



When your family's in need

We're here to help



Globe Funeral Chapel

606-286-5306

www.globefc.com

# Carter County Times

EK Newsgroup, LLC © 2025 All rights reserved ISSN 2692-420X (print) ISSN 2692-4218 (online)

cartercountytimes.com

Vol. 6, No. 7

NEWS/ADVERTISING 606-225-1258

CARTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2025

\$1.00 PER COPY

## How do you rank a Coyote?

### Superintendent discusses rating system and mascots

By Charles Romans  
Carter County Times

Carter County Schools Superintendent Dr. Paul Green said that it is of utmost importance for the parents of students to be informed about all aspects of their children's educational journey. Some things, he said, are fairly straight forward; some things, however, can be quite confusing if a parent doesn't have some background information to interpret them. One of those things is

the current school accountability model.

"The accountability model is based on how well you do at the end of the year," Green explained.

That answer would seem to be an obvious recognition of what has been accomplished, and it is initially. But Dr. Green explained how it can quickly become a convoluted and confusing rating system.

"Each year you take the test, and how well you do is going to be a big part of your accountability. What is complicating though, and I'll use generic numbers to illustrate it, is we'll say we score a 60 on this year's test. That's not a great score, but it is a good score," Green said. "Now let's say the following year we score

a 65."

This, he said, is where it becomes tricky.

"That's a good, five-point growth. Then the state says since you did such a good job and had a five-point growth, we are going to give you another five bonus points. This now makes your Accountability a 70. Keep in mind your actual score was a 65; but your published score becomes a 70."

"Now let's say we score a 65 again next year," Green said. "Our score then, since we did not get the bonus points, drops back to a 65. Even though we scored the exact same, our score would go backward."

If they actually drop, instead of holding steady, the score is

See **COYOTE** on A-8



Superintendent Dr. Paul Green speaks at the groundbreaking of the new Carter County High School. (Photo by Jeremy D. Wells, Carter County Times)

## Keeping Carter County healthy

### KDMC and health department discuss needs

By Charles Romans  
Carter County Times

King's Daughter's Medical Center and the Carter County Health Department hosted an event last Wednesday to determine what the community's health needs are, and how they can best meet them. The event was geared toward gathering

everyone interested in the health of Carter County residents, and discussing what needed to be addressed and improved in health care. Scott Hill and Diva Justice from KDMC, and the Carter County Health Department gathered input on the top health care needs for their Community Health Needs Assessment.

Hill said the event had already been conducted in Boyd and Greenup Counties, and with the information from Carter County KDMC would be able to get a clearer picture of what was needed in regional health care.

See **HEALTHY** on A-3

## Raising awareness

### Community support for Troy's Law is strong

By Charles Romans  
Carter County Times

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

Community support for Troy's Law, the proposed legislation named for Troy Caldwell, a wrecker operator

who tragically lost his life in September of 2024, continues to grow as the spotlight is trained on the hazards wrecker operators and other first responders face on a daily basis. Caldwell was responding to a standard pickup of an inoperable automobile when he was pulled from the bed of his rollback while securing the vehicle. A semi passed too close to Caldwell's rollback, and the speed and proximity of the semi to the rollback created a suction which pulled Caldwell from his vehicle.

As details of the incident involving the well-respected operator began circulating through the community, others have come forward to share

their own hazardous encounters with other vehicles while going about their daily work. Many attribute the dangers to either the negligence of vehicle traffic or the refusal to follow proper precautions when encountering roadside work. And many also believe that Troy's Law, a proposed law allowing wrecker operators to employ rear facing blue lights while working a call, could reduce those dangers drastically.

"There are too many backroads, too many curves and hidden driveways in this area, for anyone to ignore flashing lights of any kind," local woman Marlene Carmack said.

See **TROY'S LAW** on A-6



Diva Justice and Scott Hill from KDMC speak with local Healthcare Providers on what is needed to keep Carter County healthy. (Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

## Weekly arrests report

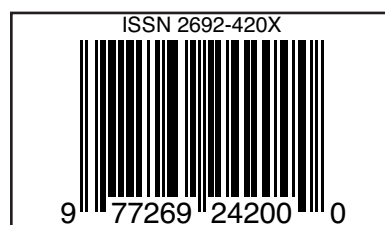
The following individuals were arrested and booked into the Carter County Detention Center over the past week. This list includes local arrests only. It does not include federal inmates being housed at or transported through the detention center.

- Samantha Lewis, 36, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky Department of Corrections, on a probation violation for a felony offense, arrested and booked February 3.
- Shannon Lowe, 52, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, for failure to appear, arrested and booked February 3.
- Crystal Crispin, 43, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on a charge of fourth degree assault (no visible injury), arrested and booked February 3.
- Matthew Russell, 28, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on a charge of

- fourth degree assault (no visible injury), arrested and booked February 3.
- William Ferris, 48, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on a probation violation for a felony offense, arrested and booked February 4.
- Brenda Baier, 64, of Ashland, arrested by Grayson PD, on a charge of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance, arrested and booked February 4.
- Matthew Schultz (aka Matthew Ball), 28, of Flatwoods, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of fourth degree assault – dating violence (no visible injury), menacing, and resisting arrest, arrested and booked February 5.
- Michael Ann Porter, 42, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on two counts of failure to appear, arrested and booked February 5.

- Kyler Roe, 20, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked February 5.
- Andria Parker, 31, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on a charge of second degree criminal abuse of a child 12 or under, arrested and booked February 5.
- Matthew Parker, 32, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on a charge of second degree criminal abuse of a child 12 or under, arrested and booked February 5.
- John Parsons, 30, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on three counts of non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked February 6.
- Brittany Kouns, 25, of Grayson, arrested by Olive Hill PD, for failure to appear, arrested and booked February 6.
- Austin Kilgore, 22, of Olive

See **ARRESTS** on A-3



### This Week's Obituaries

Keith Emerson Burchett, 68

Charles Vernon Crisp, Sr., 88

Have your news delivered, pay **half** the newsstand price!

Call 606.225.1318 to subscribe or visit [www.cartercountytimes.com/subscribe](http://www.cartercountytimes.com/subscribe).



# LIFESTYLE



## Sweet indulgence: Chocolate truffle torte for Valentine's Day

It's sweets for the sweet on Valentine's Day! Believe it or not, you only need two ingredients to create this rich, decadent chocolate torte. Yes, just two! If you've been following my foodie adventures, you know I love geeking out over food science, and this recipe is no exception. Variations of this cake have been making the rounds online for years, and Valentine's Day felt like the perfect time to give it a whirl.

The best part? It's historically wonderfully affordable, all you need are eggs and chocolate. Let's keep our fingers crossed that egg prices won't skyrocket

between the time of my writing and you reading this. While some may hesitate at the thought of whipping egg whites into a meringue, let me assure you: If you have a mixer, you can absolutely do this.

Here's why it works: Eggs are amazing. Separating the yolks from the whites allows the yolks to add richness while emulsifying the chocolate. Meanwhile, the whipped egg whites transform into a meringue that provides all the lift and structure this cake needs. The result? It's like a chocolate soufflé and a truffle had a baby. And yes, I ate it.

### CHOCOLATE TRUFFLE TORTE

Yield: 8 servings  
Total Time: 45 minutes

10 ounces of good quality chocolate, finely chopped  
4 eggs, separated

Preheat the oven to 350 F. Line an 8-inch springform pan or a round cake pan with parchment paper. Cut a circle for the bottom and a sleeve for the sides. Use cooking spray to keep the paper in place (spray the pan so the paper will stick), but don't spray the paper itself.

Separate the eggs, ensuring no

yolks mix into the whites. Melt the chocolate in the microwave for 30-second intervals, stirring until smooth, and set aside to cool.

Using a hand or stand mixer, whip the egg whites until stiff peaks form.

By hand, whisk the egg yolks into the cooled chocolate. It may seize up at first -- keep whisking, and it will smooth out.

Add one-third of the meringue to the chocolate mixture and whisk it to lighten it. Using a spatula, gently fold in half of the remaining meringue to incorporate and then fold in the rest until just combined.

Pour the batter into the prepared pan and bake for 30 to 35 minutes. The cake will puff up like a soufflé as it bakes but it will fall as it cools -- that's exactly what you want!

Once cool, serve as is or dust with powdered sugar. This cake is beautifully paired with a dollop of whipped cream and fresh berries.

For an extra flourish, drizzle with warm chocolate ganache or add a scoop of ice cream. It's a showstopper dessert that's deceptively simple to make.

### Chocolate Tips



The ultimate Valentine's Day treat -- decadent, velvety, and perfectly irresistible. (Photo credit: www.JasonCoblentz.com)

Since chocolate is the star here, choose wisely. Purchasing the best-quality chocolate you can comfortably afford will make all the difference. I found semi-sweet chocolate to be the perfect balance, though my kids preferred milk chocolate. Feeling adventurous? Try using chocolate bars flavored with orange, raspberry or even chili for a unique twist.

This Valentine's Day, treat yourself and your loved ones to a dessert that's indulgent, effortless and oh-so-impressive. Remember: Thick and dense is fabulous in a cake -- but maybe not in a Valentine. Once again, choose

wisely.

If you love this recipe, you'll adore the weekly inspiration I share in my free newsletter. From budget-friendly meal ideas to clever kitchen tips, there's always something to make your life a little sweeter. Sign up at DivasOnADime.com and join our community!

\*\*\*

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

(c) 2025 King Features Synd., Inc.

## Joyful Noise

# A real Valentine's love story! (Part 1 of 2)

By: Pastor Naomi Mitchell for Carter County Times

Valentine's Day on February 14 is a fun time for celebration by showering gifts on those you love and care about. Popular gifts range from flowers to candy, cards, candle-light dinner dates, etc. It is celebrated by people of all ages. There is the human love we have for each other. But there's God's love for humans when He demonstrated in love sending His only begotten son Jesus, that we might be saved when we believe on Him.

Valentine Burke was a burglar who had spent 20 years of his life behind bars in St. Louis, Missouri. His reputation was as rough as they came. A life of crime had made him a hardened rogue with nothing to lose. He cursed like it was his second language.

One day, as usual, Valentine sat in solitary confinement. Then, someone tossed a newspaper into his cell. Burke picked it up and read the headline: How the jailer at Philippi got caught. Smirking, he settled in to read about another jailer's bad luck. But as he read, something felt... off. This wasn't the kind of story he was expecting. It wasn't a crime report. It was D. L. Moody's sermon from the night before.

"What kind of nonsense is this?" Valentine muttered to himself. "Paul and Silas! A great earthquake! What must I do to be saved?" Burke stared at the newspaper in disbelief. "Are they really printing this kind of stuff?!" he thought. He checked the date. Sure enough, it was that morning's paper. He cursed and tossed it aside.

But something about it nagged him. Eventually, he

picked the paper up again and started reading. Then he read it again. The words wouldn't leave him alone. Over and over, he went through the sermon. Each time, he felt a conviction that cut straight to his soul. "What's happening to me?" he thought. "I've been a burglar for over 20 years, in and out of jail, and I've never felt like this before. What does it even mean to be saved?" He paused, running a hand over his face. "I've lived like a stray dog, and I'm sick of it. If this God Moody is talking about is real, then I need to find out for myself, even if it kills me."

That night, until long past midnight, Valentine wrestled with his past. Every crime, every wasted year, every wrong decision he had ever made flooded his mind. Now, for the first time since he had been a

little boy kneeling beside his mother, he prayed. In that moment, he felt the presence of God. He was reminded of what Jesus had done on the cross. Jesus had carried every one of his sins and erased them forever. Right there, in his jail cell, Valentine came to faith in Christ. He spent the rest of the night weeping.

Soon after that night, something unexpected happened. A legal technicality caused his case to fall apart, and he was set free.

Read the rest of the story next week. Amen! So be it! (Credit: Bible Enthusiast, IG.)

JOYFUL House of Prayer, 2519 Quicksand Road, (P.O. Box 856), Jackson, Kentucky 41339. Send Comments/Prayer

Requests: Pastornaomi-4god@gmail.com. FB: JoyfulHopprayer. Services: 10am Sunday and 6:30pm Thursdays. Radio Broadcast: WJSN 97.3 FM & WEKG 81.0 AM Sundays 1-2pm.

Have big news to share?

Call 606.225.1318 or email advertise@cartercountytimes.com

## Kentucky Dept of Agriculture Livestock and Grain Market Report

Compared to last week, feeder steers and heifers sold mostly 5.00 to 10.00 lower with moderate to good demand. Yearlings were mostly steady with good demand. Buyers were active showing best interest for long weaned preconditioned cattle. Slaughter cows and bulls were unevenly steady with good demand.

Week ending 2/8/25

STATE AVERAGES	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
<b>Steers (M&amp;L 1-2)</b>			
350-400 lbs	363.37	362.16	291.46
400-450 lbs	338.39	359.52	289.27
450-500 lbs	335.15	346.91	280.15
500-550 lbs	314.94	327.62	268.37
550-600 lbs	303.11	310.92	257.01
600-650 lbs	284.09	295.23	246.75
650-700 lbs	272.08	280.98	235.09
700-750 lbs	261.71	268.57	225.16
750-800 lbs	256.73	262.81	222.42
800-850 lbs	246.38	251.37	208.51
850-900 lbs	241.42	252.85	209.03
<b>Heifers (M&amp;L 1-2)</b>			
300-350 lbs	313.15	324.80	253.20
350-400 lbs	313.49	324.19	250.91
400-450 lbs	306.22	313.12	245.51
450-500 lbs	291.13	300.93	242.37
500-550 lbs	277.74	280.06	230.71
550-600 lbs	267.02	274.89	224.29
600-650 lbs	253.29	261.21	216.52
650-700 lbs	247.53	254.71	209.14
700-750 lbs	233.95	232.05	198.13
750-800 lbs	226.68	230.72	197.62

WEEKLY COW SUMMARY			
	Average	High	Low
<b>Slaughter Cows</b>			
Breakers	116.00-146.00	130.00-157.50	110.00-133.00
Boners	116.50-145.50	130.00-160.00	93.00-133.00
Lean	102.00-135.00	112.00-150.00	50.00-119.52
<b>Slaughter Bulls</b>	Average	High	Low
Yield Grade 1&2	140.00-175.00	160.00-192.00	100.00-158.00

**Jan 23, 2025 Bowling Green, KY**

**SLAUGHTER GOATS: 66**

**Kids: Selection 1** 50 lbs 425.00; 60 lbs 425.00. **Selection 1-2** 83 lbs 292.50. **Selection 2** 53 lbs 370.00; 68 lbs 350.00.

**SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 522**

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

GRAINS	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
<b>Corn</b>	4.78-5.18	4.67-5.12	3.82-4.58
<b>Soybeans</b>	9.65-10.91	9.57-10.68	11.09-12.08
<b>Red Winter Wheat</b>	4.97-6.04	4.61-5.79	5.12-6.06

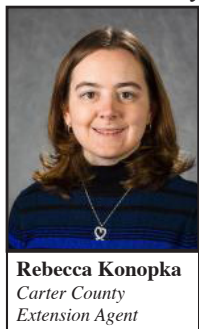


## Extension Notes

carter.ca.uky.edu

## Getting started with composting

Composting is a great way to add valuable organic matter to your soil while reducing the amount of yard and food waste that ends up in landfills. It's also something that is remarkably easy to do.



Rebecca Konopka  
Carter County Extension Agent

Compost is the result of a natural process where decaying organic substances, such as plants, are broken down by microorganisms. This produces a nutrient-rich, organic material that you can apply to your lawn or garden, much like you would a commercial fertilizer.

You can start a compost bin or pile in your backyard. You can purchase a bin or make one using inexpensive, leftover materials like pallets or chicken wire. The bin can be as big or small as you want, but for most rapid composting, a pile that is at least one yard tall, one yard wide and one yard long is best. Make sure to place your compost in an area that is flat and well-drained.

When the compost area is ready, collect yard waste and food scraps. Yard waste can include twigs, shrub trimmings, grass clippings, leftover straw and leaves. Most fruit, vegetable and grain scraps are compostable as are coffee grounds, herbs, nuts and egg shells. Avoid meat scraps, oils and dairy products. You need to have a mixture of "brown" material (dried leaves, straw, twigs, coffee grounds, even cardboard) and "green" materials (fresh grass clippings, vegetable scraps, other fresh plant materials) for the composting process to work.

Mix or turn the pile once a week to help speed the breakdown of organic materials. If the compost pile is extremely damp, turn it more often. If it is dry, add some water or fresh plant material. It can take four to six months to complete the composting process. You will know it's finished when the compost is dark brown, crumbly

and smells like soil.

Compost can be used in the vegetable garden or spread around ornamental plants in the landscape, but be careful not to use too much. A one-inch layer of compost, worked into the top few inches of soil, will feed plants for several months.

More information on composting or other gardening tips is available at 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:

•Bull Value Assessment Program – February 13 & 27th @ 6:00 PM. Please call 474-6686 to register.

**Arrests** from A-1

Hill, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of theft by unlawful taking or disposition of items valued between \$1 million and \$10 million, attempted theft of items valued between \$1 million and \$10 million, first degree criminal mischief, first degree fleeing or evading police (motor vehicle), second degree fleeing or evading police (on foot), third degree burglary, leaving the scene of an accident – failure to render aid or assistance, third degree criminal trespassing, and first degree wanton endangerment of a police officer, arrested February 6 and booked February 7.

- Christopher Schumacher, 38, of Grayson, arresting agency unavailable, on charges of one headlight, inadequate silencer (muffler), improper equipment, rear license not illuminated, and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a substance, arrested and booked February 7.
- Angelia Hodge, 59, Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of operating a

motor vehicle under the influence of a substance, failure to or improper signal, failure to wear seat belts, and first degree possession of a controlled substance (heroin), arrested and booked February 7.

- Joanna Arthur, 27, of Oldtown, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of first degree possession of a controlled substance (heroin), giving an officer false identifying information, and three counts of failure to appear, arrested and booked February 7.
- Brett Bush, 41, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of failure to wear seat belts, careless driving, failure to or improper signal, first degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a substance, and driving on a DUI suspended license, arrested and booked February 7.
- Hunter Eldridge, 21, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, on a charge of public intoxication on a controlled substance (ex-

cludes alcohol), arrested and booked February 7.

- Byron Criswell, 50, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of first degree fleeing or evading police, resisting arrest, and failure to appear, arrested and booked February 7.
- Melissa Pennington, 40, of Hitchins, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and booked February 7.
- Todd Auer, 59, of Olive Hill, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and booked February 7.
- Dalton Thomas, 27, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County Detention Center, on a hold for drug court, arrested and booked February 7.
- Eric McGuire, 38, of Ironton, Ohio, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of alcohol intoxication in a public place, and obstructing governmental operations, arrested and booked February 8.
- Angela Stapleton, 38, of Grayson, arrested by Boyd County Jail, on a probation violation for a felony offense, arrested and booked February 8.
- Charles Wayne Reynolds, 56, of Olive Hill, arrested

by Kentucky State Police, on a charge of first degree wanton endangerment – discharge of firearm, arrested and booked February 9.

- Victoria Heath, 33, of Rush, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, failure to produce an insurance card, no registration receipt, and failure to wear seat belts, arrested and booked February 9.
- Shira Tackett, 40, of Flatwoods, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, failure to produce an insurance card, no registration receipt, and prescription not held in a proper container, arrested and booked February 9.

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.

**Healthy** from A-1

“I think the biggest thing is collaboration,” Hill said. “We get this many people together in a room like this, it’s just powerful. It just seems like you can solve so many problems when you work together.”

Collaboration, such as the open forum discussion at the event, provide a lot of ‘a ha,’ moments, Hill said. One of those he pointed out was that a lot of people who need the health services that are already in place aren’t even aware that those services exist.

During the open forum style meeting, Hill and Justice broke down and recorded concerns on white boards. Then at the end of the meeting each person in attendance was given three votes per category and was encouraged to cast their votes on what they felt was

the area that most needed addressing.

Under the category of ‘what does healthy look like,’ some of the things listed were YMCA, food access, safe and affordable housing, resources for autistic individuals, therapy for children, shelter for the homeless, an ER or hospital in Carter and Elliot Counties, better knowledge of resources, and adult daycare. On that extensive list generated through collaboration at the event, there were a few obvious ‘winners.’ Highest on the list with 18 votes was a YMCA; but coming in at a close second was 15 votes for an ER or hospital, and 11 votes for a better knowledge base for resources in the community.

Another category addressed was ‘biggest health needs,’ a list compiled by

everyone present voicing their concerns based upon their experiences providing healthcare to local residents. Listed in that category were concerns such as dental care, again the need for an ER in Carter County, access to therapy, YMCA was listed again, inmate resources in the local jail, and a need for resource awareness, among many others. Topping that list was an ER in Carter County with 19 votes, followed by YMCA with 13 votes, and the need for a resource awareness list at 8 votes. Both senior services and inmate resources gathered 7 votes each.

The last category discussed was what was needed to be healthy, or what it would take to improve the health of county residents. The top of this list, with a tie of 16

votes, was collaboration with the community and education on better use of services provided. This tie was followed by a better infrastructure (including internet, technology, etc.) with 9 votes, and economic and budget dollars.

These ‘votes’ represent what healthcare providers in our region see as what is most needed for the continued and improved health of Carter County. They indicate that some services such as an ER or hospital that aren’t currently available are needed, but much of what was discussed was how to improve the healthcare services currently available and raise public awareness of what services are available to the ones who need them.

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

## El Mixteco Restaurant opens in Grayson

By Charles Romans  
Carter County Times

Grayson diners received another option for Mexican fare last Wednesday, with the ribbon cutting and grand opening of El Mixteco. The establishment has breathed new life into the building that once housed Shoney’s, bringing with it vibrant colors and an entirely new look. Owner Olibero “Gabby” Delosantos said that he and his family are glad to be in Grayson and are looking forward to serving the community. Delosantos said patrons can expect both traditional Mexican food as well as ‘mix and match’ combinations for their dining experience.

“We have a lot of new, authentic dishes,” he said. “We try to make the dishes as authentic to the area we come from as possible. There is a lot of good food there, and we try to bring some of it this way.”



Olibero ‘Gabby’ Delosantos cuts ribbon at grand opening of his Restaurant El Mixteco in Grayson. (Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

People can also expect to enjoy a lot of soups and breads as well, all of which they make fresh, he said. And of course, he encourages customers to let him know which ones are their favorites.

Currently Delosantos said that it will be walk in

dining on Monday through Thursday, but in the future customers will be able to make reservations. The best way to follow that, and get the menu items, would be to check out their Facebook page, he said.

Delosantos started his own restaurant first in

Flemingsburg, where he enjoyed the support of many local customers. But a friend of his told him about the Shoney’s building in Grayson, and Delosantos decided to come and check it out as a possible second location.

See MIXTECO on A-6

# CALENDAR

- **2/12: Girl Scouts meeting @ 5:30 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **2/13: Bull Value Assessment Program @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Extension Office | Call 474-6686 to register
- **2/14: Women's Meeting @ 12:30 p.m.** | New Hope Church of God of Prophecy, Grayson | All women invited
- **2/15: Friends of the Library meeting @ 5 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **2/17: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 474-6686
- **2/17: Homeschool group meeting @ 12 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **2/17: Carter County EMS Board Meeting @ 4 p.m.** | Carter County EMS Station
- **2/17: Carter County Board of Education @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Board of Education office
- **2/18: Olive Hill City Council @ 6 p.m.** | Olive Hill Senior/Community Center
- **2/18: Homeschool group meeting @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **2/20: Grayson Book Club @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **2/20: Olive Hill Area Chamber of Commerce meeting @ 6 p.m.** | Giovanni's Pizza
- **2/21: Sit and Sew @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions or to RSVP call 606-474-6686

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

**ONESTOP**<sup>®</sup>  
**PARTS SOURCE**  
**OLIVE HILL AUTO PARTS**  
670 E Tom T Hall Blvd, Olive Hill  
606-286-8788



## Pet of the Week

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

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



**CITY OF GRAYSON  
CODE ENFORCEMENT**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Pay YOUR way.**

Member FDIC  
EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

Apple Pay Google wallet pay

**cbgrayson.com** Commercial Bank of Grayson

## Legislative update

FRANKFORT—As February unfolds, the Capitol in Frankfort is alive with purpose as lawmakers return to tackle the second half of this year's crucial 30-day legislative session. A full agenda awaits us, and already the



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

Senate has acted swiftly on several high-priority items, most notably the passage of House Bill 1 (HB 1). This legislation reduces Kentucky's individual income tax rate from 4% to 3.5%, with the new rate set to take effect on January 1, 2026. The measure represents a continued effort to phase out the income tax entirely—a long-term objective of recent fiscal policy.

I supported HB 1 because I believe that responsibly structured tax reductions can spur economic growth by enabling families to retain more of their earnings—money they can save, invest, and circulate through local businesses, thereby

strengthening our community economies. Yet, I also

recognize that tax revenue is indispensable for funding education, healthcare, public safety, and infrastructure. Any future proposals that risk undermining these essential services or disproportionately favor the wealthy at the expense of working families will face my firm opposition. Sound tax policy requires a balance between fostering economic growth and preserving fiscal responsibility.

Beyond tax reform, the Senate moved forward with several other key bills this week:

**Senate Bill (SB) 17** establishes licensing and safety standards for free-standing birthing centers. The bill requires these centers to implement hospital transfer agreements and informed consent protocols while exempting them from certificate-of-need regulations. It passed 34-0, with three senators

abstaining.

**SB 23** enhances regulatory transparency by distinguishing between full and informational reviews. The bill calls for increased cooperation from state agencies to improve legislative oversight, passing the Senate unanimously.

**SB 37** assigns responsibility for the burial or cremation of unclaimed bodies to the fiscal court or local government and permits coroners to use the deceased's assets to cover burial expenses. This measure received overwhelming support with a 37-0 vote and one abstention.

**SB 43** creates a medical review board to assess whether individuals with physical or mental disabilities are fit to operate motor vehicles. The board will recommend license restrictions if necessary and provide an appeals process. It passed with unanimous approval.

**SB 126** proposes a constitutional amendment to limit the Governor's ability to issue pardons or commute sentences in the window spanning from 60 days before to five weeks after a gubernatorial election. This amendment will be presented to voters

at the next regular election. It passed 37-0, with one abstention.

In addition to legislative advancements, this week provided opportunities to engage with stakeholders and advocates on pressing matters. I was particularly honored to meet with members of the National Association of Sportsmen Caucuses and the Congressional Sportsmen Foundation to discuss policies aimed at preserving and promoting Kentucky's outdoor heritage.

A highlight of the session was welcoming members of the United Steelworkers, whose visits are always a source of invaluable insight on labor and industry concerns. I also met with Lewis County Superintendent Mike Melton to discuss regional education initiatives and had the pleasure of meeting his nephew, Tanner, who served as a Senate page.

Another rewarding moment was reuniting with Lori Cooksey, regent at Eastern Kentucky University, who visited to advocate on behalf of higher education in our region. Hearing directly from educators, labor leaders,

and community advocates underscores the importance of making thoughtful, informed decisions that reflect the needs of those we serve.

One of the most inspiring events of the week was the 8th Annual Serving Up Solutions Dinner—a gathering dedicated to supporting food banks and raising funds to combat hunger across Kentucky. Alongside leaders from the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS), legislators donned aprons to serve meals and share fellowship. It was heartening to connect with KCTCS leaders Larry Ferguson, Jennifer Lindon, and Laura McCullough, as well as the Cartmell family.

University of Kentucky Athletic Director Mitch Barnhart delivered an uplifting keynote address, emphasizing the critical importance of community service. I am especially grateful to Dr. Ryan Quarles for his leadership in organizing this initiative and for the opportunity to participate once again. Events like these remind us of the collective responsibility we bear to care for vulnerable families across

the commonwealth.

As we navigate the remaining days of this session, the road ahead presents both opportunities for progress and complex challenges. Some issues will invite collaboration and consensus, while others will require robust debate and creative problem-solving. Every decision we make holds significant implications for the daily lives of Kentuckians, which is why your engagement is so vital. By sharing your experiences, concerns, and aspirations, you help ground our work in the realities faced by families and communities across the state. Together, we can build a future that uplifts all corners of Kentucky.

Please reach out to share your thoughts and perspectives. I can be contacted by email at SD18@cm.kylegislature.gov or through the General Assembly Message Line at 1-800-372-7181. Kentuckians with hearing loss can use Kentucky Relay by dialing 711.

For more information or high-resolution photos, visit [www.legislature.ky.gov](http://www.legislature.ky.gov).

## Kentucky hospitals testify they need drug discounts under attack by Trump allies

By Deborah Yetter  
*The Kentucky Lantern*

FRANKFORT — A bill aimed at strengthening access in Kentucky to a federal program that generates income for charity health care passed a Senate committee last Wednesday, with several rural hospital executives telling lawmakers it has helped keep them in business.

The program “undoubtedly saved our hospital,” said Angela Portman, CEO of Breckinridge Health Inc., a 25-bed independent hospital in Hardinsburg. “We were out of options.”

Several speakers attempted to express concerns about how Senate Bill 14 would affect the federal 340B Drug Pricing Program but were cut short by Sen. Stephen Meredith, R-Leitchfield, chairman of the Senate Health Services Committee and sponsor of SB 14.

Meredith warned beforehand he didn't want to hear testimony about the federal program, subsidized through deep discounts from the pharmaceutical industry. Any reforms to the program overall must come at the federal level, where legislation is pending, he said.

Critics of SB 14, including a representative of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, of PhRMA, came forward to testify.

“We will not have a debate on 340B today,”

Meredith said. “We can't change that. It's federal law.”

But a national “dark money,” pro-Trump group, Building America's Future, showed its opposition Wednesday by driving a truck with a flashing sign board around the Capitol with alternating messages including its claim that “340B is subsidizing gender transitions for kids.”

“Tell state Republican: STOP 340B,” it said, with a notice that it was “paid for by Building America's Future.”

Supporters of the program in Kentucky have rejected that claim as baseless, pointing out Kentucky's Republican-controlled General Assembly banned gender affirming care for minors in 2023 and the program is chiefly aimed at generating revenue hospitals and clinics use to expand health resources for the poor.

“This is a very critical program for our hospitals and access to care in rural communities,” Nancy Galvagni, president of the Kentucky Hospital Association, said at the hearing.

The outside group, which has been linked to Elon Musk, an advisor to President Donald Trump, said in a recent press release it has launched a “five-figure” television and podcast ad buy appealing to Republicans to oppose pending bills in Utah, Nebraska, North Dakota and Kentucky, describing

340B as an “out-of-control government program” that is “secretly sabotaging”

Trump's agenda.

No one from the group spoke at Wednesday's

hearing and Meredith didn't address its claims in the 45-minute discussion

of SB 14. The group has not responded to the *Lantern*.  
*See MEDICATION on A-8*

## OBITUARY

### Keith Emerson Burchett

1956 – 2025



Keith Emerson Burchett, age 68, of Grayson, Kentucky, went to be with his Lord, Wednesday, February 5th, 2025, surrounded by his family and friends. He was born Tuesday, March 13, 1956, in Ashland, Kentucky a son of the late Delbert Burchett and Thelma Jo Burchett Litteral. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his grandson, London Ever Lane.

Keith's interests included, Tennessee Walking Horses, fishing (although he wasn't very good at fishing!) but his greatest pleasure was “putting together a deal”! He started his work career the morning after his high school graduation...running a coal tippie in Pike County. He later excelled as an entrepreneur, developing All Tech Technologies, Raider Mart, Alliance Site Management, Cash Express/ Payday Stores and many other businesses. Being blessed with the gift of gab. Keith never met a stranger! His entire life was working with, talking to and setting people up for a joke.

Keith is survived by his wife, Jonda Pfau; two daughters, Tiffany Brooke (Evans) Lane, Brianna Marie Burchett; two grandsons, Brooks Evans Lane, Tru Ever Lane; one brother, Delbert Kyle Burchett; one sister, Dana Jo Prichard; step-mother, Madonna Burchett; former wife, Ramona Hall Burchett.

Funeral services were held at 11 a.m., Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at New Beginnings Church. Burial will follow in Hillcrest Cemetery in Grayson, Kentucky.

Friends visited from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., Monday, February 10, 2025, at Grayson Funeral Home and after 9 a.m., Tuesday, February 11, 2025, until the service hour at New Beginnings Church.

Pallbearers were as follows: Rudy Burchett, Evans Lane, Dwayne Burchett, Dalis Burchett, Tracy Brown, Mike Kitchen, Steve Womack, Gary Salyer, Frank Rice, Frankie Rice, Cass Hall, Mark Hall, Danny Hensley, Ralph Whitt, Jack Miller, Steve Dyer, Danny Meenach, Larry Bishop, Daniel Pfa and Van Stephens.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Brianna Burchett Educational Fund at the Commercial Bank of Grayson.

Grayson Funeral Home and Cremation Services is honored to serve the family of Keith Emerson Burchett.

### Charles Vernon Crisp

1936 – 2025



until the age of 83.

Charlie was an avid UK fans; enjoyed running, having completed 3 10K races; and enjoyed fishing and bowling.

Charlie is survived by his loving wife, Wanda L. Crisp; two sons, Charles (Alyssa) Crisp, Jr. of FL and Kevin (Cindy) Crisp of Grayson; two daughters, Libby (Van) Stephens and Rita (Luke) Simms both of Grayson; a step-son, Mark (Pam) Kennard of Worthington; a step-daughter, Kimberly (Steve) Abbott of Grayson; 10 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; 15 great-great-grandchildren; 2 great-great-grandchildren; special friends, Butch Gollihue, Josh Riggs and Lisa Fisher; and a host of friends and extended family who all mourn his passing.

Funeral services were at 1 pm Saturday, February 8, 2025 at the Malone Funeral Home in Grayson with Bro. Joed Rice officiating. Burial followed in the Crisp Cemetery off EK Mines Branch Road. Visitation was at 11 am Saturday until the service hour. Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.malonefuneralhome.com](http://www.malonefuneralhome.com)




**Friday, February 14**  
**East Boys vs Rowan Co.**

**Monday, February 17**  
**East Girls vs Greenup Co.**

**Tuesday, February 18**  
**West Boys vs Menfee Co.**

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





[www.cartercountytimes.com](http://www.cartercountytimes.com)

Published every Wednesday  
by the  
EK Newsgroup, LLC

Office of Publication:  
120 Comet Dr, Olive Hill, KY 41164  
News/Advertising: 606.225.1258;  
editor@cartercountytimes.com

ISSN: 2692-420X | USPS Publication #23470  
POSTMASTER: Please send Change of Address Form 3579 to:  
Carter County Times,  
PO Box 803, Olive Hill, KY 41164  
Periodicals Postage Paid at: Post Office, Olive Hill, KY 41164

Single issue price: \$1.00 plus tax  
Annual in-county subscription price: \$26.00 plus tax  
Annual out-of-county subscription price: \$52.00 plus tax



**MALONE**  
FUNERAL HOME

325 Malone Ln.  
Grayson, KY 41143

(606) 474-5126

# 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

### Federal funding freeze would hurt Kentucky

By Jason Bailey  
The Kentucky Lantern

The attempted federal funding freeze earlier this month caused panic for the many Kentuckians whose lives, jobs and communities rely on those resources. But that was just a glimpse of what's to come if the Trump administration and Congress move forward with plans to permanently cut the federal budget and hand tax cuts to the wealthiest among us.

Federal funds sent to the Kentucky state budget totaled \$22 billion in 2024. That equals 43% of state spending, the sixth-largest share of all states. And that's only a portion of the federal tax dollars that flow through our communities. Vital federal grants and payments go to individuals and families, businesses, nonprofit organizations, health care providers, colleges and universities, cities, counties and more. Kentucky also has 23,000 federal civilian employees, making the U. S. government among our state's biggest employers.

The threat of lost services and jobs forced the White House to quickly rescind the blanket freeze while still blocking certain grants. The legality of their actions remains highly doubtful, and now the world's richest man, Elon Musk, has apparently seized access to the U. S. Treasury's payment systems with unknown consequences.

Congressional leaders' plans for the federal budget are the next deep concern. Their top priority is to make permanent the 2017 tax cuts that go overwhelmingly to the richest people. In Kentucky, the richest 1% would receive \$34,440 annually next year while the poorest 20% get only \$70.

When it comes to the budget, Congress is considering ideas straight out of the Project 2025 report released by the billionaire-funded Heritage Foundation. Official documents suggest major targets for cuts include Medicaid, SNAP food assistance and public schools, among other critical areas.

Medicaid covers one in three Kentuckians, including seniors in nursing homes, low-wage workers, people with disabilities and nearly half of Kentucky's kids. The \$15 billion a year Kentucky receives through Medicaid props up hospitals and health care clinics across the state. Slashing it would threaten jobs that keep local economies afloat and worsen well-being in a place where life expectancy is already six years shorter than the healthiest states.

SNAP helps 587,000 Kentuckians meet basic food needs, including children, low-wage workers, people with disabilities and seniors. New cuts would hit even as inflation has harmfully pushed up the price of groceries 27% in recent years. Bird flu outbreaks — the very kind of diseases we need a properly funded federal public infrastructure to handle — have made the price of eggs go even higher recently. And potential new tariffs on Mexico and Canada threaten to jack food prices up further.

Federal funding for public schools is among the array of other budget items on the chopping block under the Project 2025 playbook. The biggest pot of money is Title I, which provides funding to schools with more low-income children. In Kentucky, 80% of schools rely on Title I funding. Cuts would set back kids already facing disadvantages across rural and urban communities.

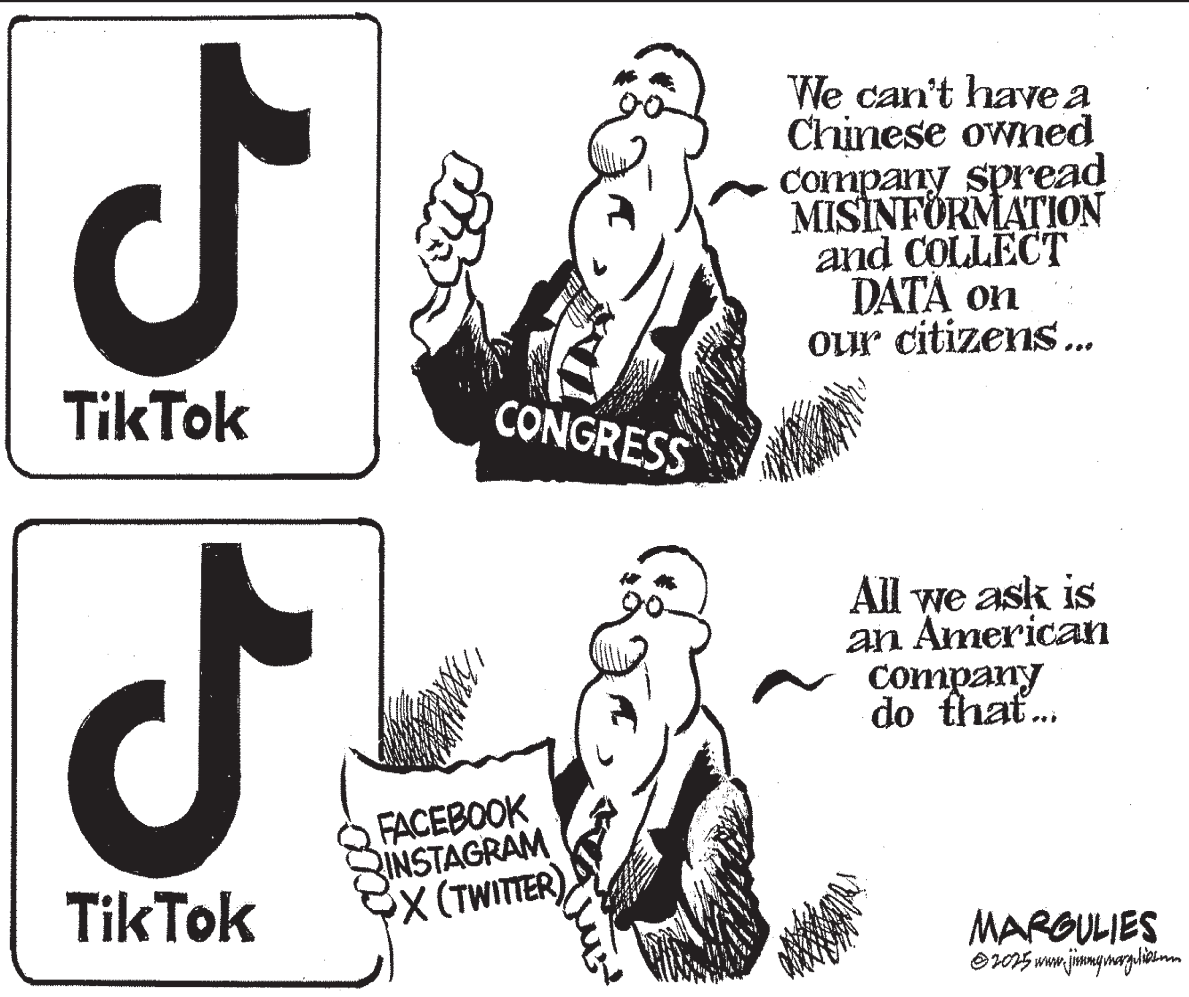
Many of the cuts being considered would shift substantial costs to states. In Kentucky, the General Assembly's reductions to the state income tax will weaken our ability to pay for current services, but the burdens would rise further if a federal cost shift occurs.

There are also big questions about many other spending areas, including disaster relief that has been vital in a state wracked by tornadoes and flooding and with 24 declared natural disasters in the last decade. Also at risk are recent infrastructure and energy investments from which the commonwealth has been among the biggest beneficiaries. In Kentucky, 1,100 projects have been funded through these new federal laws, creating jobs in nearly every county.

Behind the budget debate's technical jargon and political noise are simple yet consequential decisions. The choice is whether to take resources away from the vast majority and hand them to the already wealthy, the last among us in need of even more.

*(Editor's note: The content of guest editorials do not necessarily reflect the views of the Carter County Times, or its staff, but are provided for the consideration of readers as a way to create conversations around important issues. Reactions and letters are welcome at editor@cartercountytimes.com.)*

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



### Should books conceived but never written reflect badly on authors?

As a retired weekly newspaper publisher and occasional book author, my search of old files rekindled some painful memories when I found a news release from 2016 about my involvement in a book released that year by the Jesse Stuart Foundation.

"Appalachian Murders & Mysteries" is an anthology of 23 major crime stories from Kentucky, West Virginia and Southern Ohio. I was among 17 authors who contributed individual chapters.

Mine was entitled "Gene Markel died as he had lived... a hard charger." It recounted the tragic death of former Ironton Police Chief Walter E. (Gene) Markel during a jailbreak at the Lawrence County, Ohio, jail on Dec. 2, 1966. The book is still in print at jsfbooks.com.

I covered the story for nearly two years while working as a reporter for the Herald-Dispatch in Huntington, West Virginia, and later for The Associated Press in Columbus, Ohio.

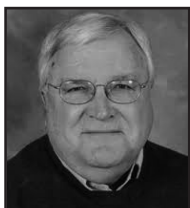
Carl Edward Halleck, the career criminal convicted of killing Markel during the attempted escape, was sentenced to life in prison after two trials. He died there 43 years later, and his unclaimed body was buried in the prison cemetery.

While researching the article, I had personal interviews with Chief Markel's widow and adult children. To my discredit, I told that family I was considering a book about the husband and father they lost. Sadly, I've never found the time to write that book.

I had a similar experience with the family of Army Sgt. Donald R. Long of Blackfork, Ohio, a 26-year-old black man who died in Vietnam on June 30, 1966, when he threw himself on an enemy grenade to save the lives of eight white soldiers. He was awarded a posthumous Medal of Honor.

Covering the Markel and Long stories had a major impact on me as a journalist and author. I've always felt the full stories of these brave men who died to protect others should be preserved.

Perhaps it is time to ease my conscience by determining if enough source material is still available, nearly 60 years later.



**Keith Kappes**  
Columnist  
Carter County Times

Keith Kappes can be reached at keithkappes@gmail.com

### Take five

If you feel like you need to step outside and take a long rip off a Marlboro Red, you're not alone. I think everyone in America pretty much needs a smoke break right now. Between two plane crashes within hours of each other, one in Philadelphia and one in Washington D.C., mass immigration raids in major cities, a president who doesn't comprehend birth-right citizenship, and a non-elected official raiding the country's technology under the guise of "slashing spending," even the staunchest supporters of King Trump are feeling tired.

I know there's constant noise about the price of eggs, which is a valid concern, but did anyone really think he was going to lower the price? Those talking points were just hollow applause lines. Meanwhile, the Justice Department is suing the city of Chicago for refusing to comply with its ban on sanctuary cities. Speaking of The Windy City, Virginia McCaskey, the daughter of Papa Bear George Halas—the man who created the National Football League and owned the Chicago Bears—passed away at 102 after a full, extraordinary life.

But beyond the chaos, there are stories of people doing things that matter in the face of turbulence. Yes, the world is on fire, but there is still goodness.

Over in England, the Geltsdale Reserve in the North Pennines range of Cumbria will expand to cover 13,590 acres of moorland, meadows, blanket bog, and woodland thanks to a 33% land increase.

Becky Speight, the RSPB's chief executive, said of the expansion, "We are going to achieve an abundance of species and a size that will be unmatched for bird reserves elsewhere. It is going to demonstrate what is possible when it comes to rewilding and protecting birds."

Then there's David Fisher, AKA The Rope Warrior—probably the most famous guy ever to jump rope—who was given a "Lifesaving Hero Award" for saving a drowning woman on a frozen lake using what? His jump rope.

Medical advances continue to push boundaries, too. A heart pump the size of a fountain pen got FDA approval for use in children, having already saved plenty of adults. The Impella 5.5, the world's smallest heart pump, serves as a game-changer for those waiting for a replacement ticker, and cardiologists don't even need to open a chest cavity to install it.

Jennifer McMullen, a real-life Rosie the Riveter, turned 100. She was one of the women who built airplanes and tanks during World War II, alongside her husband of eighty years, who also saw battle in The Great War.

And then there's Connor Stephanoff, a 20-year-old delivery driver for Rockstar Pizza in Brownsburg, Indiana. He walked through the snow in sneakers and no coat to deliver a pizza, only to receive a two-dollar tip. Through the power of TikTok, a neighbor saw what happened, made a video about him, and raised a whopping forty-one thousand dollars in donations

See FIVE on A-6



**Robert Dean**  
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.

**Five** from A-5

from people all over the country—proving, once again, no one appreciates a cheapskate.

The news is filled with doom and gloom, and we're all stuck in a repeated cycle of outrage. The left is likely planning to bark back in some way, and the courts remain clogged like arteries of dysfunction. As we endure

the world just trying to survive—as parents, workers, or members of a community—there is always someone out there doing their best. And sometimes, we're lucky enough to read about them, even if only for a moment.

Contact us at [news@cartercountytimes.com](mailto:news@cartercountytimes.com)

**Mixteco** from A-3

"I came here one day when everything was closed," he said.

There was no contact information that he could see, but not to be deterred, Delosantos wrote a letter and taped it to the door of the closed business.

"I thought if it's for me, then it's going to be," he said of taking that chance.

Months passed without hearing a response until finally, after waiting seven months he got a call.

"They called and asked if I was still interested in renting the building," Delosantos said.

"I was lucky, and so happy to get this location," he continued.

And after putting in all of the work of refurbishing the building, he said he hopes to do well there.

"I just hope everyone gives me a chance," he said. "We have good food, good prices, and good-sized portions. We are going to do the best we can to give our customers good fresh food, and make everyone happy. We want to stay forever and make a lot of friends, meet families, and make a lot of good memories."

Currently El Mixteco is open from 11 a.m. until 10 p.m. seven days a week. There is a happy hour from 2 until 6 p.m., with half priced beer and certain appetizers, including wings. The restaurant also serves wine, bourbon, whiskey, tequila, and other spirits. But the restaurant also maintains a friendly, family atmosphere.

"We want and pray to work hard and become part of the community," Delosantos said, adding that their goal is to treat everyone like family and become part of their customer's families as well.

Family supports one another, and the same is true of friends who become part of the extended family. Several people from Delosantos' other location came to the grand opening of the Grayson location and had a lot of good things to say about him and his family. Sonya Hall and Joey Hall came from Mount Sterling, Kentucky to support their 'family' in the new endeavor. The pair know Delosantos from 'way back' when he worked in someone else's restaurant.

"He was our waiter," Sonya Hall said. "And they (Delosantos and his family) became our family. He's just a good guy. And this was his dream. When he opened the one in Flemingsburg we followed him."

Hall was actually instrumental in helping him find out who owned the building there in Flemingsburg, but she was quick to say that everything else was all him.

"They worked hard and put in twelve-to-fifteen-hour days," Joey Hall said. "And after that one got established, he found another building," he laughed. "So, he put the same amount of work into

# CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC NOTICES

**SECTION 001113  
ADVERTISEMENT**

Sealed bids for the **City of Olive Hill – Backup Raw Water Pump** for the City of Olive Hill, will be received at **City Hall** located at 225 Roger Patton Drive, Olive Hill, Kentucky 41164 until 2 p.m., Local Time **February 19, 2025** and then publicly opened and read aloud.

The program of work for which bids are to be submitted consists of the delivery of one (1) backup diesel powered pump that can operate at 600 GPM @ 315' TDH

The Contract Time allotted for the completion of this contract is sixty (90) consecutive calendar days.

Bluegrass Engineering, PLLC, 222 East Main Street, Suite 1, P.O. Box 1657, Georgetown, Kentucky  
Phone: 859-351-1714

City of Olive Hill, 225 Roger Patton Drive, Olive Hill, Kentucky 41164  
Phone: 606-286-5532

Copies of the Bid Form may be obtained from the **City of Olive Hill** located at **225 Roger Patton Drive, Olive Hill, Ky 41164**. Phone 606-286-5532.

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 – Backup Raw Water Pump** 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.

CITY OF OLIVE HILL  
Jerry Callihan, Mayor  
Advertisement Date: February 12, 2025

that one."

"And the food is delicious," Joey added. "You might not know about it if you don't live near there, but you need to know about it. And I don't know what he does, because we have eaten Mexican food from Alaska to Florida. And this is the best we've eaten."

The pair also said they have always been impressed with how clean Delosantos' restaurant is, and always bright and cheerful.

Another of Delosantos' customers, Sam King, was

also on hand for the Grand Opening.

"I've been eating at his restaurant ever since he opened in Flemingsburg," King said. "Ain't no better people. Him and his family are the best, and you won't find any better. I've known people to drive thirty miles just to eat his food and spend time with him and his family. That shows how wonderful everyone thinks they are."

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

**Troy's Law** from A-1

Carmack knows the dangers firsthand because both her ex-husband and current fiancé make their living as truck drivers. And Carmack said that she believes the instance which cost Troy Caldwell his life was the result of someone simply not paying attention. There is a chance, she said, that the use of the blue flashing lights might have made the driver of the semi pay more attention.

"We need to get those light on these trucks," Carmack said. "Every truck on that road needs to

be lit up like a Christmas tree. It's just that extra little bit that could prevent such a horrible accident as this man went through."

Carmack said she thinks the flashing lights on top of most emergency vehicles do help, but there needs to be more.

"People just see too many flashing lights these days," she said. "So, it's easy to ignore them or just not really notice them."

The addition of the blue lights, she said, might make people take notice where they might have been desensitized to other

emergency light indicators.

There are too many distractions, Carmack said, so there needs to be an increase in emergency warnings.

"One of the main things I have seen is people driving while using their cell phones," Carmack said. "If you're on the road while they are doing that, it's like someone has a gun to your head. And I don't know, but maybe the person who hit Troy Caldwell was distracted using a cell phone."

The rear facing blue lights might have been

enough to overcome whatever distraction might have been the cause of Caldwell's death, Carmack said. And whether it was negligence, distraction, or some other factor that caused the semi to not maintain the proper distance from the stationary wrecker, Carmack and many others believe rear facing blue lights might have made all the difference.

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

## Lawmakers return to Frankfort for part two of session

Lawmakers returned to Frankfort on February 4 to resume the 2025 Regular Session and got right to work filing several bills, meeting with constituents, and attending committee meetings.

The biggest victory of the week was the Senate passage of legislation that will make Kentucky more competitive by lowering the state's individual income tax to 3.5 percent as of January 2026. This measure is the next step in the legislature's efforts to leave more money in the pockets of Kentuckians, empowering them to save, invest, and spend in ways that benefit their own communities. This measure not only helps Kentuckians, but also strengthens Kentucky's economic

competitiveness, making it an even more attractive place to work.

A lower income tax fosters growth, creates jobs, and ensures that our state remains on a path toward sustained prosperity.



**Patrick Flannery**  
Representative  
State of Kentucky

HB 1 continues the House Majority's efforts to eliminate the individual income tax entirely. In 2018, the General Assembly first acted to decrease the individual income tax rate from 6 percent to 5 percent, which resulted in historic economic growth, as well as record job creation and state revenue. Lawmakers passed legislation HB 8 22RS that lays the groundwork to eliminate the individual income tax entirely but includes preset triggers that must be met before the legislature

can move to decrease the tax in half a percentage point increments. These triggers essentially hold funding for state programs and agencies harmless. I am pleased to share that the bill was signed into law just a day after the House and Senate sent it to the Governor's desk. We were, of course, prepared to override another veto if necessary.

As session continues, I look forward to discussing the legislation we are working on, especially how it will help bring about change throughout the Commonwealth. I wanted to take some time to inform you about some of the bills passed out of committee.

Teacher Red Tape Reduction Act: Members of the House Education Committee approved HB 48, which would remove burdensome administrative

policies and standards that take a teacher's time away from the students in the classroom. This measure would standardize professional development schedules, reduce the frequency of summative evaluations, and remove unnecessary requirements set by the Kentucky Department of Education to give teachers more time to focus on instruction.

Landon's Law/Choking Safety in Schools: Another bill passed by committee this week was HB 44, also known as Landon's Law. The measure would require schools to train staff to use anti-choking devices if they have purchased the equipment. Qualified staff would also receive instruction on the proper technique of the Heimlich maneuver. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that schools have anti-choking de-

**PUBLIC NOTICE  
CITY OF GRAYSON  
ORDINANCE NO. 2024-03**

AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRAYSON, KENTUCKY APPROVING THE EXECUTION AND DELIVERY OF A LEASE AGREEMENT WITH THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF GRAYSON A PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF \$150,000 TO FINANCE A PORTION OF THE COSTS OF THE ACQUISITION, CONSTRUCTION, AND INSTALLATION OF MUNICIPAL SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT AND SECURITY OF THE LEASE AND DEPOSITS TO A SINKING FUND; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF VARIOUS DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE LEASE; AND MAKING CERTAIN DESIGNATIONS REGARDING SUCH LEASE.

WHEREAS, the City of Grayson, Kentucky (the "City"), a municipal corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth of Kentucky (the "Commonwealth"), has determined and does hereby confirm that it is a public purpose of the City to acquire, construct, and install municipal sidewalk improvements within the jurisdictional boundaries of the City (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, under the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, including, particularly, Sections 66.011 through 66.191, inclusive, of the Kentucky Revised Statutes, as amended (the "General Obligation Act"), and Section 65.940 et seq. of the Kentucky Revised Statutes (the "Governmental Leasing Act"), the City has the power to enter into a lease agreement with a third-party lender (the "Lease Agreement") to finance all or a portion of the costs of the Project and to pledge the full faith, credit, and taxing power of the City to secure the payment of the obligations of the City under the Lease; and

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

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

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

**Section 2. Necessity, Authorization, and Purpose.** The City hereby declares that it is desirable and necessary to enter into, and hereby authorizes the execution and delivery of, a Lease Agreement by and between the City and the Lessor in the principal amount of \$150,000, for the purpose of (a) financing all or a portion of the costs of the Project; and (b) paying all or a portion of the closing costs associated with the Lease Agreement.

**Section 3. Form of the Lease Agreement; Terms.** The Lease Agreement shall state that it is entered into by the City under the authority of the General Obligation Act and the Governmental Leasing Act and shall be substantially in the form set forth in Exhibit A attached hereto. Principal owed under the lease shall accrue interest at a rate of 4.5% per annum. Interest and principal shall be paid as set forth in the Lease Agreement.

**Section 4. Execution and Delivery.** The Lease Agreement shall be executed by the manual or electronic signature of the Mayor and duly attested by the manual or electronic signature of the City Clerk (which, together with any other person as may be authorized by resolution or municipal order, are referred to herein as the "Designated Officers") and may have the seal of the City or a facsimile thereof affixed thereto. The Designated Officers of the City are hereby further authorized and directed (i) to deliver the Lease Agreement to the Lessor upon the terms and conditions provided in this Ordinance; (ii) to receive the proceeds of the Lease Agreement; and (iii) to execute and deliver such certificates and other closing documents and to take such other action as may be necessary or appropriate in order to effectuate the Lease Agreement.

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

**Section 6. Sinking Fund.** There is hereby established, or it is acknowledged that there has heretofore been established, a sinking fund (the "Sinking Fund") with the City in accordance with the requirements of the General Obligation Act, which is hereby ordered to be continued and maintained as long as the Lease Agreement shall remain outstanding. The funds derived from the tax levy hereby required or other available taxes shall be placed in the Sinking Fund and, together with interest collected on the same, are irrevocably pledged for the payment of all bonds issued under the General Obligation Act and tax supported leases, as defined in the General Obligation Act, including the Lease Agreement, when and as the same fall due. Amounts shall be transferred from the Sinking Fund to the Lessor at the times and in the amounts required by the Lease Agreement.

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

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

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

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

**Section 11. Conflicts.** All ordinances, resolutions, orders, or parts thereof in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are, to the extent of such conflict, hereby repealed and the provisions of this Ordinance shall prevail and be given effect.

**Section 12. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall take effect from and after its passage and publication of a summary thereof, as provided by law.

INTRODUCED, SECONDED, AND ADOPTED, at a duly convened meeting of the City Council of the City of Grayson, Kentucky, held on December 9th, 2024, after first reading held on December 5th, 2024, signed by the Mayor of the City, attested by the City Clerk, ordered published in summary form and filed and indexed as provided by law.

/s/ Troy Combs, Mayor

Attest:  
/s/ Dawnita Lewis, City Clerk

**CERTIFICATE**

I, the undersigned Clerk of the City of Grayson, Kentucky (the "City"), certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an ordinance adopted by the City Council of the City at a meeting of the City Council held on December 9, 2024. I further certify that all actions taken in connection with the Ordinance were in compliance with the requirements of KRS 61.810, 61.815, 61.820, and 61.823. and that the Ordinance is now in full force and effect, all as appears from the official records of the City in my custody and under my control.

Witness my hand as the City Clerk of the City this December 9, 2025

/s/ Dawnita Lewis, City Clerk

vices to improve student safety and comply with the American Disabilities Act (ADA). In addition, the anti-choking device manufacturer LifeVac provides schools with a free choking rescue device upon request. This device is registered and regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Individual Liberty: HB 27 also passed committee

this week, which would clarify existing law on planned communities to prohibit all homeowner associations from banning political yard signs. The bill maintains the authority of associations to regulate size and duration of political yard signs, while primarily protecting the first amendment rights of homeowners.

See FRANKFORT on A-8



## Frankfort from A-6

Protecting Elections: House Elections, Constitutional Amendments, and Intergovernmental Affairs approved legislation, HB 45, aimed at bringing consistency in election laws banning foreign

nationals from attempting to influence our elections via donations and political advertising. Foreign nationals are already banned from donating to influence candidate elections, and this law would extend that

ban to proposed ballot measures, like the constitutional amendments that were on our November ballot.

Celebrating Kentucky's Rich History: Members of the House State Govern-

ment Committee approved HB 313, which would designate the month of June as "Kentucky History Month."

As always, I hope you will feel free to contact me with any questions or

issues. I can be reached through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. Please feel free to email me at Patrick.Flannery@kylegislature.gov. If you would like more informa-

tion about the legislature, you can visit the Legislative Research Commission website at legislature.ky.gov.

## Medication from A-4

tern's request for comment.

Rather, Meredith limited discussion to SB 14, which he said would preserve benefits to Kentucky health providers.

The 340B program, authorized by Congress in 1992, was meant to aid health providers by giving them more money to help low-income patients, including providing lower cost drugs.

Created with the support of the pharmaceutical industry, it required drug manufacturers to provide drugs at discounts of up to 50% to hospitals and clinics that provide care

to a certain percentage of low-income patients including those covered through Medicaid, the state-federal health plan.

Hospitals and clinics provide those discounted drugs through pharmacies, then bill insurers including Medicaid for the market price of the drugs and keep the difference — the goal being to use those resources for low-income patients.

But it has expanded rapidly over the years, aided by changes in federal law that the pharmaceutical industry and some consumer advocates argue have allowed national pharmacy

chains and major health systems to benefit from 340B at the expense of consumers and low-income patients it was supposed to help.

"Our members believe this bill does not protect patients," said Russell Palk, with the Biotechnology Innovation Organization, a Washington D.C.-based trade association. "It does not lower their out-of-pocket costs."

Meredith rejected that assertion.

"I don't believe that's true," he said.

Rather, he said, his bill — similar to legislation

enacted in other states — would merely prevent pharmaceutical manufacturers from discriminating against Kentucky by requiring them to provide the same drugs at the same discounts as they do in other states. As 340B has grown, some pharmaceutical manufacturers are restricting discounted drugs they will ship to Kentucky, he said.

The program provides an estimated \$122 million a year in additional revenue for health care in Kentucky, he said. "Why should we not be allowed to have this funding when

other states are?"

Meanwhile, hospital CEOs told the panel Wednesday that income from 340B is critical to providing patient care, especially for cancer treatment where chemotherapy drugs can cost tens of thousands of dollars.

"Cancer treatment is expensive and without the 340B program many of our patients simply would not have access to it," said Brian Springate, CEO of Appalachian Regional Healthcare's Hazard hospital.

SB 14 passed the committee on a 9-1 vote

and now goes to the full Senate.

A similar bill last year sponsored by Meredith passed the Senate but died for lack of action in the House.

*Originally published by the Kentucky Lantern and available online, with links, at <https://kentuckylantern.com/2025/02/05/kentucky-hospitals-testify-they-need-drug-discount-program-under-attack-by-pro-trump-group/>*

# Sky's the limit with EKU's innovative UAS program

RICHMOND — Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) is leading the charge in preparing students for the future with its innovative Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) concentration, part of the university's Bachelor of Science in Aviation program. Launched in Fall 2022, the UAS program is designed to equip students with the technological skills and hands-on experience needed for careers in one of the fastest-growing segments of the aviation industry.

"As the Commonwealth's only four-year aviation program, we offer cutting-edge academic programs and educational experiences to meet the evolving needs of the workforce," said EKU President David McFad-

din. "The UAS concentration empowers our students to lead in the field and elevates our aviation major as a whole."

EKU's UAS concentration offers a comprehensive curriculum covering the diverse applications of drone technology across multiple industries—from agriculture to construction to law enforcement and beyond.

Dr. Derek Paulsen, dean of the College of Justice, Safety, and Military Science highlighted the accessibility of the UAS program, noting that the concentration has a much lower cost to students and the university than the professional flight concentration. The UAS concentration offers an opportunity for students to obtain a degree in aviation that will

prepare them for rewarding and well-paying jobs created in the many professions now using drones.

For Jackson Beardsley, a junior from Richmond, Kentucky, the aviation major with the UAS concentration has provided him with a diverse set of skills and experience for a wide range of future career opportunities.

Dennis Sinnett, chair of EKU's School of Aviation, and Thor Morrison, outreach specialist and adjunct professor with an extensive UAS background with public safety, have both been instrumental in supporting and expanding the UAS curriculum, Beardsley said.

Beardsley added that the UAS program is not just about flying drones. He said it's about ex-



EKU student flying an unmanned aircraft. (submitted photo)

ploring different career paths and discovering the real-world applications of drones in hands-on scenarios.

"We learn about regulations and different career paths, from agriculture to public safety to construc-

tion," said Beardsley. "Agriculture is a big interest of mine—you can scan the crops and assess their health using drones."

By offering innovative education in drone technology, EKU is paving the way for students like

Beardsley to soar into the future with confidence, equipped with the skills needed to succeed in an ever-evolving industry.

# Congressman Rogers votes for the HALT Fentanyl Act

WASHINGTON, DC -- U.S. Rep. Harold "Hal" Rogers (KY-05), Dean of the House, voted for the Halt All Lethal Trafficking (HALT) of Fentanyl Act to crack down on drug traffickers across the country and provide law enforcement with the tools necessary to help keep fentanyl-related substances off of American streets.

Congressman Rogers cosponsored the bipartisan HALT Fentanyl Act,

which passed the House on Thursday. The legislation permanently classifies chemically altered fentanyl substances as Schedule I drugs, closing a dangerous loophole before the temporary designation expires on March 31, 2025. Without the permanent classification, the penalty for trafficking the altered fentanyl substances is not as severe as those for traditional fentanyl.

"In Kentucky, we've

seen the painful result of deadly fentanyl poisoning in our communities. In fact, nearly 80% of all overdose deaths in the Commonwealth were a result of fentanyl poisoning in 2023. We must do more to keep these chemically-altered drugs from coming across our borders and getting into our communities," said Congressman Rogers, founder of Operation UNITE and the national Rx and Illicit

Drug Summit. "The House passed this bill two years ago, but Senate Democrats refused to bring it to a vote. With Republicans now leading the Senate, I'm hopeful that we can get this vital legislation passed before the designation expires."

Accidental fentanyl poisonings are the number one cause of death among adults between the ages of 18 and 49, more than cancer, heart disease and

car accidents. Fentanyl-related substances can be 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine, with only a few milligrams becoming lethal.

In 2018, under the first Trump Administration, the Drug Enforcement Administration first temporarily classified fentanyl-related substances as Schedule I drugs. This bill would make the classification and penalties permanent. The legislation now moves

on to the U.S. Senate for consideration.

For more information about Congressman Rogers' work in Washington and at home in Kentucky, visit [halrogers.house.gov](http://halrogers.house.gov) and follow him on Facebook, X and Instagram.

## Coyote from A-1

one again impacted.

"If we should drop from a 65 one year to a 62," Green pointed out, "the state takes three points away — and now we are at a 59. Even though a school can score relatively close each year, your fluctuations in what is your posted score can appear drastic."

"If you have a year where you show good growth you will get bonuses, however, those points only last for one year. And if you don't continue to grow at a high level it causes you to go backwards. That impacted us in a couple of our schools this year, and it looked like they had regression. But that wasn't an accurate representation."

"They are amplifying either your gains or decreases," Green explained. "So, its very important that each school gains across all indicators."

Another frustrating thing for educators, Green said, is that the accountability model compares different groups of children. A fourth-grade class this year tests and

scores at one level, and then next year's fourth grade class of all different students must improve on the scores of the previous class or be penalized for it. A more accurate model, he said, would be to look at the current class scores and compare them to what the same class scores the following year.

Green said that the board of education has all of the raw data on test scores, and they know where the schools are with their scores, but that it can result in a very confusing public perception of the schools' progress.

"We have grown in the years that I have been here," he said. "But it can be very frustrating from a public perception standpoint when it appears as though we might have went backwards when we actually haven't."

Green said that if parents need further clarification about the scores, they can feel free to contact the Board of Education. He also said that the state is considering revamping the entire accountability

model. There will be an open forum on February 27, and it will be attended by the Commissioner of Education. The forum will allow people to voice their concerns and offer their opinions on what they would like to see in the new model.

"I think they have realized that the system is not working, and it is not measuring the right things," Green said. "It measures academic progress, but it does very little to measure things like critical thinking, leadership, perseverance, and communication."

The town hall style meeting will be held on February 27, from 5 to 7 p.m. Eastern Time at 904 West Rose Road in Ashland, and involves the Commissioner of Education and the Kentucky United We Learn Council.

Green also discussed the process for selecting the new mascot and new school colors for the school currently under construction. Green said that many Carter County residents have wondered why there was a need to

choose a new mascot and colors so far in advance of the school being completed.

"People have asked why we are doing the branding right now," Dr. Green said. "Our architects are doing their construction documents, and that is when they need to start picking out even the colors. So, in order to get to those final documents, we have to give them a color scheme. Flooring, paint choices, trim choices, exterior door choices, because all of those things will be complimentary to what your school choices are."

Dr. Green said they encouraged community outreach and invited submissions for the new mascot and colors. The submissions were all grouped into categories such as animals, which included canines, cats, and birds, and people (commanders, rangers, etc.). There were 25 people on the committee, which broke down into subcommittees, with 6 to 8 people on each subcommittee. Each subcommittee picked a category and narrowed

the choices down to one or two.

This process began with certain restraints as well, with some clear criteria set from the beginning. They did not want duplications of existing mascots in the region, nor did they want gender specific mascots such as 'Cowboys', and they did not want to use any combination of the mascots of the schools that would be joining together. Eventually the choices were narrowed down to Ravens, Bats, Snakes, Copperheads, Aces, and Coyotes. After further elimination, the two remaining choices were the Aces and the Coyotes.

The group tasked with this process was made up of eight students, with the remainder made up of teachers, parents, administrators, coaches, athletic directors, cheer coaches, and band leaders. All students and staff were eligible to vote, and then there was a vote open to the public.

"Students could actually vote in the public vote, so they could vote twice," Green said.

The final voting took place on Friday, February 7, and The Carter County Board of Education posted the following on their Facebook page;

"Carter County Schools is pleased to announce that public and school voting for the mascot, colors, and name of the new Carter County High School is complete. The votes have been tallied with the Coyotes coming out on top. The branding colors of the new high school will be blue, black, silver, and white. It was important to complete branding decisions at this time in order for the architects to include school specific elements in the construction documents for the new Carter County High School. These selections will be presented to the Carter County Board of Education for final approval."

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