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Carter County Times

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CARTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY

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Holiday fun in Olive Hill

Christmas at the Depot set for Monday

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

Olive Hill’s annual holiday event, Christmas at the Depot, returns next Monday (December 15) with lots of activities and gifts for local kids of all ages.

“It’s a big, free event where kids – and anyone else – comes to the Depot,” event volunteer Lisa Messer Conley said of the event. “Everything that is set up is free, and kids 13 and under get a present from Santa Claus.”

Conley said the annual event is always held on a weekday, so as not to interfere with local sports being played in the area. This year they will be giving out coats, blankets, hats, and gloves. There will also be free cookies and other treats, she said.

“There will be all sorts of different sweets and treat, as well as books, coloring books, and of course the toys from Santa,” she noted.

Conley said this year the good folks from Cash Express will be standing in for Santa’s Elves and doing all the ‘heavy lifting’ for that part of the event.

For the cold winter night, Conley said there will lots of

See **HOLIDAY** on A-3



Santa and Mrs. Claus prepare to greet children during Christmas at the Depot. (Submitted photo)

From cold start to clutch finish

Raiders Rally Past Musketeers

By Brayleigh Boggs
Carter County Times

The East Carter Raiders pulled off a dramatic comeback Saturday night on their home court; rallying after a sluggish start to secure a 56-52 victory over the Greenup County Musketeers in front of an electric home crowd.

The Raiders fell behind early, trailing 19-9 and struggling to get anything going offensively. Coach Brammer called a timeout in an attempt to settle his team, but Greenup didn’t let up. They

capitalized on East Carter’s turnovers and second-chance opportunities. Caden Tussey (15) tallied up a long three-pointer as seconds ran off the clock to signal the end of the first quarter. The Musketeers continued to challenge the Raider offense and continued to take advantage of East’s missed opportunities, building a 23-13 lead. By halftime, the Musketeers had stretched their advantage to 39-25, leaving the Raiders searching for answers.

Out of the break, East Carter found its spark. Seniors William Burton (5) and Tussey ignited the offense, chipping away at the deficit and narrowing the gap

See **RAIDERS** on A-6



(Photo by Brayleigh Boggs, Carter County Times)

City council discusses brown field and kilowatt rates

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

The City of Olive Hill discussed ordinances and the potential for Brown Field designations and future grant opportunities during their regular November meeting. Council Member Eric Rayburn said it is important to consider that the city – and by default, consumers – were paying more per kilowatt hour under the previous electric provider. The City of Olive Hill recently changed its electric provider from American Electric Power (AEP) to Kentucky Municipal Energy Agency (KYMEDIA), a joint public agency.

The new kilowatt hour rate

is .1550, which according to the council, will result in savings when averaged out over 10 to 12 months because customers won’t be hit with the same cost adjustments. As noted in a previous article, PCA (Power Cost Adjustment) adjusts based upon the cost to the provider for supplying electricity; but the new provider does not adjust costs upward when their cost increases. More pointedly, customers will no longer receive a surprise on their bills as that adjustment carries from the previous month and is applied to the subsequent month as the billing system ‘catches up’ with charges as it did with the old provider.

In other action grant writ-

er Jennifer Meade addressed the council concerning brown field grants, and introduced a representative from Tetra Tech, the company that she said is leading the grant process. The representative, Sherry Weedman, program manager and senior environmental health scientist, was present via zoom.

Weedman said she had been working with Meade getting the application ready for a community wide assessment grant.

“We assist communities every year with these applications,” Weedman told the council.

“The brown field program is really just an economic tool for

See **OLIVE HILL** on A-6

Weekly arrests report

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

- Samantha Ballard, 37, of Mount Sterling, arrested by Grayson PD, on a charge of public intoxication under the influence of a controlled substance, arrested and booked December 1.
- Joshua Hollon, 36, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Detention Center, on a charge of public intoxication on a controlled substance, arrested and booked December 1.
- Gregory Payne, 23, of Catlettsburg, arrested by Carter County Detention Center, on a hold for court, arrested and booked December 2.

- Richard Carver, 35, of Vanceburg, arrested by Olive Hill PD, for failure to appear, and two counts of non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked December 2.
- Robert Hughey, 22, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on a charge of second degree burglary, arrested and booked December 2.
- Stefan Itak, 23, of Willard, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of no registration receipt, failure to produce an insurance card, license not in possession, failure to notify DOT of address change, improper equipment, failure to wear seat belts, and two counts of failure to appear, arrested and booked December 2.
- Jon Edwards, 31, of Greensburg, arrested by Kentucky Department of Corrections, on a

- probation violation for a felony offense, arrested and booked December 3.
- Dakota Smith, 31, of Elk Horn, arrested by Kentucky Department of Corrections, on a parole violation for a felony offense, arrested and booked December 3.
- James Snider, 37, of Louisville, arrested by Kentucky Department of Corrections, on a parole violation for a felony offense, arrested and booked December 3.
- John Grubb, 46, of Columbia, arrested by Kentucky Department of Corrections, on a probation violation for a felony offense, arrested and booked December 3.
- Tabitha Shennett, 38, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on a hold for drug court, arrested and booked December 3.
- Vanessa Gollihue, 34, of

See **ARRESTS** on A-3

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This Week’s Obituaries

Marsha Lynn Marcum Hall, 48

Randy Dale Stratton, 70

Paul Wayne Tackett, 81

Jane Horton Huff Wilhoit, 89

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LIFESTYLE



Low-stress holiday entertaining starts here

The holiday season has officially begun, which means many of us are about to jump on a month-long juggling act involving gift lists, grocery lists, guest lists and the occasional existential crisis in the snack aisle. (Or is that just me?) But here's the good news: Holiday entertaining does not have to feel like auditioning for a cooking competition.

In fact, some of the best gatherings I've ever hosted were powered by simple food, mismatched napkins and the sheer charm of wonderful people being together.

This year, instead of stressing about elaborate spreads or complicated appetizers, let's bring the

joy back to hosting with low-cost, low-fuss tricks.

Easy, Affordable Entertaining Tips

- Share the Spotlight with a Potluck: Ask guests to bring a favorite side or appetizer while you handle the main dish. It lightens the load and the bill.
- Create Instant Ambiance: Dim the lights, turn on lamps, light a candle -- instant cozy, no decorating required.
- Set Up a Self-Serve Drink Station: A few bottles of vino, a pitcher of sparkling water, some citrus, ice and glasses let guests help themselves while you enjoy the party.
- Think "Nibbles," Not a Buffet: Crackers, fruit, veggies and your cream cheese spread looks generous without draining your time or budget.
- Make Something You Can Ignore: Cream cheese dips and spreads shine here -- no wilting, no reheating.
- Start with my "Mother of All Cream Cheese Dips," a simple base -- like a mother sauce -- that every other flavor can be built on. Use whatever you have: herbs, cheese, leftover roast veggies, odds and ends. It turns out a little different each time, always delicious and perfect for effortless appetizers

or last-minute hostess gifts. The very definition of frugal and fabulous!

THE MOTHER OF ALL CREAM CHEESE DIPS

Yield: 1 1/2 cups
Total Time: 1 hour 5 mins.

1 (8-ounce) block cream cheese, at room temperature
1/2 cup sour cream or mayonnaise, at room temperature
3/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
Freshly ground black pepper, to taste

Optional Mix-Ins (use one, some, or all -- whatever's handy):
1 green onion, thinly sliced
1/2 cup shredded aged cheddar or other cheese
1/4 cup bacon crumbles
1/4 cup toasted almonds

Place the cream cheese in a bowl and beat with an electric mixer on high for about 2 minutes, until it's light and fluffy. Scrape the bowl, then add the sour cream or mayo, salt, garlic powder and pepper. Beat on high for another minute. Taste and adjust the seasoning -- this is your dip, after all.

Refrigerate for at least 1 hour so the flavors can get acquainted and settle in. Serve with breadsticks, pretzels, mini bagels,



One simple base, endless flavor possibilities: Make dips for every holiday gathering. (Photo Credit: www.JasonCoblentz.com)

crackers or chips.

Note: The longer it chills, the better it gets, which makes this a perfect make-ahead recipe for busy hosts. Leftovers keep in the fridge for up to a week, although "leftover dip" is mostly a theoretical concept.

What else can you add? Truly anything else you love, like chopped herbs, leftover roasted veggies, a spoonful of pesto, diced olives, sun-dried tomatoes, everything bagel seasoning. This recipe is here for your creativity and your fridge clean-outs.

At the end of the day, people aren't coming over to evaluate your culinary skills or inspect your baseboards. They show up for laughter, warmth and the sim-

ple comfort of being welcomed. A cozy room, a low-stress menu and the delicious variety of potluck goodness is more than enough to make your home the spot everyone remembers..

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

Small changes

We often think that in order to get our homes in order, we have to take on monumental tasks that leave us overwhelmed and unable to start. Now, we have talked about this before, but here are some additional tips for setting us on a path to continuing the process of organizing without the pain.

Scheduling is, of course, a method for starting, but selecting the space is also important. What is it that you want to accomplish? Is it revamping



Daryl Ashley
Guest Columnist
Confusion Solution

kitchen cupboards? Is it focusing on sorting through documents? Everyone has a different idea about what needs organized. It can even be as small as moving items from one room to another. Keep in mind that wherever you feel the need for order doesn't have to be time consuming.

After a long day at work or after picking up the kids from school, stop and stand where you are, look around the space you are in and just do something. Start by putting

away the things you have brought home or moving things from that one room, which don't belong there, to their rightful place. It's a start in the right direction. Make it a habit, every time you arrive home, to stop and pick up what's in front of you. Once you do that, then you will be able to focus on more changes throughout your home at a later time. This is actually a motivating tactic, believe it or not. Starting a small routine will fix the immediate need for order, leaving less clutter and discord. Creating a small atmosphere of order will lead to a more intense desire to do more.

It's as simple as that!
Send your questions and comments to me at info@confusionsolution.com

Joyful Noise

Feeling weak and poor?

By Pastor Naomi Mitchell
for *Carter County Times*

The saying "Let the weak say, I am strong" comes from Joel 3:10 (KJV): "Beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruninghooks into spears: let the weak say, I am strong."

This verse is part of a prophecy where God calls the nations to prepare for a great battle. The book of Joel primarily focuses on

God's judgment and restoration. In chapter 3, God speaks about gathering the nations for judgment in the Valley of Jehoshaphat. The call to turn farming tools into weapons signifies an impending war.

When God says, "Let the weak say, I am strong," it is an encouragement for those who feel powerless to rise with courage. Though weak in the natural sense, they are being strengthened by God's

purpose.

Spiritually, this verse has been used to encourage believers to proclaim strength even when they feel weak. It aligns with New Testament teachings such as 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, where Paul says: "And he said unto me, my grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infir-

See JOYFUL NOISE on A-6

Kentucky Dept of Agriculture Livestock and Grain Market Report

There are no trends available due to low comparative receipts from last week.

Week ending 12/6/25

Courtesy of https://www.kyagr.com/			
Steers (M&L 1-2)	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
350-400 lbs	419.26	373.36	339.96
400-450 lbs	413.22	365.75	323.02
450-500 lbs	396.88	357.10	316.28
500-550 lbs	383.40	337.19	300.55
550-600 lbs	361.64	339.18	295.13
600-650 lbs	351.21	328.17	263.28
650-700 lbs	336.66	295.05	270.46
700-750 lbs	323.65	305.00	246.70
750-800 lbs	313.74	238.92	259.17
800-850 lbs	311.12	285.83	243.70
850-900 lbs	314.91	255.09	231.21
Heifers (M&L 1-2)			
300-350 lbs	385.33	328.24	277.50
350-400 lbs	388.53	326.10	279.47
400-450 lbs	364.91	330.90	278.89
450-500 lbs	355.66	314.18	272.79
500-550 lbs	342.92	309.29	260.04
550-600 lbs	331.90	306.44	252.51
600-650 lbs	313.06	288.07	237.04
650-700 lbs	312.13	275.29	244.28
700-750 lbs	289.93	248.29	230.95
750-800 lbs	292.03	253.72	220.83

WEEKLY COW SUMMARY				
Slaughter Cows		<u>Average</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
	Breakers	134.00-168.00	155.00-185.00	134.00-150.00
	Boners	135.00-167.00	153.00-190.00	115.00-167.00
	Lean	115.00-158.00	130.00-162.50	85.00-148.00
Slaughter Bulls		<u>Average</u>	<u>High</u>	<u>Low</u>
	Yield Grade 1&2	172.00-205.00	191.00-220.00	140.00-188.00

Nov 17, 2025		Bowling Green, KY	
SLAUGHTER GOATS: 177			
Kids-Selection 1	55 lbs 355.00; 68 lbs 325.00.	Selection 1-2	94 lbs 270.00.
Selection 2	54 lbs 340.00; 60 lbs 285.00; 76 lbs 307.50; 103-105 lbs 257.50-285.00.		
SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 1,014			
Hair Breeds-Choice & Prime 1-2	59 lbs 320.00; 60-68 lbs 282.50-300.00; 75-76 lbs 270.00-290.00; 88 lbs 232.50-275.00; 91 lbs 230.00; 110 lbs 202.50; 120 lbs 180.00; 144 lbs 165.00.	Choice 2	53-57 lbs 302.50-317.50; 66-67 lbs 285.00-295.00; 76 lbs 272.50; 81 lbs 215.00; 100 lbs 190.00; 110 lbs 200.00; 175 lbs 117.50.
Week ending 12/6/25			
GRAINS	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
Corn	4.12-4.65	3.99-4.58	4.15-4.58
Soybeans	10.40-11.48	10.56-11.58	9.24-10.30
Red Winter Wheat	4.76-5.51	4.77-5.55	4.72-5.62



University of Kentucky
College of Agriculture,
Food and Environment
Cooperative Extension Service

Extension Notes

carter.ca.uky.edu

Seven simple steps to keep your indoor plants thriving through colder months

Want to keep your indoor plants thriving through winter? Here's a cozy guide to winter plant care—with tips, tricks and a few unexpected perks of greening up your space.

Winter doesn't mean saying goodbye to your green thumb. With a bit of know-how, your indoor plants can flourish even when the weather outside is frightful. Plus, having plants around isn't just about aesthetics — they boost mood, purify air and bring a sense of calm to your home.

1. Lighten them up. Winter brings shorter days and weaker sunlight, so your plants will benefit from being placed in the sunniest spots available. Try moving them closer to windows and rotating them every week or two to ensure even light exposure. If you're relocating plants to windows with direct sunlight, proceed with caution—some species can tolerate it, but they should be gradually acclimated over several days to prevent stress. For plants that thrive in direct sun, this slow



Rebecca Konopka
Carter County
Extension Agent

transition helps avoid leaf burn. If natural light is limited in your space, consider using grow lights; LED options are both energy-efficient and effective.

2. Water wisely and pause the fertilizer. Many plants are in rest mode during winter due to less light, so reduce water and skip the fertilizer until spring. Overwatering is a common winter mistake. Instead, check soil moisture by sticking your finger about an inch deep—if it's dry, water thoroughly. Many houseplants may only need watering every two to three weeks during winter but check them often as the interior climate can be quite dry. Holding back fertilizer for a few months helps prevent nutrient buildup and keeps your plants from getting leggy or stressed.
3. Mind the temperature and humidity. Keep your plants away from cold drafts, radiators and vents. Sudden temperature changes can stress or even kill them. Aim for a stable environment with moderate humid-

ity. Grouping plants or placing them on pebble trays with water can help increase humidity levels. If pebble trays are used, ensure the bottom of plant pots is above the water level in the tray.- 4. Check for pests. If outside plants come indoors, be sure to inspect them for pests like aphids, scale or spider mites. Wipe leaves with a damp cloth and consider neem oil or insecticidal soap if needed. Always read and follow product labels carefully.
- 5. Grow something new. Winter is a great time to experiment with indoor gardening. Microgreens—tiny edible greens like broccoli or beets—are easy to grow in shallow containers with clean potting soil. Also, they're ready in 12–14 days and packed with nutrients. You can also try garlic greens, scallions, carrots, or herbs like basil and parsley. Just make sure your containers have good drainage and use organic fertilizer for herbs. These microgreens are also suited to areas with lower light conditions.
- 6. Prolong your poinsettias. For this season's poinsettias, choose plants

See PLANTS on A-3

Arrests from A-1

Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on a hold for drug court, arrested and booked December 3.

- Amanda Henderson, 33, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, serving a warrant for parole violation, arrested and booked December 3.
- Thomas Willis, 44, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of first degree trafficking in a controlled substance (up to two grams of methamphetamine), trafficking in a controlled substance (carfentanil or fentanyl derivatives), trafficking in marijuana (less than 8 ounces), and possession of drug paraphernalia, arrested and booked December 4.
- Ryan Blevins, 38, of Hitchens, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on two counts of failure to appear, arrested and booked December 4.
- Jeffery Willis, 56, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of aggravated trafficking in narcotics (28 grams or more of fentanyl), first degree trafficking in a controlled substance (two or more grams of methamphetamine), possession of marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia, arrested and booked December 4.
- Dustin Martin, 39, of Grayson, arrested by Olive Hill PD, for failure to appear, arrested and booked December 4.
- Steven Medaris, 37, of Flemingsburg, arrested by Rowan County Detention Center, on a probation violation for a felony offense, arrested and booked December 4.
- Billy Ingles, 25, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on a probation violation for a misdemeanor offense, and two counts of failure to appear, arrested and booked December 4.
- Thomas Blackburn, 42, of Russell Springs, arrested by Kentucky Department of Corrections, on a probation violation for a felony offense, arrested and booked December 5.
- Christopher Godfrey, 39, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of public intoxication on a controlled substance (excludes alcohol), possession of drug paraphernalia, and first degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), arrested and booked December 5.
- Brookie Gillium, 38, of Rush, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of violating a Kentucky EPO/DVO, resisting arrest, and third degree assault of police officer, arrested and booked December 5.
- William Yeager, 65, of Olive Hill, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and booked December 5.
- Michael Harmon, 57, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of aggravated trafficking in narcotics (28 grams or more of fentanyl), possession of drug paraphernalia, third degree possession of a controlled substance (drug unspecified), and first degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), arrested and booked December 5.
- April Knipp, 36, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of aggravated trafficking in narcotics (28 grams or more of fentanyl), possession of drug paraphernalia, and third degree possession of a controlled substance (drug unspecified), arrested and booked December 5.
- Eden Gehringer, 34, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear, arrested and booked December 6.
- Eric Davis, 35, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, for failure to appear, arrested and booked December 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.

Holiday from A-1

‘warming items’ such as hot chocolate and s’mores. Trail Town will be providing the s’mores, Conley said, and the Shrine Club will be fixing free hotdogs to ward off the chill. New Again Ministries will also be doing soups, she said, for the two-hour event.

“It’s going to be bitterly cold. But we have done this for years, so we expect that. And Trail Town will have a fire going to make the s’mores,” she pointed out, so those attending the event can warm up while waiting on their campground favorite.

Conley said Christmas at the Depot is always a big event every year.

“We give out between 400 and 500 gifts to kids,” she said.

While it was initially an inside event, it quickly grew beyond the interior of the Depot and spread to fill the parking lot in spite of inclement weather. Flexibility, Conley explained, is key. The event even converted to a ‘drive through’ event during the COVID years as they kept it going for the residents of Olive Hill. It’s that important, she said, to the entire community, both those who volunteer and those who come out to participate.

“It is the most blessed event I have ever experienced in my entire life,” Conley said. “Because you get to see the people who need it, and you get to see all the smiles and laughter of the kids.”

“And we are also helping homeless people,” Conley added. “It is just a truly awesome event.”

Currently, there are 13 different groups, organizations, and churches that are setting up to give out free items, she said.

“The process can be a lot of work, but it is so much fun.”

Christmas at the Depot begins at 6 pm on Monday, December 15, and will go until 8 pm. Conley urges anyone wanting to be involved to come to downtown Olive Hill and enjoy all the treats, prizes, and blessings. It’s a wonderful way to enjoy the holidays with friends and neighbors, all while helping those in need.

“I can’t think of a better way to start the Christmas season,” Conley said.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

The Center for Rural Development accepting applications for 2026 Rogers Scholars and Rogers Explorers Programs

The Center for Rural Development is accepting applications for the 2026 Rogers Scholars and Rogers Explorers summer youth leadership programs. Students may apply online at www.centeryouthprograms.com through Jan. 31, 2026.

Rogers Scholars (current 10th graders) provides valuable leadership skills and exclusive college scholarship opportunities for high school students to seize their potential as the region’s next generation of leaders. Scholars spend one week on the campus of Lindsey Wilson University or Morehead State University.

Rogers Explorers (current 8th graders) focuses on leadership development, technology, teamwork, and career pathway exploration in STEM and other fields. Explorers spend three days and two nights on one of the following college campuses: Lindsey Wilson University, University of the Cumberland, Eastern Kentucky University, Union Commonwealth University, University of Pikeville, or Morehead State University.

Eligible students must live within The Center’s 45-county primary service area, which includes: Adair, Bath, Bell, Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Cumberland, Elliott, Estill, Floyd, Garrard, Green, Harlan, Jackson, Jessamine, Johnson, Knott, Knox, Laurel, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Lincoln, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Meniffe, Metcalfe, Monroe, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Pulaski, Rock-

Plants from A-2

with small, tightly clustered yellow buds in the center of the colorful leaf-like bracts that are commonly referred to as the flowers. Water the plant when it feels dry and discard excess water in the saucer under the plant. Place the plant in a bright, naturally lit location and gradually introduce some direct sunlight. Keep the plant out of drafty areas and away from appliances that produce heat. Poinsettias will benefit from winter fertilizer treatments. Apply houseplant fertilizer according to the label directions before the new year.

7. The health benefits are real. Indoor plants do more than look pretty. Studies show that being around greenery can lower blood pressure and increase feelings of well-being. In the gloom of winter, that’s a gift worth growing. So go ahead—give your plants a little TLC this winter. They’ll return the favor with beauty, freshness and a touch of nature’s magic right in your living room.

To learn more about winter indoor plant care, contact the Carter County Extension office. 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.



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- # CALENDAR
- **12/10: Girl Scouts meeting @ 5:30 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
 - **12/15: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 606-474-6686
 - **12/15: Open Art Studio @ 10 a.m.** | Grayson Gallery & Art Center
 - **12/15: Carter County EMS Board Meeting @ 4 p.m.** | Carter County EMS Station
 - **12/15: Carter County Board of Education @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Board of Education
 - **12/16: Building Club @ 4 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library, Olive Hill
 - **12/16: Olive Hill City Council @ 6 p.m.** | Olive Hill Senior/Community Center
 - **12/18: Grayson Book Club @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
 - **12/18: Olive Hill Area Chamber of Commerce @ 6 p.m.** | Commercial Bank - Olive Hill
 - **12/19 Sit and Sew @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions or to RSVP call 474-6686
 - **12/20: Friends of the Library meeting @ 5 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
 - **12/22: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 606-474-6686
 - **12/22: Open Art Studio @ 10 a.m.** | Grayson Gallery & Art Center
 - **12/22: Girl Scouts meeting @ 6:30 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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PARTS SOURCE

OLIVE HILL AUTO PARTS

670 E Tom T Hall Blvd, Olive Hill

606-286-8788



Pet of the Week

Hoss is a three-year-old male Aussie mix. He is very friendly, and has been learning to walk on a leash. Hoss has a \$100 adoption fee which 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.

Going out tonight?



So are we.

Never drink and drive. Always buckle up.

A message from the City of Grayson and the Grayson ABC office

OBITUARY

Randy Dale Stratton 1955 – 2025



Randy Dale Stratton, age 70, of Huff Run in Grayson, Kentucky, passed away Friday, December 5, 2025, at Community Hospice Center in Ashland, Kentucky.

He was born September 11, 1955, in Boyd County, Kentucky, a son of the late Curtis and Dorothy Williams Stratton.

Randy is survived by his wife of 27 years, Cindy Stratton; one son Adam Jennifer) Stratton of Grayson, Kentucky; two daughters, Amber

Stratton, Michelle Mc-Glone, both of Grayson, Kentucky; 4 grandchildren, Parker Fouch, Peyton Fouch, Allen Stratton, Ava Stratton; two brothers, Doyle (Debbie) Stratton of Catlettsburg, Kentucky, David Stratton of Ashland, Kentucky, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss him.

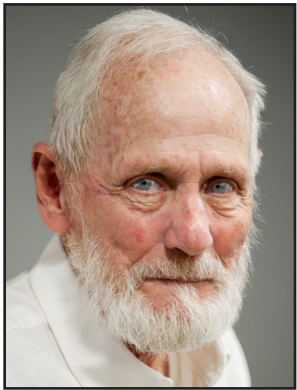
Graveside Services were held, 1 p.m., Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at Parson’s Cemetery on Huffs Run in Grayson, Kentucky, with Brother Ed Wade officiating.

At Randy’s request there will be no public viewing.

Funeral procession left Grayson Funeral Home at 12:30 p.m., going to Parson’s Cemetery.

Grayson Funeral Home and Cremation Services are caring for all arrangements for Randy Dale Stratton.

Paul Wayne Tackett 1944 – 2025



Paul Wayne Tackett was born September 22, 1944, in Olive Hill, Kentucky, the eighth child of Rev. General Jackson “Jack” and Evaline “Eva” Tackett.

He spent his childhood and youth playing on the family farm and exploring the caves at Carter Caves State Park.

During his years in Olive Hill High School, he helped manage the basketball Comets and was privileged to work with Coach Jack Fultz and All Star player Bert Greene who led his team to three appearances in the Boys Sweet 16.

Paul enlisted in the US Army at age 18, a very formative time in his life, serving just shy of three years in active duty and another three in Reserves. A paratrooper in the 101st Airborne, he trained at Fort Campbell, where he successfully completed Recondo School in patrolling, airborne ranger tactics and field leadership, authorizing him to wear the Brand of Recondo. He served 10 months in Vietnam with his buddies from Fort Campbell, Tommy “Jack” Armstrong from Dallas and Willie Williams from Dover, Tennessee.

Following his years as a Soldier, Paul attended Morehead State University in Morehead, Kentucky for a year, then moved to Pana, Illinois and worked at Firestone in Decatur for several years. In the mid 1970s, he became an Amway distributor, an experience that motivated him to start his own business, Tackett Wheels in Springfield, which he operated successfully for 30 years.

Then Paul retired from his business, left his passion for golf behind, and built himself a home in Tower Hill, Illinois where he gardened, raised goats and chickens and lived a simple and self-sustaining life off the grid. Lum, a Black Mouth Cur, became his constant companion as he pursued his interests. He enjoyed listening to talk

radio and bluegrass music, watching Gunsmoke reruns and reading, especially books about his native Appalachia.

Paul, 81, passed away at his home Sunday, November 30, 2025, with his son Philmore and daughter Shannon beside him, loving him home.

Paul is survived by his children Philmore Jackson Tackett and Shannon Lee (Josh) Smitherman; six grandchildren: Samuel Alexander Tackett, Aidan Mikul Branham, Isaac Carlton Martin, Benjamin Paul Martin, Sadie Grace (Tyler) Wilson, and Luke Wyatt Smitherman; and one great-grandson expected to arrive in April 2026.

In addition he is survived by his siblings Philip Everett (Addie) Tackett; General Jackson Jr. “G.J.” Tackett; Joyce Evelyn “Joy” (Larry) Gooding; and Linda Kay (Robert) King. He is also survived by a host of beloved nieces and nephews.

Paul is preceded in death by his parents Rev. General Jackson Sr. and Evaline Tackett; and his siblings Alma; Zelma Mae (Harold) Frodge; Glenmore (Vivian) Tackett; Betty Louise (Allen) King; Madge Delores (William) Morrison; and Naomi Ruth (Joe) Stepping.

Paul was a fiercely independent man who loved solitude. A gentle soul, kind and respectful, Paul loved his family deeply. He had a unique ability to make you feel seen, fastening his brilliant blue eyes on you and listening so intently that you just knew you were special to him, maybe even his favorite person. Family and friends alike sought him out for his protective nature, his thoughtful reflection and straightforward guidance, and his wisdom.

His family and friends will miss him, his gracious spirit, his compassion, his generosity, his quick wit, his genuine smile, his respectful “Mister” and affectionate “Sis,” and his warm hugs.

Paul’s family is planning a gathering in Eastern Kentucky at a later date to celebrate his life and honor his memory.

Best Value Creations is honored to assist the family with arrangements.

Messages of condolences may be shared with the family at calvertmemorial.com

Jane Horton Huff Wilhoit 1936 – 2025



Jane Horton Huff Wilhoit of Grayson, Ky received her heavenly crown on December 2, 2025, where she was reunited with her lifetime sweetheart, Henry R. Wilhoit, Jr. who preceded her in death. Jane Horton was preceded in death by her parents Arthur and Phebe Lewis (Horton) Huff of Grayson, Ky., and her sister, Mary Blanche (Jordan) Jungers of Katy, Tx.

She is survived by her sister Ruth Lewis Thornberry of Winchester, Ky, and her children Mary Jane (Wes) Phelps of Versailles, Ky., H. Rupert (Missy) Wilhoit, III, and William Horton (Michelle) Wilhoit of Grayson, Ky.; five grandchildren, Andrew Horton Wilhoit of Cincinnati, OH., Kathryn (Scott Mainquist) Wilhoit of Chicago, IL., Laura Jane (Cody) McIlvoy of Lexington, KY., Christopher Phelps of Versailles, Ky., McKenzie (Dustin) Scott, and Henry R. Wilhoit, IV, and four great grandchildren, Sebastian Manquist, Hayden Scott, Harrison Scott, and Miller James Mainquist.

Jane Horton graduated from Prichard High School in 1954 and Transylvania University in 1958. While at Transy, she eloped with her childhood sweetheart, Henry, and she worked in Lexington while he went to law school. She worked at Sears and then began teaching at Fugazzi Business College in Lexington. They returned to Grayson in 1961 and raised their family at his family home

on Third St., while her family was just around the corner. She walked to work as a part time professor at KCC and taught typing and shorthand. She was a former president of the Grayson Younger Woman’s Club and enjoyed hosting parties for all her friends.

She enjoyed playing bridge regularly at Bellefonte County Club; she said it kept her mind sharp, and she wasn’t wrong. She could recite Scripture to you, chapter, and verse. Her knowledge of the Bible was robust, and she studied it daily. She was a lifetime member of First Church of Christ in Grayson, serving for many years as choir director or playing piano for services. She was a member of Fairway Christian Church in the Villages, Florida. She attended church whenever the doors were open until her mobility declined. However, she still attended First Church online, and added Gregoryville Christian, Northeast (Lexington), and Bates Creek (Lexington) to her regular Sunday online services.

Jane Horton never sought recognition for herself but always looked to be a blessing to others. She requested that, rather than sending flowers, contributions be made to the Grayson First Church of Christ, 287 and Pomeroy, Grayson, KY 41143 or Ashland Community Hospice, 1480 Carter Ave., Ashland, KY 41101 as she would consider this a greater blessing.

Services will be conducted Sunday, December 14, 2025, 3:00 p.m., at First Church of Christ in Grayson with Bro. Ben James, minister. Burial will be in the Grayson Memorial Burial Park. Visitation will be Sunday from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m. at First Church of Christ. To leave the family with a condolence or memory please visit www.malone-funeralhome.com.

Marsha Lynn Marcum Hall 1977 – 2025



Marsha Lynn Marcum Hall, 48, a member of the Olive Hill Church of Christ, of Olive Hill, Kentucky, entered eternal rest on December 5, 2025, at the Community Hospice Center in Ashland, Kentucky, surrounded by her family and friends.

Marsha was born on July 11, 1977, to Tommy Darrell Marcum and Eva Crum in Ashland, Kentucky. Marsha grew up on Spring Hill Dairy Farm with her siblings, Beth and Paul, where she learned the value of hard work, which she carried throughout her life.

Marsha was a 1995 graduate of East Carter High School and a 1998 graduate of the Department of Criminal Justice Training at Eastern Kentucky University in Richmond, Kentucky. Upon graduation, she served the community with the Carter County Sheriffs Office. This was the beginning of a 22-year career in law enforcement, most of which was spent as a State Park Ranger at Carter Caves State Resort Park. During her career, she also served as a School Resource Officer with the Olive Hill and Grayson police departments and was a member of the Ashland Fraternal Order of Police Lodge #3.

Marsha loved being a police officer and carried a deep passion for helping those in need, especially the children she interacted with throughout her career in Carter County. Marsha dedicated her life to law enforcement until her career was sadly cut short in 2020 due to treatments for her cancer diagnosis.

Marsha was married to her husband of 25 years, Bobby Hall, and together they raised their three children, Nathan, Stacy, and Sarah, and a special grandson, Hudson, whom

Marsha loved dearly.

Marsha was preceded in death by her grandfather, Tom Marcum, of Beauty, Kentucky, and her dear aunt, Karen Marcum, also of Beauty, Kentucky.

Marsha is survived by her parents, Tommy Darrell (Linda) Marcum of Grayson, Kentucky and Eva Crum of Olive Hill, Kentucky; her daughters, Stacy Marcum (David Wagoner) of Olive Hill, Kentucky, and Sarah Hall (Brennan Dennis) of Jeffersonville, Indiana, stepson, Nathan Hall of Olive Hill, Kentucky, and cherished grandson, Hudson Salyers of Olive Hill, Kentucky. In addition to her parents and children, Marsha also leaves behind her grandmother Etta Mae Marcum of Beauty, Kentucky; siblings Beth (Mark) Morrison of Cincinnati, Ohio, Paul Marcum, of Ashland, Kentucky, Rebecca Priode of Louisia, Kentucky and Tony Bays of Greenup, Kentucky; uncle David (Alecia) Marcum of Vacaville, California; and cousin Karie Gauze (Travis Olesen) of Charlotte, North Carolina. Marsha is also survived by her brothers and sisters in the Olive Hill Church of Christ as well as a host of beloved cousins, nieces, nephews, extended family members, and friends, including special friends Carol Stewart, Marlene Stewart, and Rita Bierly.

Services will be conducted at 12:00 noon Friday at Malone Funeral Home with Bro. Shawn Hatton, minister. Burial will be in Jr. O.U.A.M. Cemetery in Olive Hill. Visitation will be on Thursday from 6:00 until 9:00 p.m. and after 9:00 a.m. Friday at Malone Funeral Home. Serving as pallbearers will be Tommy Darrell Marcum, Bobby Hall, Paul Marcum, Andrew Quillen, Zachary Quillen, Tony Bays and David Marcum. The family suggests that memorials be given in Marsha’s name to Pathways Grayson Autism Center, 840 Interstate Drive, Grayson KY 41143. To leave a memory, condolence or to view live cast, please visit www.malone-funeralhome.com.

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OPINION

EDITORIALS | LETTERS | COLUMNS | COMMENTARY

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

Guest Editorial

It's all the rage, but how do we stop it?

By Teri Carter
Kentucky Lantern

On Nov. 3 I attended a Lawrenceburg (Anderson County) City Council meeting which opened with an alleged jurisdictional issue between the county and city fire departments. The public sat silently and watched — for almost 40 minutes — as the county fire chief and his deputy held the floor, repeatedly berating the city fire chief. The man sitting next to me filmed a very brief portion (now deleted) of this diatribe, which the county fire chief then shared on his Facebook page, sparking public outrage all over social media. Did the 40 minute public shaming of the city fire chief solve the problem? No. Did social media outrage from this incident solve the problem? No. But problem-solving is no longer the point. The point is the overwrought performance which supplies the viral video clip. The point is the rage bait. Rage bait — manipulative tactics used to drive engagement online — is the Oxford University Press word of the year for 2025. If you spend any time at all online, particularly on social media, you do not need an Oxford dictionary to confirm how constant and pernicious the rage and rage baiting are. We are entering primary election season here in Kentucky, and we have already been talking with our friends and neighbors about the hateful, hard to stomach ads to replace Mitch McConnell in the U.S. Senate.

In one of his ads, Senate candidate Rep. Andy Barr says, “The woke left wants to neuter America, literally.” What in the world does that mean? He then shows a clip of black people standing in a circle, burning a flag, and then photos of Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Sen. Chuck Schumer, fists raised, looking angry, with Barr’s voiceover, “They hate our values, they hate our history, and goodness knows they hate President Trump.”

So much hate, and that’s just the first 20 seconds. A political action committee (PAC) backing Barr has released an ad which calls Nate Morris, one of Barr’s opponents in the Senate race, “Fake Nate Morris: fully woke and full of sh—.”

Do these ads inform the public about policies that will create jobs, lower grocery prices, build affordable housing or ensure that American families are not bankrupted by medical debt? No, because talking about these issues does not spark enough interest or outrage for politicians to get our attention in a fractured media landscape of 30-second soundbites.

On her Dec. 4 podcast, Jessica Tarlov, one of the cohosts of Fox News’ The Five, discusses (at the 48 minute mark) how politicians cannot break through in today’s media landscape without fomenting rage online which, in turn, goes viral and keeps their names in our distracted, short-attention-span minds until election day.

Rage baiting, Tarlov says, is “an apt word of the year.” Social media algorithms are the third rail running through and ruining our political discourse and relationships, and yet we have grown so accustomed to online rage that we are often numb to it.

“Folks with the big platforms are the ones that are driving American society,” Tarlov says, “They’re getting hired into the biggest jobs you can have, from the secretary of war to the heads of these media companies. Everyone needs content creators and influencers, whatever you want to call them, on the landing page of their organization ... and it’s a vicious cycle that keeps feeding it.”

The morning after the Nov. 3 Lawrenceburg City Council meeting, I watched the video go viral and the outraged commentary that accompanied it. At first, when I spotted a Facebook post that I knew was not wholly accurate, I commented with missing context, writing that I’d been there and witnessed the entire meeting.

Nobody cared. Within minutes I deleted my comments, as adding facts only sparked more rage.

Rage baiting is Oxford dictionary’s word of the year for a reason.

Online rage, cruelty, bullying, trolling and the ability to post misleading information or even outright lies are destroying our relationships and communities.

Meanwhile, tech billionaires like Elon Musk and Mark

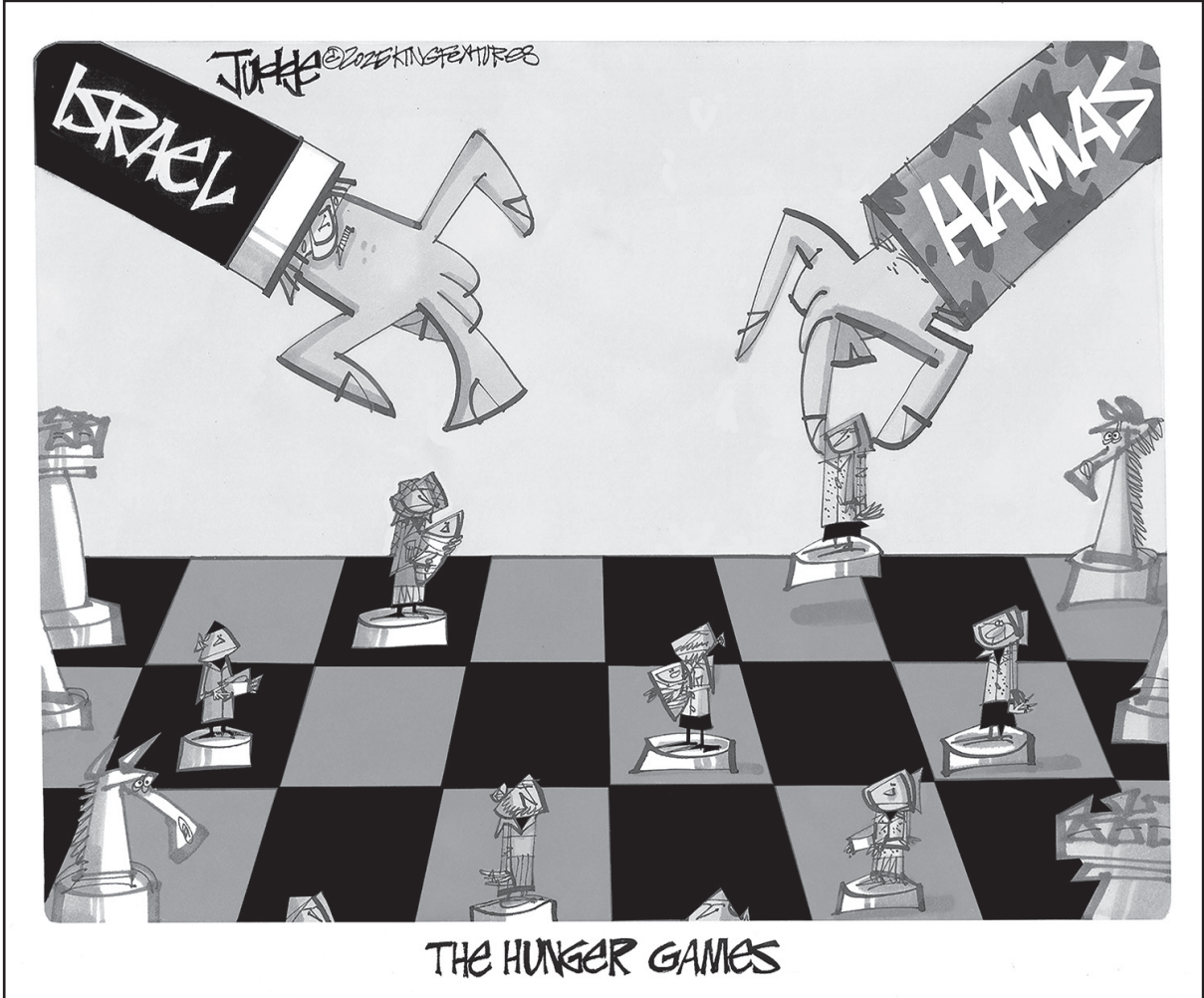
See RAGE on A-8

Carter County Times

Members of the Editorial Board

Nicole Wells, publisher

Jeremy Wells, editor Keith Kappes, columnist



Success has many fathers, but failure is an orphan.’

Readers, don’t be surprised next month when the Kentucky General Assembly goes back into session and one of the hot topics will be how to fix or discard the five-year-old system of regional driver licensing offices. This titular proverb simply means that when something goes right, many people are quick to take credit for it but when something goes wrong, people are reluctant to accept responsibility, and the failure is left unclaimed and alone like an orphan in olden days.

Before 2020, driver’s licenses were available in each of the state’s 120 counties. However, today that is the case in only 35 locations with five in Louisville, two in Lexington and the other 28 scattered statewide.

For example, Northeast Kentucky drivers have the option of going to Morehead, Ashland or Maysville. If you live further east into the mountains, your choices are Jackson, Prestonsburg or Pikeville. Going into Northern Kentucky, the first available office is in Maysville.

A state senator from Shelbyville got lots of publicity in August at the Kentucky State Fair when he told reporters about making 200-mile roundtrips between his hometown and Morehead to enable his two teenagers to get licensed without waiting several days for an

appointment at a Louisville office. Because I like pithy old sayings, I feel we also should consider applying “if it ain’t broke, don’t fix it” to this situation. Circuit clerks in all 120 counties had issued driver’s licenses for nearly 100 years. Suddenly, taking your teen or anyone to get a driver’s permit became much more complicated than a trip downtown. This second proverb serves as a cynical reminder of how credit and blame are distributed. Like success and failure, it also highlights the superficial nature of praise and the harsh loneliness of error.

True leadership is demonstrated not by claiming a share of a known success, but by stepping forward to own and learn from an inevitable failure.

To find a sensible solution, our legislators, circuit clerks and state transportation officials should put their egos and vested interests aside and find the best answer for current and future drivers and state taxpayers.

Keith Kappes can be reached at
keithkappes@gmail.com

Merry Christmas to the working stiffs

As the slog of December wears on, I want to tip my cap to the people keeping the world stitched together. The baristas are endlessly filling cups for shoppers, workers, and laptop warriors like me. The single dads are grabbing extra shifts so their kids wake up to something magical on Christmas morning. The moms are holding down the fort with nothing but their own stubborn resolve. And can we get a round of applause for the bartender taking every shift they can, making sure they can afford both presents and their kid's insulin? Those extra dollars matter this time of year.

To the folks working outside when the snow hits—may the coffee be hot and the overtime worth it. To the retail workers, servers, cooks, and busboys: enjoy that after-shift drink. You earned it. Those burned knuckles, the plates served, the drinks poured—they all add up to the final tally of December, so tip heavy. I try to leave a little extra if I have it. When they spin the monitor back to ya, maybe go 20% rather than 15% – it’s a good look when everyone is scrambling to make the best out of what they can, tired feet and all.

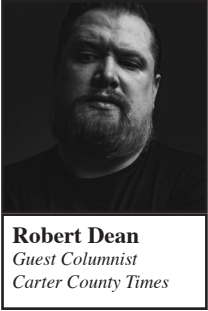
Think of the invisible labor, the emotional load, and the impossible expectations working people quietly shoulder just to make the season work. Without the folks slinging the burger you're grabbing between stops, the country would grind to a halt. We need the people who stock the shelves, slice the turkey for the

kids' sandwiches, pour concrete in the cold, and even the person holding the stop sign in between the cars.

There are kitchens in this country that will crank out more food this month than you'll see in your lifetime—especially the Chinese restaurants. They're open on Christmas, and that fried rice ain't gonna make itself.

So, if you get a quiet moment this Christmas, don't just count your blessings; count the people who made them possible. And if someone’s on your mind, don’t just think about it. Call them. No one deserves to be alone this month.

Contact the writer at editor@cartercountytimes.com



Robert Dean
Guest Columnist
Carter County Times

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Policies

General

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

Circulation

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

Letters & Opinion

The Times welcomes all letters to the editor.

Letters should be limited to 300 words or less. Letters should focus on issues that affect the community as a whole, and not personal or business disputes. Letters must include a verifiable address, along with the phone number and signature of the writer. Letters submitted via e-mail need only include a phone number in lieu of a signature. Letters, columns and cartoons do not necessarily reflect the views of the Times or EK Newsgroup, LLC. General interest guest columns are welcome. For details email editor@cartercountytimes.com.

Deadlines

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

Joyful Noise

from A-2

mities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." This means that when believers acknowledge their weakness, they can rely on God's strength to sustain them.

Understanding the saying "Let the Poor Say, I Am Rich"

Unlike "Let the weak say, I am strong," the phrase "Let the poor say, I am rich" does not appear verbatim in the King James Version (KJV) Bible. However, its message is reflected in several scriptures, particularly in 2 Corinthians 8:9 (KJV): "For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that,

though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich."

This verse highlights the spiritual riches that believers receive through Christ. Though Jesus was rich in divine glory, he humbled himself and became poor (taking on human form and suffering) so that through his sacrifice, believers could inherit the riches of his grace.

What great encouragement! Your strength and riches lie in the tender mercies and loving kindness of God that is bestowed upon you every morning. You are not walking life alone!

Colossians 3:16-17 says, "Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him."

What great strength you will find as you search out the rich Word of God. Yes, in every task, every step, every decision, every situation, every dream, let the rich Word of God strengthen you for today. It will be your rich strength

in all you do or say as you do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus.

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: JoyfulHopprayer. 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.

Raiders

from A-1

to 47-42 heading into the fourth quarter. Greenup, however, lost their spark as time ticked away. The Raiders' defense tightened, forcing turnovers and limiting Greenup's looks at the basket. Multiple key blocks from Colton McGuire (12) set the tone, and Grant Menix (10) gave East Carter its first lead of the night at 48-47 with 5:20 remaining in the game.

The final stretch kept

fans on edge with every possession. East Carter surged ahead 51-47, only for Greenup to claw back and briefly retake the lead at 52-51 with just 35 seconds left. That's when Burton delivered the play of the game, driving hard to the rim, blasting through contact, and finishing in the paint, also while getting fouled. Sinking the free throws with ease, the senior put the Raiders up 54-52. Greenup tried to get

a shot off to end the nail-biter, but a host of Raiders forced them to turn the ball over. Scrambling to regain possession, they fouled Menix, sending him to the line to shoot a bonus free throw. Unsurprisingly, he finished both, extending their lead to 56-52. With just 5.4 seconds remaining, Greenup couldn't gain the momentum to overcome the deficit, giving East Carter their first regular-season win.

It was a tale of resilience for East Carter, who refused to fold despite a double-digit halftime deficit. Behind the leadership of Burton, Tussey, and Menix, the Raiders showed poise under pressure and delivered a statement win that should resonate as the season continues.

Contact the writer at news@cartercountytimes.com

U.S. Senate appears unlikely to pass bill to extend existing ACA tax credits

By Melissa Patrick
Kentucky Health News

The U.S. Senate is expected to vote Thursday on a Democratic bill to extend the existing Affordable Care Act tax credits for three years, but multiple news sources say it is unlikely the bill will get enough votes to pass.

The enhanced health care subsidies created during the Covid-19 pandemic will expire at the end of the month unless Congress acts. And while people can still get tax credits, they will be reduced so premiums will

go up.

At a Nov. 18 ThriveKY meeting, David Verry, assistant director with the state's Division of Health Plan Oversight, said without the enhanced tax credits, "The majority, 58% or so, are seeing an increase of \$100 or more per month, 10,000 Kentuckians are seeing an increase of \$500 or more per month, and some are seeing increases of over \$1,000 per month."

Dustin Pugel, policy director at the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy, puts it another way in an analysis of what

Kentuckians in every county will see if Congress doesn't act to extend the existing tax credits: "This lost support would harm Kentuckians in all 120 counties. For these households, premium costs are likely to double in many cases. A family of four with an income twice the poverty level would see their annual premiums rise from \$2,102 to \$5,361. A 60-year-old couple with a household income of \$85,000 would lose their insurance support entirely and see their annual premium costs rise from \$7,225 to \$30,886. Many of these

people are small business owners or work at a small business or as independent contractors."

The analysis comes with an interactive map of how many Kentuckians used Kynect, Kentucky's health insurance marketplace, for their health insurance in every county in 2025.

The enhanced tax credits, or subsidies, were at the crux of the recent 43-day federal government shutdown.

Gov. Andy Beshear, speaking at a Dec. 4

See ACA on A-8

Olive Hill

from A-1

communities to revitalize any property that is being underutilized," she explained.

Weedman said there were many different ways to approach the program, and the grant process they are working on now is to fund the assessment phase.

"If you are applying for a \$500,000 grant for assessment as we are," she said, "We are identifying sites that are not being used the best way."

The assessment grant, Weedman said, allows for the determination of what, if any environmental issues are present and how those issues can be remediated. The assessment funds do not pay for the actual remediation, which would require additional funding. The assessment grant, however, is open to any

property public or private, and requires property access authorization. It also requires the property owner to apply for that property to be in the Brown Field Program.

In other business, the City of Olive Hill agreed to 'accept all ownership and maintenance' for KY2529 from the beginning of state maintenance beginning at the junction of US 60 extending .96 miles to the end of state maintenance. The council also voted to give Mill Street (022CS20037) to state maintenance. The 'trade' of roads was to simplify and facilitate paving.

The Water Ordinance (2025-8) for 2025 was also discussed by the council. The ordinance was passed due to the fact that rising costs have caused a

hardship on the city, and an increase in rates was deemed necessary. The full ordinance is available upon request but essentially the new ordinance makes updates to the previous ordinance. A surcharge of \$1.11 will be billed per customer for Kentucky Infrastructure Authority Debt Service. The surcharge will be removed upon the payoff of the loan.

Deposits for water service are also affected by the new ordinance as well. The new charges will be a deposit of \$50 for residential landowners and residential renters or tenants will pay a \$100 deposit. Small commercial deposits will be \$200 under the new ordinance, and large commercial usage will incur a \$500 deposit. A deposit of \$1,000 will be

required on those locations deemed industrial.

The new ordinance also lists 'tap on' fees. Residential taps with a three-quarter inch line will pay \$1,200 inside the city limits and \$1,400 outside the city limits. Any tap one inch or greater will be billed to the customer at the actual cost of materials plus labor. In the event that roads must be crossed or installed through rock, any additional expense will be borne by the customer.

Amended water rates for inside city limits are \$29.97 for the first 2,000 gallons. The rate thereafter is \$11.19 per 1,000 gallons. Outside city limits the base rate changes to \$47.01 for the first 2,000 gallons and \$16.22 for every 1,000 additional gallons for usage up to 50,000

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE

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

2010 CADILLAC ESCALADE, NOT ACTUAL MILEAGE 168,201, DON'T RUN, VIN #1GYUKJEFIAR123585.

2011 GMC TERRAIN, MILEAGE 135,034, MOTOR BLOWN, VIN #2CTFLREC9B6332705.

2019 BUICK ENCORE AWD, MILEAGE 106,312, VIN #KL-4CJESB5KB893323.

2018 CHEVY SILVERADO 4 WHEEL DRIVE, MILEAGE 143,744, VIN #3GCUKREC4JG428685.

2000 FORD F650 SUPER DUTY, NOT ACTUAL MILEAGE 236,000, VIN #3FDWF65HXYMA05348.

Public Auction will be held on *Friday, December 12, 2025*, at 3:00 PM at COMMERCIAL BANK, OLIVE HILL BRANCH, 155 TOM T. HALL BLVD., OLIVE HILL KY.

Seller reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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

Terms will be cash.

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

Notice of Noncompliance

Pursuant to KRS 65A.040, the Kentucky Department for Local Government hereby gives public notice that as of December 2, 2025, Carter County Tourism Commission is in violation of Kentucky Law for failure to comply with the reporting requirements of KRS 65A.020. The last known point of contact for Carter County Tourism Commission is Dora Roe, who may be reached at (606) 474-5366 and/or 300 W MAIN ST STE 227 GRAYSON, KY 41143. The last known Board Members are: Kara Johnson, Johnathan Lewis, Von Perry, Carl Burton, Marilea Fugitt, Paul Tierney, Jill York. The district was noncompliant with FY2021 - Attestation Engagement Every 4 Years. The Auditor of Public Accounts has been notified and state funding for this entity will be withheld until further notice. Department for Local Government encourages this entity to comply with the law.

NOTICE OF ADOPTION OF ORDINANCE

The Fiscal Court, at a meeting held on December 8, 2025, adopted the following ordinance:

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A LEASE FOR THE FINANCING OF A PROJECT; PROVIDING FOR THE PAYMENT AND SECURITY OF THE LEASE; CREATING A SINKING FUND; AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTION OF VARIOUS DOCUMENTS RELATED TO SUCH LEASE; AND MAKING CERTAIN DESIGNATIONS REGARDING SUCH LEASE.

It is hereby certified that the foregoing ordinance provides for approval of a lease with Kentucky Association of Counties Leasing Trust, as administrator, and bank or financial institution offering the lowest and best interest rate, as lessor for financing certain public improvements and provides a general obligation pledge to assess and levy sufficient taxes to comply with the obligations to pay lease payments, and makes certain designations regarding the Lease.

A complete copy of the onlinance may be reviewed at the office of the County of Carter, Kentucky, at 1558 North State Highway 7, Grayson, Kentucky 41143.

/s/ Brandon Burton
Judge Executive

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned, an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, hereby certifies that the foregoingis a true and accurate summary of an Ordinance that has been pn:paredby an attorney licensed to practice law in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

/s/ Brian Bayes
Licensed Kentucky Attorney

NOTICE OF RECORD DESTRUCTION

Physical Therapy Services, PA (PTS), an Early Intervention Resource Agency, will be destroying early intervention developmental therapy records for children who received services **prior to December 31, 2019.**

Parents or legal guardians who would like to obtain a copy of their child's records must submit a written request by December 15, 2025. After this date, records will be permanently destroyed on **December 31, 2025.**

Requests should be mailed to: Physical Therapy Services, PA
Attn: Early Intervention
1975 W. Elk Ave
Elizabethton, TN 37643

For more information, call 423-923-0898

PUBLIC NOTICE

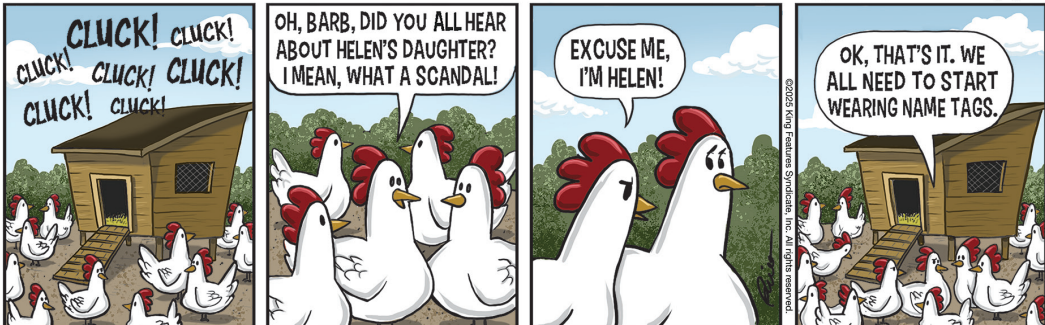
Saver Group Tobacco, LLC, d/b/a Olive Hill Tobacco Shed declares its intention(s) to apply for a tobacco, nicotine, or vapor product license no later than 12/19/2025. The licensed premises will be located at 131 Jessica Ln, Olive Hill, KY, 41164. The owner is Saver Group, Inc. and their president Larry Noe, 95 London Drive, Campbellsville, KY, 42718. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the license by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero Street, Frankfort, KY 40601, within thirty (30) days of the date of legal publication.



The Hitchins Fire Department hosted its Eleventh Annual Christmas parade on Saturday, December 6. This event has consistently been a significant occasion for the small community of Hitchins. Wesleyan Church traditionally distributes free goodies every year, while Stinson Church of Christ participated this year, also handing out free treats. Sandy Ratcliff organized a coat drive to provide free coats, hats and gloves. The parade is held annually on the first Saturday in December, commencing at Old 773 and concluding at 773 & Route 1. (submitted photos, Lettie Marcum, Hitchins VFD)

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



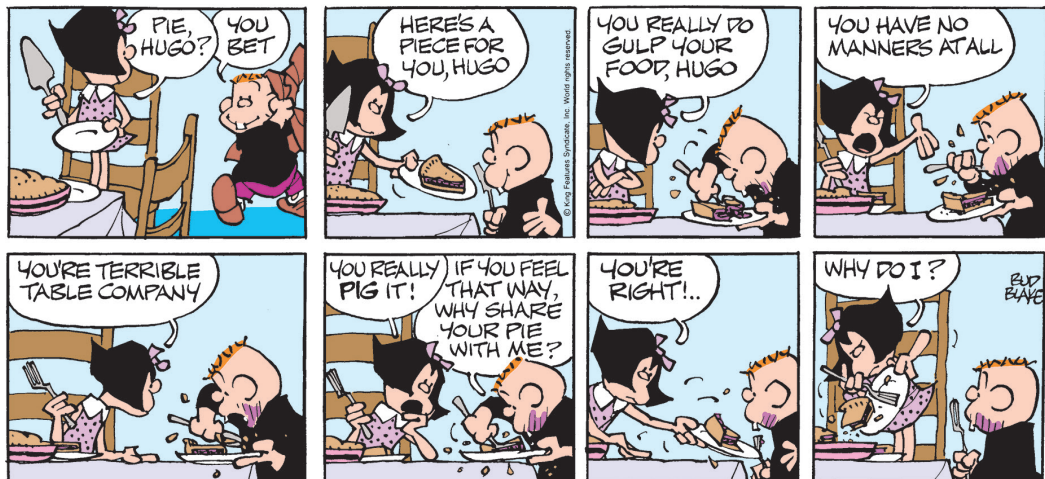
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



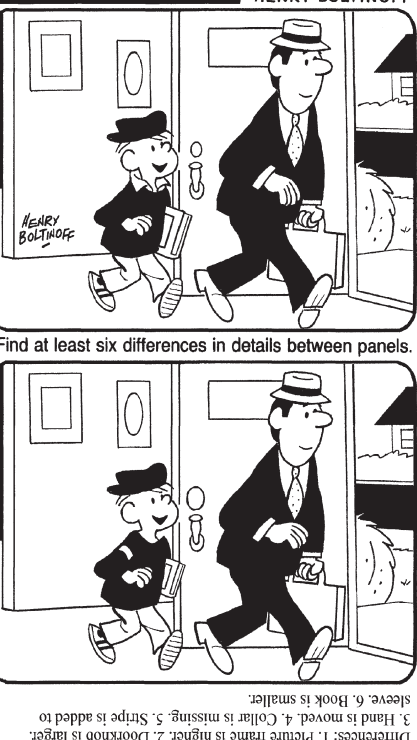
OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland



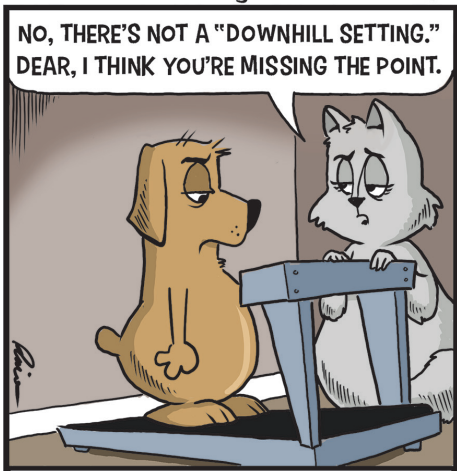
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF



Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: E equals B

MAITZOCPGQ OEGSC O

WPZAWTL GZTOMLESV CJOC

NZAWAZR ORIAQMPQV RSZWOIAR:

PC'R OQ SNJPTT EAACTA.

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SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

God TIDEY
Fold PLATE
Rouse WEAKO
Hint LIMPY

TODAY'S WORD

Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

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

- 1. Kilt or a-line K Blouse or tee H
- 2. Eight musical notes V Fuel rating N
- 3. Self-serve meal T Shock absorber R
- 4. Customer R General George T
- 5. Culpability F Treasure house V
- 6. Stay behind M Recollect T
- 7. Handmade blanket T Feather L
- 8. Splinter L Shake from the cold H
- 9. Actress Halle E Musician Manilow A
- 10. Humpback, e.g. A In one piece O

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GO FIGURE!

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

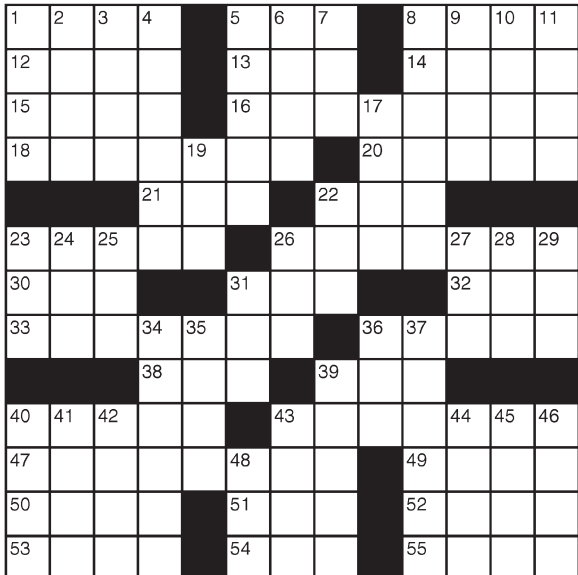
	+	8	+		= 13			
+		+		+				
	-		×		= 6			
÷		×		+				
	+		×		= 72			
=		=		=				
4		78		16				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Touse
- 5 Resistance unit
- 8 Prego rival
- 12 Bickering
- 13 Zodiac animal
- 14 Pub orders
- 15 Tabula —
- 16 Sheer fabrics
- 18 Santiago resi-
- 20 Playful sea critter
- 21 Mormon church, for short
- 22 Top card
- 23 Army bigwigs
- 26 Scolding
- 30 "Humbug!"
- 31 Cooking fuel
- 32 French pronoun
- 33 Upbeat
- 36 Rose protec-
- 38 Weeding tool
- 39 Spanish gold
- 40 Parlor pieces
- 43 Bar exercises
- 47 Trailblazing congress-
- 49 Power co. supply
- 50 Suffix for mil-
- 51 "Levitating" singer Lipa



- 52 Poet Teasdale
- 53 Rolling stone's lack
- 54 Lair
- 55 Threaded fastener
- 9 Oodles
- 10 Hereditary unit
- 11 Cold War initials
- 17 Central points
- 19 Asner and Harris
- 22 Sounds of relief
- 23 Telly network
- 24 Fan's cry
- 25 Sashimi fish
- 26 Automobile
- 27 "As I see it," in a text
- 28 Fish-fowl insert
- 29 Tom Collins liquor
- 31 "My word!"
- 34 Stages
- 35 Ritzy
- 36 Part of TNT
- 37 Truthful
- 39 "Holy cow!"
- 40 Con job
- 41 Columbus' home
- 42 Evergreens
- 43 Crossword hint
- 44 — Bator
- 45 Lima's land
- 46 "Shool!"
- 48 Quirky

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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FiveSpot™

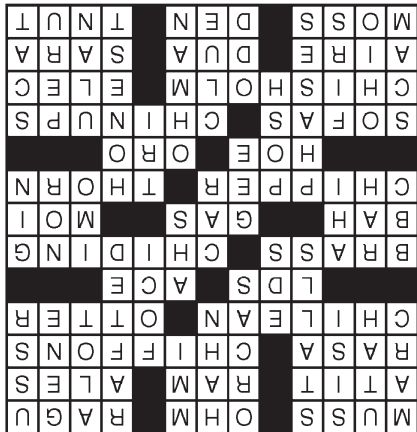
Enthusiasm

S	O	U	N	D	

Solve each row by replacing one letter from the answer above or below and scrambling to make a new word. When complete, the top and bottom words will have no letters in common.

FiveSpot is a trademark of Michael McLinden. See more at www.sproutspuzzle.com

02540



Solution time: 23 mins.

Answers

King Crossword

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

- 1. TELEVISION: What is the name of the bloodhound featured on the sitcom "The Beverly Hillbillies"?
- 2. HISTORY: Which Chinese dynasty mostly built the Great Wall?
- 3. MOVIES: Which 2003 movie is about juveniles who are sentenced to work at a desert camp?
- 4. MUSIC: Which famous song begins with the line, "Hello darkness, my old friend..."?
- 5. ANATOMY: What's another name for the patella?
- 6. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of Chile?
- 7. FOOD & DRINK: Who perfected the Champagne method?
- 8. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What are the national flowers of Japan?
- 9. LITERATURE: Who wrote the novel "Love in the Time of Cholera"?
- 10. SCIENCE: Which wire is usually the main "hot" one in electrical work?

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PAYDAY

Today's Word

3. Awake; 4. Imply

SCRAMBLERS

E	V	I	A
S	L	E	V
E	V	L	O
E	S	U	O
E	S	U	O
D	N	O	S

Solution

FiveSpot™

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

It's an uphill beetle.

prefers ascending surfaces:

Declaration about a

answer

Cryptoquip

in two-wire circuits

10. Black, although red also can be hot

9. Gabriel Garcia Marquez

santhennum

8. The cherry blossom and the chry

Perignon

7. A Benedictine monk named Dom

6. Santiago

5. Kneccap

Garfunkel

4. "The Sound of Silence" by Simon &

3. "Holes"

2. The Ming dynasty

1. Duke

Answers

Even Exchange

4	=	78			
2	+	6	x	9	= 72
	÷		x		
7	-	5	x	3	= 6
	+		+		
1	+	8	+	4	= 13
	÷		÷		

Answers

10. Whale, Whale

9. Berry, Barry

8. Silver, Silver

7. Quill, Quill

6. Remain, Remain

5. Fail, Vail

4. Patron, Patron

3. Butter, Butter

2. Octave, Octave

1. Skirt, Skirt

Ex-sheriff to get bond hearing more than a year after being charged with killing a Kentucky judge

By Bruce Schreiner
Associated Press

A judge refused to dismiss the murder indictment against a former Kentucky sheriff accused of gunning down a judge in his courthouse chambers, but will allow a bond hearing for the ex-lawman now jailed for more than a year, according to rulings released Thursday.

At the upcoming bond hearing, defense attorneys cannot discuss the contents of a sealed mental health evaluation of former Letcher County Sheriff Shawn "Mickey" Stines, said Circuit Judge Christopher Cohron. A date for the hearing was not immediately set by Cohron, who serves as special judge in the case.

Cohron said in the ruling Wednesday that "a bail hearing is not a trial rehearsal."

In granting the defense request for the bond hearing, the judge said: "The court will first hear evidence to determine whether the defendant is bailable. If the defendant is found to be bailable, the court may then consider setting a bond."

Stines is accused of killing District Judge Kevin Mullins in September 2024 at the courthouse in Whitesburg. Security camera footage from Mullins' chambers showed a man police identified as Stines pointing a gun and firing at Mullins. Mullins died at the scene and Stines, who was sheriff at the time, surrendered without incident.

Stines has pleaded not

guilty to one count of murder of a public official.

Whether bond is justified for the former sheriff has been an ongoing issue. In August, defense attorneys recommended a \$50,000 bond, saying Stines is not a flight risk and poses no danger to himself or the community. Prosecutors have responded that Stines is not entitled to a bond, citing a section of Kentucky's constitution that says the right to bail doesn't apply to people charged with a capital offense.

An attorney for Stines didn't immediately return a phone call and email Thursday seeking comment on the judge's rulings. Prosecutors say they're limited in discussing an ongoing case.

Authorities haven't revealed a possible motive for the shooting that stunned residents of Whitesburg, an Appalachian town about 100 miles (145 kilometers) southeast of Lexington, Kentucky, near the Virginia border.

Stines and Mullins had known each other for years. On the day of the shooting, they met for lunch with several other people, a Kentucky State Police detective said at a prior hearing. During the lunch, the judge apparently asked Stines if they needed to meet privately.

Stines resigned as sheriff days after the shooting and has been held without bond.

In his other rulings, Cohron denied defense motions to dismiss the

indictment and unseal the ex-sheriff's mental health evaluation. In seeking the dismissal, defense arguments included claims that prosecutors elicited false and misleading testimony, thus tainting the grand jury proceedings. The judge ruled that prosecutors met the legal burden to present evidence to the grand jury showing probable cause in the case.

Stines' lawyers have argued that the former sheriff suffered from "extreme emotional disturbance" prior to the shooting. In a document written a few days after the shooting, a social worker who met with Stines in jail said he had remained in "an active state of psychosis" and didn't appear to understand the criminal charge against him.

His lawyers have signaled their defense will focus on an insanity or extreme emotional disturbance claim.

At a prior court hearing, a harrowing video showing the judge being gunned down was revealed. The video, with no audio, showed a man identified by police as Stines pulling out a gun and shooting at the judge, who was seated at his desk. The man walked around the desk, pointed the gun at the judge — who ducked behind the desk for cover — and fired again, it showed.

Stines could potentially face the death penalty if convicted, but prosecutors haven't yet filed notice with the court on whether they will seek the death penalty.



The Carter County Times will not publish a paper on Wednesday, December 24.

MERRY CHRISTMAS

ACA from A-6

news conference, urged Congress to allow the tax credits.

"The idea that this Congress would vote to extend tax cuts for the wealthy, but not tax credits for hard-working Americans so that they can see a doctor — that's just wrong," Beshear said. "Healthcare is a basic human right."

Beshear said that if the tax credits are not approved, it will hurt the state's hospitals because they will get fewer dollars from private insurance companies, people will become less healthy, making them less productive in the workforce, and the economy will take a big hit.

"Those are three easy reasons to extend those tax credits, and the people of Kentucky need and deserve them," he said.

Lucas Aulbach, with the Louisville Courier-Journal, reported on what several Kentucky congressmen have to say about the subsidies.

Aulbach reports that U.S. Rep. James Comer, R-Kentucky, said he expects an extension for a year or two to allow "more

debate about what type of health care policy to have moving forward."

"It's unfortunate that these conversations are happening now. They should have happened prior to the August recess," Comer said Dec. 8 at an unrelated press conference. "But I think that there's a real, real desire to see change."

U.S. Rep. Morgan McGarvey, D-Louisville, told reporters at the same press conference Comer attended that affordable health care "continues to be my number one focus."

"I'm hearing stories in Louisville from people who are having their health insurance triple and quadruple per month unless the Republicans extend these tax credits," McGarvey said. "They must do it, and if they don't do it by the end of the year, then people's health care costs are going to skyrocket."

Aulbach reported that "Republicans such as U.S. Sen. Rand Paul have said they cost the country too much and are available to affluent families who can afford their own plans."

Rage from A-5

Zuckerberg — who built these social media companies, created the algorithms that fuel our rage and help fund the PACs responsible for some of the most heinous political ads — are smiling all the way to their big, fat banks.

The question is: What are we — and the leaders we send to Congress — doing to stop it?

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