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Carter County Times

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Justice gets two years in plea deal

Will not have to register as a sexual offender

By Jeremy D. Wells
Carter County Times

A case that was set to go back before a jury on Tuesday morning was instead settled on Monday, after the victim in the case and her family expressed reluctance to relive her trauma on a witness stand once again. Instead, the perpetrator in the case pleaded guilty to reduced charges that, with credit for time served, should see him released from jail within months.

Jonathan Justice has served

nearly two years in jail already, since being arrested in February of 2024 on charges of sodomy and first-degree sexual assault of a victim under 12 years of age.

Justice was ultimately charged with two counts of first-degree sodomy, four counts of sexual abuse of a victim under twelve years of age, and two counts of incest by forcible compulsion of a victim under 18 years of age.

Justice, however, found himself in what Judge Rebecca Phillips acknowledged was, "not a normal situation," when a previous jury only reached a partial verdict in his case. That previous jury found Justice not guilty on the two counts of sodomy and the two counts of

See JUSTICE on A-8



Jonathan Justice (submitted photo)

Christmas wishes

Local leaders discuss holiday memories

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

Everyone has memories of Christmases past and hopes for Christmases yet to come. Some of those memories are traditions set down by those family members who came before us, and others might be unique holiday happenings that we have personally experienced as the years pass. Whether

those memories involve family gatherings large or small, they usually involve special presents, treats, and perhaps time spent with a special someone.

As the temperatures drop and the snow begins to fall, it is a time of reflection on the year that has gone by and anticipation of what the coming year will bring. As holiday music fills the airwaves and the inevitable (multiple) versions of A Christmas Carol dominate both live television and streaming services, we all begin dreaming of a White Christmas. And as we follow the snowplow along

See WISHES on A-3



A road department crew hangs Christmas decorations in downtown Olive Hill. (Photo by Jeremy D. Wells, Carter County Times)

Giving the gift of warmth

Fostering Possibilities holds coat giveaway today

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

Pam Lewis, President of Fostering Possibilities in Grayson, explained why a boutique that helps foster children is so important.

"When foster children are removed from the home, oftentimes all they have is what they are wearing at the time," Lewis said.

That, she said, is when her

organization steps in.

"The caseworker calls us, and we provide them with the essentials to get them through the night."

But, Lewis said, Fostering Possibilities doesn't stop at just the emergency needs.

"Then we make an appointment for them to come in the next day to the boutique, and they shop with a volunteer from the community."

The child receives five new outfits, hygiene items, and if the child is an infant they get diapers and formula.

"Depending upon the age of the child, they get whatever resources they need," Lewis said.

Fostering Possibilities does not help with housing, but they

do help with other items that might be needed beyond the clothing and essentials, Lewis said.

"Sometimes if the child is in kinship care, like when they go live with a grandmother or an aunt or uncle, then we can help with bedding if they don't have an extra bed."

Lewis also said there are other organizations that are helpful during that process.

"We have met a lot of people from different organizations," Lewis said. "And sometimes we can connect with each other. It might be the school resource office or other organizations. If we have a surplus, we give it to them

See WARMTH on A-8

Weekly arrests report

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

- Donovan Porter, 29, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on a charge of violating a Kentucky EPO/DVO, arrested and booked December 8.
- Billy Jordan, 43, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on two counts of contempt of court – libel/slander – resistance to order, arrested and booked December 9.
- Natasha Parsons, 36, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on a charge of third degree burglary, arrested and booked December 9.
- Amy Watson, 37, of Olive Hill,

arrested by Olive Hill PD, on a probation violation (for a felony offense), arrested and booked December 9.

- Roger Bess, 40, of Campton, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance, failure to produce an insurance card, possession of marijuana, no registration receipt, and careless driving, arrested and booked December 9.

- Paul Mabry, 39, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, for non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, and two counts of failure to appear, arrested and booked December 9.

- Jeffrey Kouns, 45, of Ashland, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear, arrested and booked December 10.

- Andrew Hall, 43, of West Liberty, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on a charge of contempt of court – libel/slander – resistance to order, arrested and booked December 11.
- Amy Elliott, 39, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, serving a warrant for a parole violation, arrested and booked December 11.
- Jacob Diggs, 27, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, failure to wear seat belts, failure to produce an insurance card, and no registration receipt, arrested and booked December 12.
- Brent Bush, 41, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of failure to produce an insurance card, no registration plates, improper registration receipt, improper display

See ARRESTS on A-3



This Week's Obituaries

Wanda "Evelyn" Davis Conley, 98
Phyllis Burchett Maddix, 91
Teresa Stapleton, 75

William Douglas "Mugsy" Steagall, 61
Glenn D. Woolum, 83

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LIFESTYLE



The easiest candy you're afraid to make (but should try anyway)

Have you ever had this candy? It goes by lots of names. Growing up in Oregon, we'd visit a candy shop in Cannon Beach that called it "seafoam." My British mother called it "cinder toffee." I've heard sponge toffee, golden crunchers, hokey pokey, fairy food, but "honeycomb candy" seems to be the most official moniker.

If you've ever watched honeycomb bubble up like a magic trick and thought, "Oh no, that looks dangerous, I'll need adult supervision," you're not alone. This humble confection has a

reputation for being fussy, fiery and fit only for professional chocolatiers wearing Kevlar gloves.

But here's the truth: Honeycomb is gloriously simple, ridiculously inexpensive and one of the most impressive homemade holiday gifts you can whip up with nothing more than sugar, baking soda and 10 brave minutes.

Let's walk through it together so you can make a batch with confidence, and maybe show off a little.

What Is Honeycomb, Exactly?

Honeycomb candy is a sweet, light-as-air caramel that expands dramatically when baking soda hits molten sugar. It tastes like caramel clouds with a satisfying shatter, and once you dip it in chocolate, you've created the world's cheapest fancy-pants gourmet gift.

Why This Candy Scares People (and Why It Shouldn't)

The fear comes from two things: Sugar gets very hot (300 F -- the "hard crack" stage). And the moment you add baking soda, it erupts like a volcano. Cool, right?

But with the right setup and a little focus, everything stays controlled and delightful. Honeycomb is one of those recipes where organization matters more

than skill. If you can make toast without burning the house down, you can make this.

Have these things ready to go before you begin.

- Baking soda, measured and ready
- A large pot (the mixture will triple in size)
- parchment-lined pan
- A heatproof spatula
- A candy thermometer

Once the syrup hits 300 F, it keeps climbing -- so you'll be moving quickly.

HOMEMADE HONEYCOMB CANDY

Yield: 1 (8x8) pan
Total Time: 20 minutes

- 1/3 cup water
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/3 cup light corn syrup (or honey or maple syrup)
- 2 1/2 teaspoons baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
- Chocolate for dipping (optional but encouraged)

Line an 8-by-8-inch pan with parchment paper. Pre-measure your baking soda mixed with cream of tartar, and keep them nearby.

Combine water, sugar and corn syrup in a medium saucepan over medium heat, stirring just until combined. Once it bubbles, stop stirring. Attach a candy thermometer and let it boil, undisturbed, to 300 F.



Crunchy, golden honeycomb candy looks fancy but comes together in minutes. (Photo Credit: www.JasonCoblentz.com)

Remove from heat and quickly stir in baking soda, it will foam dramatically. Stir just until incorporated, then immediately pour into your prepared pan.

Let cool completely (about an hour). Break into pieces. Optional: dip or drizzle with melted chocolate. The recipe can be doubled to yield a 9-by-13-inch pan.

Tips for Success. Don't refrigerate; it gets sticky. Store airtight to keep it crisp. Chocolate coating helps it last longer. And, of course: Don't touch hot sugar.

Why This Makes a Fabulous Homemade Gift

Honeycomb looks impressive and tastes incredible yet takes only minutes to make. Package it in a tin with a bow and people

will swear you have confectionery superpowers.

Don't let honeycomb intimidate you. It's kitchen alchemy -- simple ingredients transforming into something downright magical..

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

Seasonal wear

The weather has turned cold and, whether we are going to work or out to play, we pull out our winter wear to bundle up before heading outside. We have sweaters, hats, gloves, boots, coats, and scarves and not only are they designed to keep us warm, they also take up a lot of closet space. They are bulky and when wet they can be a nuisance to deal with after coming in

from the snow. Here are some ideas for making space and keeping our floors dry.

- Next to a front or back door, hang hooks for those coats and scarves. This is a cost effective solution since they can be used for hanging backpacks and rain gear throughout the rest of the year.
- Place a plastic mat by the door for those wet boots and keep dry shoes close by for a quick change.



Daryl Ashley
Guest Columnist
Confusion Solution

- For dry gloves and hats use baskets for those and, if they are damp, attach twine to a hook and use clothes pins to hang them to dry.
- For other winter items like sleds, shovels, and anti-freeze, place them somewhere easily accessible and in places where the weather won't invade your living space.

All in all, this is a great time of year with lots of celebrations and fun in the snow. So, think about your storage options and enjoy staying warm this winter.

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

Joyful Noise

Why me?

By Pastor Naomi Mitchell
for Carter County Times

This can't be happening to me! Why, God? Trouble seems to always come my way! I give up! I'm tired trying again and again.

Have you ever been to that place? Everything is going well and then life just seems to come to a screeching halt.

"There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the

heavens." - Ecclesiastes 3:1. "To everything" opens the verse by sweeping the entire created order into view. Nothing is left out, not nature, not nations, not your day-to-day details. Genesis 1:1 reminds us that God made "the heavens and the earth," so everything belongs to him.

Colossians 1:16 affirms that "all things were created through Him and for Him." Because God owns it all, he also oversees it

all. The text invites us to rest in his comprehensive rule. A "season" speaks of an appointed, recognizable segment of time—like spring follows winter. Life also comes in God-ordained phases.

The verse assures us that every circumstance we face is part of a divine timetable, not random chaos. "Time" narrows the idea even further to a precise moment, God's exact scheduling. Psalm 31:15 confesses, "My times are in Your hands." Acts 17:26 says he determined "the appointed times" of every

See JOYFUL NOISE on A-6

University of Kentucky Extension Notes

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Strengthening agricultural futures: Insights from Morocco

At the recent Al Moutmir International Extension Conference in Morocco, agricultural leaders, researchers, and extension professionals from around the world gathered to share strategies for advancing sustainable farming. Among the highlights was a panel discussion focused on empowering youth and women in agriculture, where I had the privilege of speaking about the critical role these groups play in shaping resilient food systems.

During the panel, I shared that youth engagement begins early through

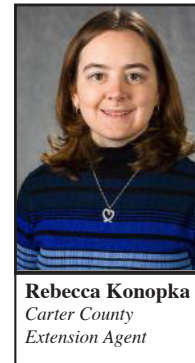
4-H programs, offering hands-on experimental learning in animal science, leadership, and community service, while also creating a two-fold impact as children share new ideas with their parents. Extension programming for adults must be tailored to experience levels and designed to break down gender-specific barriers through practical, grassroots approaches that build trust and efficiency. Strong relationships with producers, supported by councils and community networks, make it easier to introduce new research and encour-

age broader participation. The conference also provided an opportunity to tour the Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P) campus in Benguerir. The visit included stops at cutting-edge laboratories and the university's expansive experimental farm, where research is directly applied to Morocco's agricultural challenges.

Key areas of exploration included:

- Soil sampling and fertilizer usage: Innovative techniques are being developed to optimize nutrient management and improve crop yields sustainably.
- Prickly pear cactus research: Scientists are

See MOROCCO on A-3



Rebecca Konopka
Carter County
Extension Agent



Carter County Extension Agent Rebecca Konopka (2nd from right) serves on a panel discussion during the Al Moutmir International Extension Conference in Morocco.

Kentucky Dept of Agriculture Livestock and Grain Market Report

Compared to last week feeder steers sold mostly 7.00 to 12.00 higher with exceptions to sharply higher. Heifers were steady to 5.00 higher with exceptions to 12.00 higher. Yearling steers and heifers appeared mostly steady with limited comparisons. Demand was good to very good for all feeder and yearling classes with best interest for long weaned and preconditioned cattle. Slaughter cows and bulls were mixed with reported trends ranging steady to 4.00 lower to steady to 4.00 higher.

Week ending 12/13/25

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

Steers (M&L 1-2)	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
350-400 lbs	435.45	419.26	341.21
400-450 lbs	415.61	413.22	337.68
450-500 lbs	417.82	396.88	320.02
500-550 lbs	398.46	383.40	308.44
550-600 lbs	386.31	361.64	287.12
600-650 lbs	356.05	351.21	270.37
650-700 lbs	348.25	336.66	259.62
700-750 lbs	328.54	323.65	247.27
750-800 lbs	323.90	313.74	247.00
800-850 lbs	308.53	311.12	241.81
850-900 lbs	305.48	314.91	240.64
Heifers (M&L 1-2)	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
300-350 lbs	395.00	385.33	295.44
350-400 lbs	400.28	388.53	293.66
400-450 lbs	385.05	364.91	285.71
450-500 lbs	369.27	355.66	270.43
500-550 lbs	355.81	342.92	257.51
550-600 lbs	345.67	331.90	249.89
600-650 lbs	327.99	313.06	237.27
650-700 lbs	318.73	312.13	230.28
700-750 lbs	303.27	289.93	222.33
750-800 lbs	297.58	292.03	225.13

WEEKLY COW SUMMARY			
Slaughter Cows	Average	High	Low
Breakers	140.00-169.00	155.00-187.00	126.00-155.00
Boners	140.00-167.00	151.00-202.00	100.00-154.00
Lean	115.00-154.00	132.50-168.00	90.00-147.00
Slaughter Bulls	Average	High	Low
Yield Grade 1&2	170.00-202.00	191.00-226.00	130.00-187.00

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
GRAINS			
	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
Corn	4.12-4.68	4.12-4.65	4.27-4.71
Soybeans	10.12-11.21	10.40-11.48	9.28-10.58
Red Winter Wheat	4.71-5.45	4.76-5.51	4.47-5.38

Arrests from A-1

of registration plates, failure to wear seat belts, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance, failure to register transfer of a motor vehicle, and failure to appear, arrested

and booked December 12. •William Yeager, 65, of Olive Hill, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and booked December 12. •Brian Burnett, 41, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Circuit Court,

on a hold for drug court, arrested and booked December 13. 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.

Wishes from A-1

city and county streets while ‘Here Comes Santa Claus’ plays on the local radio station, it might be nice to know the hopes and memories of those whose job it is to get us through the New Year and beyond.

“Most of my memories of Christmas revolve around family,” Grayson Mayor Troy Combs said. The holidays to Combs meant being able to spend time with both his immediate and extended family. “That’s what Christmas is to me,” he said. “It’s about being together with your loved ones. I also remember all of the special church services around the holidays growing up.”

The general festiveness was something Combs said loomed large in his holiday memories. And holiday music played a large part of that, whether it was special live music performed by local churches and organizations or his grandmother having holiday music playing around her home when he would visit.

“And the presents were always nice,” Combs joked. As a child it was exciting to wake up Christmas morning to find the toy you really wanted under the tree.

As the Mayor of Grayson, Combs said that

if he could give a gift to the residents of Grayson it would be something to help them through the cold days of winter.

“If I could give them a gift it would be a warm hat and gloves, or coveralls,” Combs said. “Something to keep everyone safe and warm.”

Olive Hill Mayor Jerry Callihan said that the Christmas he remembers was always centered around his grandparents. Christmas, he said, changed when they passed away; but as much as it changed, there is still a holiday continuity because Callihan himself has become the grandparent.

“It’s all about the grandkids now,” Callihan said. “You go from being the kid to being the one who makes sure the kids are healthy and happy.”

Callihan spoke while downtown in Olive Hill with the street department hanging wreaths and garland to help the city residents and visitors get into the Christmas spirit.

“There were a lot of happy kids at the recent Christmas Tree lighting, and that’s what we want to see,” Callihan said. “We want the kids, and everyone else too, to enjoy the Christmas season. And we are willing to do whatever it takes to make

that happen.” Teaching kids about the Christmas spirit, he said, is the best way to keep that spirit alive.

“If I could do anything for the people of Olive Hill it would be to bring everyone together for a huge Christmas dinner,” Callihan said. “A huge Christmas party where all the children get presents and have a whole day of free events celebrating Christmas.”

Carter County Judge Executive Brandon Burton said most of his early Christmas memories come from being at his grandparents’ home and all the family coming in to enjoy the holidays. Burton said he was blessed with large families on both his parents’ side, and this made the holidays an event.

“We always had good food and a good time,” Burton said. “It was exciting being around such large families and all the cousins. And of course we were excited about the presents too.”

Burton said that Christmas has always been special, even now that he is in the grandparent role, because spending time with family and loved ones at any age is what is truly important around the holidays.

“God has blessed me with such a great family, then and now,” Burton said. “And the times when we get together means so much.”

When asked what he would give the residents of Carter County for Christmas, Burton had a quick first answer.

“If I could, I would give them an umbrella that would keep the snow off of them for the next three months,” Burton laughed.

But he said honestly that he would simply like to help them in any way he is able, because he never ceases to be amazed at their resilience.

“In the last three and a half years I have seen how the people in this county really step up in hard times,” Burton said of Carter County residents. “I have seen them put shoes on people’s feet, I have seen them feed people, and I have seen a lot of people go out of their way to make someone else’s life better.”

That willingness to help, Burton said, is magnified during the holiday season and carries throughout the year.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

CALENDAR

- **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
- **12/23: Building Club @ 4 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library, Olive Hill
- **12/24: Olive Hill Book Club @ 5:30 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **12/26: Final Friday @ 6 p.m.** | Grayson Gallery & Art Center
- **12/29: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 606-474-6686
- **12/29: Open Art Studio @ 10 a.m.** | Grayson Gallery & Art Center
- **12/30: Building Club @ 4 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library, Olive Hill
- **1/1: Carter County Library Board @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson

Have an event to add to the calendar?
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Roads, rentals, and recovery

Fiscal court updates ordinances and establishes boards

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

The Carter County Fiscal Court voted to accept Sassafra Drive (0.13 miles) into the county road maintenance schedule at its regularly scheduled meeting on November 8. The court also held the first reading of an amendment to the transient tax ordinance (no. 8019) form 2017 to include temporary rentals or Air B&B’s. The amended ordinance will include Air B&B’s,

campground sites, and any and all rentals that occur in Carter County.

“In 2017, Air B&B’s weren’t a thing,” county attorney Brian Bayes told the court. “And by adding the phrase ‘any and all,’ we are attempting to keep up with changing times.”

In other business, the court voted to appoint Ben Justice was to the Carter County Ambulance Board. Justice will be filling a vacancy left by the recent resignation of board member Carl Steagal. The court also voted to approve claims and transfers, and accepted reports from county department heads.

During the public comments section of the meeting, Todd Maynard, the Dean of Business

for Kentucky Christian University, spoke to the court about his application for grant funds from the opioid abatement fund. The program for which the grant was submitted is a speaker conference that focuses on helping those who have gone through recovery from substance abuse disorder enter into leadership positions and acquire new social capital. The purpose of the grant was to help with speaker fees, and travel expenses for the speakers. Currently, there are over 30 applications for grants for the court to consider.

In related news, the court voted to approve three of the applicants to be on the Opioid Advisory Board. The newly formed

board will be heavily involved in the process of accepting and vetting those organizations that apply to the county for opioid-based grants. All applicants must qualify under the current state and federal guidelines. Those approved were Breanna Adams, Victoria Judd, and Marcela Clay. The terms of the individuals appointed began immediately and will run for one year, until December 31, 2026.

The new board will recommend grant applicants to the fiscal court, and the fiscal court will then vote to either approve or deny the submitted grants. Judge executive Brandon Burton said the board will begin with three members and

See **ROADS** on A-4

Morocco from A-2

studying resistance to an invasive scale insect, protecting a crop that is vital for rural livelihoods.

•Desalination projects: Pioneering work is underway to harness desalinated water for agriculture, addressing water scarcity in arid regions.

•Plant production for mining site rehabilitation: Research teams are cultivating species capable of restoring degraded lands, blending ecology with industry needs.

The exchange of ideas at Al Moutmir underscored

the importance of international collaboration in extension work. Morocco’s efforts to integrate advanced science with community-based solutions offer valuable lessons for extension agents worldwide. The innovations witnessed at UM6P demonstrate how research can be translated into practical tools for farmers.

Hotel accommodations, airfare, and meals were generously provided by the Al Moutmir hosts. This trip served as a follow-up to last fall’s visit, when

Al Moutmir professionals traveled to the University of Kentucky and the Carter County Extension Office to learn about our programs.

As extension professionals, our mission is to connect research with real-world practice. The insights gained in Morocco reaffirm the importance of building bridges—between scientists and farmers, between generations, and across borders. By working together, we can cultivate agricultural systems that are both productive and sustainable.

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.



Pet of the Week

Alex is a two-year-old husky mix. He’s very friendly, knows basic commands, and walks on a leash. He’s also neutered and up to date on all shots. Alex is currently the longest resident of the shelter, and has a free adoption to an approved home. Stop by the Carter County Animal Shelter and meet him or call 475-9771 for more information.

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

“Buzzed” drivers and drunk drivers



share the same cell

Never drink and drive. Always buckle up.

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

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Extended Drive Thru Hours –
7am till 6pm Monday thru Friday
7am till 1pm Saturday

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OBITUARY

Teresa Stapleton

1950 – 2025



Teresa Stapleton, formerly of Olive Hill, KY, passed away at her home in Nicholasville on December 8, 2025, following an extended illness.

She was born on February 17, 1950, the daughter of the late Paul and Lorraine Wilburn Stapleton. Teresa graduated from Olive Hill High School in 1967 and continued her education at Morehead State University, completing her nursing degree with a 4.0+ GPA. She worked as a registered nurse for more than 40 years, starting in Boyd County, before her move to Lexington. Teresa retired from Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital in 2022.

Teresa's grandchildren

were the light of her life. They enjoyed movies, shopping, and going on vacation during the summers.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her daughter, Rachel Frary; her sister, Victoria Lynn Stapleton; her brother, Greg Stapleton, and nephew, Chad Stapleton.

She is survived by her sister, Rhonda Fouch, two granddaughters, Olivia and Abigail Frary; and two great-grandchildren, Zoe and David Lee. In addition, she leaves behind nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, and many good friends.

Teresa's memorial service will be held on Sunday, December 28, 2025 at 2:00 PM at the Duvall & Moore Funeral Home & Cremation Service.

Friends may visit 1:00 – 2:00 PM Sunday, December 28, 2025, at the Duvall & Moore Funeral Home & Cremation Service, 149 Whitt Street, Olive Hill, KY 41164

Online condolences can be made at www.duval-landmoore.com

Glenn D. Woolum

1942 – 2025



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were the light of her life. They enjoyed movies, shopping, and going on vacation during the summers.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her daughter, Rachel Frary; her sister, Victoria Lynn Stapleton; her brother, Greg Stapleton, and nephew, Chad Stapleton.

She is survived by her sister, Rhonda Fouch, two granddaughters, Olivia and Abigail Frary; and two great-grandchildren, Zoe and David Lee. In addition, she leaves behind nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, and many good friends.

Teresa's memorial service will be held on Sunday, December 28, 2025 at 2:00 PM at the Duvall & Moore Funeral Home & Cremation Service.

Friends may visit 1:00 – 2:00 PM Sunday, December 28, 2025, at the Duvall & Moore Funeral Home & Cremation Service, 149 Whitt Street, Olive Hill, KY 41164

Online condolences can be made at www.duval-landmoore.com

Phyllis Burchett Maddix

1934 – 2025



Phyllis Burchett Maddix, age 91, of Olive Hill, Kentucky, passed away Thursday, December 11, 2025, at her daughter's residence.

She was born September 23, 1934, in Carter County, Kentucky, to the late Charles W. and Clara Elizabeth Bailey Burchett.

Our mother, granny, sister, friend, a devoted Christian and a woman of endless love, filled our lives with grace and gentleness. She found joy in going to church and she cherished every moment spent with her family.

Phyllis was a member of Homemaker's, Eastern Star and First Christian Church in Olive Hill, KY. She retired from Cowden's Manufacturing where she was a supervisor for many years. There she met the love of her life, Tommy. When she wasn't working, she loved spending her summers with Tom at the lake where they shared their love of boating with many friends and family over the years. Her flower garden was her joy—it was always beautiful, and lovingly tended and she never let anyone leave her home without taking a full tour of the blooms she was so proud of. She loved to cook, filling our gatherings with the warmth of her meals and the comfort of her presence and you never left her home hungry. Whether

with family or friends, she created moments that will forever live in our hearts. Though she has passed on, her legacy of love, faith, and beauty remains with us always.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, James Thomas "Tom" Maddix; one son-in-law, Oral Lee Carper; two sisters, Judy Boggs and Jackie Huffman.

Phyllis is survived by one daughter Deborah (John) Lands of Olive Hill, Kentucky; 5 grandchildren, Melanie (Shawn) Barton, Vanessa (Will) Stevens, Ashley (Kevin) Pence, Katie Tackett, Marcus (Cindy) Lands; 8 great-grandchildren, Emma Barton, Cora Lee Pence, Lottie Joy Stevens, Graham Pence, Claire Stevens, Logan Lands, Jayden Lands, Kaylee Tackett; two brothers, Billy Rex Burchett, Ronald Burchett both of Olive Hill, Kentucky, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss her.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m., Monday, December 15, 2025, at Globe Funeral Chapel with Brother John Lands and Brother David Gee officiating. Burial followed in Olive Hill Memorial Park in Olive Hill.

Friends visited after 11 a.m., Monday, December 15, 2025, until the service hour at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky.

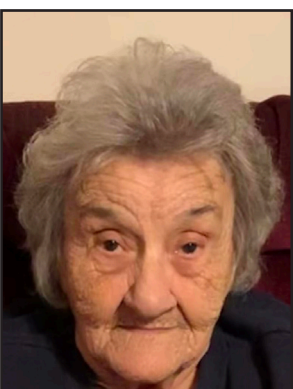
Kevin Pence, Will Stevens, Shawn Barton, John Lands, Stevie Burchett served as pallbearers.

Sammy Maddix served as honorary pallbearers.

Globe Funeral Chapel is honored to serve the family of Phyllis Burchett Maddix.

Wanda "Evelyn" Davis Conley

1927 – 2025



It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Wanda "Evelyn" Davis Conley, 98, on December 12, 2025.

Born on October 19, 1927, in Rush, Kentucky, she was the daughter of the late Raymond and Sarah Alice McWhorter Davis.

In addition to her parents, Evelyn was preceded in death by her husband, Charles "Curly" Conley and infant daughter Pamela Dawn Conley, siblings Bobby Lee Davis, Paul Ray Davis, Billy Joe Davis, Charles Everette Davis, Harold Newton Davis and Shirley Middleton. She is survived by her son Charles (Leeann) Conley

of Rush, Kentucky, grandchildren, Cortney Jane (Jared) Spicer of Catlettsburg, Kentucky, Chelsea Conley of Richmond, Kentucky, and Carson Conley of Rush, Kentucky, great-grandchildren Grant and Josie Spicer, special nieces and nephews Harold Middleton, Robin Thomas and Cheryl Harris and a very special friend, JoAnn Fannin.

Friends and family are invited to celebrate Evelyn's life at a memorial service held on 1:00 p.m., Thursday, Malone Funeral Home with Bro. Mickey King, minister. The burial will be in the Davis Cemetery. The visitation will be Thursday, 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. until the time of the service. Serving as pallbearers will be Jared Spicer, Isaac McIntosh, Devon Thomas, Tyler Leibe, Brandon Gollihue and Steve Harris. To send a condolence or a memory of Wanda, please visit www.malonefuneralhome.com.

William Douglas "Mugsy" Steagall

1964 – 2025



Mr. William Douglas "Mugsy" Steagall, age 61, of Olive Hill, Kentucky went home peacefully to be with the Lord on Tuesday morning, December 9, 2025 while working on the road in Crossville, Tennessee.

He was born March 19, 1964, in Rowan County, KY a son of the late Clarence and Druzella Parker Steagall.

Doug was a Christian and a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He was employed with the Local 181 Operators Union out of Henderson, KY. Doug loved nothing more than taking care of other people. He enjoyed spending time with Leona, working in his garage, and most recently, seeing and sharing pictures of his sweet grandson. Doug "Mugsy" was always quick with a comeback, was never at a loss for words, and loved his family more than anything. Doug was a phone call away for anyone who needed him to get in to a locked car or pull a car that was stuck. If you needed something done, you could always call him. He also enjoyed going to car shows and, when he was working on the road, he loved cooking out with the other guys on the job.

Doug is survived by his cherished wife of almost 18 years, Leona Wilburn Steagall; his beloved grandson, JJ Steagall, two sons, William "DJ" Steagall and James Steagall (Lori McLeod), two daughters, Kristen (Chris) Bledsoe and Melissa

Steagall, and two special bonus grandchildren, Caitlyn Bledsoe and Ethan Bledsoe. Additionally, he is survived by seven brothers and sisters-in-law - Carl Steagall, John (Clarice) Steagall, Paul (Janie) Steagall, Larry Steagall, Randy (Kathy) Steagall, Ben Steagall, and Jeff (Kelly) Steagall and three sisters, Brenda Dehart, Penny (James) Perry, and Pam Stafford. He is also survived by his wife's siblings - Sharon Valandingham, Alice Waggoner, Jerry (Brenda) Wilburn, Cathy Carroll, Tim (Kim) Wilburn, Ella Mae (Tony) James, Daris (Debbie) Wilburn, and Van Wilburn. Doug also leaves behind a great deal of nieces and nephews, extended family, friends, and coworkers that he had met on his many travels who will sadly miss him. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his uncle Lawrence Parker, his sister, Kathy Mae Steagall Dunaway, his father and mother-in-law, Glen and Arlene Wilburn, and his nephew, Jay Dehart.

Funeral services were held 2 p.m., Sunday, December 14, 2025, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Brother Joe Foltz and Brother Chris Glover officiating. Burial followed in Olive Hill Memorial Park in Olive Hill.

Friends visited from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., Saturday, December 13, 2025, and after 12 noon, Sunday, December 14, 2025, until the service hour at Globe Funeral Chapel.

Family and friends served as pallbearers.

In lieu of flowers, the family has asked for donations to be made to Olive Hill Meals on Wheels or the Olive Hill Church of the Nazarene.

Globe Funeral Chapel is honored to serve the family of William Douglas "Mugsy" Steagall.

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Roads from A-3

could potentially grow in number as more applications for that membership are processed. The fiscal court has several additional applications from individuals seeking to serve on the Opioid Advisory Board, he said, and more might apply. The three who were approved for board positions did not personally have grant applications with the court, as that could be seen as a conflict of interest.

Applications for the

Opioid Advisory Board have been open for several months, and interested parties in the county can still apply for consideration. Burton said that it was important to establish the board now because several of the grant applicants were planning budgets for the upcoming year and establishing funding sources for their programs.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

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OPINION

EDITORIALS | LETTERS | COLUMNS | COMMENTARY

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

Guest Editorial

Kentucky Dems have Senate candidates, but what are their chances?

By Al Corss
Northern Kentucky Tribune

Strange as it seems, the Democratic Party has a remarkable roster of candidates to succeed retiring Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell next year.

Former state Rep. Charles Booker has run for senator twice before and been nominated once, and led his primary foes by 3 points in a mid-October poll.

Right behind him was Amy McGrath, a former Marine fighter pilot who gave the likeliest Republican nominee a tough, close race for his congressional seat seven years ago.

Far behind were Pam Stevenson, a retired Air Force colonel and minister who led her party caucus in the state House; Logan Forsythe, a Lexington lawyer and former Secret Service agent from West Kentucky; and Louisville businessman Joel Willett, a former CIA officer who has impressed party leaders.

After the poll was taken, horse trainer Dale Romans entered, with the sort of profile that could win the seat: a middle-road-er like West Virginia's Joe Manchin, backed by Democratic strategist James Carville, and the encouragement of Gov. Andy Beshear.

Kentucky is not on national pundits' list of Senate seats that Democrats are supposed to have any chance of flipping, and Republicans consider the race "a sure-thing slam dunk," as GOP strategist Tres Watson said last week.

But in the Donald Trump era, nothing is a sure thing. Though Trump is the main reason Republicans are confident, he's also one reason Democrats think the Senate nomination is worth something. His national job ratings are about as low as they were just after Jan. 6, 2021, and are falling in Kentucky, which he won by 29 points. One recent poll had his net approval (positive minus negative) here at only 2 points; another had it at 14.

Trump's doing better in Tennessee, but voters there gave Republicans a scare in a special congressional election this month. A moderate Democrat might have flipped the seat.

Republicans all over are starting to distance themselves from Trump, his behavior, his handling of the economy and his controversial appointees, but Kentucky's three Republican candidates for senator are putting no distance between themselves and the president, since his endorsement in the race would likely be dispositive. But if his actions and those of his administration become much more objectionable, the Republican nominee could find himself in a disreputable ditch with an unpopular leader.

Among Republican candidates, former attorney general Daniel Cameron leads in polls, but 6th District Rep. Andy Barr is gaining and has a big fundraising advantage. Businessman Nate Morris trails, but has the best ties to Trump and is getting help from MAGA information channels unfavorable to Barr. Elizabethtown businessman Michael Faris is also seeking the GOP nomination.

All the major Democrats have assets and liabilities. Booker and Stevenson are unabashed liberals and African Americans in a conservative state where racism still matters. McGrath lost credibility in 2020 when she out-raised McConnell and still lost to him by 20 points (after barely defeating Booker in a primary with unusual circumstances). Forsythe and Willett are unknown and will have trouble getting attention, but have overcome adversity before, and Willett has loaned his campaign \$200,000.

Romans may have the most potential, pro and con. He is the most conservative Democrat, but still in the party mainstream on issues such as abortion, health care and immigration — about which he speaks knowledgeably; it's an issue for the horse industry. But he paid a big fine for immigration violations over a decade ago, and has had other legal issues.

"I have not totally vetted him," Carville said in an interview, "but I know his reputation in the industry is pretty solid." Carville quit doing hired political work long ago, but still picks favorites and has promoted Romans. "If Democrats are gonna be competitive in places like Kentucky, we're gonna need these kind of candidates," he said. "I told him he can use my name; we need to encourage people like this to run as Democrats."

Beshear encouraged him, Romans told the Paulick Report, a horse-industry publication: "The governor is a friend of mine and I talked to him about it before I ever decided to run. He

See SENATE on A-6

Carter County Times

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MARGULIES APOLOGUES TO SCHULZ
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Are we committing war crimes against alleged drug smugglers at sea?

Because of my personal concerns about the deaths of nearly 100 alleged "narco-terrorists" in the Caribbean, I turned to Gemini, Google's version of artificial intelligence, for help in understanding the legal ramifications.

As a military retiree myself, I am strongly committed to national defense and the guarantee outlined in the U.S. Constitution for us as a nation to defend ourselves "against all enemies, foreign and domestic."

However, there are serious questions about whether we might be violating our own federal law, as well as international law, since changing our anti-drug smuggling efforts in that part of the world from a law enforcement mission of the U.S. Coast Guard and the DEA to a full blown military campaign called "Operation Southern Spear."

Granted, we have the world's attention with lethal military airstrikes that make quick work of small boats suspected of bringing illegal drugs to our shores.

Gemini's research says the question of whether or not these actions constitute "war crimes" depends on the legal classification of the conflict and the specific conduct of the operations.

Technically, "war crimes" can only occur during an armed conflict. The Trump Administration currently designates specific cartels as Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs) and "narco-terrorists," thereby framing these operations as a conflict subject to the laws of war.

However, most international legal experts and the UN argue that drug interdiction is a law enforcement

matter, not a war. Under law enforcement standards, lethal force is only legal when there is an imminent threat to life. If no declared war exists, these actions are not "war crimes" but extrajudicial executions, a serious violation of International Human Rights Law.

As the brother, nephew and friend of several former American sailors, two of whom were shipwrecked in combat, I am horrified by the apparent killing of helpless survivors

in the water. Under the Geneva Conventions, shipwrecked combatants are "hors de combat" (out of the fight) and intentionally killing them is a textbook war crime. Moreover, international law also requires that civilians be distinguished from combatants. That surely is not the case if fishing boat crewmen are being forced to be smugglers.

My own family has been touched by the drug epidemic and I want all such evildoers to be severely punished. However, I am opposed to ordering American service members to commit what could be murder, even if it means not keeping someone's campaign promise.

Keith Kappes can be reached at
keithkappes@gmail.com



Keith Kappes
Columnist
Carter County Times

It's Christmas, Charlie Brown

"I think there must be something wrong with me, Linus. Christmas is coming, but I'm not happy. I don't feel the way I'm supposed to feel... I just don't understand Christmas, I guess."

I get Charlie Brown. I like Christmas because I like celebrating throughout the month with my kids and my girlfriend. I like snuggling up and watching Elf and because I'm 44, I am a Clark Griswold quote machine. But even though there is a lot to celebrate this year, I don't know why I can't shake this feeling of emptiness inside. I had a career year. I did things as a writer that 23-year-old me would've flipped his wig over, including writing for this column week in and week out. In 2025, I sat in a café, located in an art gallery in Dublin, Ireland and worked on this column. I found out my first piece with VICE was going live while in Barcelona, Spain — I have nothing to complain about.

Maybe it's the pressure itself. Every end-of-year list, every Instagram story, every card in the mail is selling a version of happiness I'm supposed to feel. The "best life" machinery runs 24/7 in December. My feelings don't care about my resume or what I accomplished this year.

But the emptiness persists. I don't know why I am always reflective at the end of the year, maybe it's that

another year is in the books, another one I'll never get back. I think about my friends that are gone, my grandparents, about family I'd love to talk to now that I'm older. I think about Christmas's of the past but view them through a weird lens where they feel better than I know they were in reality. I understand why people get sad around the holidays, it's a beautiful time, but it's also a complex one. My kids are happy and they're healthy. My pets are sleeping in my bed, fat and pleased with themselves.

When someone sits alone in that recliner, watching a television with their thoughts playing static, I get them. It's hard to turn off how you feel when you should be so jazzed that this time of the year is meant to reflect on our successes, to feel like our best selves, to hoist drinks, and cheat on doctor's orders.

Maybe I romanticize Christmas because I miss being young enough to believe the myth still worked. I miss not being cynical yet. Like Charlie Brown, Christmas feels complicated.

If you're not feeling it this year, you're not broken. You're not ungrateful. You're just being human, and the holidays are hard when you're being present the best you can. Charlie Brown found his little tree and

See CHRISTMAS on A-8



Robert Dean
Guest Columnist
Carter County Times

Policies

General

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

Circulation

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

Letters & Opinion

The Times welcomes all letters to the editor.

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

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

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

General interest guest columns are welcome. For details email editor@cartercountytimes.com.

Deadlines

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

Joyful Noise from A-2

nation. We all experience different seasons in our lives. It's a beautiful reminder that life is constantly changing, and everything happens for a reason. The Bible tells us that there is a season for every activity under heaven. Whether we are in a season of joy, sorrow, growth, or learning, each moment plays its part in shaping us. We can take comfort knowing that God has a purpose for every season we encounter. We are encouraged to embrace these changing moments

instead of resisting them, trusting that they help us grow closer to our Creator. Understanding that God has a plan for each season we go through is essential. We may sometimes feel lost or uncertain, but God assures us that he is in control. When we realize that every season has meaning, we can approach our situations with hope and faith. Even in tough seasons of waiting or trials, he uses these moments to prepare us for what lies ahead. Let us remember to lean on God during these times,

knowing that his timing is perfect. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:11 "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." – Romans 8:28 "He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God

has done from beginning to end." – Ecclesiastes 3:11. 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.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF CABELL COUNTY, WEST VIRGINIA IN RE: THE MATTER OF: THE PETITION OF BRANDON LEE BUTCHER FOR THE ADOPTION OF IVORY BRYNN DEARFIELD AN INFANT FEMALE UNDER THE AGE OF EIGHTEEN YEARS

ORDER OF PUBLICATION THE OBJECT OF THIS SUITS TO PETITION FOR CUSTODIAL ALLOCATION, THIS IS A PUBLICATION BY CLASS II LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT.

To Tommy Dearfield: You are hereby notified that the Above-Named Petitioner has filed a Petition for Adoption for Ivy D. (d.o.b. 11/16/2019), you can defend your rights by filing a response with the Circuit Clerk of Cabell County, West Virginia, and by serving said Response upon counsel for Petitioner, Paula L. Harbour, P.O. BOX 407 Huntington, WV 25708.

You are further notified that a hearing will be held February 10, 2026 at 10:00 a.m., in the Cabell County Circuit Court, 750 Fifth Avenue, Huntington, West Virginia. Failure to respond or appear may result in a judgement adverse to your interests.

A copy of the "Petition for" can be obtained from the undersigned Clerk's Office. Entered by the Clerk of Said Court on December 11th, 2025.

Michael J. Woelfel /s/ Toree Vanhose Clerk of the Court of Cabell County, West Virginia

Grayson Gallery issues call for artists

Gallery reflects on 2025 and plans for first show of the new year

By Dan Click for Carter County Times

Because of you, it has been another fabulous year here at the Grayson Gallery & Art Center, Inc.,

and we hope it's been the same for you. As we plan on our kick-off event for 2026, we're also hoping that those of you who haven't been here in a while (as well as lots and lots of newcomers) will participate and get even more involved with the GGAC in the coming months! Now, for that call for work; it's going to be an open to anything and everyone show, so you can feel free to just create!

Your original artwork (up to three pieces per artist unless prior approval is granted) may be dropped off on two dates: Saturday, January 24 and again on Monday, January 26, each day from 10 a.m. to 2p.m. Pieces must be wired and ready to hang unless otherwise noted or approved, with the artist name, title, medium and price, or marked NFS, on a tag, written on the back of the piece, or as you can for

3D works. There is no entry fee! However, we do ask for a 20% donation for any pieces sold. A registration form may be requested via email, or picked up from the Gallery: 301 E Third Street in Grayson, KY 41143. Four, \$50 (or equivalent purchase) awards will be given during Awards & Announcements section of the event.

We'll host an opening reception, which will be free to the artists and the public, for Grayson's monthly Final Fridays Art Walk set for January 30 from 6 – 9 p.m. with refreshments and live music. Details will be released on Facebook next month, as the event approaches.

Finally, we'd like to say "thanks." We sure couldn't do any of this without your support! Dan & the GGAC Board of Directors Share your organizations news with us at news@cartercountytimes.com

Destiny of donations

By Diane Wingert Carter County Public Library

While we have a lot of awesome people in our communities that love our libraries, I was recently honored to meet a lady that is not from here but shared that love of what libraries offer. This lady, 75 years young, came to our Eastern Kentucky communities because of a very deep desire to deliver her best friend's love of books to others.

When her best friend died, she left Adele her extensive collection of books. Adele decided to donate that collection to libraries. When she did, many of her friends decided to donate books also.

With all the books collected, she contacted Kentucky and other states around us to see where she



Adele unloads books from a U-Haul. (Photo by Diane Wingert)

could find a need. Kentucky was the one to call her back. From there, Carter County was named as a library in need of books and also accepting donations, and that we do.

We take donations of books, money, and other items that we use or give to those in need. The Carter County Public Library will always try to help those in need.

To continue, Adele called me. That was a very good call. She told me she wanted to give books to some needy libraries. But getting them here was going to be an adventure. Adele, you see, is from Tucson, Arizona. She planned to rent a U-Haul and come our way. I was so impressed I told her it sounded like something I would do.

And come our way she did. I was so happy to meet her. She donated some of the books to our library. I was also honored with an opportunity to be able

to tag along to the other libraries she donated to.

To drive across the country in a U-Haul to deliver books to people she doesn't even know is one awesome opportunity. Those of us that received her generosity were very lucky to have been chosen.

For those of you that read this article, please keep all libraries in mind. We are always in need. But, more than that, there are many people in our communities that are in need.

We, as a library, are here to give back to our communities. Snacks are always available at both our branches, along with a place to warm up, relax, find a book, use a computer, or play a game. We are a needed part of our great communities. It's wonderful to meet someone else who appreciates what we offer.

I feel so thankful to have met such a generous person. Truly an inspiration to us all.

Senate from A-5

said it was a good idea: 'Get out there and run' and that it was a very noble thing to do."

Beshear would be Democrats' best nominee, but a loss would greatly

complicate his plan to run for president in 2028. Democrats are anxious to see if he will at last make good on his responsibility as party leader to recruit Democrats for legislative

and local races. State Democratic Party Executive Director Morgan Eaves said she expects more Democrats to run for the legislature than in 2024. Being in a lopsided

minority is no fun, but she said potential candidates "are hearing from people in their communities the reality of the Republican agenda. ... They understand that Republicans

were once in the superminority too, and you've got to claw your way out, and they've got to be part of the solution." The Senate race, at the top of the ticket, will matter.

This column is republished with permission of the Northern Kentucky Tribune, a nonprofit publication of the Kentucky Center for Public Service Journalism.

Treating opioid addiction

KDMC offering treatment through UK partnership

By Charles Romans Carter County Times

Kimberly Osborne is the Director of the Addiction Medicine Service at UK/King's Daughter's – referred to as Wellness Recovery – in Ashland, and she shared some insights into the challenges our region faces in treating substance abuse disorder. The program is KORE funded through the Kentucky Opioid Response Effort, a program that "...aims to reduce overdose deaths by expanding and sustaining a comprehensive, equitable, recovery-oriented system of care," according to the Team Kentucky Website.

"It's a grant funded program," Osborne explained. "King's Daughter's applied for and received it in 2019. And at that time, we were seeing a large number of overdose deaths in Boyd, Greenup, and Carter Counties. And really all across the Tristate. So, we thought this would be a great opportunity to combat some of that in our communities." "What we were seeing with the opioid epidemic was that patients were prescribed these drugs for chronic pain management, but the understanding was not that their body was going to become dependent on these drugs. But that is what happens with opioids over time," Osborne noted. "So, we found ourselves in a situation when the opioid epidemic hit, doctors were no longer to prescribe large amounts of opioids to these patients." Unfortunately, patients at that point began to look

for opioids elsewhere, beyond a doctor's prescription, Osborne said. This, she said, is one reason the area became overrun with dangerous synthetic opioid drugs such as fentanyl. People were desperate to not feel the negative effects of opioid withdrawal and would unfortunately risk anything to not feel bad. Those reasons were why King's Daughters took the opportunity presented by the Kentucky Opioid Response Effort to develop a comprehensive response to what had truly become a pandemic. "We offer both inpatient and outpatient treatment," Osborne said. "We service patients inside the hospital who have a substance use disorder. That can be anything from opioids to alcohol or stimulants." "And we are a consult service, so we consult with them in their room. Then we collaborate with

their attending provider to provide the best evidence-based practice for the treatment of their substance abuse disorder," Osborne explained. "We also make referrals upon discharge if they want to follow up with treatment, whether that is inpatient or outpatient. Sometimes they want a simple phone call just to check up on them after their treatment." "In the outpatient setting we have a provider and counselors who provide comprehensive care for those patients who decide they want to come to our outpatient clinic. We provide evidence-based care, medications for opioid use disorder and alcohol use disorder, and group therapy," Osborne said. "And one of the biggest components is peer support specialists. Those are people with lived experience," Osborne explained. "They are amazing, and they

are instrumental in our program. We are partnered with Pathways, and we have six peer support specialists through them that work within our program." Osborne said that a doctor's referral for treatment is not necessary. "Any patient who comes in through our Emergency Department that may be suffering from substance abuse disorder can receive a consult. And any patient in the outpatient department who would like to establish care can walk right in. We are open Monday through Friday. On Tuesdays we are open until 6:30 p.m. and on Fridays we are open until 2:30 p.m.," she said. "And we have it set up so these patients can walk in and receive treatment the same day." Osborne said that for both inside the hospital and outpatient treatment they have comprehensive social work case management

and community health workers. These workers help the patient apply for assistance to pay for their treatment. Osborne said with so much resource assistance, no one should hesitate to seek treatment simply because of lack of insurance or other funding. Through KORE they are even able to pay for some of the opioid treatment medication copays. All treatment programs at KDMC operate under HIPAA Guidelines and are strictly confidential, Osborne said. "There is also an extra umbrella for patients with substance use disorder and mental health disorders that protect their confidentiality. This is a program that can be privately done, just like all their healthcare. They can feel safe when they come to us," Osborne said. Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Justice from A-1

incest. However, they did not reach a verdict on the charges of first-degree sexual abuse of a victim under 12 years of age. The Commonwealth chose to go forward with pursuing those four counts.

The victim in the case, however, said she wished to end the process rather than relive her trauma on the witness stand once again, leading to a plea deal with reduced charges. Instead of being charged with sexual abuse, Justice pleaded guilty to four counts of unlawful transaction with a minor, a Class D Felony carrying a two-year sentence. Judge Phillips accepted the plea, and sentenced Justice to two years on each count, to run concurrently and with credit for time served. In addition, Justice was ordered to have no contact with the victim.

Reading a statement from the victim, an advocate for the victim spoke about the trauma inflicted on her, and how the smell of the body spray Justice used – a common brand which is popular among some of her classmates – would cause her anxiety and trigger memories of the incident while simply trying to navigate the hallways of her school. She also noted how she struggled to sleep at night, and wrestled with feelings of hopelessness and thoughts of suicide.

The mother of the victim acknowledged that she understood the sentence gave Justice credit for time served and didn't require registration as a sex offender. She noted that her daughter was uneasy about going through the trial process yet again, and while Justice had stated he felt he was treated unfairly, "his 600 days in jail doesn't approach" what her daughter has endured. The mother of the victim said she was doing this "solely for her daughter."

Judge Phillips said she wouldn't normally accept a plea deal after a trial date had been set, however she did in this case because the victim requested it. While she said she was "sorry" Justice felt he "was treated unfairly," the defendant had another jury trial set, but chose to accept the deal.

"It's not an Alford plea," Phillips added, meaning Justice was acknowledging his guilt.

In other action on Monday Phillips reset Timothy Barber for pretrial on January 5 on charges including two counts of first-degree rape, two counts of sodomy first-degree, two counts of procuring or promoting the use of a minor by electronic means, two counts of first-degree sexual abuse, and two counts of incest of a person

under 18. The judge also set another pretrial in the rape case against Earnest Hale, with the defense waiting to review the evidence of a rape kit and other medical records, as well as phone evidence.

Phillips also accepted an Alford plea of guilty from Billy Eldridge on charges of trafficking in methamphetamine, possession of heroin, possession of drug paraphernalia, and third-degree possession of a controlled substance, sentencing him to seven years.

Phillips also reset several cases for further pretrial, excusing absences due to inclement weather; however, bench warrants were issued for some defendants who the judge said have not made attempts to show.

The Carter County Times maintains a policy of respecting the privacy and anonymity of minor victims and their families.

Contact the writer at editor@cartercountytimes.com

Warmth from A-1

and if they have a surplus they share it with us. It's kind of like a network dedicated to helping these children."

Fostering Possibilities also helps with ongoing support, allowing foster children to shop each season. They also support the community at large, such as with their coat drive that is available to everyone in the community, and not just foster children. The coat drive will be held on Wednesday, December 17 from 4:30 to 6 pm at East Carter Middle School in Grayson, Kentucky.

"We made a connection with UPS in Lexington," Lewis said. "And they gave us 75 to 100 coats. We take care of our foster kids, then the rest we pass on to the community."

The coats, Lewis said, are 100 percent free.

Lewis said Fostering Possibilities accepts donations of new items to help provide for foster children. The reason this is part of the organization's guidelines is that most of the children being helped are wearing "hand-me-down"

clothes and shoes and have never had new clothes.

"(Some of them) have never had new anything," Lewis said. "And it is really important to us that they get to choose their clothing. When they come into the store we make sure that we have at least 8 to 10 choices in their size because they may have never got to choose for themselves."

"Most of the time when we ask what shoe size they are, they will say something like 'whatever you have, and I'll make it work,'" Lewis said. "They do that because that is what they have always had to do."

Lewis said the items that are always needed are shoes, socks, underwear, and pajamas (tops and bottoms) if someone would like to donate these new. Monetary donations can be accepted through their Facebook page, or interested parties can pledge a donation on their website at fosteringpossibilities-boutique.com, or board members can be contacted directly. Or those interest-

ed can stop by the boutique itself at 310 South Carol Malone Boulevard.


Fostering Possibilities serves Boyd, Carter, Elliot, Greenup, Lawrence, Lewis, and Morgan Counties. All donations are 100 percent tax deductible.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Christmas from A-5

that gave him hope. Maybe I'll find my little tree. Maybe you will, too.

Contact the writer at editor@cartercountytimes.com



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

MERRY CHRISTMAS

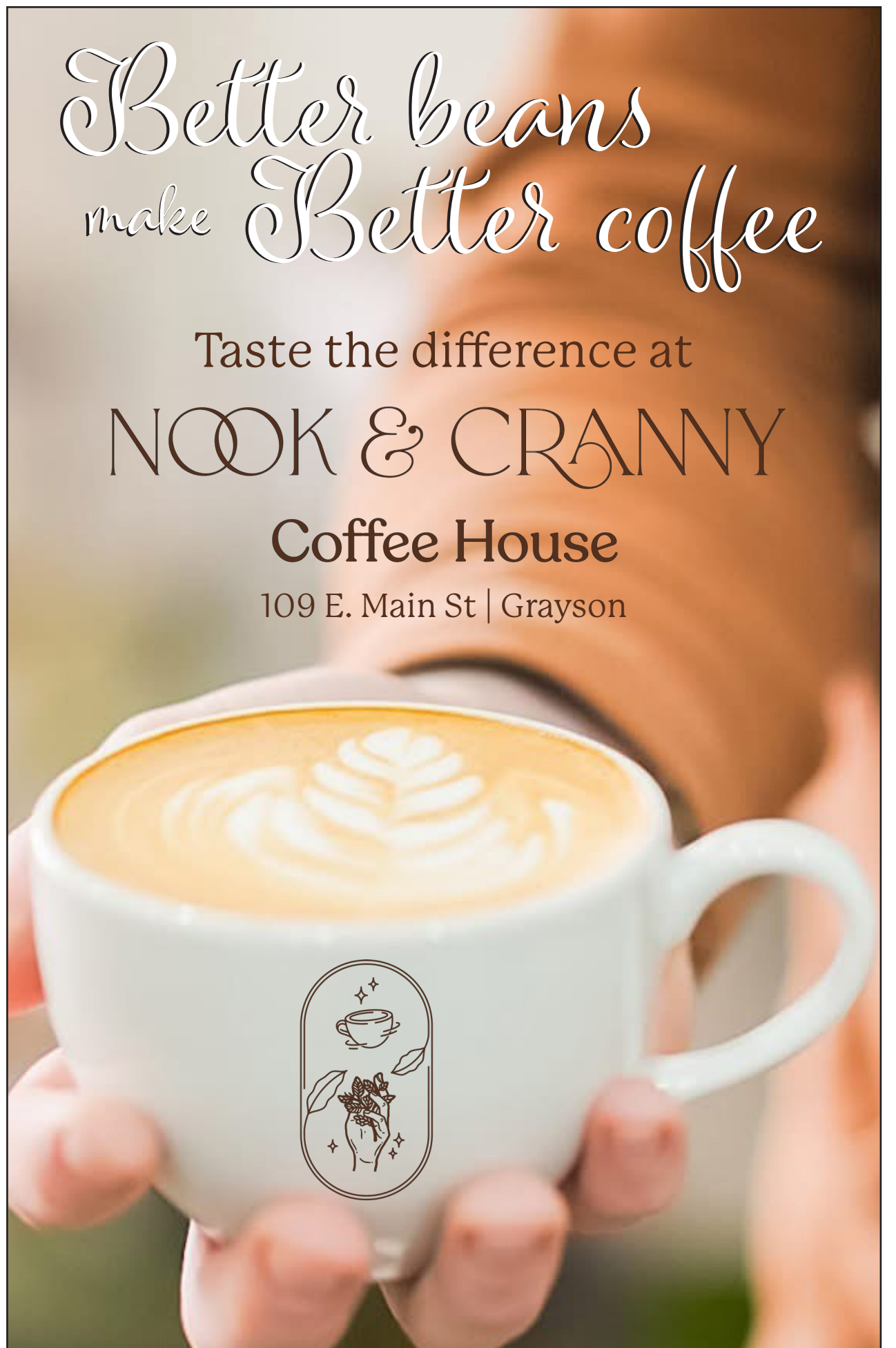
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