approval to be able to fix that. Contractors will be \$130 per hour, at about eight hours.”

He said that the county would have to hire contractors to do the job, because it’s beyond the limits of

the county’s equipment to address.

“We could do it,” Burton explained, noting the county crew has the expertise. “But we can’t lace the rock because we can’t get out on it.”

The limit, Burton said, is due to the county excavator not having the necessary reach to do the repairs properly.

After confirming contractor costs and the fact that the county would be furnishing the rock for the repair project, magistrate Cordle said that he believed the price was fair if the rest of the court agreed. Cordle made the motion to approve the repairs, seconded by Rayburn, and unanimously approved by the court.

There was no executive session required at the special meeting. Minutes of the meeting were read and approved unanimously.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

■ **Birds** from A-2

event a predator appears. On that note, we do not recommend feeding birds, if there are any outdoor or feral cats in the area. Cats are a major driver in the decline of songbirds and will kill upwards of a billion birds a year.

Clean your feeders once a month. Dirty feeders can promote mold and bacterial growth, which can infect birds and spread disease among neighborhood flocks. Goldfinches are particularly discerning when it comes to a clean feeder. Once a thistle feeder becomes damp and moldy inside, the birds will

avoid it. A dirty feeder’s foul smell can also attract wildlife you might not want, such as insects, mice or rats. Clean with a solution of one-part bleach to nine-parts hot water. You could also use a mild solution of unscented dish soap.

Once you start feeding the birds, it’s a good idea to continue doing it regularly throughout winter. Birds need more calories to sustain them through those cold winter nights, so they will depend on your generosity.

Look for sales. Buying in bulk or stocking up

during sales is a good way to save money. Make sure you store your supply in a cool, dry place.

For more information about attracting wildlife to your yard, 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 iden-

tity, gender expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

Upcoming Events

- Extension District Board Meeting – Tuesday, November 12th at 10:00 AM
- Northeast Area Livestock Meeting – Tuesday, November 19th @ 6:00 PM; Topic – Understanding Seed Tags; Speaker: Dr. Jimmy Henning, UK Forage Specialist

CALENDAR

- **11/7: Carter County Library Board @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **11/9: Olive Hill Farmer’s Market @ 8 a.m.** | Save-A-Lot parking lot
- **11/11: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 606-474-6686
- **11/11: Homeschool group meeting @ 12 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **11/11: Game Night @ 5 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **11/11: Carter County Fiscal Court @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Courthouse
- **11/12: Extension District Board meeting @ 10 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Office
- **11/12: Grayson Area Chamber of Commerce meeting @ 12 p.m.** | Johnny’s Pizza
- **11/12: Grayson City Council @ 5:30 p.m.** | Grayson City Hall
- **11/12: Homeschool group meeting @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **11/13: Girl Scouts meeting @ 5:30 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **11/15: Sit and Sew @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions or to RSVP call 606-474-6686
- **11/16: Friends of the Library meeting @ 5 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **11/18: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 606-474-6686

Have an event to add to the calendar?

Email info to advertise@cartercountytimes.com

ONESTOP[®]
PARTS SOURCE
OLIVE HILL AUTO PARTS
670 E Tom T Hall Blvd, Olive Hill
606-286-8788



Pet of the Week

Bongo is a male mixed breed, about two-years-old, and 42 pounds. Bongo walks well on a leash, and is very friendly. His \$100 adoption fee includes rabies vaccination and being neutered. Stop by the Carter County Animal Shelter and meet him or call 475-9771 for more information.

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

“Buzzed” drivers and drunk drivers



share the same cell

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

Legislative update

FRANKFORT— As the 2024 General Election will soon be in the rearview mirror, our focus shifts to the invaluable meetings and panels that inform our work as lawmakers. Events like these, where we meet with stakeholders and organizations directly engaged in the day-to-day needs of our communities, are essential. They provide insights beyond the data and reports—insights drawn from lived experiences and hands-on efforts to formulate solutions to the challenges Kentuckians face. These conversations guide our policy-making, enabling us to craft responses that are both practical and profoundly attuned to the realities of the people we serve.



Robin L. Webb
Senator
State of Kentucky

Recently I had the privilege of attending two such gatherings that reveal

the diverse landscape of northeast Kentucky. The first was the University of Kentucky and St. Claire Legislative Forum on Health Care, held at the Center of Health, Education & Research

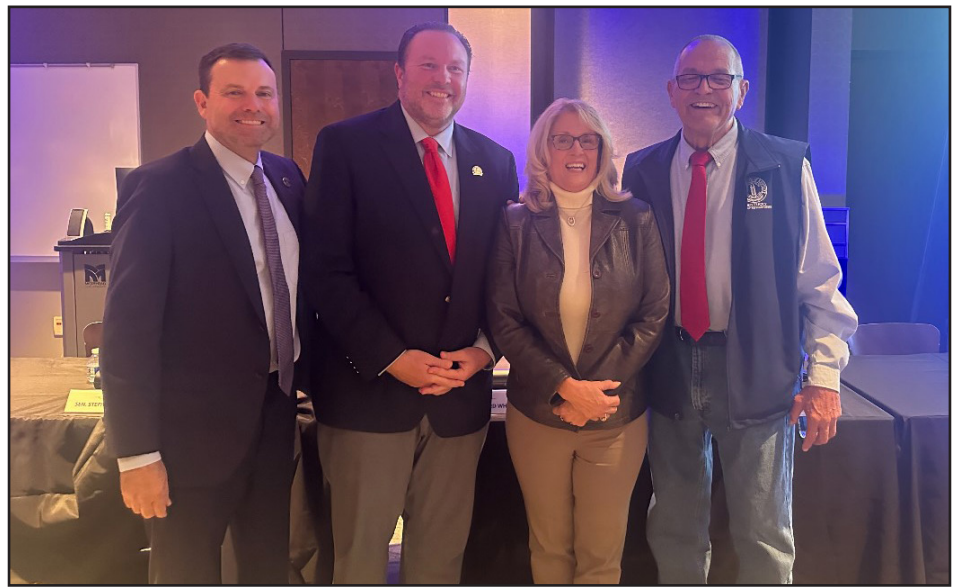
(CHER) Building in Morehead. Alongside colleagues Senator Steve West and Representatives Patrick Flannery and Richard White, I joined a discussion led by Mark Birdwhistell, UK's Senior Vice President for Health and Public Policy, and Don Lloyd, president of St. Claire HealthCare.

Our focus on this panel was health care access—a concern that transcends political lines and affects communities in tangible ways. We discussed workforce shortages, resource distribution, and the need for consistent, high-quality

care, acknowledging the challenges that rural Kentuckians face in obtaining essential health services.

The solutions we discussed require a collaborative effort. Proposals included targeted incentives to attract health care providers to underserved areas and support for expanding telehealth services. These efforts have proven transformative in regions where hospitals are sparse and distances are great. Witnessing the commitment of both health care professionals and legislators to address these concerns underscored our responsibility to translate these insights into policy that supports real people, not abstractions.

In addition to these health discussions, I also attended a meeting on another important matter with the Northeast Area Livestock Association (NEALA), where Dr. Steve Higgins from the University of Kentucky shared effective practices



State Senator Steve West (R-Paris), State Representative Patrick Flannery (R-Olive Hill), myself, and State Representative Richard White (R-Morehead), (left to right) join healthcare leaders in a vital discussion on expanding access to healthcare and addressing workforce challenges in rural Kentucky at the University of Kentucky and St. Claire Legislative Forum in Morehead.

for sustainable livestock watering. NEALA embodies the agricultural resilience of eastern Kentucky, serving as a vital resource for livestock producers. Dr. Higgins' presentation highlighted how sustainable practices not only protect our natural resources but also bolster the productivity and longevity of Kentucky's agricultural sector. Programs like NEALA's

group purchasing and pest control assistance show a commitment to helping farmers in tangible, practical ways, providing not just knowledge, but essential support.

Each of these gatherings deepens our understanding of the issues we must address and reinforces our commitment to solutions grounded in the experiences of those directly impacted. As

we approach the 2025 Regular Session, I look forward to translating these experiences into meaningful action in Frankfort.

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.

Knights break records against St. Andrews

GRAYSON - The Knights picked up their second win of the season in spectacular fashion. KCU scored 85 points on St. Andrews breaking a school record of most points scored in a single game. Jett Engle decided to get in on the action and break another school record of most passing touchdowns in a single game with 7.

The Knights had 414 yards of total offense, 320 passing yards, and 94 yards of rushing. KCU led at the half 59-26, breaking the school record for most points scored in a game already which was set at 50.

- Jett Engle was 22-31 with 307 yards and 7 touchdown passes.
- Dejon Winburn had 4 receptions for 58 yards and 2 touchdowns.
- Josiah Price had 5 total tackles with 1.5 tackles for a loss of 5 yards, and 1 interception returned for a 35 yard touchdown, and 1 breakup.
- Hunter Pendleton had 4 total tackles with 2.5 tackles for a loss of 8 yards, and 1 fumble returned for a 40 yard touchdown.

Next Time Out
The Knights will be on the road next Saturday against Reinhardt.



Submitted photo

Inside the Stats

Yer a wizard, Harry

Popular fan festival returns to Ironton

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

A popular fan festival, Wizardfest, returns to the streets of Ironton, Ohio for its sixth year on November 9 and 10. The festival, which is a fan celebration of all things in the wizarding world, also showcases vendors from around the region and has become something of

an Appalachian cultural event. Food, fun, demonstrations, trivia contests, and cosplay are all part of the festival that has grown consistently each year. The family friendly event brings current fans of the Harry Potter books and films together and generates new fans who might not have been able to enjoy the fandom yet.

“We like to think it’s the Greatest Show on Earth,” event planner Brad Bear said of the festival. “Everyone has such a wonderful time because there are just so many different things to do.”

“James Payton (Frank

Longbottom in the Harry Potter films) and Wallis Hamonde (who played an auror in Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them) are coming back this year,” Bear said. “And Adrian Rawlins, who played James Potter will be coming this year as well, along with Rohan Gotobed who played the young Sirius Black. This is definitely the year to be here,” Bear said.

Bear said Wizardfest is a festival made by fans for fans. Each year he listens to suggestions from festival regulars and new attendees, and he and the group behind the festival are always excited to get feedback and new ideas. They are all fans them-



(submitted photo)

elves, he said, which helps them put together a festival that other fans are

sure to enjoy.

Some of the things you can enjoy this year include meeting the actors from the film series, dancing the night away at the Wizard's Ball (18+), the reptile and creepy creatures show,

and the signature offerings from the Two Beaters Wizard's Pub. There will also be massive LEGO displays, broom racing timed trials, a craft tent and

See WIZARD on A-6

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

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

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

www.carterpva.com

Carter County Times
www.cartercountytimes.com

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WUGO 99.7 FM YOUR VARIETY STATION Grayson, Kentucky

Friday, November 8
East Carter vs Bourbon County

The Guns, Gold & Cash Pregame show begins at time TBD on WGOH 1370 AM & 100.9 FM, wgohwugo.com, and the Go Radio Grayson app

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OPINION

EDITORIALS | LETTERS | COLUMNS | COMMENTARY

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

AS WE SEE IT

Recognition where it's due

One of the things I've toyed with doing since we started the paper is some sort of reoccurring series to recognize contributions to our communities and the people who call them home. It's something that the old newspaper used to do, and I saw the value in it even then.

One thing I didn't want to do, though, was to make it a regular weekly – or even a monthly – feature.

There were a couple of reasons for that. Firstly, I feel it reduces the act from a sincere and heartfelt celebration of community service to a chore; something you've got to do because it's a Monday. It would cheapen, in my mind, any recognition I might give someone.

The second reason is less idealistic and more practical. We've already got a lot on our plates. Giving myself another reoccurring assignment, and making my wife set aside another chunk of space she doesn't have the flexibility to pull, is the last thing I want to do.

All that said, there are times I hear things that aren't necessarily news stories, but are definitely worth mentioning to the community. Often I hear them in relation to news stories, and though they aren't something I plan to use, I file them away in the mental file cabinet. (It's a writer thing.)

One of those ancillary stories to arise during research for a recent piece was related to a deputy with the Carter County Sheriff's Office. Though the person I interviewed couldn't recall the name of the deputy they dealt with, their physical description left little doubt in my mind they were speaking of Jeff McMonigal.

When I suggested the name their eyes lit up with recognition, and continuing their story they began to break down in tears as they described the sympathy, support, and professionalism that Deputy McMonigal exhibited during what was among the most traumatic experiences of their life.

This wasn't the first time I'd heard good things about Deputy McMonigal and – oddly enough – it wouldn't be long after having that story shared with me before I'd hear another story, from another family, who echoed the sentiment.

All of them said that McMonigal did his job. He asked the questions he needed to ask. He secured what he needed to secure. He did the job he needed to do. But in every instance he reportedly did his utmost to respect the heartbreak of the families or victims involved. He gave them space to grieve if necessary.

He listened, these families told me, to what they needed to say, not just what he needed to hear from them.

See *RECOGNITION* on A-6

Letter to the Editor: Olive Hill Historical Society changes name

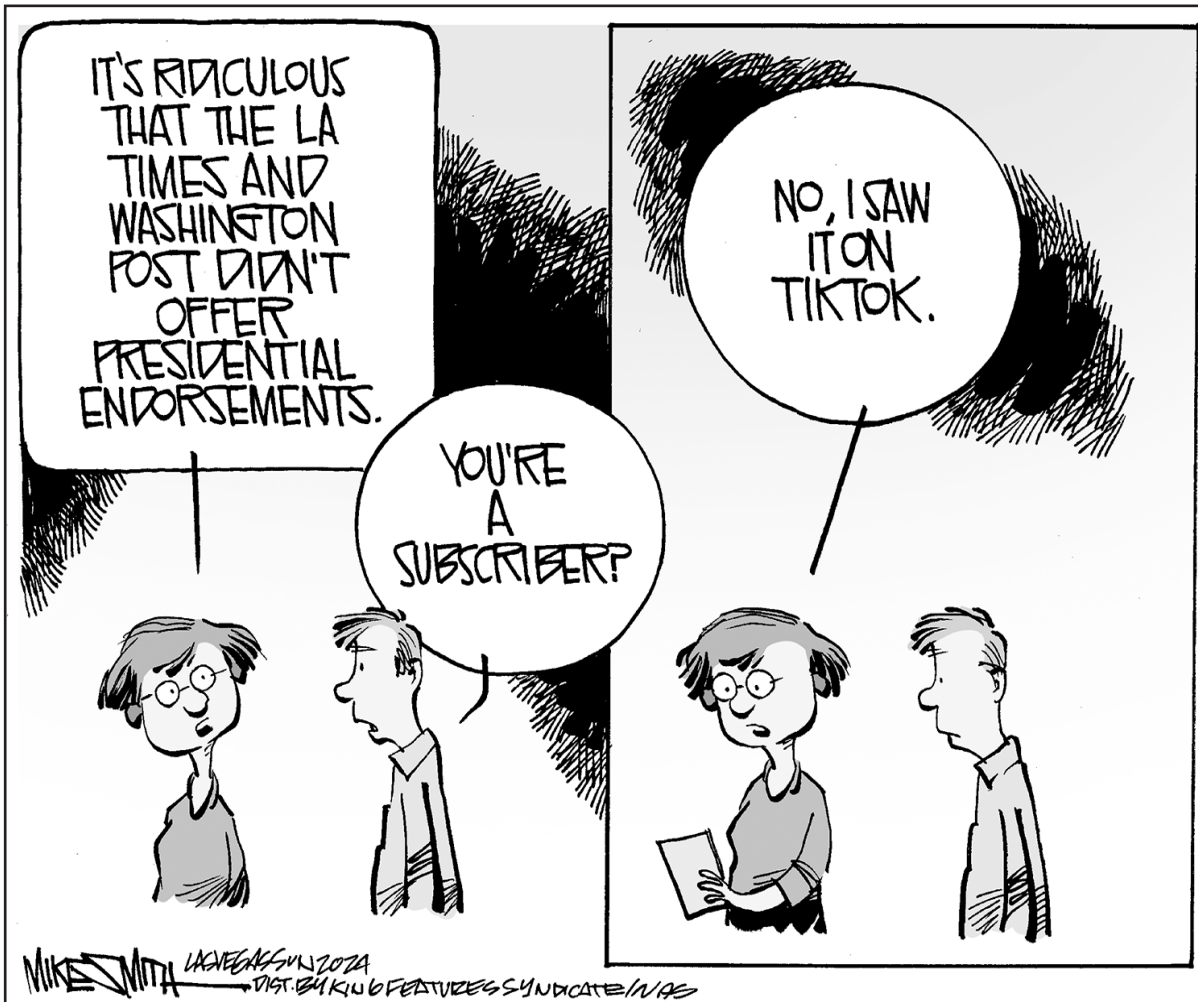
I'm excited to announce that the Olive Hill Historical Society has officially changed its name – we are now the Olive Hill Center for Arts & Heritage (OHCAH). Why the change? Well, our mission has been, from the very beginning, to bring arts and heritage experiences to our community, and while history & heritage programming has been a part of our activities, well over half of our programming has been in the area of the arts. So, first and foremost, we wanted our organization's name to reflect that.

Additionally, the name "Olive Hill Historical Society" has unfortunately been confused with the Olive Hill Board of Architectural Review, a city government entity which was tasked with overseeing the changes to and/or design of exteriors of buildings within the city's "historic overlay." We have never been a part of that group – the only property under our purview is the property we actually own at Comet Drive! (We've been the subject of other absurd "urban myths" as well – but that's another story!)

As ever, it is our privilege to continue bringing good things to our community in the areas of arts and heritage events, activities, and programming. This past year has been a time of expansion for us, and we hope everyone will be tuned in to see developments. Visitors have remarked that it is a great (and unique) blessing for a town our size to have an arts and heritage center – we feel the same way and are grateful for the support we have received and the participation of folks in our community and beyond! Find us on Facebook and at www.ohcah.org.

Sincerely
Debbie Baker Harman
OHCAH Vice-President

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



How did Democrats become an endangered species in Kentucky?

Please enjoy this piece from Keith Kappes' archives. Originally published July 20, 2022

If you drive past the East Carter Memory Gardens cemetery these days, you may hear a whirring sound coming from the top of the hill.

If so, it likely will be my grandfather spinning in his grave because of the recent shocking news that Republicans now outnumber Democrats on the voter registration rolls of the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

When Grand-dad passed away nearly 50 years ago, the idea of Kentucky becoming a Republican-controlled state was laughable. That, of course, was long before CNN convinced us to call them red and blue states.

In 1974, Democrats held strong majorities in both houses of the Kentucky General Assembly. All of our state constitutional officers were Democrats. Five of our seven congressmen were Democrats. Our only Republican senator in Washington lost his seat to the Democratic governor that fall.

In many parts of the Bluegrass State in those days, especially Eastern and Western Kentucky, many races went uncontested when potential GOP candidates realized they were badly outnumbered at the polls and that Democrats historically were loyal to their party.



Keith Kappes
Columnist
Carter County Times

My grandfather was a Democrat all of his adult life and encouraged his children, grandchildren, and friends to make the same choice. He believed that FDR saved America with the New Deal and that Democrat-led government should always protect the "common people" from "big money" Republicans.

Grand-dad loved the story about the old man who summoned his oldest son to his deathbed and asked him to go to the courthouse with a note to change his voter registration to Republican.

When the son protested because of his father's lifelong status as a Democrat, the old man responded: "Hell, son, we know someone is going to die here tonight and it might as well be a Republican".

My grandfather probably never dreamed that we Democrats would someday be accused of not being religious or patriotic or committed to family values or in favor of the Bill of Rights.

If he had such a vision, he likely would have asked how and why did Kentucky turn the asylum over to the inmates.

Keith Kappes can be reached at keithkappes@gmail.com

Dedication to the journey

When faced with the remnants of a hurricane, Utah probably isn't the first place that comes to mind. Yet, during a challenging drive home last month, that's exactly where my thoughts went, reminding me that life's journeys often lead to unexpected places.

On a late September Friday, I had a meeting in Lexington. After it ended, I began my usual 25-to-30-minute commute back home. But that day, my drive coincided with the arrival of Hurricane Helene in Kentucky, the most powerful storm to reach the U.S. mainland since Katrina in 2005. As I merged onto I-75, the rain intensified, and I soon found myself at a standstill. I managed to get off at an exit, hoping to navigate the backroads. However, every time I thought I'd found a clear route, a fallen tree blocked the way. After my fifth detour, thanks to having four-wheel drive and the nerve to cut through a field, I finally made it home—two hours later.

So where does Utah come into this? As I inched along the roads, I heard the story of Mark Eaton, the 7'4" center who played 12 seasons with the Utah Jazz. Eaton was a unique player whose impact extended far beyond his limited skills—his main offensive role was to stay out of the way for the famous pick-and-roll perfected by John Stockton and Karl Malone. Throughout his career, he never even attempted a three-point shot, which would be unheard of in today's

game dominated by shooting centers.

Of course, I remember Eaton. But until that drive, I knew nothing about his journey to the NBA. In high school in California, Eaton's first love was water polo.

He joined the basketball team as a senior, but at 6'11" and weighing only 175 pounds, he was more of a curiosity than a star. Eaton played sparingly, and the lack of offers from college basketball programs reflected this. No Division I teams called, nor did Division II or III schools. So, after graduation, Eaton enrolled at the Arizona Automotive Institute and became, presumably, the tallest mechanic in the country.

One day, while working at a repair shop, Eaton met Tom Lubin, a chemistry professor and part-time basketball coach at Cypress College in Orange County. Lubin saw potential in the towering mechanic and convinced Eaton to enroll at Cypress. Eaton performed well enough there to transfer to UCLA, where he completed his college eligibility, but reverted to statistics more in line with his high school career, averaging 1.8 points per game.

The NBA wasn't exactly clamoring for Eaton's services. Initially, his only pro offer was a \$15,000 contract with an Israeli team. Despite his unimpressive college career, Utah Jazz General Manager Frank Layden decided to take a gamble. With the 72nd pick in the fourth round of the 1982 draft, the Jazz selected

See *DEDICATION* on A-6



Tommy Druen
Guest Columnist
Carter County Times

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.

Recognition from A-5

It might seem like a small thing. And really, it is. But small things can have an outsized impact. And we'd like to salute Deputy Jeff McMonigal for recognizing that.

Thanks, Mongo. Your community appreciates you.

Dedication from A-5

Eaton. At the time, Utah was the worst team in the league and had never posted a winning season. Perhaps Layden saw Eaton as a project, a novelty, or simply a cost-effective option in the salary-cap era. Regardless, the choice proved to be a wise move for the Jazz.

Two years after Eaton joined, the Jazz began a playoff streak that would last two decades. Eaton anchored their defense for most of that run, leading the league in blocked shots four times and earning two NBA Defensive Player of the Year awards. He never scored much, and his rebounding numbers were modest, but Eaton was a force in the middle, game after game. His presence on the court gave Utah the defensive backbone needed to build a culture of winning.

As I listened to Eaton's story, my two-hour detour seemed less frustrating. His journey underscored an important truth: there are many paths to success. You can be a McDonald's High School All-American or a mechanic with your head under a hood. Some people travel a well-paved highway, while others venture through fields. What matters is not abiding by convention but finding a path suited to your strengths.

Eaton once was asked about the secret to success. His answer was that of the consummate teammate. "Honor your role and allow others to honor theirs." On that stormy drive, his words resonated deeply. They reminded me that success doesn't come from following a predetermined path. Whether you're an NBA center or someone navigating Kentucky's

Wizard from A-4

wand making, Batch 1313 Butterscotch Brew, Ironton Wizardry Academy classes, riddle rooms, themed photo ops, and team trivia.

But of course, since fans are always the most important part of the festival, there will also be spontaneous street performers, a marketplace with over 60 handcraft vendors, a Wizardry Heritage Market, and tons of food, candy, and pastries. And this year

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

CITY OF OLIVE HILL
OLIVE HILL, KY
LEAK DETECTION

General Notice

The CITY OF OLIVE HILL (Owner) is requesting Bids for the construction of the following Project:

OLIVE HILL LEAK DETECTION

Bids for the construction of the Project will be received at the OLIVE HILL CITY HALL located at 225 ROGER PATTON DRIVE, until NOVEMBER 20, 2024 at 2:00 PM local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read.

The Project includes the following Work:

The City of Olive Hill is accepting bids for Leak Detection Services on their existing waterline distribution system (approximately 27.3 linear miles) and, as funding allows, perform leak repairs.

The Project has an expected duration of 180 days.

Obtaining the Bidding Document

The Issuing Office for the Bidding Documents is: LYNN IMAGING, 328 VINE STREET, LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 40507, (859) 255-1021. Prospective Bidders may examine the Bidding Documents at the Issuing Office on their website (https://www.lynnimaging.com) and may obtain copies of the Bidding Documents from the Issuing Office as described below.

Bidding Documents also may be examined at the office of the OWNER: CITY OF OLIVE HILL CITY HALL, 225 ROGER PATTON DRIVE, OLIVE HILL, KY 41164, on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 9:00 A.M. TO 3:00 PM (LOCAL TIME); and the office of the Engineer, BLUEGRASS ENGINEERING, PLLC, 222 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 1, GEORGETOWN, KENTUCKY 40324, on Mondays through Fridays between the hours of 9:00 A.M. TO 4:00 PM (LOCAL TIME).

Bidding Documents may be viewed and ordered online by registering with the Issuing Office at www.lynnimaging.com. Following registration, complete sets of Bidding Documents may be downloaded/ordered from the Issuing Office. Bidding documents can be purchased for \$150.00, which is nonrefundable. Contractor can choose between either hardcopy or electronic Bidding Documents. All qualified BIDDERS must purchase a set of Bidding Documents and listed as a plan holder by Issuing Office, Lynn Imaging.

A pre-bid conference will not be held.

All bids must be made on the required Bid Form and must be fully completed and executed with original signatures and corporate seals.

The contract is being funded by Cleaner Water Grant Funds.

Federal Prevailing Wage Rates DO NOT apply for this project.

Hearing impaired individuals may call 1-800-247-2510 for information.

No Bidder may withdraw his Bid within ninety (90) days after the actual date of bid opening.

Bidders on this work will be required to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Anti-Kickback Act, and the Contract Work Hours Standard Act. Bidders must comply with the President's Executive Orders No. 11246 and No. 11375 and any amendments or supplements to those Executive Orders.

Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirements as to conditions of employment to be observed under the contract, Section 3, Segregated Facility, Section 109 and E.O. 11246.

Bidders must certify they do not and will not maintain or provide for their employees any facilities that are segregated or based on race, color, creed, or national origin.

Minorities and small businesses are encouraged to submit bids on this project.

The Contract will be awarded on the basis of the low evaluated responsive, responsible, best and qualified bidder unless all bids are rejected.

The City of Olive Hill reserves the right to waive any bidding informalities and to reject any or all bids, for any reason deemed advisable by the City. The right is reserved by the Owner, in the exercise of its sole judgment to reject any or all Bids, and to re-advertise and award the Contract in the regular manner or to waive any informalities, irregularities, mistakes, errors, or omissions in any Bid received and to accept any Bid deemed to be responsive to this invitation and favorable to interests of the Owner.

The sealed bid for this project shall be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Sealed Bid for City of Olive Hill - Leak Detection Services for the City of Olive Hill". If Bids are to be mailed, they should be mailed to the

City of Olive Hill
225 Roger Patton Drive
Olive Hill, Kentucky 41164

Certified check or Bid Bond payable to the City of Olive Hill in the amount of five (5) percent of the Bid shall accompany the Bid.

ADVERTISEMENT
CITY OF OLIVE HILL
Jerry Callihan, Mayor

Advertisement Date: November 6, 2024

backroads, what counts is your dedication to the journey and the commitment you bring to each step.

will mark the first year the event will have an owl (Theo, courtesy of Ken Barker), as well as a toad like the choir toads from the movies, and a Burmese python, Bear said.

Ticket prices for the event are the same as last year, according to the organizer, and most things are included with that price.

"All the panels and Q&A's are included," Bear said. "The only add-ons

would be the one on ones and the Wizard's Ball. Basically, unless you are going to eat it, drink it, or take it home it all comes with the ticket."

Bear encourages both old and potentially new fans of the festival to visit their Facebook page or go to irontonwizardfest.com to see what is available this year. Advance tickets and signup sheets are also available on the website.

Independent Auditor's Report

The Honorable Brandon Burton, Carter County Judge/Executive
The Honorable Jeffrey May, Carter County Sheriff
Members of the Carter County Fiscal Court

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statement

Opinions
We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Excess Fees - Regulatory Basis of the Sheriff of Carter County, Kentucky, for the year ended December 31, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statement.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles section of our report, the financial statement does not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Carter County Sheriff, as of December 31, 2023, or changes in financial position or cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles section of our report, the financial statement does not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of the Carter County Sheriff, as of December 31, 2023, or changes in financial position or cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards (GAS), issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Audit Program for County Fee Officials issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Carter County Sheriff and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the financial statement

is prepared by the Carter County Sheriff on the basis of the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material and pervasive.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statement

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of this financial statement in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the laws of Kentucky to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Carter County Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS, and GAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and GAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
• Identify and assess the risks of ma-

terial misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement.

• Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Carter County Sheriff's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

• Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statement.

• Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Carter County Sheriff's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we have identified during the audit.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated July 2, 2024, on our consideration of the Carter County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the Carter County Sheriff's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/ Allison Ball
Auditor of Public Accounts
Frankfort, KY

July 2, 2024
State law requires the Auditor of Public Accounts to annually audit fiscal courts, county clerks, and sheriffs; and print the results in a newspaper having general circulation in the county. The complete audit and any other audit of state agencies, fiscal courts, county clerks, sheriffs, and property valuation administrators may be viewed in the reports section of the Auditor of Public Accounts' website at auditor.ky.gov or upon request by calling 1-800-247-9126.

ORDINANCE #2024-25

AN ORDINANCE SETTING THE PROPERTY TAX RATE FOR THE CITY OF OLIVE HILL

Whereas, the City of Olive Hill has determined that it is necessary to set a tax rate sufficient to provide for the operation of the City; pursuant to KRS 182.027 and any and all other applicable laws; and

Now therefore, be it ordained by the City Of Olive Hill that the property tax rate shall and is hereby set at 2260 per hundred dollars.

This Ordinance shall be effective upon passage and publication.

Enacted this the Oct. 24,

/s/ Jerry Callihan, Mayor
/s/ Steff Thomas,
City Clerk/Treasurer

1st Reading: 10/24/2024
2nd Reading: 10/29/2024
Publication: 11/6/2024

CARTER COUNTY SHERIFF JEFF MAY

2023 Fee Audit

A copy of the Sheriff's complete audit report, including financial statements and supplemental information is on file and available for public inspection at the Carter County Sheriff's Office, 300 West Main Street, Room 204, Grayson, KY from 8:30 to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Any citizen may obtain from the Sheriff's office a copy of the complete audit report, including financial statements and supplemental information, for his personal use.

Any citizen requesting a personal copy of the audit report will be charged for duplication costs at a rate which shall not exceed twenty-five cents (\$0.25) per page.

Copies of the financial statement prepared in accordance with KRS 424.220 are available to the public at no cost at the Carter County Sheriff's Office, 300 W. Main Street, Room 204, Grayson, KY.

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE

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

1985 GMC Brigadier, Dump Truck, White, Mileage 400,000, (Motor blown up) VIN#1GDM9C1C0FV500197

2013 Dodge Charger, White, 4 door, Mileage 158,507, VIN#2C3CDXBG2D11610296

2012 Ford Fusion, Blue, 4 door, Mileage 93,316, (Rebuilt Title) VIN#3FAHP0HA2CR135809

2005 Nissan Titan, White, 4 door, Mileage 190,778 VIN#1N6AA07B25N500080

2009, Chevy Silverado, Black, 4 door, Mileage 247,921 (Motor blown up) VIN#3GCEK-23M19G145728

Public Auction will be held on Friday, November 8, 2024, at 3:00 PM at COMMERCIAL BANK, OLIVE HILL BRANCH, 155 TOM T. HALL BLVD., OLIVE HILL KY.

Seller reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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

Terms will be cash.

For more information, please contact Tina Knipp at (606) 475-4150



Olive Hill Masonic Lodge #629 welcomed dignitaries from lodges across Kentucky, Ohio, West Virginia, and Indiana for their annual Cave Degree inside Cascade Cave at Carter Caves State Resort Park. Food for the event, which began with a meal and ceremonies at the lodge before proceeding to the cave, was provided by the El Hasa Shrine Club's Kool Kookers - one of the many groups within the Shrine Club helping raise funds for the Shriners Hospitals for Children. Three brothers from the Olive Hill Lodge were raised to the degree of Master Mason. (Photos by Jeremy D. Wells, Carter County Times)

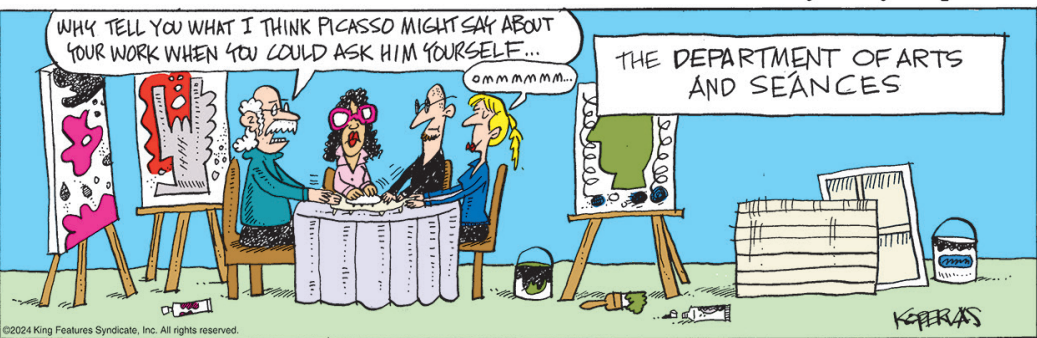
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



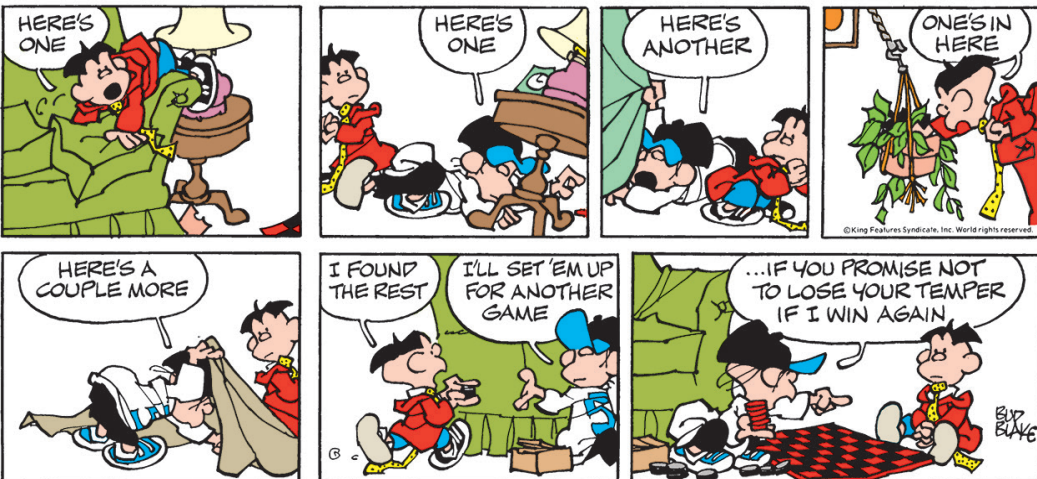
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



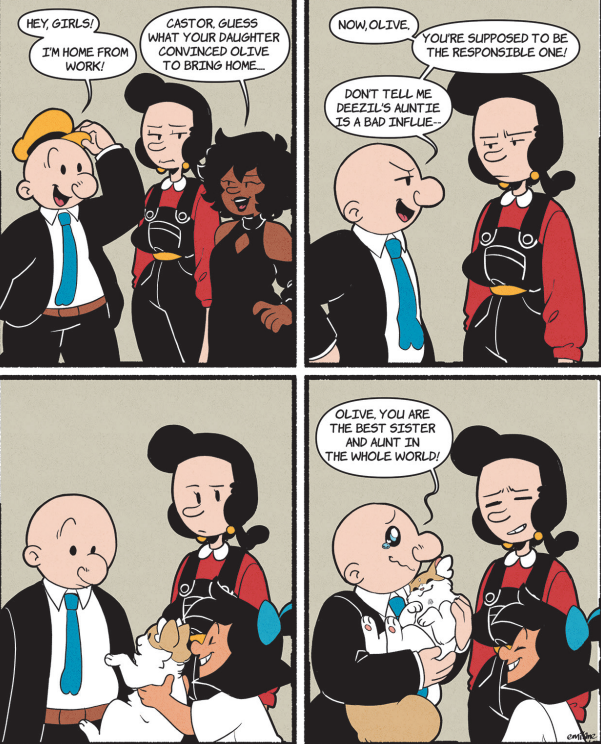
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



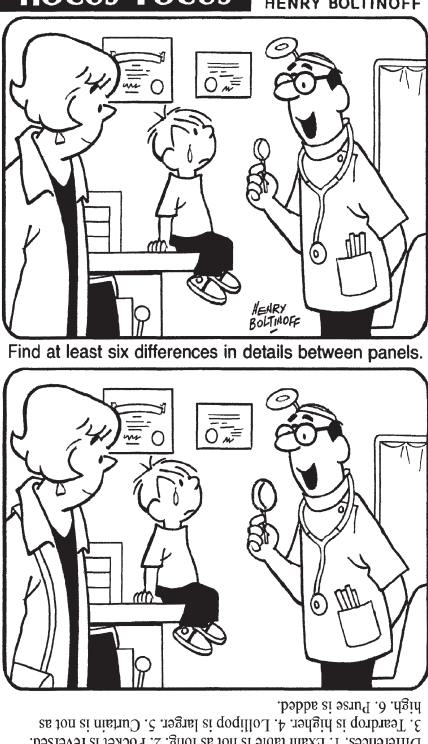
OLIVE

By Emi Burdage



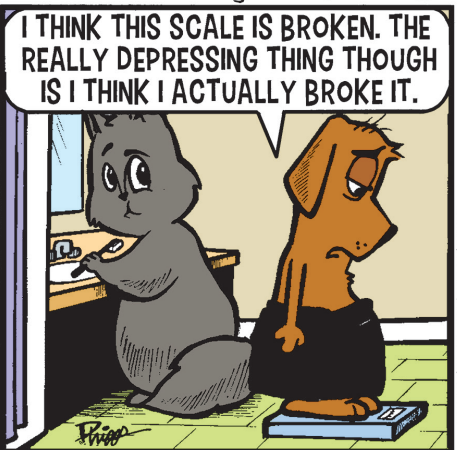
HOCUS-FOCUS

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: X equals L

UE QCXW U ZQBXJ YDHDYKD
 NOD LMJ DEEDZNK NOMN MRUCR
 UK OMHUCR QC FW LQJW. U'F
 EDDXUCR KQ WQBNOXDKK.

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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!

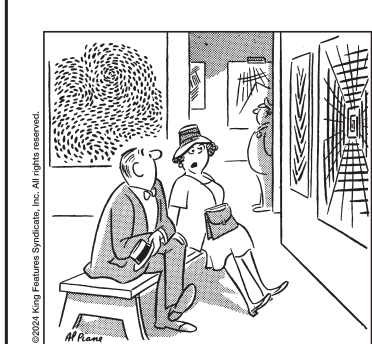
Labor **WASTE**

Rattle **KEASH**

Sincere **DARCON**

Affection **EARTH**

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.

- Closest accessory _____ E _____ Airplane garage _____ A _____
- Cavalry weapon _____ A _____ Of sound mind _____ O _____
- Glue _____ E _____ Noodles _____ A _____
- Topic _____ E _____ Fragrant stew herb _____ Y _____
- Respectable _____ N _____ Dishonesty _____ I _____
- Compass direction N _____ Value _____ W _____
- Writing style _____ S _____ Present evidence _____ V _____
- Secure _____ N _____ Quicker _____ R _____
- After dark _____ N _____ Brawl _____ F _____
- Turn upside down _____ V _____ Implant _____ S _____

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GO FIGURE!

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

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
 ★★★ GO FIGURE!

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- Story lines
- Entanglement
- Victor's cry
- Barking mammal
- Artist Yoko
- Scrapped mission
- Hawaiian city
- Tic-tac-toe win
- Corrida bull
- Surround
- Edge
- Standard
- Fiddle stick
- Umps
- Revolt
- Baba
- To and
- Modern, in Bonn
- They can hold their heads high
- Aussie greeting
- Takeoff stat
- Comic Philips
- On the job
- Destroys
- Hoodlum
- Privy
- Small combo
- Oklahoma tribe
- GI entertainers
- Full house, e.g.

DOWN

- Tennis legend Arthur
- Check
- Young whale
- Sailing vessels
- PBS anchor Judy
- Rock's Brian
- Nitwit
- Preambles
- Oboe, for one
- Folklore monster
- Queen dowager of Jordan
- "Boheme"
- Kimono closer
- Tatter
- Yalie
- Kindling
- Opposite of "post-"
- Guitar-making material
- PBS supporter
- Chap
- Makes amends
- New Deal pres.
- "Faust" draughter of Jordan
- "Deeds"
- Awestruck
- Dorothy's dog
- Heidi of "Project Runway"
- Rocky outcrop
- Monarch
- Freshens lawns
- Sugar suffix

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
 ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES: What was the name of the tournament in "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire"?
- GEOGRAPHY: What was the name of the train service that started in 1883 between Paris and Constantinople (Istanbul)?
- LITERATURE: Who did the pigs represent in the allegorical novel "Animal Farm"?
- ART: Which European city houses the Reina Sofia museum?
- TELEVISION: What is the product that Don Draper makes an ad for in the final episode of "Mad Men"?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of unicorns called?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which presidential retreat is officially named the "Naval Support Facility Thurmont"?
- MUSIC: Which composer is featured in the film "Immortal Beloved"?
- HISTORY: The Great Wall of China was mostly built by which dynasty?
- FOOD & DRINK: What kind of fruit is also known as the Chinese gooseberry?

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WORD LADDERS

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

BLOWN

DROPS

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Answers

1. The Wizard Tournament
 2. The Orient Express
 3. The ruling class
 4. Madrid, Spain
 5. Coke
 6. A blessing
 7. Camp David, Maryland
 8. Ludwig van Beethoven
 9. Ming Dynasty
 10. Kiwi

Answers

1. SCRAMBLERS
 solution
 1. Snake; 2. Brute;
 3. Stick; 4. Reign
 Today's Word
 HEADACHE

WORD LADDER

Answer
 BLOWN, BROWN, CROWN
 CROWS, GROPS, DROPS

Weekly SUDOKU

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

CryptoQuip

Answer
 If only I could reverse the bad effects that aging is having on my body, I'm feeling so youthful.

Theft from A-1

tourism board members over the missing funds, though, she reportedly told tourism president Chris Perry that she thought she'd borrowed no more than \$5,000 for personal use.

According to a report from Kentucky State Police (KSP) Detective Jeffery Kelley, which included a written statement from Perry, Perry and board member Kara Johnson met with Stewart after discovering the missing funds. During that meeting Stewart reportedly told Perry and Johnson that after losing her job, "she was having a hard time and went down a road she should not have gone down. (She) (k)ept telling us she was sorry and was embarrassed by

the situation. When asked how much she felt she had taken, she stated a maximum of \$5,000.00."

The report also included a photocopy of a handwritten apology from Stewart in the form of a formal resignation letter.

"Effective immediately, I resign from the Carter County Tourism Commission," the letter reads. "I am deeply sorry and disappointed in myself, that my selfish actions have caused embarrassment and (illegible) to the commission. I will do everything possible and that I am asked to do to rectify the situation."

In Perry's written statement he explains that he became aware of the situation on June 20, after receiving a call from tourism board member Jonathan

Lewis. Lewis, who is also an employee at Commercial Bank, called to inform Perry that the board's account was overdrawn by more than \$1,000.

"I asked Jonathan how that could be, and he advised me that I needed to look at the bank statements," Perry's statement noted.

After retrieving and reviewing those statements, Perry said, he approached Carter County Attorney Brian Bayes, who advised Perry to turn the matter over to the KSP. Perry did that the same day according to his written statement. (Though his statement says he turned them over to KSP on, "that Thursday, the 29th," instead of June 20, the statement itself is dated

June 24, and June 29 was a Saturday. In that context the June 29 dates on Perry's statement appears to be a typographical error.)

Perry then notes that he called for a special meeting of the board for the next day, Friday June 21 at 3 p.m.

After sending out a notice for the next day's special meeting, Perry said he and Johnson met with Stewart that same evening at 5:30 p.m. During that meeting, according to Perry's statement, "we sat down with Renee, and I informed her that we had some irregularities in our finances and that the board was going to suspend her as the treasurer until an investigation could be completed."

"I informed her that I

had already notified the County Attorney and the Kentucky State Police," Perry's statement continued. "She proceeded to beg with us not to turn it over to the State Police, that she would pay it all back. I advised her that it was out of our hands now."

According to the statement it was at this point in their conversation with Stewart that she advised Perry and Johnson that she'd been having a hard time since losing her job, and stated that she had not taken more than \$5,000.

Perry's statement notes that after Stewart's admission, "At that point, I suggested to her that she go ahead and resign from the board. She filed her resignation and apologized in the resignation for what

she had done."

Later that evening, Perry's statement concluded, he received the full accounting of charges and determined the full extent of damages.

"I received all the copies of the bank statements and proceeded to add up the charges, and by the time I was done with them the charges were way over \$20,000.00," he noted. "The board met and accepted her resignation."

Stewart was scheduled for an appearance and pretrial conference before Judge Rebecca Phillips on Monday, and was scheduled at that time to appear before the court again next month.

Contact the writer at editor@cartercountytimes.com

Election from A-1

Davis took 366, and Griffith took 430.

Over in the Olive Hill Council race Chris Bledsoe took 361 votes, Shannon Leadingham 310, Kirk Wilburn 342, Eric Rayburn 326, and Shane Tackett 319. Votes for write in candidates Tony Williams and Harry Carpenter were not available at press time.

On constitutional amendment one, which would prohibit non-citizens from voting in any election in the Commonwealth (non-citizens are already prohibited from voting in federal elections), Carter County voted yes, 6,628 for to 3,637 against.

On constitutional amendment two, which

would allow the general assembly to funnel public school funds to private schools, Carter County voters chose no, with 7,220 against and 3,570 for.

On the local question of whether Carter County would allow the sale of medical cannabis at licensed dispensaries, as well as the operation of

other cannabis businesses in the county, voters said yes, voting 6,856 to 3,850 in favor of the measure.

In unopposed races Republican Thomas Massie received 1,271 votes in the fourth congressional district. Republican Hal Rogers took 7,929 votes in the fifth congressional district. Republican Patrick

Flannery received 9,258 votes in the 96th representative district. Democrat Brandon Ison took 6,348 votes for Commonwealth's Attorney in the 37th judicial circuit. Larry Thompson received 7,618 votes for circuit clerk.

Herbie Suttles, with 3,736 votes, John Buck with 4,569 votes, and Will

Davis with 4,054 votes were elected as soil and water conservation district supervisors.

Contact the writer at editor@cartercountytimes.com

Who will replace Mitch McConnell as Senate GOP leader? It remains deeply uncertain

By Mary Clare Jalonick
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Senate Republicans vying to replace longtime leader Mitch McConnell have been crossing the country to campaign and fundraise for colleagues, making their final arguments before a consequential ballot the week after the presidential election. But their pitches are mostly behind closed doors, and most GOP senators won't yet say which lawmaker they are backing.

South Dakota's John Thune, McConnell's current No. 2, and John Cornyn of Texas, who held that job before Thune, are the front-runners in the Nov. 13 secret ballot to replace McConnell. The Kentucky senator is stepping aside from the post in January after almost two decades as leader. The winner could steer the direction of the party for years to come and possibly become the next Senate majority leader if Republicans win enough seats in Tuesday's election.

The outcome is, for now, uncertain.

Only a few Republican senators have publicly endorsed a candidate. Many say they are still undecided. The third senator in the race — Florida Sen. Rick Scott, who is dealing with his own reelection bid — could act as a spoiler. Another candidate could still jump in.

In many ways, "the two Johns" are remarkably similar, making the choice difficult for their colleagues. Both are well-liked and, in the mold of McConnell, lean toward the more traditional wing of the Republican Party. But both have also suggested they will try to move on from the McConnell era with a more open approach.

"I'm trying to find differentiation because they're both great guys," said Sen. Thom Tillis, R-N.C., who has worked closely with both of them.

The two men are also trying to distinguish themselves from McConnell by making clear that they support Donald Trump in this year's presidential election. Like McConnell, they have both sparred with Trump in the past, especially after

the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol. But both Thune and Cornyn have talked to Trump frequently in recent months, attended campaign events and visited his Florida home.

Whether Trump wins, and if he endorses one of the contenders, could become a determining factor.

"I don't know what he'll do," Cornyn said of Trump in September. "But this is obviously an election between senators, and I think that's where the voters are."

Some of the former president's strongest allies in the Senate are urging him to stay above the fray. Oklahoma Sen. Markwayne Mullin, who is supporting Thune, says he's been trying to talk Trump out of an endorsement. Trump understands "the need to work with whoever the next leader is," Mullin said.

Tillis suggested that a Trump endorsement could backfire.

"You have to be careful with the psychology of the Senate," Tillis said. "We know each other very well, and we spend hours and hours together. It's a fairly small club."

Still, both Cornyn and Thune are keeping close to Trump. Cornyn met Trump on a trip to Texas in October and appeared at a rally in Nevada. Thune was at an event in August with Trump's running mate, Ohio Sen. J.D. Vance.

Thune, who said after the Jan. 6 attack that Trump's efforts to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power were "inexcusable," told The Associated Press over the summer that he views their potential relationship as a professional one. If they both win their elections, Thune said, "we've got a job to do."

Scott, meanwhile, is a longtime friend of Trump's and has positioned himself as a strong ally. Scott traveled to New York to support Trump during Trump's hush money trial. Trump could endorse Scott in the contest, potentially winning more votes for the Florida senator or giving him leverage to influence the race.

In addition to private meetings, both Thune and Cornyn have flown around the country to fundraise

and campaign for their fellow senators.

Thune has made more than two dozen campaign stops for GOP senate candidates, and aides say he has raised more than \$31 million for Senate races this campaign cycle, including a \$4 million transfer to the Senate Republican campaign operation.

Cornyn has similarly gone around for candidates and poured money into Texas races. His aides emphasize his long history of fundraising for Republicans — more than \$400 million during his 22 years in the Senate, his office says.

On policy, the two men are similar, voting generally in step with the conference but working with Democrats at times. Cornyn is a longtime member of the Senate Judiciary Committee who took a leading role on bipartisan gun legislation two years ago. Thune worked across the aisle as a former chairman of the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee.

It's unclear whether either could win support from the growing minority of Republican senators who battled McConnell in recent years as he championed Ukraine aid and criticized Trump. Many in that group voted for Scott when he challenged McConnell after the 2022 elections.

In a potential overture to that group, Cornyn has called for a conference vote on instituting term limits for the Republican leader. "I believe the Senate needs more engagement from my colleagues, and that includes the opportunity for any member to serve in leadership," Cornyn posted on X in March.

Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley, a member of the more conservative faction, said he has not made a commitment in the race but wants to know how they would move legislation and work with Trump if he is president. "I think some of this will come into focus after the election when we know what we're dealing with, we know what our caucus is going to be," Hawley said.

Many in that group, including Scott and Utah

Sen. Mike Lee, have pushed to take power away from leadership and empower individual senators. Lee has issued a series of candidate demands, but neither Cornyn nor Thune has so far shown interest in negotiating.

But both of them have signaled that they hear the complaints.

Thune indicated in the AP interview that he's open to making changes to the leader's role, but cautioned

that he would not leave the position at the mercy of rank-and-file senators. He said he wanted to "empower our individual members or committees to do things through regular order" and open up the amendment process, but "I'm not going to make wholesale changes that weaken the leader position to where it's just a free-for-all."

Tillis suggested in September that it would be a deal breaker for him if any

of the candidates engaged in deal-making.

"If you would be willing to weaken your position to satisfy a few votes, then you're unfit to be leader, in my opinion," Tillis said. "And I think most people think that way."

Associated Press writer Stephen Groves contributed to this report.

