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# Carter County Times

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CARTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY

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## Deciding where the money goes

### Fiscal court to establish opioid fund advisory board

By Charles Romans  
Carter County Times

The Carter County Fiscal Court is in the process of establishing an advisory board made up of county residents to help examine proposals for grants made using funds from the opioid abatement settlement. The new board will undergo state training to help them better understand the existing guidance on how funds from the opioid settlement can be most effectively used to

benefit those impacted by the opioid pandemic, as well as how opioid addiction can be prevented, and the role law enforcement plays in the crisis.

The one overarching rule or guideline to the opioid funds, in this case funds given by the state to Carter County, is that it must be spent to abate the damage done by opioid addiction. The guidelines that are currently in place (and those guidelines are evolving on a state-by-state level) do not lend themselves to a 'blanket solution,' so to speak. Instead, they fall into categories such as prevention, enforcement, and treatment. Those same guidelines also encourage a 'new' solution to a problem

See OPIOID on A-3



Carter County Judge Executive Brandon Burton (left) talks with constituents before a "meet the candidates" event in this file photo. (File photo by Jeremy D. Wells, Carter County Times)

### Ambulance board discusses maintenance and finance

By Charles Romans  
Carter County Times

The Carter County Ambulance Board held its regularly scheduled meeting on Monday April 21. On the Board's agenda were items such as a blown motor in one of their secondary vehicles, the proposed purchase of three recertified heart monitors, and investing money from a secondary bank account.

In the financial report, income for the month of March was reported as \$289,980.15, which was \$13,870.15 more than budgeted for the month, and \$102,778.35 less than the same month of the previous year. Expenses for the month of March 2025 were \$298,116.09. Those expenses were \$12,284.91 less than budgeted for the month and \$3,410.23 more than the same month of the previous year.

Payroll expenses were calculated at 6815 percent of the year-to-date income. Those expenses for the month of March 2025 were \$245,074.93, were

\$19,925.07 less than budgeted for the month, and \$20,717.77 less than the same month in 2024.

Unscheduled overtime for the month of March 2025 was at 4.9 percent, increasing from the previous month (February 2025) percentage of 3.78. The year-to-date percentage of unscheduled overtime is currently 5.10 percent. The unscheduled overtime increase is due to an employee normally scheduled on the day truck being off work due to an injury, which necessitates those hours being covered by another full-time employee.

"The way we were figuring overtime was if someone called in, and someone else picked up that shift, then we were counting that as unscheduled overtime," CFO Dora Roe explained. "It is unscheduled overtime for that person, but not for the company because the company already has that scheduled as overtime."

The reason the company

See AMBULANCE on A-8



The Carter County Emergency Ambulance Board. (Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

### School board meetings offer insight and information

By Charles Romans  
Carter County Times

The Carter County Board of Education typically holds its meetings at a different school within the district each month, and the regular April meeting, on Monday evening, was held at Prichard Elementary School. All board meetings are open to the public and are posted on the board of education website, and public attendance is encouraged. Parents, students, and concerned community members can witness firsthand how the board operates and how decisions are made that affect not only students but the community at large.

Each meeting of the board includes an instructional update, and April's update included items such as Access to Algebra (consent item), New Teacher Seminar, and the Writing Club. Also discussed were the KYCL Literacy Grant (Totaling 1.5 million dollars over 5 years), CKLA Amplify, MClass Intervention Suite, and BOOST for K-5th Grade.

The instructional update covered Amplify ELA & Close Reading for grades 6-8, Study Sync for grades 9-12, and partnering with local daycares – August 29 (KCU). An RDIF Mini-Grant (Totaling \$240,000 divided between six

elementary schools), small group tutoring at Olive Hill Elementary School, West Carter Middle School with district leadership team, and Beanstack for elementary & middle school were also discussed, as well as the alignment of high school curriculum for math, science, and social studies, and CKLA Amplify Science K-8.

Board of education meetings allow parents and even students themselves to learn more about key issues in the education system, with professionals and board members ready to answer any questions. One

See SCHOOL on A-8

### Weekly arrests report

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

- Jeremy Lawhorn, 40, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear, arrested and booked April 14.
- Tylor Wagoner, 27, of Meally, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of first degree fleeing or evading police, first degree wanton endangerment, speeding 26 MPH or more over the speed limit, reckless driving, failure to maintain required insurance, and being a persistent felony offender, arrested and booked April 14.
- Reba Click, 37, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State

Police, on charges of possession of drug paraphernalia, giving an officer false identifying information, and two counts of failure to appear, arrested and booked April 14.

- Kenneth Sammons, 49, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of giving an officer false identifying information, menacing, resisting arrest, possession of marijuana, contempt of court – libel/slander – resistance to order, and two counts of failure to appear, arrested and booked April 14.
- Alisha Kelley, 31, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky Department of Corrections, on a probation violation (for a felony offense), arrested and booked April 15.
- Ferdinand Gerger, 66, of Albany, arrested by Kentucky Department of Corrections, charges unavailable, arrested

and booked April 15.

- Ronald Daniel, 40, of Albany, arrested by Kentucky Department of Corrections, charges unavailable, arrested and booked April 15.
- Fabian Echols, 27, of Campbellsville, arrested by Kentucky Department of Corrections, charges unavailable, arrested and booked April 15.
- David Weiland, 27, of Campbellsville, arrested by Kentucky Department of Corrections, charges unavailable, arrested and booked April 15.
- April Knipp, 36, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, for failure to appear, arrested and booked April 16.
- Michael Adams, Jr., 51, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of failure to appear, and theft by unlawful taking or disposition of items valued at more than \$1,000 but less than \$10,000, arrested and booked April 16.

See ARRESTS on A-3



### This Week's Obituaries

Calvin Arthur Baker, 65

Janet Mullins Wilson, 86

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# LIFESTYLE



## Buona pasqua! Celebrating Easter with Italian Easter Pie

Arroz con Pollo: The One-Pot Wonder That Feeds Your Family (and Your Wallet!)

Arroz con Pollo translates to "Rice with Chicken" in Spanish, but it's so much more than that. This dish shows up in almost every culture because it's cheap, easy to make, feeds a crowd and everyone loves it.

The magic happens when the chicken, rice and veggies simmer together, creating a one-pot wonder of juicy chicken, flavorful rice and vibrant peppers and tomatoes. This is my go-to recipe when chicken thighs go on sale. And if you're lucky enough

to have leftovers, they're even better the next day. It freezes beautifully, too.

The beauty of Arroz con Pollo is its flexibility. While I swear by bone-in, skin-on chicken thighs for maximum flavor, feel free to swap in any chicken pieces you like -- legs, breasts or a combo. Bone-in, skin-on chicken does bring a deeper flavor, but boneless and skinless will work if you're watching your waistline or just need to make things quicker. Want a little heat? Toss in some serrano or jalapeno peppers with your onions and bell peppers.

You can use any rice you've got on hand but, just be aware that the cooking time and liquid amounts may vary. And if you're a brown rice fan (like me), go ahead and use 3 cups of pre-cooked brown rice when you add the tomatoes. Just skip the broth and water for this one -- because, let's face it, brown rice rules.

Oh, and peas and green olives? Totally optional, but I love how the sweet peas and salty olives balance out the dish. No harm if you leave them out, though. It's still delicious either way!

**ARROZ CON POLLO**  
Yield: 4-6 servings

- Total Time: 50 minutes
- 2 teaspoons salt
  - 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
  - 1 teaspoon garlic powder
  - 1 teaspoon dried cumin
  - 3-4 pounds chicken thighs, bone-in, skin-on
  - 3 tablespoons olive oil
  - 1 (16 ounce) bag frozen onion and pepper blend, thawed
  - 1 1/2 cups long-grain white rice
  - 2 cloves garlic, finely minced
  - 1 (14.5 ounce) can chicken broth
  - 1 (8 ounce) can tomato sauce
  - 1 (14.5 ounce) can diced tomatoes with chilies
  - 1 cup frozen peas, thawed (optional)
  - 1/2 cup manzanilla pimiento-stuffed green olives, chopped (optional)

In a small bowl, combine the salt, pepper, garlic and cumin. Pat the chicken thighs dry with paper towels and sprinkle the seasonings evenly over them.

Heat olive oil in a large skillet over medium-high heat. Cooking in batches if necessary so you don't crowd the pan, add the chicken, skin side down, into the skillet. Brown chicken on both sides, about 5 minutes per side. Set aside.



Arroz con Pollo: A comforting one-pot meal that's as budget-friendly as it is delicious. (Photo credit: www.JasonCoblentz.com)

Reduce heat to medium. In the same skillet, saute onion and pepper blend until softened. Add salt, rice and garlic; saute until rice is golden and garlic fragrant.

Add chicken broth, tomato sauce, diced tomatoes and 1 cup water. (I rinse out the tomato cans with the cup of water and add it to the pot. It finally happened; I have become my mother.) Stir well.

Return chicken to skillet, skin side up, nestling pieces in rice mixture. Ensure rice is covered with liquid. Cover and simmer on low for 30-35 minutes until rice is tender and chicken reaches 165 F. Add the peas and/or

olives and stir. Serve hot. This one-pot meal stands on its own, but a crisp salad and/or green beans with almonds would make great sides. Next time chicken thighs are on sale, give this frugal family favorite a try -- it's like a culinary hug from your abuelita!

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Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website Divas On A Dime -- Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous! Visit Patti at [www.divasonadime.com](http://www.divasonadime.com) and join the conversation on Facebook at [DivasOnADimeDotCom](https://www.facebook.com/DivasOnADimeDotCom). Email Patti at [divapatti@divasonadime.com](mailto:divapatti@divasonadime.com)  
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## Ask Daryl: Your Professional Organizer Taming a TEMU habit

"I'm a busy mom and teacher with a TEMU habit. Help!"

You are not the only one facing the popularity of this new shopping platform. It offers an extremely desirable experience both from the standpoint of variety and cost.

In order to minimize your Temu addiction, you will need to ween yourself off slowly taking small steps until you are feeling you once again have control.

Try to limit your purchases to once a month. If that isn't doable try once every two months. Schedule days on a calendar for your next trip into Temu land and stick to it. This will help to make those

days something to look forward to. Create a list of the items you are intending to buy on your next shopping day.

Prioritize your list and then divide your list into four sections. This will allow you to purchase only those items in the first section as those will be the most important. Try not to add on if your new list is small because your next scheduled shopping day won't be that far away

Assign a budget specifically for shopping Temu. Since I don't know how much you spend, just try to cut that total in half. This may prove to be automatic once you start using the list of items you are planning

on buying.

Each month review your habits and your budget to see how your experience has changed and explore where you can limit yourself further. If you do get the urge to buy outside of your new schedule, take a drive or a walk, go to the gym, or play with the kids to get out of that head space. It will take time, but you will benefit greatly by reducing the dollars you spend, limiting over-crowding in your home, and having more time to enjoy your newfound freedom.

It's as simple as that! Send your questions and comments to me at [info@confusionsolution.com](mailto:info@confusionsolution.com)



Daryl Ashley  
Guest Columnist  
Confusion Solution

## University of Kentucky Extension Notes

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

### Better pastures equals healthier herds

Rotational stocking, often referred to as rotational grazing, is a powerful technique that can bring a range of benefits to all types of livestock as well as the land. By dividing large pastures into smaller paddocks and moving animals through them on a planned schedule, farmers can give each grazed area a rest period, allowing for regrowth of leaf area lost to grazing and replenishment of stored carbohydrates that were utilized to fuel regrowth. When producers shift from continuous grazing to a rotational system, they often see dramatic improvements in pasture productivity, soil health and even animal behavior.

One of the primary advantages of rotational grazing is enhanced pasture productivity. When animals graze one paddock at a time and then move on, the plants in the grazed paddock have a chance to rebound. During this rest period, forage plants can restore their carbohydrate reserves and recover more completely from being grazed. This not only boosts the quantity of forage available over time but also maintains better and more consis-

tent nutritional quality. In contrast, continuous grazing—where livestock stay in the same pasture all season—often leads to overgrazing, weaker plants that are more susceptible to stresses and progressively lower yields.

Improved nutrient distribution is another significant plus. Rotating animals means they spread manure evenly around the paddocks rather than depositing it heavily in just

a few favorite areas (like watering or resting spots). Because manure is a natural fertilizer, more uniform distribution helps replenish the soil and encourages consistent plant growth. A continuous grazing system, on the other hand, may result in "hot spots" of manure accumulation. This concentrated nutrient load can negatively impact both plant growth and the environment around those areas.

A well-managed rotational grazing system also offers increased drought tolerance. With planned rest periods, plants develop deeper, stronger root systems. These robust roots allow the plants to access water further below the surface, which can be crucial during dry spells.

In a continuously grazed pasture, plants rarely get the downtime they need to fully recover, leaving them more vulnerable to stress when rainfall is scarce. As a result, fields under rotational management often grow longer into drought periods and recover faster when conditions improve.

Another practical benefit of rotational stocking is easier animal handling. When paddocks are set up with well-designed lanes and strategically placed water sources, moving livestock becomes more straightforward. In addition, more frequent contact with animals allows livestock to associate human interaction with something positive...fresh grass. This greatly reduces the stress and chaos commonly associated with animal handling in open pastures. Properly placed lanes can also help control erosion, ensuring that foot traffic and machinery movement do not damage sensitive areas of the pasture.

Rotational stocking can be a game-changer for anyone looking to optimize pasture health and livestock performance. By giving plants time to recover, distributing nutrients more evenly, building drought resilience and streamlining animal

See PASTURES on A-3

## Joyful Noise Following Jesus in the Power of the Cross

By Pastor Naomi Mitchell for Carter County Times

We just celebrated Holy Week remembering what a difference that week has made in the lives of every person on this earth. The cross Crowned Jesus with glory. The cross Reconciled us to God. The cross Overcame the world. On the cross He Shed His blood for our sins. The work done at the cross Saved us from God's wrath.

We want to reap rewards of things in life without paying the cost.

We want the benefits but do not want to pay the price. The most ultimate great sacrifice was made at the cross so we might have eternal life.

You can only get the crown of life if you're willing to go to the cross. When you follow Jesus -- listen very carefully -- your life is not your own. Mark 8:34 says, "If anyone would come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow Me."

You can't follow Jesus on your terms. You must follow Him on His terms.

And that road always leads to a cross. When you walk with Jesus closely, you will suffer. There will be difficulty. But there will also be rewards and joy. There's a reason so many people with success and financial gain feel empty. They traded purpose for comfort. Mark 8:36 says, "For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his soul?"

"Deny yourself. Take up your cross. Follow Me." That's not a slogan. That's the way of life. Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth

See JOYFUL NOISE on A-4

## Kentucky Dept of Agriculture Livestock and Grain Market Report

Compared to last week feeder steers sold 6.00 to 12.00 higher with instances sharply higher. Heifers were 5.00 to 10.00 higher with instances sharply higher. Yearling steers and heifers had a limited comparison to last week but were trending steady to firm. Demand was good to very good for all feeder and yearling classes with active buyer participation showing best interest for weaned packages. Slaughter cows sold 2.00 to 5.00 higher and bulls steady to 3.00 higher with good to very good demand.

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

Week ending 4/19/25

	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
<b>Steers (M&amp;L 1-2)</b>			
350-400 lbs	421.74	397.12	324.25
400-450 lbs	401.97	386.89	314.84
450-500 lbs	383.54	372.23	305.35
500-550 lbs	356.41	344.05	297.88
550-600 lbs	346.91	329.44	285.25
600-650 lbs	320.82	312.10	275.87
650-700 lbs	308.48	306.95	259.88
700-750 lbs	291.30	289.39	243.66
750-800 lbs	277.06	269.86	233.09
800-850 lbs	265.59	261.38	225.42
850-900 lbs	264.99	256.75	217.11
<b>Heifers (M&amp;L 1-2)</b>			
300-350 lbs	380.92	357.10	294.65
350-400 lbs	370.58	346.37	288.34
400-450 lbs	355.17	334.18	279.43
450-500 lbs	338.88	329.03	271.50
500-550 lbs	317.70	306.62	259.49
550-600 lbs	301.47	306.20	247.24
600-650 lbs	277.93	278.43	237.47
650-700 lbs	274.47	263.85	229.87
700-750 lbs	259.32	248.62	212.93
750-800 lbs	250.26	246.11	210.84

WEEKLY COW SUMMARY			
	Average	High	Low
<b>Slaughter Cows</b>			
Breakers	127.00-156.00	140.00-171.00	100.00-139.00
Boners	125.00-157.00	140.00-181.00	93.00-139.00
Lean	91.00-147.00	123.00-161.00	100.00-133.00
<b>Slaughter Bulls</b>			
Yield Grade 1&2	148.00-180.00	169.00-207.00	120.00-159.00

Apr 10, 2025 Bowling Green, KY			
<b>SLAUGHTER GOATS: 260</b>			
<b>Kids: Selection 1</b>	53 lbs 395.00; 71 lbs 345.00.	<b>Selection 1-2</b>	52-54 lbs 350.00-375.00; 90 lbs 275.00.
<b>SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 1,280</b>			
<b>Hair Breeds-Choice &amp; Prime 1-2</b>	47 lbs 290.00; 54-56 lbs 270.00-275.00; 64-66 lbs 260.00-265.00; 75-76 lbs 262.50-325.00; 86-88 lbs 267.50-275.00; 95-97 lbs 260.00-310.00; 111 lbs 230.00; 125 lbs 195.00.	<b>Woolled-Choice &amp; Prime 1-2</b>	58 lbs 275.00; 74 lbs 270.00; 85 lbs 275.00.
Week ending 4/19/25			
	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
<b>GRAINS</b>			
<b>Corn</b>	4.61-5.06	4.55-5.11	4.02-4.46
<b>Soybeans</b>	9.66-10.69	9.13-10.70	10.69-11.74
<b>Red Winter Wheat</b>	4.66-5.57	4.61-5.62	4.67-5.60

**Arrests** from A-1

- Richard Edwards, 42, address unknown, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of first degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), first degree robbery of a residence, and two counts of failure to appear, arrested and booked April 16.
- Rodney Stephens, 47, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked April 16.
- Boyd Littleton, 33, of Clearfield, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on two counts of failure to appear, arrested and booked April 16.
- Gregory Conn, 43, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a substance, no registration receipt, failure to produce an insurance card, and third degree possession of a controlled substance – drug unspecified, arrested and booked April 16.
- Randall Adkins, 63, of

- Grayson, arresting agency withheld, for failure to appear, arrested and booked April 16.
- Scotty Skaggs, 56, of Morehead, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear, arrested and booked April 17.
- Gary Morgan, 64, of Hitchens, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of operating on a suspended or revoked operator’s license, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, failure to maintain required insurance, no registration receipt, and possession of an open alcoholic beverage container in a motor vehicle, arrested and booked April 17.
- Lee Hoskins, 32, of London, arrested by Grayson PD, on two counts of non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked April 17.
- Denise Spillman, 42, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, on a charge of alcohol intoxication in a public place, arrested and booked April 18.
- Daniel Lee, 33, of Olive

- Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear, arrested and booked April 18.
- Jerald Jackson, 43, of Morehead, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a substance, and operating on a suspended or revoked operator’s license, arrested and booked April 19.
- Chelsey Maynard, 24, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on a charge of fourth degree assault (domestic violence) with minor injury, arrested and booked April 19.
- Isaiah Shepherd, 21, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on a charge of fourth degree assault (domestic violence) with minor injury, arrested and booked April 19.
- Valario Mendoza, 25, address unavailable, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of first degree possession of a controlled substance (drug unspecified), and possession of drug paraphernalia, arrested and booked April 19.

- David Santiago, 44, of Sandy Hook, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on a charge of non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, and fourth degree assault (domestic violence) with minor injury, arrested and booked April 19.
  - Jason Wampler, 40, address unavailable, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of driving on a DUI suspended license, no registration plates, no registration receipt, failure to notify department of transportation of address change, and no motorcycle operator’s license, arrested and booked April 20.
- 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.

**Opioid** from A-1

which has, unfortunately, devastated the country and our region especially for far too long.

“One of the things we wanted to really work on was prevention,” Renee Parsons of the Business Cultivation Foundation (BCF) said.

BCF is currently working on grants for the county, including the opioid grants, and regularly communicates on a state level about the evolving guidelines.

“Prevention is what the fiscal court is focused on and is what the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission (KOAAC) is focusing on. They (KOAAC) really want to focus on youth prevention,” Parsons said.

Parsons said this focus is one reason that they are looking at every city and county, to determine what can be done that is new to enhance youth prevention.

“And they have to be sort of pilot programs,” Parsons explained. “It can’t be something that is already being funded. There are many wonderful programs in existence, but those can’t be duplicated or supplanted.”

Carter County Judge Executive Brandon Burton said the fiscal court sees the need to make their own coherent plan and establish a structure of how these funds can be applied for and dispersed. “We wanted to get started to help our community with the funds we have received,” Burton said. “And as time has went on and we have learned more, I think an advisory board will help us stick to a strategic plan.”

Burton said he sees the proposed advisory board as being extremely helpful as the fiscal court determines what types of programs would best benefit the residents of Carter County.

“We want to know what people on a daily or weekly basis who are involved in these programs need,” Burton explained.

“And the advisory board will be extremely useful as an outreach to us to gather this information.”

“We are looking at the whole picture as we make a plan,” Burton said. “And then we are going to stick to that plan and make sure we are taking the right steps and doing everything we can to help our county.”

Burton said that rather than try to do everything immediately with the opioid abatement funds, the county wants to, at least at first, focus on taking smaller, sustainable steps. But those steps, he said, need to be the best steps possible. They need to be practical, educated steps that lead toward a possible benefit to the residents of Carter County.

The advisory board, which has been suggested for all levels of funding disbursement from the state to communities, allows a ‘voice’ to residents of those communities. This voice empowers them to inform local governments of what they see as positive avenues to improve their communities.

“The fiscal court wants to have good communication and know what the people in the community thinks we should do with this money,” Burton said. “And when they

come back to us with the problems they see, then we can take steps to fix those problems.”

“We want people to ‘get in our ear’,” Burton said. “This is a servant job. That’s what we do; we serve the people of the county. We want their information so we can make the best decisions. It’s in our lap to make the best decisions, but we want them (Carter County residents) to be a part of those decisions.”

The concern is what is going on at home, Burton said. And to answer that concern requires the best information available. Burton said the county takes full advantage of all the training offered through the state, and the members of the advisory board will have access to that training as well. They will also have the benefit of being ‘boots on the ground’ who can gather information directly from the community and the organizations already serving the community. They can research each proposal submitted and present those findings to the fiscal court, both streamlining and improving the criteria the fiscal court will use to make those decisions.

The first step in implementing the advisory board will be two community forum meetings where the statutes are explained, as well as the expectations of what the county is looking for on the advisory board.

The first meeting will be April 24, at 6 pm at the Olive Hill Arts and Heritage Center. The second meeting will be held on May 13, at 6 pm at East

Carter Middle School.

“Both of these locations are places that have received opioid funding, so you’ll be able to see some of what we have funded in action,” Parsons said. “And we can pass out the application for board membership and talk to people that are interested.”

The meetings are set up in the town hall style, so residents can not only receive information but are encouraged to ask questions and share their concerns.

Some criteria for becoming a member of the board are that the applicant must be a resident of Carter County, cannot be currently serving on another county board or committee, must be willing to attend the mandatory training, and must be able to collaborate respectfully and focus on community solutions. There is also a seat on the board for a teenage member, and the court wants members that represent multiple age categories. All board members are also volunteer positions, and the meeting schedule will be on a monthly basis.

“The fiscal court wants the support of the community with this platform,” Judge Burton said. “We want them to know we are doing everything we can with a strategic plan. We are wanting to utilize community outreach, listen to their voices, and try to fight this thing (the impacts of opioid abuse), knowing we are all working together to do it.”

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

**Pastures** from A-2

handling, rotational grazing can deliver long-lasting improvements to farm operations. Whether you’re raising cattle, sheep, goats or other grazing animals, this strategy can help you optimize productivity and at the same time protect land and water resources

for future generations.

Contact your local Carter County Extension office for more information on how to maintain healthy pastures. 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.

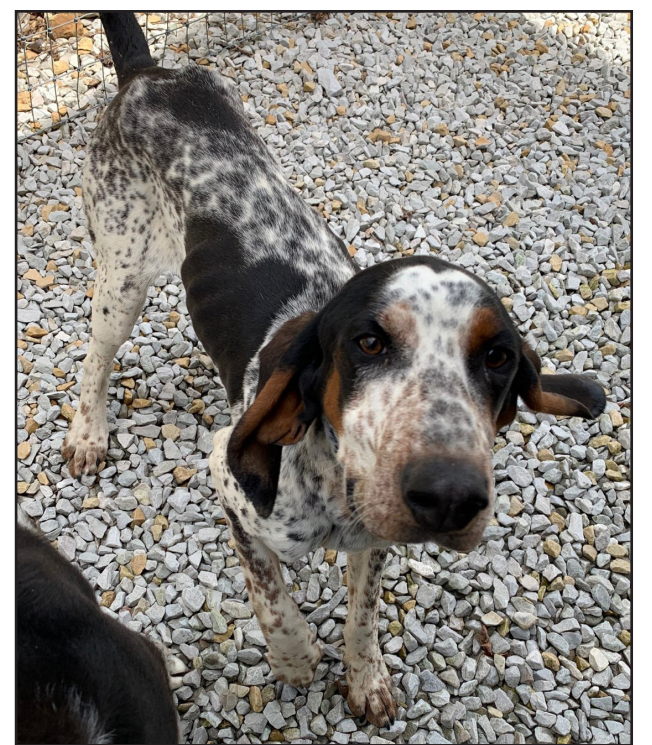
- Upcoming Events:**
- Eden Shale Farm Tour – April 25th
  - Little Sandy Beekeepers Association - May 6 @ 6:30; Topic- Honey Bee Aggression: A Drink From The Magic Well

# CALENDAR

- **4/23: Olive Hill Book Club @ 5:30 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **4/25: Eden Shale Farm Tour** | Contact the Extension office more for more info
- **4/25: Final Friday @ 6 p.m.** | Grayson Gallery & Art Center
- **4/28: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 606-474-6686
- **4/28: Homeschool group meeting @ 12 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **4/28: Girl Scouts meeting @ 6:30 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **4/29: Homeschool group meeting @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **5/1: Carter County Library Board @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **5/2: Sit and Sew @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions or to RSVP call 606-474-6686
- **5/5: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 606-474-6686
- **5/5: Homeschool group meeting @ 12 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **5/5: Carter County Tourism @ 5:30 p.m.** | Carter Caves State Resort Park
- **5/6: Rattlesnake Ridge Water District Board meeting @ 4 p.m.** | Rattlesnake Ridge Water District office
- **5/6: Homeschool group meeting @ 12 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson

**Have an event to add to the calendar?**  
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## Pet of the Week

Luke is an 8-month-old hound pup. He’s very friendly, loves attention, and is good with other dogs. His \$100 adoption fee includes rabies vaccination and being neutered. Stop by the Carter County Animal Shelter and meet him or call 475-9771 for more information.

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

**Is your family ready for this?**

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DUIs are expensive and may cost you your license or your life. Never drink and drive. Always buckle up.

A message from the City of Grayson and the Alcoholic Beverage Control Office

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## Joyful Noise from A-2

and the life." When He said, "I am the way," that means His way is through the cross. So, to follow Him is denying ourselves and taking up our cross. Mark 8:35 says, "For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it."

Did you know there are heavenly crowns promised to us if we will follow Jesus? The first one is the Incorruptible Crown (1 Corinthians 9:25) for living a disciplined Christian life without compromise. The second one is the Crown of

Righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8) for those who wait longingly for His coming. The third one is the Crown of Glory (1 Peter 5:4) for being faithful in the ministry God has given you. (Yes, we all have been given abilities and talents to use for the glory of God.) The fourth one is the Crown of Rejoicing (1 Thessalonians 2:19) for winning souls for Christ. The fifth one is the Crown of Life (James 1:12, Revelation 2:10) for those who persevere under trials, for those who love Him.

Are you ready to really follow Jesus? In 2 Cor-

inthians 5:7, you must have faith and believe in God and His promises. In Matthew 22:37, you must love others, having selfless care and compassion. In 1 Thessalonians 5:17, we must pray, communicating with God every day. God's grace for us is unearned favor and kindness. We must be willing and obedient to following God's commands. John 15:13 tells us we must sacrifice in giving up something for God and even others. We must learn to be patient on our daily walk. The Bible says we are to run this race with patience. Walking

calmly and enduring difficulty according to Galatians 5:22. Trusting and relying on God's wisdom every day, following and learning from Jesus, honoring and adoring God by living in the truth and guidance of the Holy Spirit. Understanding and applying God's truth every day. When we take up our cross and begin to truly follow Him, we will find an inner calm through God's presence with a deep, lasting happiness in God that will be a joy that is unspeakable and truly full of glory. Then you will begin to share the good

news of Jesus and helping others selflessly which is our calling.

You have crowns waiting for you!! Jesus is the rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. One day you will hear Him say, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

Not, "well done," bishop, deacon, pastor, influencer, missionary, teacher, youth pastor, singer, prophet, evangelist, minister, worship leader, praise dancer, elder, chaplain, apostle priest, etc.

But "Well done, good and faithful servant."

God has called us all

to do many things, and we carry different titles. We must first and foremost be a faithful servant following Jesus all the way. Amen! So be it!

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

# Celebrating the Earth with art

## Grayson Gallery hosts Earth Day inspired art show

By Dan Click  
for *Carter County Times*

The Grayson Gallery & Art Center will host an opening reception for artists and the public on April 25 for their annual Celebrate the Earth art show & sale. This themed-art exhibition will feature works as a celebration of Earth Day for the non-profit arts organization's monthly Final Fridays event, which is free to visitors (donations

at the door and tips for the musicians are encouraged) from 6 – 9 pm.

Located at 301 East Third Street (recently renamed Suttles Street) in Grayson, original artwork by creatives from across the region will include all the various usual mediums, with a focus on the hand made – from sculpture to wood carving – and much more. Live music will be presented by the band "Raised on Radio" with their first set being a bit more subtle prior to the announcements and awards ceremony at approximately 7:30 pm and then they'll be back on the GGAC stage and rocking the house up until closing time. During this portion of the evening, four \$50 cash awards

(or equivalent purchase) along with individual blue ribbons, will be handed out for People's Choice, a GGAC Board Choice, the Pen Lady Choice and the Brandon Click Memorial Art Award.

Raised on Radio musicians include drummer Art Griggs, vocals by Tracy Tooley, keyboard player Brent Foo, bass player Tom Olson and Brad Greene on lead guitar with Trevor Litteral handling sound and stage.

Refreshments, provided by Sheila Marie Catering, will be available after 6:30 pm.

Coming up in May will be several special arts pre-

sentations, including the GGAC's annual participation in Grayson Memory Days events – a poetry slam hosted by the Carter County Poetry Society and Holler Down the Holler is set for Thursday, May 22; East Carter High School Art Student's Showcase (with ECHS Art Teacher Heather Berry) opens on Friday, May 23. In addition, the GGAC's ongoing monthly event, featuring art and music and open to all, will take place on Friday, May 30.

The Pride in the Arts show will be back this summer with an opening reception on June 27, with "Garaoke" (Gary Kes-



Artist Dan Click, watercolor

ling) providing karaoke entertainment and tunes throughout the evening along with a special guest act by rapper Rhiannon Wallin.

For more information on what's happening at the GGAC, call their Info Line at 606-474-7651 for pre-recorded announcements

which are updated weekly. To learn more details or for questions about submitting art, performances and volunteer opportunities, contact director Dan Click at [graysongallery@gmail.com](mailto:graysongallery@gmail.com) and look for them on Facebook.

Contact the writer at [graysongallery@gmail.com](mailto:graysongallery@gmail.com).

## Mabry chosen as 2025 Rogers Scholar

By Sharon Dodson  
Center for Rural Development

East Carter High School student Kara Mabry has been chosen by the Center for Rural Development as one of their Rogers Scholars for 2025. Mabry was the only student from Carter County among the 104 students selected to participate in the Rogers Scholar program this year.

The Rogers Scholars program has been described as "an experience of a lifetime," and these high school students representing 45 Kentucky counties will have an opportunity to be a part of that experience this summer.

Students from Southern and Eastern Kentucky – all rising high school juniors – have been selected by The Center for Rural Development to represent their home county as 2025 Rogers Scholars.

"Congratulations to our newest class of Rogers Scholars," said Lonnie Lawson, President and CEO of The Center for Rural Development. "We are excited to announce this year's Rogers Scholars and cannot wait to meet this amazing group of students. They truly are our region's future leaders, filled with innovative and creative ideas, and ready to take on the world."

The 2025 Rogers Scholars program will be held on the campuses of Morehead State University (June 15-20) and Lindsey Wilson College (July 13-18). The program provides leadership and scholarship opportunities for high school students within The Center's 45-county primary service area to develop their skills as the region's next generation of business and entrepreneurial leaders.

For more information about Rogers Scholars, please call 606-677-6000, visit [www.centertech.com](http://www.centertech.com), or email [youth@centertech.com](mailto:youth@centertech.com).

*Established in 1996 through the vision of U.S. Congressman Harold "Hal" Rogers, (KY-05), and other leaders, The Center for Rural Development is a nonprofit organization fueled by a mission to provide leadership that stimulates innovative and sustainable economic development solutions and a better way of life in Southern and Eastern Kentucky. In its 45-county primary service region, The Center provides innovative programs in leadership, public safety, technology, and arts and culture. The Center is committed to constantly expanding its capabilities in order to deliver a range of key services throughout Kentucky and the nation.*

## OBITUARY

### Janet Mullins Wilson

1938 – 2025



Janet Mullins Wilson, age 86, of Olive Hill, Kentucky, passed away Monday, April 14, 2025, at her residence, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born Monday, July 18, 1938, in Carter County, Kentucky, a daughter of the late Earl Yates and Eunice Mullins Griffey.

Janet was a member of Garvin Ridge Wesleyan Church of over 50 years. She enjoyed working in her flowers, caring for her rose bushes, lilies and was always ready to go shopping. She adored her dog, patches but her grandson, Tyler was the love of her life.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving

husband of 66 years, Clyde Andrew Wilson; three brothers, JC. Mullins, Buck Mullins, Dean Mullins; three sisters, Barbara Eden, Patti Brown and Gracie Rodgers; one grandson, Alex Tyler Evans.

Janet is survived by her two daughters, Tammy Wilson Evans and her husband Ron and Lisa Wilson all of Lexington, Kentucky; 2 grandsons, Tyler Wesley Evans, and Brandon Evans along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss her.

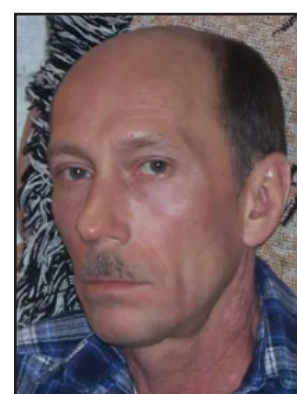
Funeral services will be held 2:30 p.m., Saturday, April 26, 2025, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Brother JC Bond officiating. Burial will follow in the Garvin Ridge Cemetery in Olive Hill, Kentucky.

Friends may visit after 12:30 p.m., Saturday, April 26, 2025, until the service hour at Globe Funeral Chapel.

Globe Funeral Chapel in Olive Hill, Kentucky is honored to serve the family of Janet Mullins Wilson.

### Calvin Arthur Baker

1959 – 2025



Calvin Arthur Baker, age 65, of Scotts Branch Road, Vanceburg, Kentucky, passed away Monday, April 14, 2025, at his residence.

He was born Wednesday, November 18, 1959, in Carter County, Kentucky, a son of the late Brady and Janet Gail Erwin Baker.

Calvin worked endless hours hanging sheet rock and doing drywall work. He enjoyed fishing, hunting, being outdoors, gardening, eating out, and spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one brother, Gregory Allen Baker; one brother-in-law, Billy Hall; his father-in-law, Eugene Lewis, and sister-in-law,

Cathy Horsley.

Calvin is survived by his loving wife of 44 years, Karen Lewis Baker; one daughter, Megan Plank of Vanceburg, Kentucky; two grandchildren, Elizabeth Plank, Jacob Plank; two sisters, Charlotte (Greg) Rayburn of Emerson, Kentucky, Shelia Hall of Olive Hill, Kentucky; his mother-in-law, Mary Roar Lewis of Scotts Branch, Kentucky, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss him.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m., Friday, April 18, 2025, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Brother David Rayburn officiating. Burial followed in the Baker Cemetery, Olive Hill, Kentucky.

Friends visited after 10 a.m., Friday, April 18, 2025, until the service hour at Globe Funeral Chapel.

Craig Rayburn, Nick Rayburn, Ryan Rayburn, Chris Hall, Brian Horsley and Mark Horsley served as pallbearers.

Globe Funeral Chapel in Olive Hill, Kentucky is honored to serve the family of Calvin Arthur Baker.

## Carter County Times

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

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# OPINION

EDITORIALS | LETTERS | COLUMNS | COMMENTARY

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

## AS WEE SEE IT

### The elephant in the room

In the coming weeks you're going to be seeing a lot of coverage on how our communities spend opioid settlement funds; beginning, in this issue, with Charles Roman's coverage of a new advisory committee tasked with determining how the county can best spend their share of these funds.

As we go along we'll be looking at some of the ways the county has used, or might consider using, this money.

In some ways this upcoming series is admittedly — like the advisory committee Charles writes about in this issue — prompted by recent criticism of how the county has chosen to spend these funds. But the truth is, this is an issue we've been discussing since well before the county chose to support recreational activities to combat youth drug use.

For instance, we were organizing an opportunity to talk with Max Hammond and Chelsa Hamilton about their experience with the Icelandic Model — the youth abatement model cited by the county to justify the use of opioid funds for an ice rink — well before NBC posted a story about Carter County's investment. We talked with them in early March for one of the stories you'll be seeing in our pages soon.

About three weeks later we sat down to talk with Fresh Start Health about the unique challenges folks in recovery face receiving standard healthcare. They, naturally, would like to explore ways opioid settlement funds could help those in recovery continue managing their health without risking relapse. But they also provided unique insight into what that healthcare journey looks like, and how it can support recovery.

We'll also be looking at early intervention strategies in the schools, and the role law enforcement would like to play in addressing the issue through initiatives like the DARE program. It was all the way back in September of last year that we sat down with Carter County Schools chief of police R.D. Porter and DARE officer Buddy Grayson to discuss that program.

We've been sitting on that interview since then, waiting for the best time to run the story so it, and the others we've been holding in our "evergreen" list, didn't just get lost in the shuffle.

The establishment of an opioid fund advisory committee seems like the right time. And while it may seem like seven months is a long time to live with a story before you tell it, in some ways I've been sitting on this story since I started in journalism.

Because my first job in journalism was with the Portsmouth Daily Times. In Portsmouth, Ohio. In the year 2000. I was on the education beat, and Portsmouth wasn't yet known as "the OxyContin Capital of the World," but my colleague on the courts beat was covering the Dr. John Lilly case, and fielding phone calls from journalist across the country. I didn't know it yet, but I was there at the beginning of the epidemic that would come to define our region for a generation.

More importantly, I was there before.

I was raised in Greenup County, just outside South Shore, and before he was credited as the man to establish the concept of the pill mill, Dr. David Procter was my family doctor. I grew up with his children. They slept over with my cousins at my grandmother's house. He gave me my check-ups and a shot in my hip when I had an infection.

I was there before Dreamland was a book about the death of a community, when it was still a pool across the river that my mother took us to every summer.

I was there before every story about our region in the outside press was viewed through the lens of addiction. I know we are more than that. And I've wanted so much to focus on those things that show this truth.

Appalachia and Eastern Kentucky are so much more than just "hillbilly heroin," poverty, and the exploitation from outsiders.

But we can't just ignore the elephant in the room. What we can do though — maybe — is highlight what we really are as we confront it.

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



### Great song, seashore perfect for mind reset in chaotic America

Like many of you, my head is spinning from all of the turmoil in Washington and elsewhere in the world. I've about decided that it's time for basking in the sun on the beach or poolside, perhaps in North Carolina's Outer Banks.

My family went there for a dozen years running but there has been little enthusiasm for that trip since my wife died almost three years ago. Some of my clan are heading back to Wisconsin of all places but they don't have an ocean there in the North Woods.

Thanks to "I Hope You Dance," a great old song by country singer Lee Ann Womack, and the magic of the ocean, I look forward to resetting my head by tuning out the troubles of the world and my frustration with trying to watch TV on today's high tech streaming services.

Several powerful lyrics of her song from 2000 always resonate with me in therapeutic fashion to remind me of what's really important in my life as a man, a father, a grandfather, a friend, and a person of strong family values.

"I hope you still feel small when you stand beside

the ocean." "I hope you never lose your sense of wonder." "May you never take one single breath for granted." "Promise me that you'll give faith a fighting chance."

That line about feeling small by the ocean comes to me each time I watch the breakers come ashore in the Atlantic Ocean. Songwriters Tia Sillers and Mark Sanders were reading my mind when they penned that impressive line.

Nearly 70 years after seeing the ocean for the first time in South Carolina, I'm still awestruck by its majesty and power.

Womack's song encourages us to love unconditionally, to be people of strong faith, to have the courage to make hard decisions, to take care of ourselves, and to never become too sophisticated to appreciate the wonders of nature.

Thanks, Lee Ann. That's good advice for all of us.



**Keith Kappes**  
Columnist  
Carter County Times

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

### Picking a new pope

With Pope Francis dying on the Monday after Easter at 88 years old, we're about to see one of the

last ritualistic experiences in the modern world: the Conclave, where religious hierarchy convenes in Vatican City to discuss what the leader of the world's largest religion should champion as the face of Catholicism. And their work is cut out for them. The world is evolving at hyper-speed—technology rewires human connection, and optimizes daily life, yet somehow leaves spiritual cavities no algorithm can fill. The coming Conclave isn't just a ritual, it's a social referendum on whether practicing Catholics can hold their fraying coalition together in an era of existential doubt. The stakes couldn't be higher.

While America isn't exactly sprinting back to the Church, the decades-long decline in religious affiliation has begun to slow. According to a recent Pew study cited by the New York Times, 62% of U.S. adults now identify as Christian, down from 78% in 2007 but largely stable since 2019. Meanwhile, the number of religiously unaffiliated Americans has climbed to 29%, with younger generations leading the shift. What we're seeing isn't a revival but a recalibration: people aren't necessarily becoming more devout—they're no longer fleeing organized religion at the rate they once were.

These stats paint a nuanced picture: Faith plays a central role in daily life here in America—especially in places like rural Kentucky. Churches aren't buildings; they're where people go when life gets hard, where communities gather when the world doesn't

make sense. But even in the Bible Belt, you can feel it: younger generations are asking pointed questions. It's not that they're rejecting belief; it's that they're searching for purpose in a world where religious and political institutions have often failed to deliver.

What does a new leader do in a complex world? The lines of compromise are fraught with disagreement, and millions of people are fighting their own battles while all trying to bond under the same flag of what the Catholic Church offers as succor. Pope Francis was a controversial figure for his progressive and not-so-progressive values.

That's the issue with the Ministry in modern times: people look for a salve in a complex world, but interpretation of the words of the Bible is a navigation of consideration and now someone new must mandate what the Church believes, which asks bigger questions regarding the stance of old school values while embracing how people view established religion. Nothing is as easy as showing up and hoping for the best any longer, hope feels like grains of sand in a closed fist these days for many working people.

While yes, people still believe — that's not the big question — they're also embracing change in a world that isn't what it was two years ago. We all love puppies and ice cream, but when someone is considered a voice worth listening to, they've gotta be plugged into how two wars, rampant wage stagnation, and social ills all play into what goes on the plate of who some consider a world leader.

Francis' openings toward divorce and remarriage, his environmental encyclical Laudato Si, and his

See POPE on A-6



**Robert Dean**  
Guest Columnist  
Carter County Times

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

## Policies

### General

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

### Circulation

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

### Letters & Opinion

The Times welcomes all letters to the editor.

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

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

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

General interest guest columns are welcome. For details email [editor@cartercountytimes.com](mailto:editor@cartercountytimes.com).

### Deadlines

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

# CLASSIFIEDS

## PUBLIC NOTICES

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**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Carter Co. Case No. 25-CI-00145

A complaint has been filed in the Circuit Court of Carter County, Kentucky, by Tax Brake KY, LLC against the Unknown Heir(s) of Natalie Bullins, Jimmy C. Bullins a/k/a Jimmy Bullins, Unknown Spouse of Jimmy C. Bullins a/k/a Jimmy Bullins, Ashley Bullins, Josh Mabry, Jimmy Bullins a/k/a Jimmy Lee Bullins, Unknown Spouse of Jimmy Bullins a/k/a Jimmy Lee Bullins, Carter County, Kentucky, and City of Olive Hill, Kentucky.

I, Patrick D. Trent, represent no one in this action. Rather, I have been appointed by the Court as "Warning Order Attorney" to publish this message to inform some, or all, of the above-named Defendant(s) of the pendency of this case. I further advise that: (a) you may acquire additional information about this matter by consulting with the Carter County Circuit Court Clerk about this case, and; (b) that if you are an interested party and take no action within fifty (50) days from April 10th, 2025, a judgment may be entered against you.

All interested parties are welcome to contact my office at (606) 738-6437 with any questions or concerns. Thank you.

**Pope** from A-5

attempts to reform Vatican finances reveal how even modest changes triggered both hope and resistance. The next pope will navigate hot-button issues like the Church's stance on LGBTQ+ inclusion, women's roles, and responding to the ongoing abuse crisis—all while addressing declining vocations and attendance. These issues ask bigger questions: Does a new Pope go backward and double down on the fire and brimstone of yesterday, or do they push the narrative forward of what progressive religion can be? The bishops will discuss this at the Conclave. The Conclave won't

just choose a Pope; it's choosing direction. And that decision will ripple far beyond Vatican walls. In a world fraying at the edges, where tradition wrestles with transparency and faith competes with fatigue, the next Pope has a choice: preach to the past or shepherd something new. The Conclave is an ancient practice, but what does that represent in a fast-changing world? The question isn't whether people still believe; it's whether the Church can still lead; museum or movement. Godspeed to the next Pope; it won't be easy.

Contact us at news@cartercountytimes.com

## Beshear asks people to flood phones with stories of how they benefit from Medicaid as Congress considers cuts

By Melissa Patrick  
*Kentucky Health News*

When it comes to persuading Congress to stop funding cuts to Medicaid, Gov. Andy Beshear said one of the most important things Americans can do is to flood their phones with stories of how they are impacted by the Medicaid program, speaking as a collective voice.

"Remember, cuts to Medicaid will have to go through Congress," he said. "The more Americans that are speaking up telling their story, where their friends who don't see them as political are hearing the impact that it has on them, thousands of voices coming together — that will create the pressure that will finally have Congress do their job and serve the American people."

Beshear made these comments during an April 18 Zoom interview with longtime journalist and author Larry Tye, who is the director of Harvard's Center for Health Communication's Health Coverage Fellowship.

Beshear, who is also the vice-chair of the Democratic Governor's Association, said when it comes to the current federal administration's economic impact on health care, he is most concerned about potential Medicaid cuts, National Institutes of Health funding cuts and pandemic funding cuts.

The Medicaid cuts would come from the U.S. House Energy and Commerce Committee, which has been instructed to find \$880 billion in savings

from its areas of jurisdiction, which includes Medicaid. This committee is led by U.S. Rep. Brett Guthrie of Bowling Green. The committee is targeting May 7 for a markup of its portion of the Republican reconciliation package. (NPR offers a detailed explainer of how reconciliation works in a Feb. 25 story.)

"Potential cuts to Medicaid would be devastating to the United States of America and would wipe out rural health care," Beshear said. "It's important to remember that Medicaid covers the people we love the most, our kids and our parents. Fifty percent of Kentucky's kids, that's half, are on Medicaid; 70% of our long-term care costs in Kentucky are covered by Medicaid."

Further, he said major cuts to Medicaid and expanded Medicaid, which allows Kentuckians who make up to 138% of the federal poverty line to qualify for Medicaid, which is free of charge, would "gut rural health care."

"Significant cuts to Medicaid would close virtually every rural hospital system and clinic," he said.

He also noted that rural hospital systems are the No. 2 employer in many counties, behind the public school system.

"And what that means for a rural American is that regardless of whether you're covered by Medicaid or private insurance, you're driving two hours to a big city to see the same doctor who had to leave

See *MEDICAID* on A-8

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**  
**CARTER CIRCUIT COURT**  
**CASE NO. 24-CI-00091**

**ADS TAX LIEN COMPANY, LLC** PLAINTIFF  
**VS.** **NOTICE OF SALE**  
**JESSICA GOULDING; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JESSICA GOULDING; DANIELLE GOULDING; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF DANIELLE GOULDING; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF DEANA RAYBURN ISAAC; TAX EASE LIEN INVESTMENTS I, LLC; GREEN TREE FINANCIAL SERVICING A/K/A DITECH FINANCIAL LLC; AND COUNTY OF CARTER, KENTUCKY** DEFENDANTS

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Carter Circuit Court, entered on March 25, 2025, I shall offer for sale the property described herein at public auction on the Courthouse steps of the old Carter County Courthouse, 300 West Main Street in Grayson, Kentucky, on the **14th day of May, 2025 at or near the hour of 10:05 a.m.**, to the highest bidder on the following terms:

The aforementioned real estate shall be sold as a whole. The real estate shall be sold on a credit of thirty (30) days, with the privilege of the purchaser to pay for bid in cash in full, and if not paid in full then the purchaser shall make a cash down payment of at least ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to cover the costs of the judicial sale; and the purchaser shall execute a bond for the remainder of the purchase price, with good surety thereon, to be approved by the Master Commissioner of this Court, and bearing interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of the sale, until paid; additionally, a lien shall be retained upon the real estate to be sold herein, to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days of the date of sale upon which execution may be levied by the Master Commissioner of this Court.

**Description of the Property:** 273 Tomo Road, Olive Hill, KY. (For Legal Description see LSOT: Deed Book 228, Page 788, Carter County Clerk's Office.)  
**Map/Parcel ID Number:** 011-00-00-036.04.

**NOTE:** Only delinquent ad valorem taxes shall be paid from the sale proceeds. The Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of the taxes for the current year and thereafter.

Honorable John P. Thompson  
Master Commissioner  
Carter County, Kentucky

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**  
**CARTER CIRCUIT COURT**  
**CASE NO. 24-CI-00460**

**PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC** PLAINTIFF  
**VS.** **NOTICE OF SALE**  
**ROBERT W. LYKINS AND GLENDA LYKINS** DEFENDANTS

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Carter Circuit Court, entered on March 18, 2025, I shall offer for sale the property described herein at public auction on the Courthouse steps of the old Carter County Courthouse, 300 West Main Street in Grayson, Kentucky, on the **14th day of May, 2025 at or near the hour of 9:45A**, to the highest bidder on the following terms:

The aforementioned real estate shall be sold as a whole. The real estate shall be sold on a credit of thirty (30) days, with the privilege of the purchaser to pay for bid in cash in full, and if not paid in full then the purchaser shall make a cash down payment of at least ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to cover the costs of the judicial sale; and the purchaser shall execute a bond for the remainder of the purchase price, with good surety thereon, to be approved by the Master Commissioner of this Court, and bearing interest at the rate of 5.5% per annum from the date of the sale, until paid; additionally, a lien shall be retained upon the real estate to be sold herein, to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days of the date of sale upon which execution may be levied by the Master Commissioner of this Court.

**Description of the Property:** 854 West U.S. Highway 60, Grayson, KY. (For Legal Description see LSOT: Deed Book 463, Page 319, Carter County Clerk's Office.)  
**Map/Parcel ID Number:** 104-50-08-013.00.

**NOTE:** Only delinquent ad valorem taxes shall be paid from the sale proceeds. The Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of the taxes for the current year and thereafter.

Honorable John P. Thompson  
Master Commissioner  
Carter County, Kentucky

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**  
**CARTER CIRCUIT COURT**  
**CASE NO. 24-CI-00061**

**ADS TAX LIEN COMPANY, LLC** PLAINTIFF  
**VS.** **NOTICE OF SALE**  
**MARK A. MOSIER; ANITA C. MOSIER; COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE, DIVISION OF COLLECTIONS; ASSET ACCEPTANCE, LLC; AND COUNTY OF CARTER, KENTUCKY** DEFENDANTS

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Carter Circuit Court, entered on March 20, 2025, I shall offer for sale the property described herein at public auction on the Courthouse steps of the old Carter County Courthouse, 300 West Main Street in Grayson, Kentucky, on the **14th day of May, 2025 at or near the hour of 9:35A**, to the highest bidder on the following terms:

The aforementioned real estate shall be sold as a whole. The real estate shall be sold on a credit of thirty (30) days, with the privilege of the purchaser to pay for bid in cash in full, and if not paid in full then the purchaser shall make a cash down payment of at least ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to cover the costs of the judicial sale; and the purchaser shall execute a bond for the remainder of the purchase price, with good surety thereon, to be approved by the Master Commissioner of this Court, and bearing interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of the sale, until paid; additionally, a lien shall be retained upon the real estate to be sold herein, to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days of the date of sale upon which execution may be levied by the Master Commissioner of this Court.

**Description of the Property:** Fox Hunters Road 030 KY. (For Legal Description see LSOT: Deed Book 498, Page 366, Carter County Clerk's Office.)  
**Map/Parcel ID Number:** 078-00-00-039.01.

**NOTE:** Only delinquent ad valorem taxes shall be paid from the sale proceeds. The Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of the taxes for the current year and thereafter.

Honorable John P. Thompson  
Master Commissioner  
Carter County, Kentucky

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR RATTLESNAKE WATER DISTRICT GENERATOR PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION**

Rattlesnake Ridge Water District Board of Supervisors is seeking sealed bids for the supply, delivery, and installation of a four (4) 36kW, 3-phase, 277/480 Volt, diesel powered standby generators, three (3) 24 kW single-phase, 120/240 Volt, diesel-powered, standby generators, and seven (7) 200 Amp, Service Entrance Rated, 3-phase Automatic Transfer Switches with NEMA3R enclosures at seven (7) pump stations, as well as annual generator maintenance services to be quoted as an optional and separate line item. This project will be partially funded through FEMA's 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Companies desiring to provide services can access the Request through the DFS Procurement Portal ("Portal") at dfs.procurement.com or at www.erasist.com/work/. Bid submissions are due no later than 12:00 PM on May 5th, 2025 through the online Portal. Bids will be opened publicly at the Rattlesnake Ridge Water District Board of Supervisors Meeting on May 6, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at Rattlesnake Ridge Water District Office, 5302 KY-7, Grayson, KY 41143. All addenda will be posted in the Portal and all questions regarding the IFB are to be submitted within the Portal. For questions regarding Portal registration or navigation, please email: procurement@erasist.com. Rattlesnake Ridge Water District is an equal opportunity employer.

**Cooperative Extension Service**

**Extension Assistant 4-H**

**Carter County**

**RE50015**

**Deadline: 5/8/2025**

Apply on-line at: <https://ukjobs.uky.edu/postings/579911>

For assistance call: **606-474-6686**

The University of Kentucky is an Equal Opportunity Employer. The address of the College of Agriculture, Food and Environment EEO Officer is Room S-105 Agricultural Science Building North, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40546-0091.

**NOTICE OF BID**

Rattlesnake Ridge Water district will accept bids on the following vehicle, a 2015 Chevy 1500, 4x4 VS Vin # 1GCNKP8FZ227288 White in color. Vehicle will be sold "AS IS". Bids will be accepted until May 6th at 4:00pm. The vehicle can be seen at 5302 South Highway 7, Grayson KY. Rattlesnake Ridge Water District has the right to except or reject any and all bids. Manager - David Gifford. 606-474-7570

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**  
**CARTER CIRCUIT COURT**  
**CASE NO. 24-CI-00061**

**ADS TAX LIEN COMPANY, LLC** PLAINTIFF  
**VS.** **NOTICE OF SALE**  
**JAMES DARIN ONEY; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF JAMES DARIN ONEY; DOT CAPITAL INVESTMENTS, LLC; AND COUNTY OF CARTER, KENTUCKY** DEFENDANTS

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Carter Circuit Court, entered on March 20, 2025, I shall offer for sale the property described herein at public auction on the Courthouse steps of the old Carter County Courthouse, 300 West Main Street in Grayson, Kentucky, on the **14th day of May, 2025 at or near the hour of 9:40A**, to the highest bidder on the following terms:

The aforementioned real estate shall be sold as a whole. The real estate shall be sold on a credit of thirty (30) days, with the privilege of the purchaser to pay for bid in cash in full, and if not paid in full then the purchaser shall make a cash down payment of at least ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to cover the costs of the judicial sale; and the purchaser shall execute a bond for the remainder of the purchase price, with good surety thereon, to be approved by the Master Commissioner of this Court, and bearing interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of the sale, until paid; additionally, a lien shall be retained upon the real estate to be sold herein, to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days of the date of sale upon which execution may be levied by the Master Commissioner of this Court.

**Description of the Property:** Trough Camp Road, Carter County, KY. (For Legal Description see LSOT: Deed Book 364, Page 199, Carter County Clerk's Office.)  
**Map/Parcel ID Number:** 021-00-00-500.01.

**NOTE:** Only delinquent ad valorem taxes shall be paid from the sale proceeds. The Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of the taxes for the current year and thereafter.

Honorable John P. Thompson  
Master Commissioner  
Carter County, Kentucky

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**  
**CARTER CIRCUIT COURT**  
**CASE NO. 24-CI-00058**

**ADS TAX LIEN COMPANY, LLC** PLAINTIFF  
**VS.** **NOTICE OF SALE**  
**TIMOTHY WADDELL; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF TIMOTHY WADDELL; UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, AND LEGATEES OF DOUGLAS WADDELL; UNKNOWN SPOUSES OF THE UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, AND LEGATEES OF DOUGLAS WADDELL; MID SOUTH CAPITAL PARTNERS, LP; KY LIEN HOLDINGS, LLC; AND COUNTY OF CARTER, KENTUCKY** DEFENDANTS

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Carter Circuit Court, entered on March 25, 2025, I shall offer for sale the property described herein at public auction on the Courthouse steps of the old Carter County Courthouse, 300 West Main Street in Grayson, Kentucky, on the **14th day of May, 2025 at or near the hour of 10:10 a.m.**, to the highest bidder on the following terms:

The aforementioned real estate shall be sold as a whole. The real estate shall be sold on a credit of thirty (30) days, with the privilege of the purchaser to pay for bid in cash in full, and if not paid in full then the purchaser shall make a cash down payment of at least ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to cover the costs of the judicial sale; and the purchaser shall execute a bond for the remainder of the purchase price, with good surety thereon, to be approved by the Master Commissioner of this Court, and bearing interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of the sale, until paid; additionally, a lien shall be retained upon the real estate to be sold herein, to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days of the date of sale upon which execution may be levied by the Master Commissioner of this Court.

**Description of the Property:** 5998 State Highway 955, Carter County, KY. (For Legal Description see LSOT: Deed Book 193, Page 757, Carter County Clerk's Office.)  
**Map/Parcel ID Number:** 025-00-00-013.02.

**NOTE:** Only delinquent ad valorem taxes shall be paid from the sale proceeds. The Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of the taxes for the current year and thereafter.

Honorable John P. Thompson  
Master Commissioner  
Carter County, Kentucky

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**  
**CARTER CIRCUIT COURT**  
**CASE NO. 24-CI-00341**

**NEW REZ LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING** PLAINTIFF  
**VS.** **NOTICE OF SALE**  
**GRACIE JADE GILLUM, A/K/A GRACIE GILLUM RUNYON; UNKNOWN SPOUSE (IF ANY) OF GRACIE JADE GILLUM, A/K/A GRACIE GILLUM RUNYON** DEFENDANTS

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Carter Circuit Court, entered on March 18, 2025, I shall offer for sale the property described herein at public auction on the Courthouse steps of the old Carter County Courthouse, 300 West Main Street in Grayson, Kentucky, on the **14th day of May, 2025 at or near the hour of 9:30A**, to the highest bidder on the following terms:

The aforementioned real estate shall be sold as a whole. The real estate shall be sold on a credit of thirty (30) days, with the privilege of the purchaser to pay for bid in cash in full, and if not paid in full then the purchaser shall make a cash down payment of at least ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to cover the costs of the judicial sale; and the purchaser shall execute a bond for the remainder of the purchase price, with good surety thereon, to be approved by the Master Commissioner of this Court, and bearing interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of the sale, until paid; additionally, a lien shall be retained upon the real estate to be sold herein, to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days of the date of sale upon which execution may be levied by the Master Commissioner of this Court.

**Description of the Property:** 680 Eastview Street, Grayson, KY 41143. (For Legal Description see LSOT: Deed Book 485, Page 685, Carter County Clerk's Office.)  
**Map/Parcel ID Number:** 104-40-07.028.00.

**NOTE:** Only delinquent ad valorem taxes shall be paid from the sale proceeds. The Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of the taxes for the current year and thereafter.

Honorable John P. Thompson  
Master Commissioner  
Carter County, Kentucky

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY**  
**CARTER CIRCUIT COURT**  
**CASE NO. 24-CI-00046**

**ADS TAX LIEN COMPANY, LLC** PLAINTIFF  
**VS.** **NOTICE OF SALE**  
**RTL-F-KY, LLC** CROSS-PLAINTIFF  
**VS.** **NOTICE OF SALE**  
**BARBARA MADDOX; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF BARBARA MADDOX; IAN MICHAEL MCKENZIE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF IAN MICHAEL MCKENZIE; TERRY LEE MCKENZIE, JR.; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF TERRY LEE MCKENZIE, JR.; MID SOUTH CAPITAL PARTNERS, LP; AND COUNTY OF CARTER, KENTUCKY** DEFENDANTS

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Carter Circuit Court, entered on March 25, 2025, I shall offer for sale the property described herein at public auction on the Courthouse steps of the old Carter County Courthouse, 300 West Main Street in Grayson, Kentucky, on the **14th day of May, 2025 at or near the hour of 10:00 a.m.**, to the highest bidder on the following terms:

The aforementioned real estate shall be sold as a whole. The real estate shall be sold on a credit of thirty (30) days, with the privilege of the purchaser to pay for bid in cash in full, and if not paid in full then the purchaser shall make a cash down payment of at least ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to cover the costs of the judicial sale; and the purchaser shall execute a bond for the remainder of the purchase price, with good surety thereon, to be approved by the Master Commissioner of this Court, and bearing interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of the sale, until paid; additionally, a lien shall be retained upon the real estate to be sold herein, to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days of the date of sale upon which execution may be levied by the Master Commissioner of this Court.

**Description of the Property:** 1739 St. Hwy. 1654. (For Legal Description see LSOT: Deed Book 502, Page 337, Carter County Clerk's Office.)  
**Map/Parcel ID Number:** 135-00-00-100.00.

**NOTE:** Only delinquent ad valorem taxes shall be paid from the sale proceeds. The Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of the taxes for the current year and thereafter.

Honorable John P. Thompson  
Master Commissioner  
Carter County, Kentucky



**Ambulance** from A-1

is not into unscheduled overtime is that the overtime was already part of the schedule, Roe told the board.

"Everyone here is scheduled overtime," she said.

The framework of calculation for the company is the hours worked as a total, and though it adds overtime to an individual's schedule, the 'company' overtime remains the same for that period.

"And what I am counting as overtime," she told the board, "is if someone gets a late call, and because of that they are here an hour or hour and a half too late. And that counts as unscheduled overtime because the next shift is already here as well. That is truly the company's

unscheduled overtime."

Roe explained that scheduled overtime applies because employees are scheduled 56 hours per week, resulting in 16 hours overtime for each employee. So, if someone from one shift picks up time on a different shift due to the sickness of another employee, for instance, it would put that employee into unscheduled overtime.

In other financial business, Roe said she had spoken with Rob Roar at WC Wealth Management about investing service revenue from the company's Madisonville checking account into a money market account or CD.

"He suggested a safe investment would be a money market or CD," Roe told the board. "When I

asked which one he would do, he answered probably both."

Roe said that Roar had suggested a 70/30 split, with 70 percent of the funds they wished to invest being placed in a CD and the balance in a money market account.

"The CD is at 4.1 percent interest right now, and a money market is at 4.1 percent also," Roe said. "He said that what some churches do is that they invest the money, then take the earnings from it and invest in higher yield investments."

This way, she explained, the principal was at no risk whatsoever, and only the earnings from it would be risked on the higher yield investments.

"Like I told him (Roar),

I would like to have at least six months, preferably a year, of investments for money to run the service."

The board considered the proposal to purchase three recertified heart monitors at a cost of roughly \$50,000. Purchasing the recertified monitors would ensure that all the trucks had the necessary monitors, and would be approximately one third of the cost if the monitors were purchased new. The board voted to purchase the monitors outright, rather than take out a loan for the purchase amount which, at eight percent interest, would have the board paying nearly \$10,000 in interest.

The motor on the truck designated Carter 7 ex-

perienced a blown motor, Director Tim Woods told the board.

"Mike has been looking for a motor, and what it would take to put a motor in it," Woods said. "But the problem is that Carter 7 is the one that has the A/C on the top and it's been in and out of the shop about ten times for that air conditioner," he said.

"So, we have a couple of calls in to different agencies to see if we can just remount it, take that air conditioning completely off, and put it in the front like all the other ambulances," Woods said.

In its current design on top, Woods said that no company wants to work on it.

"I really don't want to put an engine in it as it

is, because it has all the other issues it had before," Woods said.

The board determined the best course was to check into possible repair costs and revisit the issue at a subsequent meeting.

In other business the board went into a lengthy executive session early in the meeting to discuss personnel. Then later in the meeting the board returned to executive session after being made aware of complaints involving personnel, one of whom was not present at the meeting. In both executive sessions no action was taken.

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

**Medicaid** from A-6

your community and was paying taxes and ultimately helping the economy in your community to go where they can now have a job in that larger city. It's bad for everyone," he said.

In response to a question about the impacts of Medicaid cuts on seniors, Beshear called this a "huge challenge," especially considering the number of seniors that are in the United States right now.

"Most people don't realize the amount of Medicaid coverage that allows them to age at home," he said, pointing to Kentucky's Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly, or PACE program, which provides comprehensive services to Kentuckians who are 55 and older who need nurs-

ing facility level of care, but prefer to live at home. He said cuts to these types of programs would mean seniors who participate in the program would need to find care elsewhere.

"There isn't a place for this number of seniors to go. There isn't another option. . . . it would cause a problem without a solution," he said.

And this, he added, would force families to take over their care, which would then impact economic productivity, he said.

Beshear also criticized the proposed NIH funding cuts, which he said could cost the University of Kentucky \$40 million, impacting cancer, heart disease and Alzheimer's research.

Beshear said the idea

that decisions about which NIH grants are allowed being made by "tech folks that we wouldn't allow treat a child for cancer" is concerning. "It's not being done well, and it's going to have repercussions in the future."

He also emphasized the importance of maintaining pandemic funding to support the public health infrastructure, addiction treatment and the 988 mental health crisis hotline.

Beshear said the underlying legal cause that the federal government is using to make these pandemic cuts "is not a legally recognized cause." He said he is part of a group of attorneys general that have worked to restrain these attempts. "Those dollars should continue to flow,"

he said.

"So this is the federal government saying we're going to ignore the law, we're going to ignore the appropriation, we're going to ignore the written contract. And too bad that you relied on the federal government to keep its word," he said. "Sorry. We're not going to allow that to happen. And my hope is, as these court cases continue to go through, the federal administration learns that lesson, keeps the promises, and we continue to see very important public health dollars flow."

Asked what it would mean for states if large Medicaid cuts are implemented, Beshear said, "No state could make up for a large federal cut . . . at least not for more than

maybe a year, and it would eat up any and all savings, bond ratings would drop."

"Rural hospital systems would close. Clinics will close. There will not be much, if any, medical availability facilities in rural America, and that's not just in Kentucky," he said. "This is one of those things that if the federal government does it, it's going to have devastating impacts — and people see it and feel it."

He also warned that the federal government might try to claim they are not cutting Medicaid by giving block grants, but if this amount is less than the reimbursements the state is getting right now, "That's a cut," he said.

Further, he said giving states less Medicaid money

and telling them to root out the fraud or placing a cap on how much each individual gets also constitutes a cut.

"Again, if the dollars are different, that's a cut," he said. "And no matter how they do it, if they make major cuts, rural healthcare gets hit first, but it's going to be quality of care, numbers of specialists, the attention to those that need it the most. It's gonna hit the entire healthcare system with a sledgehammer."

*Kentucky Health News is an independent news service of the Institute for Rural Journalism, based in the School of Journalism and Media at the University of Kentucky, with support from the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.*

**School** from A-1

important aspect that many might need explained is Assessment and Accountability. That covers items such as iReady: Data Review / Intentional RTI grouping, and IXL: Skills Plans. The testing window was also discussed, with a date of May 12 set. The consolidated monitoring visit was on April 15-17 for all Title Programs and Preschool; and Preschool Quality (Stars Ratings).

The board voted to approve an agreement between East Carter Middle School/Carter County Schools and the Kentucky Science and Technology Corporation (KSTC), a Kentucky Nonprofit Organization,

to administer a multi-year replication of Advance Kentucky's Access to Algebra Program. That program is designed to increase the number of students who participate in advanced math classes, with the goal of making those students college ready. A full list of that agreement and the responsibilities of the school and the nonprofit are available on the Carter County Board of Education's website.

The board also discussed the 2025-2026 Technology Plan, the 2025-2026 KEDC Cooperative Membership Agreement, out-of-state field trip requests, food

service summer stipends, extra service pay, a food service position, school-wide fundraiser requests, the EBD stipend for teachers and assistants, the FMD stipend for teachers and assistants, speech therapists salary scale, and 2024-2025 school calendar amendments.

Upcoming items and events of note the board discussed were the Teacher Leader of Excellence Pinning Ceremony, summer BOOST, Camp Carter dates, leadership retreat, opening conference, and Professional Development Planning for 2025-2026.

Carter County School District police chief R.D.

Porter also noted that East Carter High School would be conducting a "Prom Promise" event on Tuesday

(yesterday), and that a similar event would be held at West Carter High School next Friday, May 2.

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

## Auditor announces investigation of how Kentucky awarded medical cannabis licenses

By Sarah Ladd  
*Kentucky Lantern*

Kentucky Auditor Allison Ball plans to investigate how the state's Office of Medical Cannabis (OMC) processed license applications, she announced Thursday.

Ball's office will be "examining OMC's business license application and award processes," her office said.

"My office has continued to receive complaints about how the Office of Medical Cannabis administered the lottery process for awarding medical cannabis business licenses," Ball, a Republican, said in a statement. "Kentuckians should have confidence that state offices operate with transparency and integrity, and my office is committed to ensuring those standards."

Crystal Staley, a spokeswoman for Beshear, said "no one has filed a legal claim challenging Kentucky's medical

cannabis laws or the Office of Medical Cannabis' regulations."

"Throughout the entire process we have been committed to transparency, which is why the lottery process was streamed live and online," Staley said. "The individuals who have come forward to express 'concerns' went through the full process and did not complain until after not being selected in the lottery."

In 2023, the legislature legalized medical marijuana for Kentuckians suffering from chronic illnesses. Last year, the bipartisan House Bill 829 became law and moved up the medical cannabis licensing timeline from January 2025 to July 1, 2024.

During the application period, which was July 1–Aug. 31, the state received 4,998 applications for medical cannabis business licenses, including 918 cultivator and processor applications.

Patients who qualify for medical cannabis are those with a history of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), cancer or other approved medical conditions.

The Kentucky Lottery Corporation ran the license lottery.

Beshear said Thursday during his weekly press conference that "more than 12,000 Kentuckians have received a written certification and more than 8,000 have successfully applied for and received a medical cannabis card" since January.


At that same press conference, Beshear also announced that the state had broken ground on its first medical cannabis business, Centaurus Farms in Monticello, which has been designated as a Tier II, 10,000-square-foot cultivator.

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