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Employees allege ambulance service misconduct

Letter documents employee arrest records, alleged misuse of resources, and inconsistent policy enforcement

By Jeremy D. Wells
Carter County Times

Over the weekend an anonymous whistleblower or whistleblowers, claiming to represent a group of current and former "Concerned Employees of Carter County Ambulance Service," sent media outlets a letter that they said they were also mailing via USPS to each of the ambulance board members, fiscal court magistrates, and the mayors of both Grayson and Olive Hill.

In this letter the writer(s) allege multiple ethical violations among staff and leadership, as well as dereliction of duty, misuse of funds, favoritism, and unsafe work conditions, among other accusations.

The first allegation made in the letter is that leadership has initiated new policies without following proper procedure. The letter writer, displaying an insider's insight of EMS policy, notes that a revised ethics policy was implemented and rolled out to staff on March 31. That policy includes a personal conduct clause that requires employees to "maintain the highest standard of integrity... (both) on and off

See AMBULANCE on A-8



Emergency ambulance employee Robert Holifield was arrested on charges of disregarding a stop sign and driving under the influence during a March 8 traffic stop. (Submitted photo)

Soccer coming to Grayson Sports Park

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

Soon, the Grayson Sports Park will offer even more opportunities for locals and visitors to participate in soccer programs.

"Soccer has always been part of the plan," Grayson Sports Park manager Grant Harper said. "We have had soccer teams practicing there for three years now."

Harper said the sports park has had one multipurpose field used for both soccer and football since the park was constructed, and in the original plans there was supposed to be a general-purpose area of sports fields that weren't completed at that time.

"So, we just went back and did that. This will be the second season. Last year was grow in, and this year will be the first season for that area."

The area in question, Harper said, was four acres of Bermuda grass that is irrigated.

"That gives us the ability to add on," Harper said.

And it will also give them the ability to have more fields.

"We would like to do something there in late spring," Harper said. "Bermuda grass is a warm season grass, so it doesn't come out of dormancy until the frost is done. And that's usually around the first week of May

See SOCCER on A-3



East Carter High School soccer players practice in this file photo. (Photo by Jeremy D. Wells, Carter County Times)

Figuring out how to spend the money

Fiscal court discusses opioid funds use

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

The Carter County Fiscal Court met in special session on Thursday, March 27 and voted to begin the process of removing Gimlet Creek Road (CR 1209) from the county maintenance schedule. The road is 1.83 miles long, and the judge executive and one of the magistrates will begin the process by going out and reviewing the road.

But the bigger question before the court was about the use of opioid settlement money.



Carter County Fiscal Court. (Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

The court discussed how best to proceed with the use of those settlement funds, and how the use of available funds would best benefit those in the

county that were or could in the future be affected by the opioid pandemic. That core concern,

See OPIOID on A-3

Weekly arrests report

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

- Jami Bias, 36, of Proctorville, Ohio, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear, arrested and booked March 30.

- Keith Gee, 46, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear, arrested and booked March 30.

- James Brown, 39, of Ashland, arrested by Grayson PD, for non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked March 30.

- Dakota Brewster, 29, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges including two counts of failure to appear,

- two counts of operating on a suspended or revoked operator's license, two counts of no registration plates, and one count each of failure to register transfer of motor vehicle, leaving the scene of an accident – failure to render aid or assistance, third degree burglary, second degree fleeing or evading police (on foot), resisting arrest, contempt of court – libel/slander – resistance to order, no registration receipt, failure to produce insurance card, reckless driving, and first degree fleeing or evading police (motor vehicle), arrested and booked March 31.

- Virginia Spears-Skaggs, 44, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of failure to appear, and contempt of court – libel/slander – resistance to order, arrested and booked March 31.

- Denise Spillman, 42, of

Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of fourth degree assault (domestic violence) with no visible injury, second degree possession of a controlled substance – drug unspecified, possession of drug paraphernalia, interfering with communications, and prescription held in improper container, arrested and booked March 31.

- Michael Ann Porter, 42, address unknown, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, for non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked April 2.

- Kevin Smith, 53, of Charleston, KY, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of first degree forgery, and second degree criminal possession of a forged instrument, arrested and booked April 3.

- Richard Allen, 57, address unknown, arrested by Department of Corrections, serving a bench warrant for court, arrested and

See ARRESTS on A-3

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This Week's Obituaries

<p>Sue Elaine Ison Adkins, 60 Joannae Carter Blevins, 76</p>	<p>Elwood D. Caudill, 89 Ernie Lee Conn, 69</p>
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LIFESTYLE



Spring bliss in a bowl: Roasted carrot coconut soup

As we happily say goodbye to winter's chill and welcome the warmth of spring, nothing complements the season quite like a bowl of Roasted Carrot and Coconut Soup. Whether enjoyed as a hearty lunch, a starter for your Easter table or a light dinner, this recipe captures the essence of freshness and comfort.

Fresh carrots are key. Unlike frozen, they bring caramelized sweetness and robust flavor to every spoonful. Roasting them until golden intensifies their natural sugars, infusing the soup with a depth that watery frozen carrots can't match.

The secret to any truly exceptional soup lies in building layers of flavor. Begin by caramelizing onions to a golden

perfection, then add smashed garlic and freshly grated ginger. These aromatic ingredients not only elevate the soup's fragrance, but also enhance its complexity. Remember, the key is to season generously and let each ingredient shine.

Once the vegetables are tender and fragrant, blend them into a velvety smooth consistency. Coconut milk adds luxurious, dairy-free creaminess that complements the earthy sweetness of roasted carrots. A touch of apple cider vinegar and optional maple syrup achieve a perfect balance of subtle tanginess and deep sweetness, harmonizing the flavors. Garnish with green onions and fresh herbs like parsley or cilantro for a vibrant, visually appealing finish that enhances the soup's deliciousness. You could garnish with green peas for color and extra protein.

Perfect for busy schedules, this soup can be prepared ahead of time and reheated gently to preserve its flavors. Whether enjoyed steaming hot or refreshingly chilled on warmer days, it's a versatile addition to any meal plan.

ROASTED CARROT AND COCONUT SOUP

Yield: 4 servings
Total Time: 50 minutes

- 2 pounds carrots, peeled and chopped into 1-inch pieces
- 3 tablespoons olive oil, divided
- Kosher salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 sweet onion, chopped
- 4 garlic cloves, smashed
- 1 heaping tablespoon fresh ginger, grated or finely minced
- 3 cups vegetable or chicken stock
- 1 (14 ounce) can coconut milk, divided
- 1 tablespoon apple cider vinegar
- 1 teaspoon maple syrup (optional)
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced, for topping
- Parsley or cilantro for garnish (optional)

Preheat the oven to 425 F. Place the carrots on a baking sheet and toss with 2 tablespoons of olive oil. Sprinkle with salt and pepper. Roast for 25 minutes, until golden and delicious.

While the carrots are roasting, heat the remaining olive oil in a stockpot set over medium-high heat. Add the onions and saute for 5 minutes, until softened.

Lower the heat to medium-low, add garlic and ginger with a pinch of salt and pepper. Cook for 5-6 minutes, until fragrant. Once the carrots are done, add



Enjoy the flavors of spring with every spoonful of Roasted Carrot and Coconut Soup. (Photo credit: www.JasonCoblentz.com)

them (along with any oil from the roasting sheet) to the pot. Pour in the stock and bring to a boil. Reduce it to a simmer and cook, uncovered, for 10 minutes.

Remove from heat and cool for a few minutes. Either use an immersion (stick) blender to blend or carefully transfer the mixture to a blender. Puree until smooth (use caution with hot liquids).

Return the soup to the pot and place over low heat. Stir in most of the coconut milk (reserve some for garnish), the apple cider vinegar and maple syrup, if using. Heat through. Taste and adjust seasoning with as needed. Serve hot, warm or cold,

garnished with a drizzle of reserved coconut milk, sliced green onions and chopped parsley or cilantro.

With its nourishing blend of flavors and health benefits, Roasted Carrot and Coconut Soup bridges the gap between seasons with every spoonful, a gentle reminder that good food can be both simple and sublime

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

Your professional organizer

This week, I received a request to provide a solution to the following question.

"I have too many clothes and a very small closet. How do I get the most out of my limited space?"

There are many options for solving the problem of limited closet space and all of them require downsizing.

Before considering adding an armoire or other types of freestanding clothing racks, which are options, you need to take a serious look at what you have hanging in your ex-

isting space. Ask yourself if you still wear or use the items you have stored there. Hoping you will



Daryl Ashley
Guest Columnist

wear something in the future isn't a good reason to let it take over the space you need for items you truly need and use.

Curb the desire to buy new. Remove one blouse from your closet before replacing it with a new one. Not only will this maintain the amount you currently store, it will help you think about whether you really need, and I mean need, another.

You may want to move seasonal items to contain-

ers for storage in a garage, basement, or attic. Just be careful to keep these at a minimum and remember to change them out before the next season.

As mentioned before, armoires or free-standing racks are available but do require additional floor space and that doesn't necessarily mean you won't face overcrowding at a later date.

Change how you look at what you own and know that even though its pretty that doesn't mean you need to keep it. *Donate, always!*

It's as simple as that! Send your questions or responses to info@confusionsolution.com.

Joyful Noise

You are not a lost cause!

By Pastor Naomi Mitchell for Carter County Times

Genesis 1:26-27 says, "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So, God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female cre-

ated He them." Genesis 2:7 reads, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

It is God who formed man (us) from the dust of the ground in the beginning of time when He said, "let Us make man in Our image!" Could you imagine a world with absolutely no people in it? It was beautiful just the way God created it in the creation story in Genesis chapter

one. However, that was not God's first thought! His very thought at the beginning was to create man in His image. But God had to first create the most wonderful place and home for His most prized and beloved man. God formed man perfect in his sight. He breathed His very breath into man.

He gave Adam and Eve specific instructions in the Garden of Eden. Genesis 2:17 says, "But of the tree of the knowledge of good

See JOYFUL NOISE on A-4



Extension Notes

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

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Winning the war on weeds: Why spring preemergence herbicides are beneficial

Spring is here, and you might be itching to give your lawn a little TLC. While many people think "it's spring, better grab the fertilizer," the truth is that the very best time to boost lawn health is actually in the fall. That's when conditions are prime for the grass to build strong roots. However, one of the most important (and often overlooked) spring lawn care practices is applying a preemergence herbicide.

If you want a thick, healthy lawn this summer, stop weeds before they even get started. If you wait until you can see them sprouting up, you're already fighting an uphill battle. Postemergence herbicides, which you spray onto actively growing weeds later, can be more expensive and less effective. By applying a preemergence herbicide now, you'll knock out those weed seeds before they even sprout, saving you time, energy and money down the road.

The best time to apply is when the soil temperature at a two-inch depth averages between 50-55°F for about five consecutive days. You can check soil temperatures online

through resources like Kentucky Mesonet, or use a simple soil thermometer. If you're not into checking soil temps, another trick is to watch for forsythia blooms. When those bright yellow flowers are in full bloom, it's usually a good sign that it's time to apply. In Kentucky, this typically happens in March to early April.

For the best results, many lawn care professionals recommend a two-application approach. The first should be made when soil temperatures indicate it's time, and the second about six to eight weeks later to extend protection throughout the season. Always follow the instructions on the herbicide label to ensure you don't exceed the recommended annual use rate.

While a preemergence herbicide is an excellent tool for preventing weeds, it's not a magic fix. Another great way to keep weeds at bay is by maintaining a thick, healthy lawn that naturally shades out any potential invaders. Raising your mower height can be one of the most effective ways to do this, as taller grass helps block sunlight from reaching weed seeds.

Not every lawn will need a preemergence herbicide every year. If your lawn is already thick and weed-free, you may not need to apply one at all. However, if you've had issues with grassy weeds in the past or notice bare patches where weeds might take hold, it's a good investment. If you skipped fertilizing in the fall, you can apply a moderate amount of fertilizer in the spring along with your herbicide. Just be careful not to overdo it, or you might end up feeding the weeds instead.

Taking a preventative approach now will save you time, money, and frustration later in the season. By applying a preemergence herbicide at the right time and focusing on overall lawn health, you'll be setting yourself up for a lush, weed-free lawn all summer long.

More information can be found at the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment publication here: <https://publications.ca.uky.edu/files/AGR272.pdf>. You can also contact your local Carter County Extension office for more information on how to create a successful yard this spring. Educational programs of the

See WEEDS on A-3

Kentucky Dept of Agriculture Livestock and Grain Market Report

Compared to last week feeder cattle sold unevenly steady with trends for steers ranging from 5.00 lower to 6.00 higher and heifers 4.00 lower to 4.00 higher. There were exceptions sharply lower to sharply higher. Trends for yearling steers and heifers ranged from 4.00 lower to 2.00 higher. There was good to very good demand for all feeder and yearling classes. Slaughter cows and bulls were unevenly steady with good to very good demand. Extremely muddy conditions continue statewide as well as severe flooding, later in the week, affecting cattle movement.

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

Week ending 4/5/25

	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
Steers (M&L 1-2)			
350-400 lbs	403.08	404.59	324.59
400-450 lbs	385.56	403.98	323.24
450-500 lbs	370.81	371.86	305.58
500-550 lbs	351.85	339.89	293.97
550-600 lbs	339.57	336.33	287.97
600-650 lbs	321.68	322.64	271.72
650-700 lbs	308.69	308.93	259.28
700-750 lbs	289.97	290.41	244.69
750-800 lbs	275.19	269.33	234.05
800-850 lbs	269.18	264.37	230.47
850-900 lbs	253.32	266.69	226.52
Heifers (M&L 1-2)			
300-350 lbs	355.81	366.52	292.17
350-400 lbs	358.08	363.81	289.89
400-450 lbs	341.46	336.28	277.28
450-500 lbs	331.96	324.91	271.67
500-550 lbs	308.22	305.67	253.52
550-600 lbs	299.24	296.16	242.91
600-650 lbs	278.38	279.73	235.61
650-700 lbs	264.15	269.70	226.45
700-750 lbs	255.11	249.11	213.62
750-800 lbs	246.65	241.93	200.87

WEEKLY COW SUMMARY			
	Average	High	Low
Slaughter Cows			
Breakers	124.00-148.00	130.00-167.00	116.00-138.00
Boners	120.00-149.00	130.00-179.00	88.00-137.00
Lean	90.00-138.00	108.00-163.00	70.00-124.00
Slaughter Bulls			
Yield Grade 1&2	140.00-173.00	161.00-204.00	112.00-164.00

Mar 27, 2025		Bowling Green, KY	
SLAUGHTER GOATS: 242			
Kids: Selection 1	52 lbs 395.00; 69 lbs 385.00.	Selection 1-2	95 lbs 270.00.
Selection 2	55-56 lbs 255.00-360.00; 67 lbs 380.00.	SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 992	
Hair Breeds-Choice & Prime 1-2 57 lbs 325.00; 64-65 lbs 315.00-320.00; 74-77 lbs 305.00-312.50; 87 lbs 290.00; 91 lbs 290.00; 109 lbs 245.00. Woolled-Choice & Prime 1-2 49 lbs 310.00; 60-65 lbs 300.00-310.00; 78 lbs 310.00; 94 lbs 310.00; 115 lbs 212.50; 127 lbs 250.00; 135 lbs 217.50.			
Week ending 4/5/25			
	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
GRAINS			
Corn	4.42-4.81	4.35-4.93	3.91-4.43
Soybeans	9.07-10.59	9.21-10.51	11.09-12.01
Red Winter Wheat	4.53-5.46	4.21-5.57	4.77-5.74

Arrests from A-1

booked April 3.

- Glenda Psimer, 47, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on charges of first degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), and tampering with physical evidence, arrested and booked April 3.
- Mark Newman, 31, of Franklin Furnace, OH, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges including two counts of failure to appear, and two counts of contempt of court – libel/slander – resistance to order, arrested and booked April 4.
- Josh Hollingsworth, 47, of Olive Hill, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and booked April 4.
- Vernon Miller, 68, ad-

dress unknown, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of no tail lamps, rear license not illuminated, failure to notify department of transportation of address change, failure to produce an insurance card, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a substance, and possession of marijuana, arrested and booked April 4.

- Stephany Kouns, 38, address unknown, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a substance, improper registration plate, no registration receipt, no registration plates, improper display of registration plate, no

operator’s license, failure to produce an insurance card, and non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked April 5.

- Phillip Lowe, 58, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on a charge of second degree unlawful imprisonment, arrested and booked April 5.
- Richard Bausano, 65, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of obstructed vision and/or windshield, no rear view mirror, failure to or improper signal, resisting arrest, operating on a suspended or revoked operator’s license, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, no operator’s

license, and improper equipment, arrested and booked April 5.

- Jason Smith, 47, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on a charge of fourth degree assault (with minor injury), arrested and booked April 6.

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.

Soccer from A-1

around here.”

Harper explained that the other field has a rye overlay, so it is more suitable for an early start.

“We have them practicing on that field now, and we have the first travel soccer games scheduled April 12, April 19, May 3 and May 18. That’s a group called Eastern Elite Soccer,” Harper said. “They actually practice there currently, but this will be the first games we have hosted at the sports park.”

Harper said those games will be a way to “work the kinks out,” so to speak. This will allow him to see what works, and what should be adjusted before the larger crowds show up, and allow for smoother growth.

“That’s how we did it with baseball and softball,” Harper said. “We did a partial season to get our feet wet and see what it looked like.”

There is a learning curve to everything, Harper said, and you want to give sports teams the best experience possible. This goes beyond just the dimensions of the fields and includes estimating crowd sizes and the actual marking and preparing of the fields to accommodate different regulation play.

“Every level of youth soccer has different requirements,” Harper said. “Some play 7 on 7, but it’s a smaller field with smaller goals. Some are 9 versus 9, and it all changes with different ages. But I have all those dimensions, and we

can paint the field to accommodate whichever one is playing at the time. And we just need to figure out what that is going to look like, and try some different areas to mark fields out to see how they play.”

Harper said it is about finding the best fit, and by testing the waters with the first four games that are scheduled they will be able to do just that. In the beginning it will just be two teams with different age groups playing exhibition style games, but by fall it will open up more to local teams.

“We will even be testing out concessions on that end,” Harper said. “It’s a different crowd, and it will let us see what that crowd is interested in. They could possibly want different

things, and some things will sell better than other things. But that’s all part of it. Part of figuring it all out. My approach has always been a little reserved going into things and not ‘blowing it up’ right from the start.”

“It’s really hard because the first impression is really important with people,” Harper continued. “The first really big exposure has to be successful, or it reflects poorly on you.”

So, starting small and doing it right leads to the best end results. The goal, he said, is to offer another sports venue at the sports park that benefits the community and the entire region.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Opioid from A-1

combined with the broad and often less than helpful guidelines on the use and application of those funds, pose genuine problems for not only Carter County but other counties as well.

Magistrate Chris Huddle said that he was in favor of using the opioid settlement money for prevention. Huddle said he has heard officials from other areas say they weren’t spending a dime of their money, but rather putting it in certificates of deposit (CDs) to draw interest, a policy he doesn’t agree with.

“I think that could be perceived by the public as we didn’t care about fixing the problem,” Huddle said.

Huddle added that he was of the opinion that the money should be spent, but that the fiscal court should

take time to research the ideas brought before them.

County judge executive Brandon Burton said it would be beneficial for the court to continue educating itself on the guidelines, and take advantage of the state training as it becomes available. Burton discussed with the court the possible benefit of pausing any future funding to reassess the guidelines, though they would continue to consider those already submitted for consideration. He also discussed setting a potential schedule that would determine how many proposals per year the court would consider, as well as opening and closing dates to submit those proposals.

Magistrate Harley Rayburn highlighted one key, frustrating issue

counties face with the opioid funds.

“There should be answers on how this money can be spent,” Rayburn said. “And I would like those answers.”

Unfortunately, clear answers are not available at any level, and the pressure seems to be placed upon each recipient of the funds to use their best judgement. In spite of there being no clear guidance – or perhaps because of it – it becomes absolutely crucial to understand what little guidance is available. This includes both the fiscal court and the residents of Carter County as well, Judge Burton said. That would be the best way to avoid misunderstandings, he said.

“We had a little to go by in the beginning,” Burton

said. “And now we have a little more to go by. So, we have to keep learning.”

The fiscal court discussed the possibility of holding a town hall style meeting in the near future and inviting the general public in to let them voice their concerns and offer insights into how they think the opioid abatement money could be used to benefit the community. Another idea discussed by the court was establishing an advisory board made up of county residents to help the court decide on project funding.

More discussion on the subject is planned for future meetings, and public input is encouraged in the process.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Bible college earns accreditation

KCU’s Keeran School of Bible & Ministry earns status for ten years

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

Kentucky Christian

University (KCU) and their Keeran School of Bible & Ministry (KSBM) recently received a unique distinction with their accreditation from the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE); earning that organization’s accreditation in half the time and for twice as long as typical.

“We are incredibly proud of the accomplishment. It is usually a four-year process, and we were able to accomplish it in two years,” Dr. Rob Shoaff, Dean of the Keeran School of Bible & Ministry at KCU said.

Shoaff explained the accreditation process a little further by saying that KCU

was a first time accreditor, which is typically a five-year accreditation with accommodations. But KSBM received no accommodations, and was awarded a ten-year accreditation.

“That was a really good thing, and the benefit of it is that the actual achieve-

See COLLEGE on A-6

Weeds from A-2

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:

- Ag Advancement Council – April 14th @ 6:00 PM

- Ag Development Board – April 14th @ 7:00 PM
- Hike & Learn – April 21st @ 1:00 PM - Carter Caves State Resort Park

CALENDAR

- **4/9: Girl Scouts meeting @ 5:30 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **4/14: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 474-6686
- **4/14: Homeschool group meeting @ 12 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **4/14: Ag Advancement Council @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Extension Office
- **4/14: Carter County Fiscal Court @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Courthouse
- **4/14: Ag Development Board @ 7 p.m.** | Carter County Extension Office
- **4/15: Homeschool group meeting @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **4/15: Olive Hill City Council @ 6 p.m.** | Olive Hill Senior/Community Center
- **4/17: Grayson Book Club @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **4/17: Olive Hill Area Chamber of Commerce @ 6 p.m.** | Giovanni's Pizza
- **4/18: Sit and Sew @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions or to RSVP call 474-6686
- **4/19: Friends of the Library meeting @ 5 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **4/21: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 606-474-6686
- **4/21: Homeschool group meeting @ 12 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson

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

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Pet of the Week

Brownie is a female mixed breed, around one-year-old. She’s a very friendly girl, and 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

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Joyful Noise from A-2

and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." Genesis 3:8, "And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden."

The enemy hated what God had created.

Genesis 3:13 says, "And the Lord God said unto the woman, what is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, the serpent beguiled me, and I did eat." James 1:14, says, "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed." They were drawn away of their own lust and the temptation caused them to sin against what God had instructed them not to do. Sin will deform us causing separation from a holy God.

John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."

God would not give up on man having a wonderful relationship with Him. He knew man could not do anything to redeem himself back to God. He would need to supply the perfect blameless sacrifice without blemish. No one or nothing could accomplish this except His Son Jesus.

John 1:29 says, "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world." Jesus willingly became the sacrificial lamb to die on the cross for our sins. The blood of Jesus is the only cure to wash away our sins. He is the only one that can transform us!

Sin will take you further than you want to go, and it will keep you longer than you want to stay. John 10:10 says, "The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." There is a way for you to be transformed, to be changed from this old man to the new man. It is through a cleansing of the blood of Jesus, God's only begotten Son.

The temptation to continue living and giving into sin will always be there. 1 Corinthians 10:13 says, "There hath no temptation taken you, but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." Revelation 21:5, "And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, write: for these words are true and faithful." What can wash away my sin? Nothing but the blood of Jesus. What can make me whole again? Nothing but the blood of Jesus! God formed us, sin deformed us, and Jesus transforms us! I am so thankful for Isaiah 55:8, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord." 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.

OBITUARY

Joannae Carter Blevins 1948 – 2025



Joannae Carter Blevins of Grayson, Kentucky passed away Saturday, April 5, 2025, at King's Daughters Medical Center in Ashland from complications of a life well-lived.

Joannae was preceded in death by her parents, Curt and Deane, her father and mother-in-law, Elgan and Ethel, sisters Barbara (Paul) Campbell and Debra (Jim) Peffer, and brothers and sister-in-law, Carl, Johnny, E.W. and Mary Lois Blevins-Ramey.

Joannae is survived by her husband of almost 60 years, Vernal Blevins. Theirs was a true partnership grounded in love and respect. She worked with him to build a life many would be envious of. On the farm she picked strawberries, and pulled, set, and stripped tobacco. In town many might remember her as a clerk at The Corner Shop, Grayson Pharmacy, or the Sundry Store.

She is also survived by her children Barbara (Robert) Grossman of Lexington and Christopher (Vickie) Blevins of Grayson, her grandchildren, Benjamin and Jessica Grossman, Tracy (Tristian) Hall, and Brandon (Megan) Wilburn, her great-grandchildren, Bradley Ratcliff and Raiden Shortis, sisters-in-laws Mary Francis and Mary

Lewis Blevins, special nephew Tim Blevins and a host of nieces, nephews and cousins who will mourn her passing.

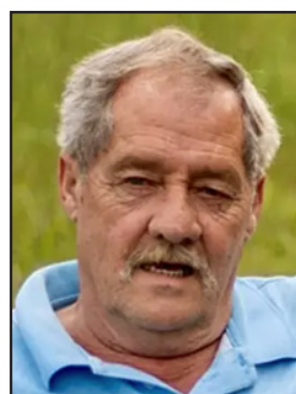
Joannae was known for her love of reading and travel. She was never without a book, especially enjoying the authors Dean Koontz, Catherine Cookson, and Nora Lofts. Joannae was afraid of flying. Still, she traveled much of the continental United States and throughout Europe via plane, train, and automobile.

Joannae was firm in her Christian faith and was a long time member of Hopewell Methodist Church. She was known for her acceptance of everyone, regardless of color or religion. She had strong political beliefs and remained a feminist through and through when those beliefs became unpopular. She was a fierce protector of those she loved. She was our beloved wife, mother, and matriarch. She will be missed immeasurably.

Funeral Services will be 1 pm Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at the Malone Funeral Home in Grayson with Brother Chris Bellew officiating. Burial will follow in the Blevins Family Cemetery on Blevins Road. Visitation will be 11 am Wednesday until the service hour. Condolences may be sent to the family at www.malonefuneral-home.com

Pallbearers will be Tim Blevins, Benjamin Grossman, Mike Peffer, Michael Peffer, Curtis Peffer, Brandon Wilburn and Nathan Prichard, with honorary pallbearer Bradley Ratcliff.

Ernie Lee Conn 1955 – 2025



Mr. Ernie Lee Conn, age 69, of Olive Hill, Kentucky, went home to be with the Lord, Saturday morning, April 5, 2025, at UK-St. Claire Medical Center in Morehead, Kentucky surrounded by his loving family.

He was born September 4, 1955, in Carter County, Kentucky, a son of the late Golden and Agnes Evans Conn.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by three brothers, Golden Conn Jr., Joe Bob Conn, Thurman Ray "Puggy" Conn; two sisters, Gloria Jane Conn Middleton, Amanda Lou Conn Roe.

Ernie attended Providence Freewill Baptist Church and gave his life to the Lord, October 8, 2017. He enjoyed going to church and loved his church family dearly. His family was his life and picking on his grandchildren was his favorite thing to do. Ernie loved to hunt, work in his garden, trade guns, golf and he never met a stranger. He was a former employee of Globe Funeral Chapel.

Ernie is survived by

his loving wife, Deborah Ann Jenkins; his four sons, Christopher Lee Conn of Olive Hill, Kentucky, Jonathan Adam (Joni) Conn of Means, Kentucky, Dennis Henry Lee (Theresa) Jackson, Daryl Dwayne (Carol) Jackson all of Olive Hill, Kentucky; one daughter, Bonnie Mae (Jason) Barker; 17 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; two brothers, Billy Conn of Mansfield, Ohio, Johnny (Kathy) Conn of Elliott County, Kentucky; one sister, Verlina (Roger) Greenhill of Olive Hill, Kentucky; one special cousin and friend, Morse Conn, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss him.

Funeral services will be held 11 a.m., Thursday, April 10, 2025, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Brother Ronnie Easterling and Brother Bobby Day officiating. Burial will follow in Conn Family Cemetery in Elliott County, Kentucky. Friends may visit from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., Wednesday, April 9, 2025, and after 9 a.m., Thursday, April 10, 2025, until the service hour at Globe Funeral Chapel.

Chris Conn, Jon Conn, Robert Barker, Ryan Barker, Eric Barker and Freddie Conn will serve as pallbearers.

Christopher Daniel Conn will serve as honorary pallbearer.

Globe Funeral Chapel in Olive Hill, Kentucky, is honored to serve the family of Ernie Lee Conn.

Sue Elaine Ison Adkins 1964 – 2025

Sue Elaine Ison Adkins, age 60, of Grayson, Kentucky, passed away Thursday March 6, 2025, at UK-King's Daughter Medical Center in Ashland, Kentucky.

She was born October 18, 1964, in Mansfield, Ohio, to Sue Holbrook Ison of Grayson, Kentucky and the late Richard Ison.

Sue was of the Apostolic Faith.

In addition to her father, she was preceded in death by one grandson, Conner McCoy.

Sue is survived by her loving husband of 33 years, Mark Adkins; two sons, Jacob Adkins, Xavier

Adkins both of Grayson, Kentucky; two daughters, Kelsey Johnson of Grayson, Kentucky, Brandi McDowell of Grayson, Kentucky; 9 grandchildren; one brother, Richard Ison of Ashland, Kentucky; two sisters, Rita Barker and Carol Johnson both of Grayson, Kentucky, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss her.

At the request of the family, there will be no services at this time.

Grayson Funeral Home and Cremation Services is honored to serve the family of Sue Elaine Ison Adkins.

Elwood D. Caudill 1936 – 2025



Elwood Caudill, age 89, passed peacefully, surrounded by his family on April 5, 2025, at his home in Olive Hill, Ky. Elwood was born March 11, 1936, and is the son of the late Willie and GeorgeAnn (Goodan) Caudill.

Elwood was a determined man and a hard worker. Starting at General Motors in Mansfield, Ohio, at 21 years old, he worked for 30 years and retired at 51. He moved back home to Olive Hill at that time to pursue his passion for farming. For many years he raised tobacco. Throughout his life he also raised a garden, a corn patch, cows, chickens, ducks, and guineas. But more than that, Elwood raised his family.

He leaves behind a loving and devoted wife of nearly 67 years, Sauna "Toddy" (Sagraves) Caudill; four children, Reggie (Sherry) Caudill, Randy "Bean" Caudill, Shell (Bryan) Conant, Renee (Rocky Porter) Fugate; 9 grandchildren, Megan Porter, Matt Porter, Nathan Fugate, Sami (Andrew Lopez) Conant, Dillon (Haylee) Conant, Justin (Kiersten Hicks) Caudill, Clint (Savannah) Fugate,

Sarah (Emmett Perry) Caudill, Mitchell Porter, Shane Kilgore; 12 great-grandchildren, Charlee, Emory, Ellie, Kayson, Hunter, Waylon, Adalind, Caroline, Willow, Malayah, Mason, Mayliona; siblings Carolyn (Charles) Clark, George "Frosty" (Faye) Caudill, Wayne (Shirley) Caudill; sisters in law, Loretta, Carla, Jenny, Glenna, Vivian, Bernice and brother in law, Rex Sagraves. He was preceded in death by his parents; brothers, Harold, Herbert "June", William, Roger, Harles, Den; sister, Evelyn; and granddaughter, Jodi Shyanne Littleton.

In addition to his loving family, Elwood will be missed by nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins, the hunters, the neighbors, and lifelong friends.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m., Friday, April 11, 2025, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Brother Victor Mabry and Brother Louie Harris and Brother Gary Sparks officiating. Burial will follow in Steagall Cemetery, Olive Hill.

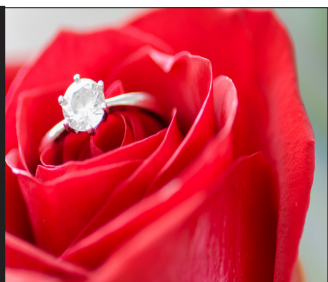
Friends may visit from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m., Thursday, April 10, 2025, and after 9 a.m., Friday, April 11, 2025 until the service hour at Globe Funeral Chapel

Pallbearers will be Kevin Caudill, Tim Caudill, Darren Caudill, Sandra Brown, Justin Caudill, Clint Fugate, Nathan Fugate and Dillon Conant.

Globe Funeral Chapel is honored to serve the family of Elwood Caudill.

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OPINION

EDITORIALS | LETTERS | COLUMNS | COMMENTARY

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

Guest OP-ED

Shifty Barr betrays McConnell to get Musk cash

By: John Schaaf

Kentuckians watching their Washington politicians are witnessing Representative Andy Barr betraying his friend and mentor Senator Mitch McConnell in a way that reminds people of what Judas did to Jesus for 30 pieces of silver.

Over the years, McConnell's hard work single-handedly built the Republican Party of Kentucky into the state's majority party. McConnell made it possible 15 years ago for a former government lawyer like Barr to even dream of running for Congress in central Kentucky.

Without McConnell, there would be no Congressman Barr, and for years Barr followed McConnell's lead in voting to protect Social Security, veterans, and a strong military. Sadly, Barr has gone weak and fainted into the arms of multi-billionaire government contractor Elon Musk.

As with Judas, there's a reason for Barr's radical reversal: he's doing it for Elon's money. If money is the root of all evil, Musk's campaign contributions are certainly at the heart of Barr's treachery toward McConnell.

Barr's in frantic pursuit of McConnell's Senate seat, so he's ditching his long-time ally and desperately chasing Elon. In years to come, Barr's lust for Musk's money and his betrayal of McConnell will be remembered as one of the most despicable double crosses in Kentucky political history.

McConnell's a constitutional conservative, and as the nation's founders intended, he's always stood up for the budget-making power of Congress, the branch of government closest to the people.

In contrast, and for Elon's money, Barr is cheerleading for Musk, an unelected rich guy who's plundering tax dollars that were appropriated by law (with Barr's votes) and trying to pull the plug on Social Security so it can be handed over to Wall Street bankers.

Elon calls Social Security "the biggest Ponzi scheme of all time" and Barr smiles and says: "Thank you sir, may I have another?"

Musk is a South African native who dumped about \$300 million into last year's presidential campaign. That money bought him a big government job, and with Barr's approval, Elon is using his position to decimate programs that support Kentucky veterans and the military, Social Security, Medicare, national parks, public schools, cancer research, and disaster aid for flood victims. Musk can also use his position to steer billions of taxpayer dollars to his private businesses.

For Elon's money, and another slap in McConnell's face, Barr is supporting tariffs that amount to a national sales tax. Tariffs will increase inflation, and cause chaos in the stock market and the retirement accounts of millions of Americans.

Both McConnell and Sen. Rand Paul are telling Barr that "Tariffs are simply taxes. Conservatives once united against new taxes. Taxing trade will mean less trade and higher prices."

In strongly opposing Barr's position, McConnell explained that "tariffs could have long-term consequences (on Kentucky's) 75,000 family farms that sell their crops around the globe, the hardworking Kentuckians who craft 95 percent of the world's bourbon, (and) our auto industry that relies on global supply chains to support the livelihoods of thousands of workers in the commonwealth."

Musk is threatening to spend campaign money against members of Congress who don't support plans to devastate American families, so Barr is kneeling and kissing Musk's ring.

Although he's trying hard to please Elon, Barr has a poor understanding of Kentucky politics if he thinks voters want a Senator who licks the boots of an unelected oddball whose drug use and erratic behavior worry his closest associates.

Kentuckians have voted overwhelmingly for many Presidents, including Lyndon Johnson, Ronald Reagan, and Donald Trump, but they've never elected a Senator who promised to be a lapdog for anybody.

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



If you get less than half the vote, please don't call the victory a mandate!

My logic in this commentary may be an example of splitting hairs, but I'm already sick and tired of the folks in the Trump Administration running amok while claiming they have "an overwhelming mandate" to downsize the federal government.

According to the official count, the Trump-Vance ticket received exactly 49.8 percent of the popular vote in last fall's presidential election. Since that figure is less than 50 percent, it simply doesn't meet the definition of a "mandate".

Yes, the Republicans won a solid victory in the Electoral College but that complicated, weighted formula is tough to explain in this limited space. The actual definition of majority rule in our form of government depends on whether you use the popular vote or the Electoral College tally.

To keep this commentary simple enough so that even I can fully understand it, let's look back at Kentucky's gubernatorial election of 2023 when Gov. Andy Beshear won a second term with 53 percent of the popular vote.

As a confessed Democrat, I prefer to say that victory was a clear expression of the "will of the people" in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. However, the

supermajority of Republicans in the House and Senate of the Kentucky General Assembly lined up again like toy store puppets and overrode all of Beshear's vetoes.

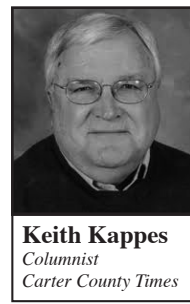
Perhaps the strangest outcome of that legislative session was another round of approving new programs without an accompanying appropriation to pay new costs.

If the state was short of cash, I might understand the idea of a "wish list" of new stuff that may or may not ever be funded. But the truth is that the state has hundreds of millions of dollars in its "rainy day fund" and other fiscal fox-holes in Frankfort.

A final thought in this rambling discourse...the chaos in Washington surrounding the dismantling of the Department of Education should be very disturbing to the millions of us who have benefitted immensely from access to public higher education.

If the federal student aid programs get mismanaged to death, does that mean we will go back to the bad old days when only the wealthy could afford to go to college?

Keith Kappes can be reached at keithkappes@gmail.com



Keith Kappes
Columnist
Carter County Times

Letter to the Editor: Calling all Burchetts!

Dear Editor,

I am a retired journalist so whenever I want to find out anything I go looking for the local newspaper. They can almost always help and the help I need relates to my family search. Are there any Burchetts still living in the Olive Hill area? My grandfather, Charles Howard Musick, was born in Carter County and moved to Oklahoma in 1895 with his grandfather Benjamin Franklin Burchett II and his uncle Burrell

Burchett. If you are able to put me in touch with any Burchetts remaining in Carter County, I would be very grateful.

Thanks,
Pat Musick

(Editor's note: If you have information for Mr. Musick you may pass it along to us at news@carter-countytimes.com and we will forward it on to him.)

Working man get screwed (again)

I feel like a 1950s news desk jockey when I type out the possible headlines for this piece, but I keep coming back to the tired adage: "Working Man Gets Screwed." And as the decades pass, the headline still fits. If there's one thing most of us can agree on — red state, blue state, anywhere in between — it's that insurance is a scam.

You get a decent job. You pay your monthly tribute in hopes of not dying. You fill out the paperwork, pick from a list of "approved providers" like you're ordering off a menu no one wants to eat from. And when you finally need help — boom, denial.

Not medically necessary? What is? Breathing?

They've turned health insurance into the world's most elaborate shell game. The rules change depending on the day, the paperwork, or whether Mercury is

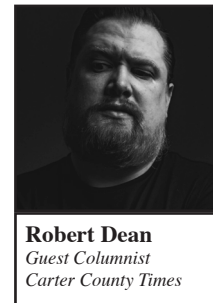
in retrograde. You get sick, you think, "Thank God I have insurance," and then you find out your insurance thinks God should pay for it.

Meanwhile, CEOs of these denial factories are out here banking \$15 million bonuses for "cost containment," which is corporate speak for "telling sick people to kick rocks." If this is the system we're supposed to be grateful for, maybe we need less gratitude and more pitchforks.

For John Baltisberger, this isn't a column. It's his life.

In 2023 John found out he had testicular cancer — and not just cancer, but the kind that spreads fast. "I'm in the car with my wife," he told me. "I'm heading to pick up my daughter from school, and they call

See WORKING MAN on A-6



Robert Dean
Guest Columnist
Carter County Times

Carter County Times

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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.

College from A-3

ment represents not only the hard work that our team did, but it also represents the steadfast commitment we have to equip our students for meaningful service and ministry,” Shoaff said.

The support and work which yielded the accreditation goes beyond that, Shoaff said.

“We also have a required Biblical Studies minor for every student at Kentucky Christian University,” he explained. “And so, my department touches every single department in the school because we teach every single student.”

Shoaff gave an example of a nursing student, who in addition to everything they learn in that program, would also be learning ministry and faith skills to employ as they go out and practice nursing. The same would hold true for students in business, education, or any other major.

“The benefit, I believe,

is that we continue to (send) missionaries out into the workforce,” Shoaff said.

“I would say that this is where Christ meets our Culture,” Shoaff continued. “Jesus in the Marketplace, not just at Church. It (the accreditation) provides our students with a higher level of accountability. And what we are teaching raises the bar.”

Shoaff said that as an evaluator he is always trying to find better ways to do things, and said that having an accountability partner with the ABHE helps the school stay in line with what they say they want to be.

“They will help make sure that we keep producing those Kingdom Students we say we want to produce,” he said.

This process and the successes yield great benefits for the students, Shoaff said.

“It also benefits our department and the institu-

tion at large, but the benefit to the students is the main focus,” he explained. “We are not only able to teach our students the importance of the Bible and of Biblical study, but we are also teaching them how ‘the rubber meets the road.’ We are teaching them what to do with the Biblical knowledge they have gained, and how to put it into practice.”

Shoaff said that he is glad that Kentucky Christian University is a practice based institution.

“We aren’t researched based, though we do require research from our students. But we are always asking the question, ‘Now that you have the knowledge and have done the research, how does it change your life and the lives of those around you?’” Shoaff said.

“I think it is really important for the mission of Kentucky Christian University, and the Keeran School of Bible & Minis-

try, as we are putting out not only knowledgeable, credited, graduates out there in the ministry but we are putting people out there who on a practical basis know how to minister to people,” he added.

Shoaff said that the credit for the accreditation and so many other things belong to the great team of educators at KCU. He said the 2,000 pages written, compiled, and submitted for the accreditation could not have been possible without the help of so many members of the staff and faculty, especially Vicki Madden, Director of Institutional Assessment and Accreditation.

“She and I have been working on this for nearly two years. And we could not be more grateful to see it come to fruition.”

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Working Man from A-5

me like, hey, you need to go see a urologist. Like, tomorrow.”

That phone call would be the start of a long, brutal road — biopsies, losing one of his testicles, lab results, and a diagnosis no one wants to hear.

“There’s like five kinds of them,” he said. “And I had four. Including a teratoma — a tumor that can grow teeth, hair, skin. Mine didn’t have those, but it had a rudimentary spine, lungs, limbs.”

One of those four types? Highly aggressive, highly prone to spread. Baltisberger spent eight hours a day in chemotherapy for over a week. Then once a week for the rest of the month. His immune system was wiped out.

His body stopped producing testosterone. Not just low — nonexistent.

“When it dips, I want to die,” he told me. At first, he tried weekly intramus-

cular injections. “Superman on Monday, weepy and wrecked by Friday.” He switched to long-acting pellet implants, but they triggered polycythemia — a condition where his blood got dangerously thick, spiking his risk for stroke or heart attack. The dose was lowered. The crash still came.

He stopped writing. Stopped sleeping. “I felt like I was dying in slow motion.”

And for nearly two months, he couldn’t get his doctor to return a call. Emails. Phone messages. Even his oncologist tried to reach them. Nothing.

Then, with his blood still dangerously out of whack and no treatment in place, the clinic casually called to schedule another surgery. Furious, Baltisberger demanded to be seen. Eventually, the doctor brought him in, apologized, and prescribed

an auto-injector — more expensive, but less dangerous. He got the first shot, and within hours, he felt like himself again.

And then came United Healthcare.

His doctor had prescribed the drug. It was working. But United said no. It wasn’t on their list of approved medications, and they weren’t going to pay. Never mind that it was keeping him functional, stable, alive.

Now Baltisberger — a working-class dad, husband, writer — has another bill to pay because an insurance algorithm flagged his humanity as optional.

When I asked how that felt, he didn’t say “angry.” Not first.

He said, “Despair.”

“Yes, I’m angry. But more than that, it’s despair,” he told me. “When I’m out of testosterone, I’m worthless — not because anyone around me makes

me feel that way, but because I can’t do anything. I can’t accomplish anything. It’s not about, ‘Oh, I’m a man.’ It’s... ‘Am I even human if I can’t function?’ I was so weak, so low-energy, I didn’t have the will to do anything but feed my family and try to survive.”

And this man has a job. And insurance. And still got denied the basic ability to feel human — to rebuild himself after cancer — because some desk, somewhere, ran the numbers and decided he wasn’t worth it.

This isn’t just a broken system. It’s a profitable one — built to deny care until people break, and then to bill them for the privilege.

Your heart breaks for people just doing their best. But the system doesn’t. It counts on breaking them.

Contact us at news@cartercountytimes.com

Legislative update

FRANKFORT—As the 2025 Regular Session of the Kentucky General Assembly concluded at the end of March, the final two legislative days were devoted to reviewing bills returned with

the governor’s vetoes and completing any remaining business. These final days are often among the most significant of the session. The decisions will shape policy and governance across our commonwealth for years to come.

Governor Andy Beshear issued vetoes on 29 pieces of legislation—27 bills and 2 joint resolutions. These vetoes raised concerns about constitutionality, the role of government, environmental protections, education, health care, and other issues that affect Kentuckians in real and immediate ways.

In each case, I took every vote seriously and reviewed the content of every bill, the Governor’s rationale, and the potential consequences for my constituents and the commonwealth. I supported overriding several vetoes where I disagreed with the Governor’s conclusions. In other cases, I voted to sustain the vetoes because I believed they were grounded in solid legal and constitutional reasoning. Below is a summary of the major legislation addressed in these final days and how the process unfolded.

Senate Bill 19 required schools to observe a daily silent period and permitted students to be excused for “moral instruction.” Senate vote to override: 29 to 8

Senate Bill 25 amended laws related to the

Office of the Ombudsman, altered confidentiality standards, and changed how bills are delivered to the Governor. Senate vote to override: 31 to 6

Senate Bill 28 required the Cabinet for Economic Development to report to the Commissioner of Agriculture and excluded the Governor from certain board appointments. Senate vote to override: 32 to 6

Senate Bill 65 allowed the legislature to void administrative regulations and restricted agencies from refiling similar regulations for more than a year. Senate vote to override: 32 to 6

Senate Bill 84 required courts to interpret ambiguous laws or regulations against state agencies during legal challenges. Senate vote to override: 32 to 6

Senate Bill 89 redefined “state waters” to include only federally navigable waterways. Senate vote to override: 29 to 8

Senate Bill 183 prohibited the Kentucky Public Pensions Authority from considering certain factors when casting proxy votes on shareholder matters.

Senate vote to override: 31 to 7

Senate Bill 207 granted the Kentucky Board of Education authority to suspend enforcement of certain statutes and administrative regulations. Senate vote to override: 31 to 7

Senate Bill 245 changed the appointment process for the Fish and Wildlife Commission and removed the Governor’s role in reappointments not confirmed by the Senate. Senate vote to override: 32 to 6

House Bill 2 created retroactive tax refunds for gold purchases and allowed lawsuits against state officials in certain tax disputes. Senate vote to override: 31 to 6

House Bill 4 placed limits on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs at Kentucky’s public colleges and universities. Senate vote to override: 32 to 6

House Bill 6 limited the governor’s authority to implement regulations and shifted certain administrative rulemaking functions to the legislature. Senate vote to override: 31 to 7

House Bill 90 defined a specific list of emergency conditions under which abortion could be performed. Senate vote to override: 31 to 7

House Bill 136 required the Department of Corrections to rebid its inmate communications contract before the current one expires. Senate vote to override: 32 to 6

House Bill 216 allowed employees of the Department of Agriculture to apply for grants and

loans issued by the same department. Senate vote to override: 32 to 6

House Bill 240 focused on kindergarten readiness standards and other early childhood education provisions. Senate vote to override: 32 to 6

House Bill 346 issued a refund of emissions fees to a single entity and reassigned the cost to utility ratepayers. Senate vote to override: 32 to 6

House Bill 398 prohibited the state from adopting workplace safety regulations, aligning the state with federal OSHA standards. Senate vote to override: 29 to 9

House Bill 399 created new criminal penalties regarding public disturbance and disorderly behavior. Senate vote to override: 31 to 7

House Bill 424 modified employment protections for faculty at public universities. Senate vote to override: 30 to 8

House Bill 495 nullified a previous executive order that banned the use of public funds for conversion therapy on minors. Senate vote to override: 31 to 6

House Bill 546 approved tolling language for the I-69 Ohio River Crossing project. Senate vote to override: 32 to 6

House Bill 552 created a bilateral trade board with legislative appointees. Senate vote to override: 33 to 4

House Bill 566 made changes to the state’s gaming oversight, including new roles and exemptions from specific ethics rules. Senate vote to override: 30 to 6

House Bill 684 re-

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
KRS: 926.011 and KRS: 424.120 and 424.340

Administration has been granted in the District Court of Carter County upon the following Fiduciary appointments.

Timothy Fultz, deceased, fiduciary. Executrix, Jennifer Fultz-Carson, 262 Beechmont Road, Morehead, KY 40351. Attorney for Estate, Ira S Kilburn, P O box 356 Salt Lick, KY 40371. Date of appointment January 9th, 2025.

Wilma J Hall, deceased, fiduciary. Executrix, Ramona Burchett, 408 West Main Street, Grayson, KY 41143. Attorney for Estate. W Jeffrey Scott, P O Box 608, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment January 15th, 2025.

LaDonna “Donna” Verona Carter, deceased, fiduciary. Executrix, Rebeckah S Kratzenberg, 2930 East US Highway 60, Grayson, KY 41143. Attorney for Estate, R Jason Greer, P O Box 145, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment January 24th, 2025.

Jackie Jo Rayburn, deceased, fiduciary. Administrator, William Joe Rayburn, 3499 St Hwy 2078, Olive Hill, KY 41164. Date of appointment January 27th, 2025.

Jimmy Lunsford, deceased, fiduciary. Administratrix, Penny Lunsford, 3292 Mocabee Creek Road, Olive Hill, KY 41164. Date of appointment January 28th, 2025.

Sandra Cromer, deceased, fiduciary. Executrix, Kim Sturgill, 60 Madden Drive, Grayson, KY 41143. Attorney for Estate, Whitney Hill Bailey, P O Box 608, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment January 30th, 2025.

Joseph Scott Greenhill, deceased, fiduciary. Co-Administratrix, Elizabeth Greenhill and Grayce Greenhill, 6455 St Hwy 2, Olive Hill, KY 41164. Attorney for Estate, Robert W Miller, P O Box 357, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment February 4th, 2025.

Daniel Jefferson Hall, deceased, fiduciary. Administrator, Charles J Hall, 610 Dry Fork Road, Olive Hill, KY 41164. Date of appointment March 5th, 2025.

Hazel Christine Zornes, deceased, fiduciary. Executor, Gary Stephen Zornes, 17031 N State Highway 7, Grayson, KY 41143. Attorney for Estate, Matthew T Smith, P O Box 54654, Lexington, KY 40555. Date of appointment February 13th, 2025.

Luther Ray Kiser, deceased, fiduciary. Executrix, Patricia Lester, 105 South Hill, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment February 17th, 2025.

Jack Alan Davis, deceased, fiduciary. Administrator, Jason Davis, 3501 Red Fox Drive, Catlettsburg, KY 41129. Attorney for Estate, R Jason Greer, P O Box 145, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment February 14th, 2025.

John Arlon Caudill, deceased, fiduciary. Administrator, Robin Lynn Fuchs, 1005 Tygart Creek Road, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment February 17th, 2025.

Ernest M Littleton, deceased, fiduciary. Executrix, Teresa Littleton, 181 Dickerson Road, Olive Hill, KY 41164. Attorney for Estate, Brandon Hamilton, P O box 1387, Olive Hill, KY 41164. Date of appointment February 17th, 2025.

Ronnie Lee Whitt, deceased, fiduciary. Administratrix, Whitney Howard, 1106 N ST Hwy 207, Rush, KY 41168. Attorney for Estate, Robert W Miller, P O Box 357, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment February 17th, 2025.

Larry Everett McDavid, deceased, fiduciary. Administratrix, Mary Ann McDavid, 126 Mountain View Drive, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appoint-

ment February 18th, 2025.

Tony Hamilton, deceased, fiduciary. Administratrix, Tammy Johnson, 203 Highland Avenue, Georgetown, KY 40324. Attorney for Estate, Robert W Miller, P O box 357, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment February 27th, 2025.

Jewell T Fosson, deceased, fiduciary. Executrix, Lottie Jane Stevens, 777 Plantation Drive, Grayson, KY 41143. Attorney for Estate, Derrick Willis, 117 Hord Street, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment March 6th, 2025.

Keith E Burchett, deceased, fiduciary. Executrix, Tiffany Brooke Layne, 450 Eldridge Lane, Morehead, KY 40351. Attorney for Estate, W Jeffrey Scott, P O Box 608, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment March 5th, 2025.

James L Stephens Sr., deceased, fiduciary. Executor, Earl T Stephens, 100 Cremeans Drive, Russell, KY 41169. Attorney for Estate, Anna M Price, 325 8th Street, Huntington, WV 25701. Date of appointment February 25th, 2025.

Dale Curtis Morgan, deceased, fiduciary. Co-Executrix, Margaret Roark, 125 Carter Caves Road, Olive Hill, KY 41164 and Joletta Morgan, P O box 610, Olive Hill, KY 41164. Attorney for Estate, Jason B Greene, P O Box 1480 Olive Hill, KY 41164. Date of appointment February 27th, 2025.

Glenna Ruth Wright, deceased, fiduciary. Administratrix, Kathryn Rigney, 144 Ward Street, Hazard, KY 41701. Attorney for Estate, Whitney Hill Bailey, P O box 608, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment March 12th, 2025.

Robbie Lee Stone, deceased, fiduciary. Executor, Robin Messer, 567 State highway 1959, Grayson, KY 41143. Attorney for Estate, Brandon Music, P O box 608, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment March 4th, 2025.

Harold LeMaster, deceased, fiduciary. Administrator, Wylie Keith LeMaster, 214 Hillside Circle, Mansfield, OH 44907. Attorney for Estate, P O box 357, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment March 12th, 2025.

Paula Anita Jaynes, deceased, fiduciary. Executor, Charles Larry Jaynes Jr., P O Box 308, Olive Hill, KY 41164. Attorney for Estate, R Jason Greer, P O Box 145, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment March 7th, 2025.

Anita Lynn Shaw, deceased, fiduciary. Executrix, Nina Shaw, 721 Whispering Brook Trace, Lexington, KY 40509. Attorney for Estate, R Jason Greer, P O Box 145, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment March 7th, 2025.

Shelia Elizabeth Davis, deceased, fiduciary. Administrator, Jason Davis, 3501 Red Fox Drive, Catlettsburg, KY 41129. Attorney for Estate, R Jason Greer, P O Box 145, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment March 18th, 2025.

Michael Kitchen, deceased, fiduciary. Executor, Austin Chase Webb, 65 Pineview Street, Grayson, KY 41143. Attorney for Estate, John Thompson, 144 East Mian Street, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment March 20th, 2025.

Louise A Lewis Henderson, deceased, fiduciary. Executrix, Eileen Stephens, 397 State Highway 174, Olive Hill, KY 41164. Attorney for Estate, Brandon T Hamilton, P O Box 1387, Olive Hill, KY 41164. Date of appointment March 28th, 2025.

All persons having claims against the above estates are notified to present same to the fiduciary or Attorney, verified according to law no later than (6) months from the date of this publication.

moved the option to use credit or debit cards as a form of identification for voting purposes. Senate vote to override: 30 to 6

House Bill 694 redirected funding originally committed to teacher retirement health care programs. Senate vote to override: 29 to 7

House Bill 695 transferred management responsibilities for Medicaid and KCHIP from the executive branch to the legislature. Senate vote to override: 29 to 7

House Joint Resolution 30 outlined funding and project details for water infrastructure across the state. Senate vote to override: 29 to 7

House Joint Resolution 46 approved various road project authorizations and related allocations. Senate vote to override: 30 to 4

The end of the session is not the end of the conversation. Oversight, public input, and future legislation remain tools to ensure that the decisions made this year are monitored and, if needed, improved. I will continue to work toward policies that serve Kentuckians with fairness, transparency, and respect for the laws and institutions that govern us all.

Unless marked with an emergency clause, all legislation passed this session go into effect 90 days after

adjournment. June 27 will be the effective date for most bills. You can explore a comprehensive list of measures set to become law at the Legislative Record at legislature.ky.gov, barring any court challenges that may arise.

Thank you for staying engaged this session. It has been a challenging but defining moment in Kentucky politics, and I am grateful to be your voice in Frankfort. As we move into the interim, where much of the groundwork for future policy is laid, I encourage you to stay involved, ask questions, and provide input.

As always, it is an honor to represent you in Frankfort. 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.

State's educational attainment rate edges closer to 2030 goal

FRANKFORT — The percentage of working-age Kentuckians with a postsecondary certificate or degree has risen to 56.2 percent, according to analysis from the Council on Postsecondary Education. This figure is up 1.1 percentage points over the previous year and 5.9 points over the last five years. The state's goal is to reach an educational attainment rate of 60 percent by

the year 2030.

"Across the board, states with highly educated workforces are more economically competitive and prosperous," said Dr. Aaron Thompson, CPE president. "Over my career, I've watched Kentucky's attainment level move from the bottom third of states to at or near the national average. This progress has resulted in greater economic opportunity for thousands of

Kentuckians and a much stronger economic base for the state."

The attainment figure is based on the proportion of Kentucky adults (ages 25-64) who have earned a postsecondary degree (at the associate, bachelor's or graduate level) or a short-term certificate or industry certification. Using population and wage data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Kentucky Center for Statistics, CPE

estimates that:

- 16.7 percent of Kentuckians have a postsecondary certificate or industry certification;
- 9.9 percent have an associate degree;
- 18.2 percent have a bachelor's degree; and
- 11.5 percent have a graduate or professional degree.

For comparison, 9.2 percent of Americans have an associate degree, 23.4 percent have a bachelor's

degree and 14.5 percent have a graduate or professional degree, according to Lumina Foundation, a national education nonprofit. Comparable data for certificates/certifications is not available because Kentucky employs a different methodology than Lumina.

"Analysts predict that by the year 2031, 63 percent of all Kentucky jobs will require some education or training after high school," said Travis

Muncie, CPE's Chief Information Officer. "While you won't necessarily need a four-year degree, you will need some kind of technical or vocational training after high school to achieve long-term economic security."

You can read more about Kentucky's progress toward its educational attainment goal at <https://cpe.ky.gov/ourwork/60x30.html>.

Ambulance from A-1

duty." It also requires all employees to abide by the code of ethics, and forbids abuse of power by soliciting gifts, discounts, or "anything of value where there is any direct or indirect connection between the solicitation and their (job)."

While nothing in this section of the policy itself was criticized, the Concerned Employees claim they were implemented without the approval of the ambulance board, as mandated by ambulance board directives.

The Concerned Employees also highlighted other policies they do find egregious, such as one which, "state(s) the agency has the authority to search a person's belonging and electronic devices – even when they're not directly on CCEMS property."

The letter writer(s) also note that the policy was not only implemented without going through proper channels, but that the administration is selective in their enforcement of the policy.

"Despite this," the

Concerned Employees write, "it has come to our attention that Director Tim Woods and Deputy Director Mike Wears have attempted to have a recent DUI charge against Supervisor Robert Shannon Holifield expunged."

That arrest occurred on March 8, and was documented in the March 12 edition of the Carter County Times, though we were not aware at the time that Holifield was employed as an emergency ambulance employee.

The Concerned Employees note that this behavior is a direct violation of the policy enacted on March 31, however the incident occurred more than three weeks before the policy was implemented. Despite this, the Concerned Employees further note that "(m)ultiple employees have expressed serious concerns about Holifield's continued functioning as a supervisor, as his decision to drink and drive demonstrates poor judgement and character." They also pointed out an example of inequitable enforcement

with a previous employee who was accused without an arrest.

"Additionally," they wrote, "a previous supervisor was demoted over an unsubstantiated report to KBEMS. It is unethical to demote one employee over an unfounded claim while attempting to erase the record of another convicted of a DUI."

KBEMS stands for the Kentucky Board of Emergency Medical Services.

The letter also accuses deputy director Mike Wears of using county funds to fuel a company vehicle for personal use, of bringing his child to work and expecting other staff to provide babysitting service, and regularly being tardy for his scheduled shifts.

It further states that Wears and director Tim Woods have left the county without adequate emergency coverage when they've assigned vehicles to perform non-emergency transports while no other ambulances were available to respond in the event of a 911 call. This, the writer(s)

point out, is a violation of the Kentucky Administrative Regulations in Title 202, with states, "An agency shall not exhaust its resources by answering a nonemergency call or for response to mutual aid requests."

The Concerned Employees claim that Woods and Wears stated they would utilize administrative vehicles to respond if an emergency call came in during the period when the vehicle was engaged in a non-emergency transport.

They also pointed out that Wears lost his West Virginia paramedic license, and was terminated from his job with the Kanawha County Emergency Ambulance Authority in 2011 after he, "allegedly slapped an intoxicated individual in the face while the person was handcuffed in the back seat of a police cruiser." According to news reports from the Charleston Daily Mail, Wears responded to a call from a Dunbar police officer requesting a paramedic while transporting a person to the police station for public intoxication. Ac-

cording to the report Wears slapped the individual in the face while the man sat handcuffed in the backseat of a cruiser, following an argument. Wears was not arrested right away, however he was later arrested on a charge of misdemeanor battery.

They further claim that Wears is compensated at an inflated rate, and that he has retaliated against other employees when they question or disagree with his decisions.

Finally, they allege unsafe working conditions – including policy revisions that prohibit sleeping while on duty, "despite the fact that shifts last 24 to 48 hours."

Ambulance board president Kara Johnson said she was not yet in possession of the letter the Concerned Employees said they were sending her (the letters were reportedly mailed through a local post office on Monday morning), but she did address the recent DUI arrest of Robert Holifield.

Responding via text message, Johnson noted

that Holifield, "has not gone to court" on the charges in question, and that the incident in question occurred when "it was his day off, not while on duty."

"So," she continued, "it is not our place to hang him as guilty until it is proven that he was intoxicated and is found guilty." "We as a board have been informed," she added, "and agree that this is not a proven case, or a patient care issue."

Director Woods, when reached for comment, noted he had not received the letter yet either. He did, however, say that before openly commenting on the situation he would like to see the letter, bring the issues in it before the board, and discuss them with the ambulance service's legal representation.

Until he has a chance to take it through those appropriate channels, he said, his only official comment is going to be, "No comment."

Contact the writer at editor@cartercountytimes.com

ACTC spring transfer program fair connects students to future opportunities

ASHLAND, Ky. – Ashland Community and Technical College (ACTC) hosted their annual spring Transfer Program Fair on the College Drive Campus from March 24-27.

The four-day long event gives students the chance to connect with university representatives to learn about their colleges and explore opportunities to further their education beyond their time at ACTC.

The theme for the fair this spring was "Become an Investigator."

"It is so rewarding to see students discover new opportunities and help them individually reach their long-term academic goals," said Megan Horne, ACTC director of program facilitation, student support services/TRIO and transfer initiatives. "In addition

to transfer fairs, interested students can go on visits to universities with ACTC Advisors or even take a course on transfer planning, for more in-depth exploration of their transfer options. We strive to educate students about their many future possibilities after graduation from ACTC."

With over 20 colleges/universities in attendance, the students that passed through the fair had many great options to consider. Throughout the week, several colleges hosted presentations on their program offerings that students could attend in person or remotely.

Topics covered in the college's presentations included cybersecurity, forensics, artificial intelligence, and other investiga-

tion-related careers.

Among those who presented was Keith Alfred Wynn, Assistant Director of Transfer Recruitment at the University of Kentucky.

"I've been working with Ashland Community and Technical College for five years in my role at UK, and I cannot even begin to express how wonderful their transfer fair is," Wynn said. "Their event is extraordinarily well-planned, well-organized, and well-attended. The perfect trifecta."

Wynn also said the students are always well prepared, serving as a testament to how ACTC prepares them for not only this event, but for their future.

Other colleges/universities in attendance included:



submitted photo

Marshall University, Franklin University, Morehead State University, University of Pikeville, Kentucky State University, Cincinnati College of Mortuary Science, Midway University, Marshall

University School of Pharmacy, Shawnee State University, Ohio University, Berea College, Asbury University, University of Kentucky, Bellevue University, Morehead State University, Sullivan

University, Lindsey Wilson College, University of Cincinnati, Eastern Kentucky University, Northern Kentucky University, and Mid-America College of Funeral Service.

Kentucky governor vetoes GOP abortion bill, says it undermines doctors and endangers pregnant women

By Bruce Schreiner
Associated Press

FRANKFORT (AP) — A Republican-backed bill touted as an attempt to bring clarity to Kentucky's near-total abortion ban was vetoed last Tuesday by Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear, who said it would do the opposite by undermining the judgment of doctors while further imperiling the lives of pregnant women in emergency situations.

Beshear, an abortion-rights supporter who is seen as a potential candidate for the White House in 2028, followed the advice of abortion-rights supporters who urged the governor to reject the

measure.

Kentucky's GOP supermajority legislature overturned Beshear's veto when lawmakers reconvened for the final two days of this year's 30-day session.

The bill's supporters said it's meant to offer clarity to doctors now fearful of breaking Kentucky law for terminating pregnancies while treating expectant mothers with grave complications. Delving into potential life-or-death situations, the bill aims to provide clear guidelines for doctors in such emergencies while maintaining Kentucky's strict prohibitions against abortion, supporters said.

"Although supporters of House Bill 90 claim it pro-

tections pregnant women and clarifies abortion law in Kentucky, it actually does the opposite," Beshear said in his veto message.

The governor said the bill would block access to health care and put the lives of women facing crisis pregnancies at even more risk.

Kentucky's near-total abortion ban has been in place since a so-called trigger law took effect when the U.S. Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade in 2022. The Bluegrass State bans abortions except when carried out to save a mother's life. Efforts to add exceptions for cases of rape or incest or when pregnancies are nonviable have made no headway in

Kentucky's legislature.

The new legislation would create a list of emergency situations in which abortions could be done to save the mother's life, but Beshear said it was flawed.

"The bill is silent on any other emergency situations," the governor said. "No one, including legislators, can possibly create an exhaustive list of emergency situations that may occur in a hospital or medical facility. Gaps in the law are literally a matter of life and death."

A House Republican spokeswoman did not immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

Since the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade and allowed states to

enforce abortion bans, exceptions have been a legal and political battleground.

The Kentucky bill says doctors exercising reasonable medical judgment may take action "separating a pregnant woman from her unborn child" in such cases as: lifesaving miscarriage management; emergency intervention for sepsis and hemorrhaging; removal of an ectopic pregnancy; and other procedures necessary to prevent the death or substantial risk of death of the pregnant woman.

"It's not meant to be an exhaustive list but it is the most common issues that physicians and mothers, who are facing a crisis pregnancy, are facing,"

Republican state Rep. Kimberly Poore Moser said during a House debate on the measure.

Beshear faulted the bill for not containing language used by medical professionals.

"It also substitutes a physician's best clinical judgment with an ambiguous, unworkable 'reasonable medical judgment' standard that will make doctors hesitant to provide life-saving care for fear someone other than the treating doctor, like a prosecutor or a court, may after the fact find it 'unreasonable,'" Beshear said. "These barriers to treatment could delay access to evidence-based and lifesaving care."