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Carter County Times

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CARTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026

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Grayson fights structure fire

Group response highlights benefit of mutual aid

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

Early Sunday morning, January 25, the Grayson Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire on Three Crosses Drive in Grayson, explained Grayson Assistant Fire Chief Mike Harper.

"We received a call about 6:30 that morning about a possible large fire with smoke in the area," Harper said.

When firefighters responded, they discovered it to be a commercial fire, and a large one at that.

"When we responded, we ended up having to call out pretty much every fire department in Carter County," Harper explained.

Mutual aid is common practice in our area, Harper said. It allows the network of coverage to be spread not only for the current emergency, but also for any other emergencies that might occur while the current emergency is being dealt with.

"These things don't usually happen one at a time," Harper pointed out. "And in

See FIRE on A-4



(submitted photo)

Carter County Times brings home ten press awards

Three West Carter graduates bring home awards for other papers

By Jeremy D. Wells
Carter County Times

Carter County was well represented at the Kentucky Press Association's 2025 Annual Convention and Awards banquet. Our local paper brought home a total of ten awards in their

weekly newspaper division; three first place, three second placed, three third place, and a certificate of merit. But it wasn't just our paper there representing Carter County. Three West Carter graduates were also among the award winners at the event, bringing home awards for the Kentucky Lantern, Ashland Daily Independent, and Lexington Herald-Leader.

The Lantern's McKenna Horsley brought home a second place win in the Best General News Story in a daily 2 category for her coverage of public access

See AWARDS on A-6



(Photo by Brayleigh Boggs, Carter County Times)

Silver lining

Grayson avoids water issues during storm

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

The first major weather event of the season blanketed the area in a layer of snow, then ice, then more snow prompting a state of emergency across the region. Businesses, schools, and even the roads themselves closed in the aftermath as people were advised not to attempt to travel except in emergency situations. Crews turned out in force both to respond to and to attempt to prevent emergencies in our area.

Thankfully, this weather event



Insulation covers a water meter to prevent freezing. (Photo by Jeremy D. Wells, Carter County Times)

did not see wide-spread water

See WATER 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.

- Hunter Holbrook, 20, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of second degree burglary, first degree fleeing or evading police (motor vehicle), fourth degree assault – dating violence with no visible injury, fourth degree assault with minor injury, fourth degree assault with no visible injury, and second degree strangulation (non-domestic violence), arrested and booked January 18.
- Austin Jessie, 31, of Louisville, arrested by Kentucky Department of Corrections, on a parole violation for a technical

violation, arrested and booked January 20.

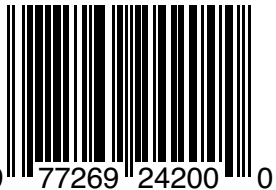
- Michael Adams Jr., 52, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on a probation violation (for a felony offense), arrested and booked January 20.
- Ronnie Owens, 44, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on a charge of first degree manslaughter (knowingly selling fentanyl or derivatives), arrested and booked January 20.
- Amanda Kimmel, 37, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on two counts of contempt of court, arrested and booked January 20.
- Larissa Huey, 25, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of first degree burglary, and fourth degree assault with minor injury, arrested and booked January 20.
- Jason Sammons, 44, of Vance-

burg, arrested by Olive Hill PD, for non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked January 20.

- Stephen Edens, 50, of Webbville, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of careless driving, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance, failure to wear seat belts, no/expired Kentucky registration receipt, first degree trafficking in narcotics (two or less grams of methamphetamine), possession of marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia, arrested and booked January 21.
- Jason Turner, 39, of Lancaster, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on two counts of failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, and non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked January 21.
- Christina Holt, 48, of West Liberty, arrested by Morgan County

See ARRESTS on A-3

ISSN 2692-420X



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This Week's Obituaries

Johnny Lee Brewster, 52
Nona Carroll Hurley, 91
Leon Smith, 68

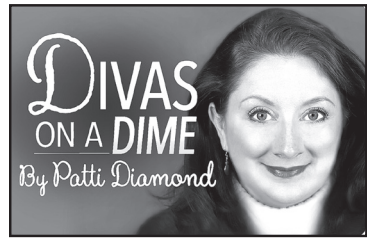
Billy Jackson Stamper, 83
Richard C. "Dick" Williams, 87

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LIFESTYLE



The least glamorous meal prep that saves me every week

Easy batch cooking is one of those habits that sounds slightly extreme until you try it. The short version is this: Cook extra, freeze it and thank yourself later.

Preparing ready-to-use meal components ahead of time takes the pressure off weeknight cooking and gives you the best of both worlds -- nutritious, frugal, home-cooked meals and far less time spent staring hopefully into the refrigerator at 5:30 p.m.

The only real downside is that batch cooking asks for a little time upfront, usually on the weekend. But I've learned that an hour or two of focused prep can buy me days of easier dinners.

Which brings me to one of my least glamorous but most useful kitchen habits: cooking ground beef in bulk.

Why cook just 1 pound of ground beef when I can cook 5 or even 10 pounds and be set for weeks? Especially when ground beef is rarely the finished dish anyway. It's a building block, destined for soups, casseroles, tacos, burritos, pasta sauces and skillet meals that will all be seasoned later.

This is usually the point in the conversation where eyebrows go up. Because, yes, I cook ground beef in the slow cooker, on purpose, and it turns out to be one of the most useful kitchen shortcuts I know.

Slow-cooked ground beef comes out fully cooked and surprisingly moist. It isn't browned or particularly pretty, and that's exactly the point. This meat is meant to be finished later, not served as-is.

How to Cook Ground Beef in a Slow Cooker

Place 5-6 pounds of ground beef in a 6-quart slow cooker, breaking it into large chunks. Season lightly with 1 teaspoon garlic powder, 1 teaspoon salt and 1/2 teaspoon pepper. Add 1 cup of water, cover, and cook on low for 6-8 hours, until fully

cooked. Drain well, cool completely, then portion into labeled freezer bags (about 2 cups each) and freeze flat. Use directly from the freezer in soups, casseroles, taco filling, pasta sauce, shepherd's pie, stuffed peppers or skillet meals.

Meal prep doesn't have to mean finished meals lined up in identical containers. Sometimes it's enough to prepare the parts that take the longest. Future you will take it from there.

CURRIED BEEF PITA POCKETS

- Yield: 4 servings
Total Time: 10 minutes
- 1/2 tablespoon olive oil
 - 1 medium onion, chopped
 - 1 1/2 to 2 cups cooked ground beef (about 1 pound raw)
 - 1 garlic clove, minced or grated
 - 1 tablespoon curry powder, or more to taste
 - 1/2 teaspoon salt
 - 1/4 teaspoon pepper
 - 1 (14.5 ounce) can diced tomatoes
 - 1 medium zucchini, diced
 - 1/4 cup water
 - 1 cup cucumber, peeled, seeded and chopped
 - 1/2 cup sour cream or plain Greek yogurt
 - 1 teaspoon dill



Pita pockets made with batch-cooked ground beef for an easy, flavorful meal. (Photo Credit: www.JasonCoblentz.com)

Salt and pepper
4 pita pockets, cut into halves

Preheat a large skillet on medium-high heat. Heat the olive oil and brown the onion. Add the ground beef and garlic, curry powder, salt, pepper, diced tomato and zucchini, and stir to combine. Add 1/4 cup water, cover and simmer 3 minutes.

While that's simmering, mix the cucumber with sour cream and dill, adding salt and pepper to taste, set aside. Spoon meat mixture into pita breads. Top with dollops of cucumber sauce. Serve with a salad.

This is the quiet power of cooking components instead of complete meals. A little advance

effort turns into fast, flexible dinners that don't feel repetitive. It's not flashy, but it's the kind of kitchen habit that makes everyday cooking feel so easy it's almost fun. Almost.

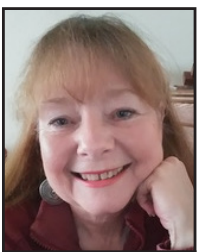
Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website *Divas On A Dime -- Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous!* Visit Patti at www.divasonadime.com and join the conversation on Facebook at DivasOnADimeDotCom. Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com

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Ask Daryl: Your Professional Organizer

Let it snow, let it snow, let it snow!

Just when you thought you had no time to consider organizing your home, it snowed. Yes, this is the perfect time to tackle those projects that have been waiting for your schedule to clear.



Daryl Ashley
Guest Columnist
Confusion Solution

Now, I know you are probably thinking of enjoying this time to yourselves without work, school, or other outside commitments. However, this is your chance to make some changes that will positively

free you from having to set aside time once the roads are clear.

So, take out those clothes that don't fit and get them ready for a donation run. Identify furniture that you are no longer using and put them on consignment, or marketplace, or

schedule a charity to pick them up. Go through the toy box and get the kids to give up some of their tired possessions. It doesn't take that long to weed

through your things, and it will warm your heart that someone else might benefit from your generosity. Even one hour can make a difference.

Let being snowed in become a blessing instead of a bother. The snow isn't going to last forever so, let's make the best of our free time to become renewed and unburdened.

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

Joyful Noise

Who are you serving?

By Pastor Naomi Mitchell for *Carter County Times*

As I was doing my Bible reading in Exodus this week about the 10 plagues of Egypt, I was amazed at all the nature gods the Egyptian people were serving. The plagues were ten disasters sent upon Egypt by God to convince Pharaoh to free the Israelite slaves from the bondage and oppression they had endured in Egypt. When God sent Moses to deliver the children of Israel from bondage in Egypt,

He promised to show His wonders as confirmation of Moses' authority (Exodus 3:20).

This confirmation was to serve at least two purposes: to show the Israelites that the God of their fathers was alive and worthy of their worship (Exodus 6:6-8; 12:25-27) and to show the Egyptians that their gods were nothing (Exodus 7:5; 12:12; Numbers 33:4).

It is amazing how God showed them through the plagues of their nature gods of flies, frogs, etc.

that they were no match for the one and only true God of heaven. I encourage you to read about the amazing grace of God and how far He will go to redeem a people back to him.

And God spake all these words, saying, I am the Lord thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve

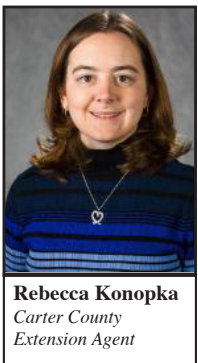
See JOYFUL NOISE on A-3

University of Kentucky Extension Notes

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

UK launches forage testing program to support Kentucky livestock farmers

The University of Kentucky Division of Regulatory Services (UKDRS), in collaboration with the Kentucky Department of Agriculture and the UK Cooperative Extension Service, has officially launched its Forage Testing Program to help Kentucky producers improve livestock nutrition, reduce feed costs and promote sustainable agriculture.



Rebecca Konopka
Carter County Extension Agent

With support from the Kentucky Agricultural Development Fund, trial testing began in September 2025, and the program is now fully operational, offering comprehensive nutritional analysis of forages.

Ray Smith, UK Extension forage specialist in the Department of Plant and Soil Sciences at UK's Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, says he is pleased that UKDRS is now offering this high-quality forage testing. "This will be a tremendous benefit to livestock and hay producers in the state," Smith said. "Having this testing at the same location as UK Soil Testing offers a user-friendly format and quick turnaround. It also facilitates county extension agents working with specialists to explain the results to their clients."

The benefits of forage testing

According to Smith, forage makes up more than 80% of most ruminant and equine diets, yet many horse owners and livestock producers feed hay or ensiled forages without knowing their nutritional value.

To know how to best use hay to meet a horse's nutrient needs, UK associate professor and equine nutrition specialist Bob Coleman, Ph.D., says horse owners need a forage analysis. "Feeding hay is just part of feeding horses," Coleman said. "Having the analysis tells a lot about the hay, allowing horse owners to make better use of the hay and their feed budget. It is exciting to have this service available at UK."

Experts also agree that most cattlemen wouldn't buy a bag of feed labeled only "cattle feed" without nutrient guarantees.

"Forage testing provides the foundational information to build a cost-effective supplement strategy to meet the nutritional needs of beef cattle and ensure performance goals are met," said Jeff Lehmkuhler, Ph.D., UK Extension professor of beef cattle nutrition.

"Without this information, we are using book values,

which may lead to overspending on unnecessary supplements or lost production due to nutritional deficiencies."

For producers who sell their hay, forage testing allows producers to assess market value, monitor quality changes and make informed sales decisions. It also supports participation in the KDA's hay grading program.

Standard analysis and cost

The UKDRS Forage Testing Program uses Near Infrared Spectroscopy (NIR) — a technique that uses near-infrared light to analyze the chemical and physical properties — to analyze samples for moisture and dry matter, crude protein, fiber, sugars, starches, minerals, energy values and digestibility. The standard test is \$22 per sample; silage and haylage samples are tested for pH at no additional charge. Optional wet-chemistry mineral analyses are available for an extra fee.

Once testing is complete, a process that averages three business days, producers can work with their local extension agents to interpret the results and balance rations for ruminants or equines. Reports are reviewed for accuracy, and retesting is free if requested within seven days of the report date.

See FARMERS on A-3

Kentucky Dept of Agriculture Livestock and Grain Market Report

Compared to last week, feeder steers sold mostly steady to 6.00 higher with exceptions sharply higher. Heifers were unevenly steady with trends ranging from 2.00 to 4.00 higher. Yearling steers and heifers were unevenly steady with limited comparisons. Demand was good to very good for all classes with best interest for weaned and preconditioned packages and groups. Slaughter cows and bulls were unevenly steady with good demand.

Week ending 1/24/26

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

Steers (M&L 1-2)	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
350-400 lbs	512.10	503.95	352.76
400-450 lbs	492.61	466.72	344.47
450-500 lbs	461.16	456.52	337.61
500-550 lbs	437.72	434.43	318.89
550-600 lbs	417.19	421.06	315.91
600-650 lbs	390.67	392.96	294.16
650-700 lbs	376.55	375.59	278.86
700-750 lbs	354.93	357.49	261.82
750-800 lbs	344.83	347.04	258.86
800-850 lbs	333.16	332.57	249.64
850-900 lbs	326.65	322.62	241.36
Heifers (M&L 1-2)	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
300-350 lbs	444.53	440.08	319.72
350-400 lbs	442.26	430.25	313.46
400-450 lbs	428.74	416.45	310.94
450-500 lbs	402.88	404.95	300.72
500-550 lbs	381.01	376.00	277.79
550-600 lbs	368.94	366.72	269.05
600-650 lbs	340.23	343.79	256.83
650-700 lbs	331.76	337.75	246.76
700-750 lbs	315.17	319.82	238.76
750-800 lbs	304.61	311.67	234.92

WEEKLY COW SUMMARY			
Slaughter Cows	Average	High	Low
Breakers	140.00-175.00	156.00-189.00	130.00-159.00
Boners	137.00-169.00	155.00-198.00	117.00-158.00
Lean	110.00-155.00	140.00-181.00	101.00-145.00
Slaughter Bulls	Average	High	Low
Yield Grade 1&2	170.00-198.00	192.00-225.00	150.00-186.00

Jan 08, 2026 Bowling Green, KY
SLAUGHTER GOATS: 169
Kids-Selection 1 58 lbs 457.50; 77 lbs 420.00. **Selection 1-2** 90 lbs 362.50.
Selection 2 53-55 lbs 345.00-417.50; 70 lbs 387.00; 105 lbs 327.50.
SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 1,223
Hair Breeds-Choice & Prime 1-2 55 lbs 410.00-430.00; 66-69 lbs 362.50-400.00; 76-77 lbs 360.00; 84-88 lbs 315.00-330.00; 90 lbs 297.50; 110-115 lbs 230.00-252.50; 145 lbs 227.50. **Choice 2** 50-56 lbs 407.50-425.00; 66 lbs 355.00; 76 lbs 330.00; 90 lbs 284.50; 115 lbs 210.00.

GRAINS	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
Corn	4.07-4.57	4.05-4.51	4.69-5.10
Soybeans	9.94-11.06	9.80-10.88	9.71-10.94
Red Winter Wheat	4.53-5.46	4.55-5.36	4.74-5.79

Arrests from A-1

Fiscal Court, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked January 21.

- Donovan Porter, 30, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on a charge of violating a Kentucky EPO/DVO, arrested and booked January 21.
- Brandon Conn, 37, of Morehead, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on three counts of failure to pay support, arrested and

booked January 22.

- Otis Estep, 54, of Olive Hill, arrested by Grayson PD, for non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked January 22.
- Timothy Griffin, 33, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked January 22.
- Joshua Young, 34, of Grayson, arrested by

Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked January 23.

- Loren Mayle, 47, of Catlettsburg, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on a charge of fourth degree assault – domestic violence with minor injury, arrested and booked January 23.
- Robert Ward, 44, of Ashland, arrested by Grayson PD, on a charge of fourth

degree assault – domestic violence with no visible injury, arrested and booked January 23.

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.

KCU professor receives fellowship for dissertation research

Appalachian College Association supports work in online course design

GRAYSON – Brittany Bryant, doctoral candidate at the University of the Cumberlands and assistant professor of English at Kentucky Christian University, has been awarded a summer Faculty Fellowship from the Appalachian College Association (ACA) to support her dissertation research. The fellowship will enable Bryant to advance her Ed.D. dissertation titled,

"A Qualitative Exploration to Identify Which Andragogical Concepts in Online Undergraduate Course Design and Institutional Practices Positively Influence Student Engagement and Achievement in Colleges in the Appalachian College Association." Her research examines how adult learning principles and institutional practices can be optimized to improve student outcomes in online education across ACA member institutions. Bryant, a proud wife and mother of four stated, "This fellowship will not only benefit me as I finish my dissertation, it will also produce data that will be beneficial to KCU and other institutions within the



(submitted photo)

ACA as we strive to better serve our students." The ACA Faculty Fellowship program provides support for faculty members pursuing scholarly work that benefits the Appalachian College Association's

mission and member institutions. Bryant's research directly addresses critical questions facing regional higher education as institutions continue to expand online learning opportunities for adult learners.

Joyful Noise from A-2

them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments (Exodus 20:1-6)

1 Timothy 2:5, "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." Isaiah 45:21-

22, "And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me. Turn to me and be saved, all the ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other." 1 Corinthians 8:6, "Yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist." Revelation 1:8, "I am the

Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

Matthew 6:24, "No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

What you put before God, has it become a stumbling block that hinders your surrender to the Lord?

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

Farmers from A-2

Changes to KDA Forage Program

By transitioning forage testing to UK, KDA will retire its forage testing program and expand its forage marketing services by adding hay grading and a monthly USDA hay market report.

"It made sense for producers that KDA transitioned the state's forage testing program to the University of Kentucky Regulatory Services," Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell said. "Farmers who are already utilizing the soil lab through their local extension agent can now add a follow-up forage analysis and consultation through UK Cooperative Extension, resulting in a more complete soil and forage improvement plan."

Producers who test their hay for marketing purposes through a certified lab, such as UKDRS, can submit results to KDA. That lot will then be assigned a USDA hay quality grade and included, free of charge, on the KDA "Hay for Sale" website.

Untested hay may also be listed on the Hay for Sale site, but it will not show a quality grade and

will not have analysis to verify the quality. Submitting the analysis to KDA is as simple as checking the box on the UK Sample Submission Form to email results to "KDA for Marketing."

Another new addition to the KDA hay program is the monthly hay market report, a collaboration among producers, KDA staff and USDA. KDA will gather Kentucky hay sales data monthly and submit it to the USDA for publication of the market report. Anyone interested in participating in the monthly hay market report by providing their sales data can contact KDA's hay program coordinator Kimberly Field at kimberly.field@ky.gov.

Submitting samples
 Jenny Combs, agriculture research specialist and administrator of the Forage Testing Program, said proper sampling is critical. "Producers or agents should collect a representative core sample and clearly label the samples and services requested on the sample form," Combs said.

Combs also recommends that producers and extension agents complete

the free one-hour hay-sampling course offered by the National Forage Testing Association (NFTA) at <https://www.foragetesting.org>.

Once samples are collected and labeled, Combs said they should be delivered or shipped via UPS or FedEx during regular lab hours: Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. ET. Haylage should not be shipped on Fridays due to the risk of mold.

Samples should be shipped to: Regulatory Services (Attn: Forage Testing Program), 103 Regulatory Services Building, Lexington, KY 40546-0275.

Craig Wood, assistant director for agriculture, natural resources and horticulture with UK Extension, said the Forage Testing Program is a valuable resource for Kentucky's agricultural community. "By providing accurate, science-based forage analysis, it empowers producers to make smarter decisions, improve animal health and enhance profitability," Wood said.

For more information on the UKDRS Forage Testing Program, visit <https://www.rs.uky.edu/>

Forage Testing or contact the program at UKDRSforage@uky.edu or 859-218-2449.

Article written by Jennifer Elwell and published on January 6, 2026. Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

- Upcoming Events:**
- Small Ruminant Quality Assurance Training – January 30th @ 10:30 AM; Call 474-6686 to register.
 - Beef Quality Care & Assurance Training – February 3rd @ 6:00 PM; Call 474-6686 to register.
 - Little Sandy Beekeepers Association – February 3rd @ 6:30 PM
 - Pesticide Safety & Private Applicator Training – February 6th from 1:00-4:00 PM or February 9th from 5:30-8:30 PM; Call 474-6686

CALENDAR

- **1/28 Olive Hill Book Club @ 5:30 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **1/30: Small Ruminant Quality Assurance Training @ 10:30 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Office | Cost: \$5 | Call 474-6686 to register
- **1/30: Shoppes on the Hill @ 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.** | 110 Comet Dr, Olive Hill
- **1/30: Final Friday @ 6 p.m.** | Grayson Gallery & Art Center
- **1/31: Shoppes on the Hill @ 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.** | 110 Comet Dr, Olive Hill
- **2/2: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 606-474-6686
- **2/2: Open Art Studio @ 10 a.m.** | Grayson Gallery & Art Center
- **2/2: Carter County Tourism @ 5:30 p.m.** | Carter Caves State Resort Park
- **2/3: Building Club @ 4 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library, Olive Hill
- **2/3: Rattlesnake Ridge Water District Board meeting @ 4 p.m.** | Rattlesnake Ridge Water District office
- **2/3: Beef Quality Care & Assurance Training @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Extension Office | Call 474-6686 to register
- **1/6: Little Sandy Beekeepers Association @ 6:30 p.m.** | Carter County Extension Office
- **2/5: Carter County Library Board @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **2/6: Sit & Sew @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For more info or to RSVP call 474-6686

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

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Pet of the Week

This unnamed good girl is eight months old, and ready to go home with someone. She's already spayed, up-to-date on her vaccinations, and has a free adoption to an approved home. Stop by the Carter County Animal Shelter and meet her or call 475-9771 for more information. Shelter hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Saturday by appointment.



CITY OF GRAYSON

Throughout the months of February and March the Grayson Police Department will be conducting safety check points throughout roadways within the city limits, at pre-approved locations.

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OBITUARY

Leon Smith 1957 – 2026



Leon Smith, age 68, of Olive Hill, Kentucky, passed away Monday, January 19, 2026, at Cabell Huntington Hospital in Huntington, West Virginia.

He was born Thursday, May 16, 1957, in Lewis County, Kentucky, a son of the late Thurston and Rosie Bloomfield Smith.

He enjoyed fishing, hunting, working on small engines, talking to his family and grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one son, Jeff Smith; one daughter, Rose Ann Smith; four brothers, Gene Smith, Lovell Smith, Junior Smith, Charles Smith; five sisters, Mellie Bloomfield, Ina Knell, Inez Knell, Helen Marie Smith

and Myrtle Cooley. Leon is survived by three sons, Thurston (Deann) Smith, Steven (Jackie) Smith, Scotty (Candice) Smith all of Olive Hill, Kentucky; one brother, Simon Smith of Laurel, Kentucky; one sister, Betty Davis of Olive Hill, Kentucky, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss him.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Wednesday, January 28, 2026, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Brother Daniel Miller and Brother Junior Logan officiating. Burial will follow in Laurel Cemetery in Lewis County, Kentucky.

Friends may visit after 10 a.m., Wednesday, January 28, 2026, until the service hour at Globe Funeral Chapel.

Brandon Dyer, Stevie Smith, John Perry, Dusty Perry, Levon Bear and Daniel Logan will serve as pallbearers.

Globe Funeral Chapel is honored to serve the family of Leon Smith.

Richard C. "Dick" Williams 1938 – 2026



Richard Craig "Dick" Williams, 87, of Olive Hill, passed away peacefully Sunday, January 18, 2026, at UK-St. Claire Medical Center in Morehead, Kentucky, with family at his side.

He was born March 20, 1938, in Kendallville, Indiana, to the late Richard and Elaine Bly Williams. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 44 years, Carole Jean "Jeanie" Williams; a brother, Ralph Williams; a sister, Judy Williams Wright; and his beloved mother-in-law, Louise Henderson Cundiff.

Dick was a proud Army Veteran of the 82nd Airborne and of the Navy Reserve. He was an adventurer who made the most of life. An avid reader from childhood, he dreamed of traveling the world and seeing exotic places. In the late 1970's, he got his chance. He worked in Saudi Arabia on construction of what was then the world's largest airport. During breaks from work, he traveled extensively throughout Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

Always a sharp dresser, he and Jeanie made quite an elegant couple on many a dance floor. They shared great love and laughter together.

In the 1990's, Dick decided to become a police officer, and that's where he truly made his mark. He went on to serve as both patrolman and chief of police of Olive Hill. He retired at age 81, after more

than 25 years of service to the city. He continued to work part time as a bailiff in the Carter County Courthouse up to last year.

Dick possessed a sharp sense of humor and delighted in making people laugh. He seldom showed his more serious side. Instead, he helped many people in the community in quiet ways, creating a legacy that will live on in the hearts of many. A Christian, he vowed to serve his God, his family, his country and his community, and served all four with honor and dignity.

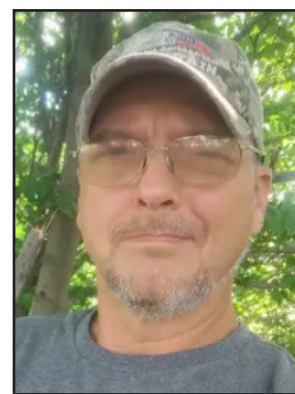
Survivors include a son and daughter-in-law, Rick and Heatherann Cundiff of Ocala, Florida; two nephews and their wives, David and Diana Cundiff and Jonathan and Kim Cundiff, both of Olive Hill; a niece, Maria Pearson of Lima, Ohio; four great-nephews, Travis, Kyle, B.J. and Dalton Cundiff; special friend, Alma Sturgill of Olive Hill, with whom he shared many special times and adventures for 15 years.

Funeral services were held 1 p.m., Friday, January 23, 2026, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Brother Steve Madden, Brother Marcus McCleese and Brother Jason Lewis officiating. Burial followed in Garvin Ridge Cemetery in Olive Hill, Kentucky. Friends visited from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., Thursday, January 22, 2026, and after 9 a.m., Friday, January 23, 2026, until the service hour at Globe Funeral Chapel.

Bruce Palmer, Sam Richmond, Travis Cundiff, B.J. Cundiff, Kyle Cundiff and Dalton Cundiff served as pallbearers.

Olive Hill Police Department served as honorary pallbearers. Globe Funeral Chapel is honored to serve the family of Richard Craig "Dick" Williams.

Johnny Lee Brewster 1973 – 2026



Johnny Lee Brewster, age 52, of Olive Hill, Kentucky, passed away Monday, January 19, 2026, in Clark County, Kentucky.

He was born Thursday, April 10, 1973, in Rowan County, Kentucky, a son of the late Johnny Lee and Wilma Jean Pelfrey Wease.

Our dad was a simple man who found beauty and joy in the simple things. He loved fitness, taking long walks, and stargazing. Known as "Velcro" when he played receiver (#3) for West Carter back in the day, he loved sports - especially football. Our dad also loved watching his kids succeed. He loved to play music, sing and belt his tunes, and shred some chords on the harmonica. Greatest of all, he loved

God. He leaves behind many loved ones who will miss him always and think of him often.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one son, Charles Brewster.

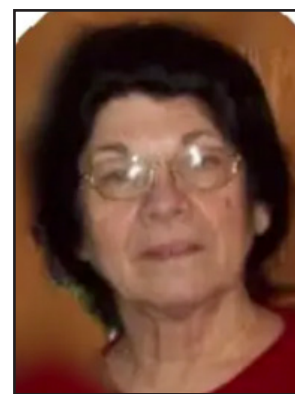
Johnny is survived by three sons, Johnny Blake Brewster of Eddyville, Kentucky, Dakota Brewster of Elliott County, Walker Cooley of Erin, Tennessee; two daughters, Haley Brewster of Morehead, Kentucky, Presley Brewster of Olive Hill, Kentucky; one brother, Leroy Wease of Lexington, Kentucky; one sister, Mary Wease of Lexington, Kentucky along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss him.

Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m., Thursday, January 29, 2026, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Brother Dodge officiating.

Friends may visit after 1 p.m., Thursday, January 29, 2026, until the service hour at Globe Funeral Chapel.

Globe Funeral Chapel is honored to serve the family of Johnny Lee Brewster.

Nona Carroll Hurley 1934 – 2026



Nona Carroll Hurley, 91 of Olive Hill KY, passed away peacefully on Thursday, January 22, 2026, at Canterbury Villa in Alliance, OH. Nona was born August 20, 1934 in Gimlet, KY to Charles and Lizzie Thornberry Carroll.

Nona retired from Sherwood Coat Outlet as a sewer. Nona loved to sew. Besides sewing, Nona loved to fish more than anything. She also loved her dogs and all the other animals that crossed her path.

Nona is survived by her husband, David, whom she married October 16, 1967 and many nieces and nephews.

Nona is preceded in

death by her sisters : Virgie Carroll Crockett of Columbus, OH, Nettie Carroll Bear of Olive Hill, KY and Dazel Carroll Rogers of Olive Hill, KY. Her brothers: Zion of Alliance, OH, Tommy of Olive Hill, KY, Lonnie of Grayson, KY, Norwood (Woody) of Olive Hill, KY.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m., Saturday, January 31, 2026, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, KY with Chris Colly officiating. Burial will follow in Garvin Ridge Cemetery.

Friends may visit after 11 a.m., Saturday, January 31, 2026, until the service hour at Globe Funeral Chapel.

The family would like to thank Canterbury Villa for the excellent care Nona received during her transition.

Zendal Carroll, Bruce Carroll, John Henderson, Chris Colley, Jackie Crockett, Dalton Hurley will serve as pallbearers.

Globe Funeral Chapel is honored to serve the family of Nona Carroll Hurley.

Fire from A-1

a lot of cases other fire departments answering mutual aid might be on standby in case of another fire or emergency."

The commercial business in question was Riverside Plumbing, housed in a metal sided structure that was approximately 7800 square feet. The call had come in, Harper said, from an employee of the state garage who had been busy plowing roads for snow removal. The building, fortunately, was empty and no one was injured, Harper said. At this time, the cause of the fire is unknown, but it may have started in the rear of the structure in a small garage area.

The wood frame structure with metal sides and a metal roof took some time to extinguish, Harper said.

"The structure fell in on itself, and the metal prevents us from getting the water to the hot spots," he explained.

Harper said the cold weather that changed to rain was a further impediment.

"It was a tough call, but there was a lot of help from mutual aid departments that showed up."

The entire call, he estimated, was between four and five hours.

The hot spots, Harper said, proved to be challenging. A few of these hot spots reignited after the blaze had been extinguished and had to be dealt with.

"But that (the hot spots) was to be expected with all of that metal," Harper said. "Without having large pieces of equipment to get that metal out of there, it was hard to get the water back into all those spots."

The building was set on a concrete pad and was

not near enough to pose a threat to other structures, Harper said.

"We are grateful for such a good response, especially since the roads were in such horrible condition," Harper said. "It was a great amount of support. And if it wasn't for everyone working together, we would have been out there a lot longer in the wind, the snow, and the ice."

"We hate that the owner lost his business," Harper said. "But we are really lucky that no one was hurt, and we are thankful for that."

The fire did not damage any other structures, which Harper said was fortunate as well. And Harper said they were able to save some of the office area so perhaps their computers and other electronics can be salvaged.

The mutual aid departments that responded to assist Grayson Fire Department on the call included Olive Hill Fire-Rescue, Cannonsburg Fire Department, Norton Branch Fire Rescue, Webbville Volunteer Fire Department, Grahn Fire Department, Little Sandy Fire Department, Oldtown Fire Department, East Fork Fire Department, and Hitchens Volunteer Fire Department.

Harper said there were also support agencies who responded with invaluable help as well. Those agencies included Carter Co. Emergency Management, Carter County 911, Carter County EMS, the Grayson Police Department, and the Carter County Sheriff's Office.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Billy Jackson Stamper 1942 – 2026



Billy Jackson Stamper, 83, of Mansfield, passed away Monday, January 19, 2026.

He was born November 18, 1942, in Olive Hill, Kentucky, to George and Effie (Bear) Stamper. Billy worked for many years at Stone Container before continuing his career at Mansfield Correctional Institution, where he served as a Corrections Officer until his retirement.

Billy enjoyed the outdoors and lived life with a spirit of adventure. He loved hunting and fishing, riding his Harley Davidson motorcycle with his wife, and spending time boating

at Pleasant Hill and Alum Creek. He was also a dedicated CB radio enthusiast, enjoying the connections and friendships it brought.

Billy is survived by his loving wife of 63 years, Jo Ann (Tabor) Stamper; and two sisters-in-law, Noma Lawhorn and Alma Lawhorn.

He was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers, Noah Lawhorn, James Lawhorn, and George Stamper; and his sisters, Sheriene Stamper, Geneva and Dardnell.

Visitation will be held Thursday, January 29, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at 98 S. Diamond Street, Mansfield.

A funeral service will follow at 12:00 p.m., Friday, January 30, 2026, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, officiated by Pastor Rick Pelfrey. Billy will be laid to rest at Bethel Cemetery, Olive Hill, Kentucky.

Globe Funeral Chapel is honored to serve the family of Billy Jackson Stamper.

Carter County Times

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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

The KY Legislature doesn't want to hear your concerns

Fast-tracking bills hurts democracy

By Teri Carter
Kentucky Lantern

On Jan. 21, as President Trump was giving his speech in Davos — confusing Iceland with Greenland during his absurd pitch as to why the U.S. suddenly needs to annex (a verb) Greenland as a matter of national defense — Kentucky lawmakers were in Frankfort annex (a noun) room 149 hearing about why 18 to 20 year-olds need to be granted legal authority to conceal-carry firearms.

House Bill 312 reads, in part, that it will “authorize the Department of Kentucky State Police (KSP) to issue provisional licenses to carry concealed firearms and other deadly weapons to persons who are 18 to 20 years of age.”

Fast tracking bills continues

I subscribe to Bill Watch on the legislature's website, so when a bill I'm tracking has a change in status, I am notified. The email notification advising me that HB 312 had been assigned to the House Judiciary Committee arrived at 8 p.m. on Jan. 20, and lo and behold it was already on the committee's agenda for the next morning at 10 a.m.

The League of Women Voters wrote just a few weeks ago, on Nov. 13, about the Kentucky legislature's penchant for fast-tracking legislation, stating they support “informed and active citizen participation in government. We remind our elected officials that they work for the people, were elected to represent the people, and must give the people opportunities to understand and give input on legislation that affects us.”

It was 14 hours between the time the public was notified that HB 312 had been assigned to a committee and the bill being heard.

In the committee meeting, it took 10 minutes for the HB 312 to be presented, discussed, voted on and passed.

No citizen spoke against HB 312. How could they? Even those of us who know enough to get alerts from the legislature's Bill Watch system do not have enough time to read a bill, prepare a statement, get off work and drive to Frankfort before it is too late.

This is the very definition of fast-tracking.
And it is undemocratic.

The danger of concealed-carry for 18-20 year olds

Imagine a bunch of teenagers conceal-carrying loaded guns to a party, getting into a drunken fight, and pulling out their guns.

Imagine a teenage girl in her college dorm room with a boy, and him pulling out a gun when she refuses to have sex. Or imagine that same girl in her dorm room, pulling out a gun to defend herself against a more powerful boy and the two of them fighting over the gun.

Imagine loaded handguns concealed in thousands of backpacks on college campuses all over Kentucky: guns in your kids' college classrooms, guns at frat parties and house parties, guns left in drawers and desks and under beds in dorm rooms.

Similar legislation was presented last March in the form of Senate Bill 75, sponsored by state senator Aaron Reed.

After Reed's presentation during the Senate Judiciary Committee, state Sen. Danny Carroll — who spent two decades as a police officer — voted no in committee, saying, “I personally do not see anything to gain by passing this bill, and that's from 24 years [as a] law enforcement officer. You know, you're always taught to assume that everyone is carrying a concealed weapon, mainly with the segment of society that law enforcement often deals with, and I think this is just going to kick that up to another level and they are going to be carrying concealed.”

Carroll continued, “The idea of people carrying a concealed weapon, who may not even know how to shoot that weapon, is terrifying.”

And yet even after their fellow GOP colleague — with a career in law enforcement — made such a stark and alarming argument, SB 75 passed easily out of committee.

Thankfully, it never made it to the House.

Until now.

One of the arguments for this year's HB 312 — I recall the same argument being made last year — is that 18-year-olds can

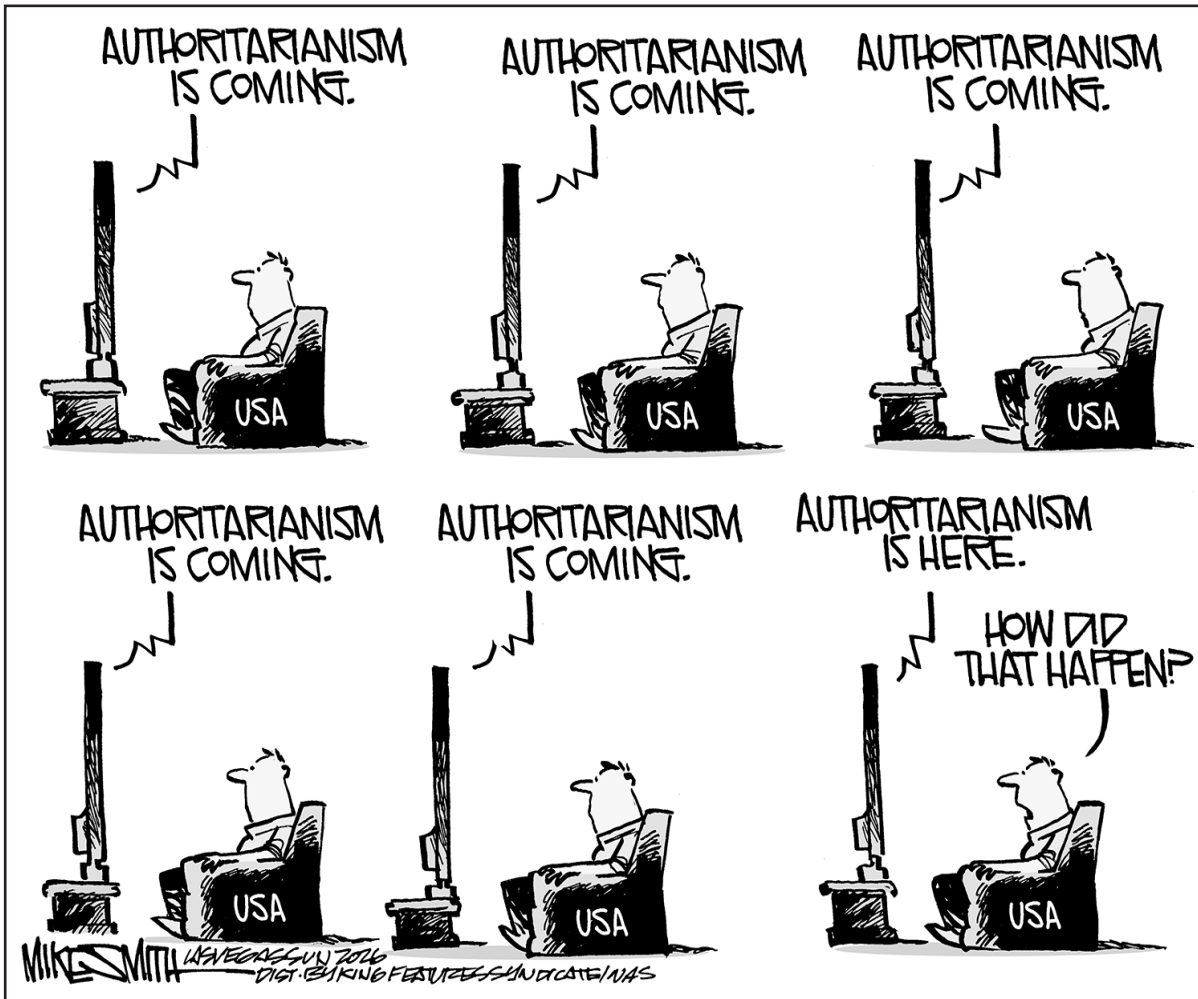
See **BILLS** on A-6

Carter County Times

Members of the Editorial Board

Nicole Wells, publisher

Jeremy Wells, editor Keith Kappes, columnist



Here's a 'mea culpa' on captive Indians who weren't captives after all

The phrase 'mea culpa' is generally translated as "my fault" from Latin but I'm not taking all of the blame for last week's apparently totally inaccurate commentary about how ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) agents didn't know that Native Americans were Americans long before any of us.

I based those insightful comments on an erroneous news story from the Associated Press about the supposed detention of three members of the Oglala Sioux Tribe in Minnesota.

As a former writer for the AP in Ohio, I've always been very proud of my time with that largest newsgathering organization in the world. Even today, I have nearly unshakable confidence in their news coverage.

However, that last sentence needs a caveat. My confidence is predicated on the veracity of the sources of information on which those news articles are based.

That's why the real mea culpa belongs to Tribal President Frank Star Comes Out who actually issued a news release about the supposed capture of his Oglala Sioux brothers.

The chief had to send out another release last week to admit there had been no detention of tribe members and that he had based his initial information on hearsay.

The original untruth included another hoax about ICE trying to force the tribe to divulge the location of all of its members. Using a term loved by the media to describe a politician recanting previously shared information, Chief Frank Star Comes Out was said to have "walked back" his original bogus claim about three men being retained.

The second news release generated more questions for the news media but the chief was nowhere to be found. He did say his first news release had been misinterpreted.

His 15 minutes of fame in the hot glare of the news media spotlight may come back to haunt him if and when he stands for reelection. If he loses, perhaps he then will be known as Frank Star Goes Out.



Keith Kappes
Columnist
Carter County Times

Keith Kappes can be reached at
keithkappes@gmail.com

The unspoken boogeyman

I think there's an unspoken boogeyman we don't talk about. When you've been broke-broke, the fear that poverty could come back never really leaves. It hangs around in the background of your mind. You're always waiting for something to go wrong. A new bill. A new expense. Something.

You can get a job, a steady paycheck, even a little breathing room, and still be haunted by the memory of counting change for gas or wondering which bill can wait another week. Being broke rewires your brain. Every paycheck becomes a game of Jenga, and you live under the tower, hoping nothing falls. I have an excellent job. I'm one of the few writers who actually make a living. But I've known hard times, capital H and T. Even with two checks a month, I still find myself asking, how do I carve this up for rent, utilities, food? All while shaming myself with another question; What do I go to work for if every small indulgence comes with a voice saying you can't afford this, even when you technically can? You shouldn't feel morally beaten down because you want tacos or a new t-shirt, but that's how it works. Bills become an emotional prison.

When you've been broke, you nickel and dime everything. You grab the off-brand bread. You fill the tank halfway. You buy cleaning supplies at the dollar store. Not because you're frugal, but because you're bracing for impact. You keep a few extra bucks around in case the other shoe drops, or at least until the next paycheck hits. I am very well acquainted with having sixty-five dollars in the bank and waiting for payday

like it's a life raft.

I use my phone's calculator constantly, asking if I should wait a few days to pay this bill, if I can afford that charge. A broke person wakes up in the middle of the night convinced the sound outside is a tow truck coming for the car. Even with a job, the math never stops. It's seventy-eight dollars for almost nothing at the grocery store. Forty-three dollars to feed the family at McDonald's. A knot in your stomach waiting to see the heating bill.

That's the part people never talk about. Getting out of the hole takes time, and most of us are one big bill away from the whole thing collapsing. Recently, I had to replace the engine in my Hyundai. Five thousand dollars. Did I have that sitting in the bank?

Absolutely not. I took out a predatory loan. Now I'm looking at borrowing against my 401K just to climb back out. That's how it works. You solve one emergency by creating the next one. I know people who travel constantly, who seem to live everywhere at once. They make about what I make. They see fun. I see three days of groceries. I make excuses instead of telling the truth. I'm scared to spend that much.

The mailbox becomes a source of dread. You avoid checking your bank balance because watching it drop, even for normal expenses, triggers panic. Every purchase turns into a survival equation. Forty dollars for jeans becomes two weeks of gas. Four grocery trips. The electric bill. Everything is measured against what it might cost you later. That's the lasting damage of being broke.

Being broke isn't just a financial state. It's a trauma

See **BOOGEYMAN** on A-8

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.

Awards from A-1

to legislative sessions in Frankfort. And in the best columnist category for a daily 1, the Ashland Daily Independent's Mary Jane Epling brought home a second place win as well with a piece discussing her impending career change. Rounding out the West Carter alumni was the Herald-Leader's Andrew Henderson, who took second place in the daily

2 category for Best Video with a piece on obtaining a Real ID.

The Carter County Times brought home first place wins in the weekly 1 category for Best Editorial Writer (Jeremy Wells) for pieces on the tariff, sunshine laws, and HB 368; Best Investigative Story or Series (Jeremy Wells) for a piece addressing accusations

filed against the EMS medical director by Three Rivers Medical Center; and in the advertising category for weekly 1, Best Professional Services Ad (Nicole Wells) for her Mullahland Construction ad.

In addition to the first place win in Best Investigative Story or Series, the Times brought home a second place

award in the category (Jeremy Wells – County tourism embezzlement); and for Best Feature Picture (Jeremy Wells – Shoes4Kids foot washing); and Best Headline Writer (Jeremy Wells – ComiCon). The papers third place awards were for Best General News Story (Jeremy Wells – Grayson RECC protests); Best Enterprise

or Analytical Story (Jeremy Wells – Robin Webb's party switch); and Best Lede (Jeremy Wells) for a trio of offerings on court hearings, ambulance news, and George Eklund's Toward a Credo.

The paper also received a Certificate of Merit for the Best Editorial Page (Jeremy Wells, Keith Kappes, and Robert Dean), a category where

they ran unopposed this year. The Carter County Times brought home first place awards in the same category for 2024 and 2023.

Contact the writer at editor@cartercountytimes.com

Water from A-1

issues across the City of Grayson. Grayson Utilities Director Gerald Haney credited last year's iron pipe replacement in the city for this, and pointed out that by last year at this time those areas where the iron pipe – pipe that had been in the ground for over ninety years – was in use had experienced four major breaks.

"We have been pretty lucky this time because it hasn't been as bad as it could have been," Haney said of the weather event.

Some weather forecasts had called for eight to twelve inches of snow

as well as several inches of ice, but thankfully we didn't get that much, he said.

"We had four major breaks downtown by this time last year," Haney said. "And I'm really glad that's not still in the ground causing us problems."

The new pipes and new valves, along with upgraded meters, help the utility commission to ensure a steady flow of water to its customers, but customers need to be aware of some precautions on their end, Haney said. The first thing to consider, he said, was the meter itself.

"If you don't need to access it (the meter) and there is snow on top of the cover, don't clean it off," Haney said. "Snow is a good insulator and if the cover isn't opened its helping to protect it. If you do have to open the cover for whatever reason, then make sure to put something around the meter like insulation or even towels if that's all you have."

With a week of frigid temperatures on the way, Haney said it is a good idea to keep an eye out for potential problems that could be magnified by the freezing temperatures.

"And if your crawl space is susceptible to getting cold air drafts, put bales of straw in front of it," he advised.

There are other things customers can do to prevent or limit water freezing, Haney said.

"Something as simple as opening the cabinet doors under the sinks so that the warm air from the rest of the house will circulate can be a big help to prevent freezing," Haney said. "Just try to be aware of where the cold air might be coming in."

Haney also said that if the home or the crawl-

space isn't well insulated, customers might want to consider leaving their water dripping.

"If you have had problems with water freezing in the past, just a pencil lead size drip or any small amount will keep the water moving and reduce the chance of freezing. It is effective," Haney said. "It might be a little costly, but it isn't as costly as having to be without water in the middle of the night because the pipes froze."

The best idea, of course, is to limit the exposure of water pipes to cold air and temperatures. Haney even

recommends checking foundation vents to make certain they are closed and don't allow frigid air to pass under the home and potentially compromise water pipes. After the recent snow and ice if the vents are open, they might be difficult to close, but even covering the vents with straw or anything to block air flow would be helpful.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Prioritizing learning and engagement

Carter County schools discuss priorities in new year

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

Carter County Schools Superintendent Jennifer Fraley said that there are a lot of things for staff and students to look forward to in the current school year. New procedures and new teaching programs, as well as working on the new school, are all exciting challenges the school system has to look forward to, but there is one thing that remains a constant in Carter County.

"We have wonderful students in Carter County," Fraley said. "And everything that we do is designed to help them succeed."

"We have a lot planned," Fraley continued. "We are getting ready to go to bid for our new tech center. We have run up against some obstacles with funding like most districts have. But what we are going to do is go ahead and build our Career and Tech Center and part of the new school. We'll build as much as we have funding to do. And that will go to bid in March."

Fraley said there is a lot of preparation to get ready for that process, but they are moving forward.

Academics, Fraley said, has a lot of exciting things on the horizon.

"We have been very lucky this year that we have a new curriculum in place for both reading and math in grades K through 12," she said.

The school has been doing a lot of implementations built around that curriculum and getting ready for testing, Fraley said.

"In Kentucky, state

testing is always the last 14 days of the school calendars," she explained. "So, until we get that calendar set, we won't know exactly when the testing will start."

Fraley said that she has set three district priorities around instruction for this school year.

"We have been working really hard to make sure those are being implemented. The first priority is making sure that we are all working together to maximize instructional time," she said. "We're making sure we are utilizing every single second we have in smart ways. Our second priority is to make sure that with this new curriculum that we are spending our time planning and preparing for instruction."

"It's new for teachers and students," Fraley noted. "So, we are making sure we are spending the time getting into that curriculum and knowing what is expected of the students and what is expected of the

teachers."

The last priority, Fraley said, is making sure that they are doing a good job with assessment and determining that they are providing really good questions for students.

"We want our kids to be the ones doing the thinking in the classroom," Fraley said. "We want to make sure they are being challenged with questions. Those questions will give our teachers a good idea if our students are understanding content, or if we need to go back and do things differently."

Fraley said that everyone is spending their time on those priorities, and said she has started a superintendent and teachers advisory council so they can all meet to discuss what is working well and what needs improvement.

"We have also been working on our L3, Local Laboratories of Learning," Fraley said. "We want to get those reinvigorated,

(and then we can) invite our community members in to work with us about ways we can get our students prepared for the next level of education; post-secondary, whether it be a career/technical path or a college path."

"What we are working on with our L3 right now is to get input from the community and educators around a local accountability dashboard so that we are really understanding what our community values in terms of data," Fraley said. "Our state assessment data is important, but our community is really interested in more than that."

"They are interested in things like how many of our first-grade students are reading on grade level," Fraley said. "They are interested in what student and staff attendance looks like. What are those extracurricular events and community events that are being offered, and how can we get more community engagement in those things?"

"So, we are working on developing a dashboard that will be displayed on our website, our Facebook page, and all those places," Fraley said.

She said she believes those things would be of more interest to the community than simply titles like novice, distinguished, or proficient.

"We want them to really get in there and see what is going on in their school system," she said. "And we want to be more transparent about those things so that we can really start to identify ways that we can engage in those types of reciprocal activities."

Fraley said that type of interaction is what she is really excited about.

"There are ways the community can come in and help us, and there are also ways that our students can get out into the community and make it better as well."

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Attorney General Coleman activates price gouging hotline to protect Kentuckians during winter storm

FRANKFORT – With Kentucky under a state of emergency due to an impending winter storm, Attorney General Russell Coleman announced the activation of the Attorney General's Price Gouging Hotline.

Attorney General Coleman encourages

any Kentuckian who suspects price gouging to report it online or call 1-888-432-9257. The Attorney General's Office of Consumer Protection reviews the complaints to determine if price gouging has occurred. The Office asks consumers to include as much detail as possible

about the suspected price gouging and to confirm the complaint contains accurate contact information for the consumer.

Kentucky law defines price gouging as a grossly excessive charge—more than 10% above the price prior to the emergency declaration—that is not re-

lated to higher costs to the seller. Goods and services covered by Kentucky's price gouging law include food, gasoline, natural gas, heating oil, shelter, transportation, emergency cleanup, and repair or reconstruction services like tree removal.

"During rough weath-

er like this, Kentuckians should only be concerned about their families' safety, not whether they are being exploited," said Attorney General Coleman. "Our Office is determined to protect Kentuckians and their access to essential goods and services."

In the nearly two

decades since Kentucky's General Assembly passed legislation prohibiting price gouging, the Office of Consumer Protection has taken on numerous matters to hold companies accountable for attempting to take advantage of Kentuckians at some of their most vulnerable times.

Continued preparedness is key

City and county leaders talk winter storms

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

Carter County Judge Executive Brandon Burton said that the coming week will be challenging.

"Salt is effective at around 18 degrees and above," Burton said. "But then when it drops below that you have to worry about it refreezing."

Burton said that road crews can scrape down the snow and ice, but normally one pass isn't enough to

clear a road, especially when the temperature doesn't cooperate.

Currently the entire region is under a state emergency, and Burton said Carter County declared a state of emergency as well. Speaking on Sunday, January 25, Burton said the Carter County Courthouse and indeed most businesses would be closed on Monday due to weather.

Travel, he said, was restricted, and anyone who did not have an actual emergency should not be out on the roads.

"Nights and early mornings are going to be treacherous, and people should expect that," Burton said. "And we are going to be battling this until

Wednesday or Thursday for sure."

Burton said that Carter County residents should just try to stay home and stay warm, and in an emergency call 911.

"We don't have any power outages right now, so thankfully that isn't a concern at this time. We have emergency teams and road crews that are prepared to assist," he said.

There are warming stations on backup, he said. And the warming station in Willard is open.

Another thing that residents of Carter County can do now and throughout the cold months, Burton said, is to keep in contact with your neighbors.

"Check on your neigh-

bors and make sure they are okay," Burton said. "Just make sure no one is struggling without heat and things like that."

Burton said that in addition to road crews, some Carter County residents have also been out on side-by-side vehicles and tractors to help out, but he urges everyone to be careful and stay safe.

"We have been very fortunate compared to other communities," Grayson Mayor Troy Combs said. Combs updates residents of Grayson with Facebook posts daily and often multiple times per day.

"We need to do a better job letting the community know what services are available to them in situa-

Bills from A-5

join the military and carry firearms. What they do not mention, of course, is the extensive training and constant practice required in the military, and that soldiers are not allowed to just carry their guns around willy-nilly because they feel like it.

The military has rules. Strict rules. The general public does not.

House Bill 312 is a dangerous bill, whether it requires training or not. House Bill 312 will

tions like this," he said.

The posts are an attempt to do just that, he said, while also praising Grayson Emergency Management with keeping up a steady stream of information.

Combs said that it is important to keep the pub-

encourage kids to conceal-carry firearms because they think it's cool.

A Kentucky teenager doesn't need a concealed firearm any more than the United States needs Greenland.

As Sen. Carroll said about the similar bill filed last year, HB 312 is terrifying.

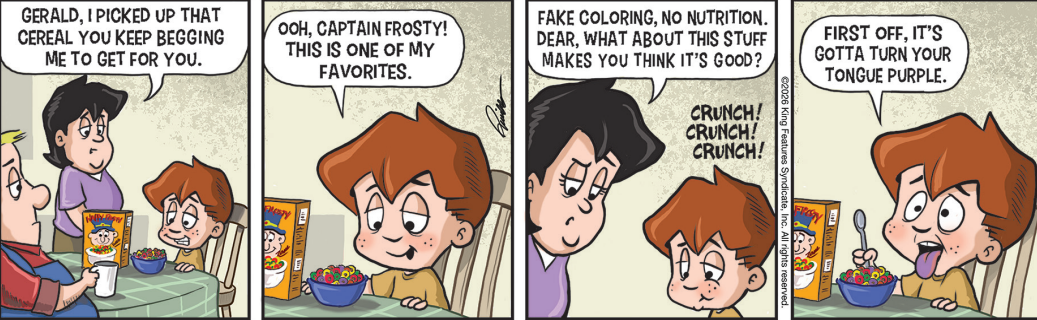
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lic informed, so there is no confusion when there is an emergency need. Grayson, for instance, would not be the best first choice to call for emergency needs outside the city limits. The city would of course connect Carter County

See *STORMS* on A-8

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



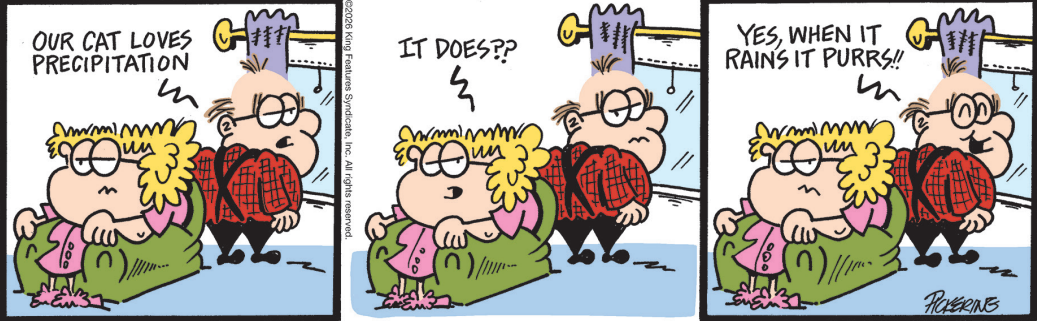
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



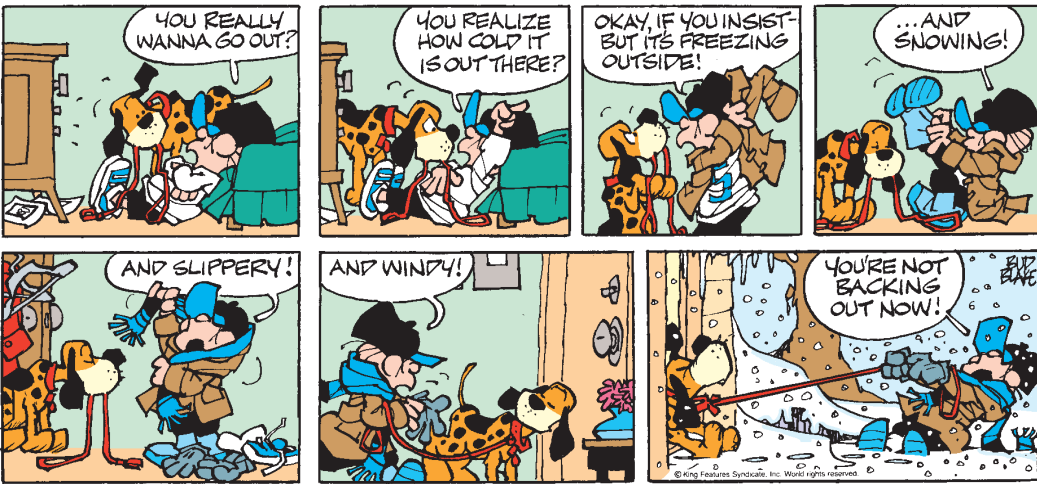
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



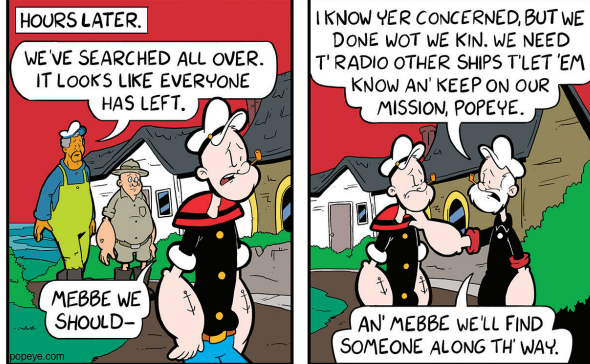
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



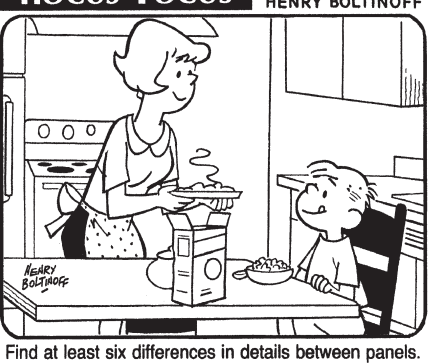
OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland



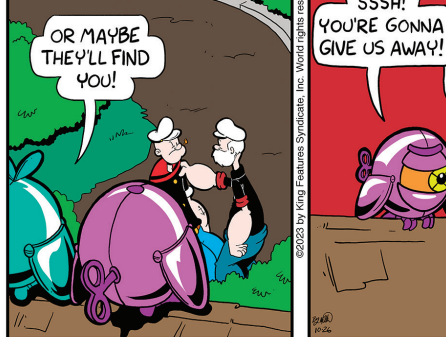
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



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: F equals P

FHEFRH JTEQRV GH LHYS
FYQVHAU DTHA JHRHIUOAC
GHLHYXCH IEAUXOAHYJ. ITEEJH
SEYQ GEURHJ DOJHRS!

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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!

Sweet
MEALCAR

Cipher
DECO

Exclusive
INDIES

Clumsy
TIPEN

TODAY'S WORD

"Sure, I've got a great diet — the low-_____ diet!"

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. Cartes du jour	___ E ___	Subtraction sign	___ I ___
2. Car bumper	F ___	Financier	L ___
3. Clothes stiffener	___ T ___	Look for	___ E ___
4. Throw like Nolan Ryan	___ T ___	Tweak	___ N ___
5. Cool and invigorating	___ S ___	Mason's block	___ C ___
6. He asked for "more"	O ___	Splinter	S ___
7. Gawk	___ T ___	Petrify	___ C ___
8. Hesitate	___ A ___	Strainer or sieve	___ I ___
9. Swap	___ D ___	Smidgeon	___ C ___
10. Racket	N ___	Composure	P ___

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.

	+		×		= 70			
+		+		-				
	-		×		= 6			
÷		+		+				
	+		+		= 15			
=		=		=				
9		16		10				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Even Exchange

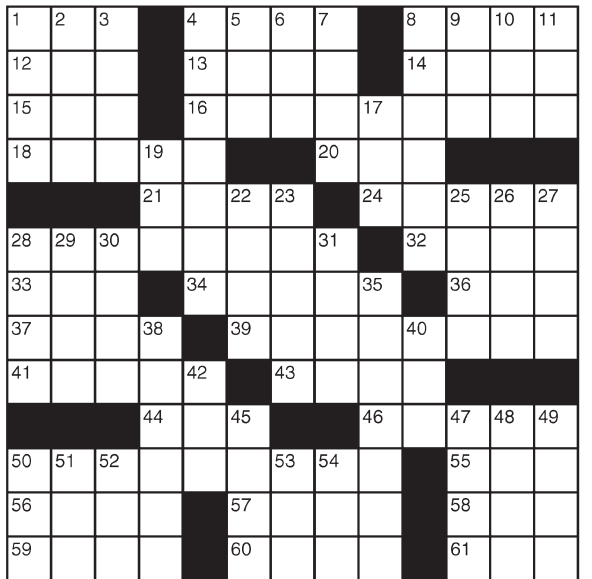
Donna M. Pettman

1. Manus, Minus	6. Oliver, Silver
2. Fender, Lender	7. Stare, Scarer
3. Search, Search	8. Falter, Filler
4. Pitch, Pitch	9. Trade, Trade
5. Brisk, Brisk	10. Noise, Poise

King Crossword

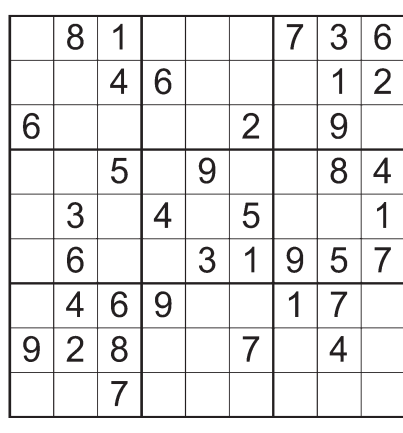
ACROSS

- 1 Nile biter
- 4 Chat
- 8 Job for Holmes
- 12 One of the five W's
- 13 "East of Eden" son
- 14 Makes a choice
- 15 Snaky fish
- 16 Fruit salad ring
- 18 — Lama
- 20 Humorist
- 21 — Raton
- 24 Settle a debt
- 28 Holiday wreath adornment
- 32 Ms. McEntire
- 33 "I love," to Livy
- 34 Passion
- 36 "The One I Love" band
- 37 Attempt
- 39 Pesto ingredients
- 41 Bar mixer
- 43 Salinger girl
- 44 Sticky stuff
- 46 Tuscany setting
- 50 Forest-inspired color
- 55 Uncle, to Pedro
- 56 Romanov ruler



- 9 Smartphone download
 - 10 Cardinal cap letters
 - 11 Jargon suffix
 - 17 Tire filler
 - 19 Jurist Fortas
 - 22 Business abbr.
 - 23 MacDowell of "Green Card"
 - 25 Andean land
 - 26 Help a hood
 - 27 Thanksgiving veggies
 - 28 Bygone days
 - 29 Texer's "As I see it"
 - 30 Lunch hour
 - 31 Billions of years
 - 35 Prompts
 - 38 Detroit team
 - 40 Mosquito barrier
 - 42 Gearwheel tooth
 - 45 Spheres
 - 47 Slightly
 - 48 Ovid's 53
 - 49 Luke's teacher
 - 50 School org.
 - 51 MSN, for one
 - 52 Rebel Turner
 - 53 Vichy water
 - 54 Stately tree
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Weekly SUDOKU



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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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. HISTORY: When did the Easter Rising insurrection take place in Ireland?
2. GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of India?
3. MEDICAL TERMS: What is a common name for lateral epicondylitis?
4. MOVIES: The "Back to the Future II" characters travel forward in time to which year?
5. LITERATURE: What color is the badge of courage in Stephen Crane's novel about the Civil War?
6. GAMES: How many points is the center red bulls-eye on a dartboard worth?
7. ANIMAL KINGDOM: What is a group of floating otters called?
8. AD SLOGANS: Which car company used the slogan "Drive your dreams"?
9. TELEVISION: What is husband Darrin's profession in the "Bewitched" sitcom?
10. SCIENCE: What part of the brain controls hunger?

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FiveSpot™

Space mission

O	R	B	I	T	Go around
					People
					Steel fastener
					Starbucks' Large
					They give the Ivy League its name
					Famous armless statue

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.

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See more at www.sproutspuzzle.com 02624

SCRAMBLERS

Today's Word

3. Inside; 4. Inept; 1. Camel; 2. Code; solution

S	U	N	E	V
S	E	N	I	V
I	N	E	T	I
R	I	V	E	T
E	R	I	B	E
O	R	B	I	T

Solution

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

CryptoQuip

People should be very prudent when selecting beverage containers. Choose your bottles wisely!

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	S	P	T	A	L	K	C	A	S	E	
P	I	N	E	G	R	E	N	T	I	O	
G	O	O	I	T	A	L	L				
P	I	N	E	S	M	E					
S	H	O	T	P	I	N	E	N	U	T	S
A	M	O	R	A	R	D	O	R	R	E	M
P	I	N	E	C	O	N	E	R	E	B	A
B	O	C	A	R	E	P	A	Y			
D	A	L	A	I							
E	E	L	P	I	N	E	A	P	P	L	E
W	H	O	A	R	O	N	O	P	T	S	
A	S	P	T	A	L	K	C	A	S	E	

Go Figure!

6	=	16			
1	+	5	+	9	= 15
	÷		+		
4	-	3	×	6	= 6
	+		+		
2	+	8	×	7	= 70

Answers

1. Manus, Minus
2. Fender, Lender
3. Search, Search
4. Pitch, Pitch
5. Brisk, Brisk
6. Oliver, Silver
7. Stare, Scarer
8. Falter, Filler
9. Trade, Trade
10. Noise, Poise

Storms from A-6

residents with the proper agency, but it would benefit residents to know who to contact and save time, especially in an emergency situation.

The goal is to keep

everyone in Carter County safe, and Combs said that Grayson is always ready to do its part. Combs said the county is doing a great job during emergencies such as the extreme weather event,

and Grayson is willing to assist in any way if needed.

The Carter County Times also reached out to Olive Hill Mayor Jerry Callihan for this story, but he was not available at

press time.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Boogeyman from A-5

response that doesn't care about your current bank balance. When someone says you could be better with money, it's hard to reconcile that in a world of recurring payments where nothing is cheap. You get a raise, a better job, actual savings, but the

fear doesn't leave. You still think this could disappear tomorrow. Because you remember it disappearing before. You don't trust stability because stability already betrayed you once.

Contact us at news@cartercountytimes.com

EKLF accepting nominations for the East Kentucky Leadership Awards

East Kentucky is full of people who look out for others and step up to support their communities.

The East Kentucky Leadership Foundation each year honors leaders throughout eastern Kentucky counties who find ways to make a difference. The organization is now seeking nominations for

the 2026 annual awards to be hosted by the City of Berea, April 23-24, 2026.

If you or someone you know would be a good candidate for one of the East Kentucky Leadership awards, you can submit that nomination with a few words about why, along with the person's name, hometown, and contact

information to ekyleadershipawards@gmail.com, or by using this online form https://eklf.org/nominate. All nominations must be received by February 20th, 2026.

The categories are: Cultural/ Arts – given in recognition of outstanding contribution to the advancement of culture/arts

in the region.

Media & Technology – given in recognition of outstanding achievement in the field of news publication, broadcasting, technological innovation and/or digital communication.

Public Individual - given to recognize an individual whose public service is dedicated to the betterment

of the region.

Private Individual - given to recognize an individual whose private service is dedicated to the betterment of the region.

Organization - given to recognize groups that have organized to provide a needed service to the region.

Youth Leadership - given to a young person in Eastern Kentucky who has demonstrated excellence in

leadership and service to the region.

The Carolyn Sunday Award - given to an East Kentuckian who has made an extraordinary contribution to understanding, inclusion, and social justice in the region.

Tony Turner Award - given to an individual, group or organization that has demonstrated major contributions to the betterment of the region.

SPORTS

McGuire comes in clutch

Senior buzzer-beater seals district win

By Brayleigh Boggs
Carter County Times

A buzzer-beating

putback by Colton McGuire (12) sealed a dramatic 61-60 win for East Carter over West Carter in a game that came down to the final seconds and left fans on the edge of their seats the entire match.

East Carter set the tone early as McGuire

controlled the opening tip and quickly made his presence felt on both ends of the floor. After West Carter's Wade Lawson (32) opened the scoring at the free-throw line, McGuire answered with a basket to spark an early run. East Carter's defense followed suit, forcing consecutive West Carter turnovers and getting key stops, including multiple blocks from McGuire.

William Burton (5) and Caden Tussey (15) helped stretch the lead in the first quarter, with Tussey knocking down a three and Burton finishing inside. East Carter closed the opening period with a 17-9 advantage.

West Carter responded in the second quarter behind sharp shooting from

Nate Hale (24) and Brody Boggs (14). Hale hit from deep twice, while Boggs converted at the free-throw line and added an and-one to keep the Comets within striking distance. Still, East Carter continued to answer, as Grant Menix (10) and Max Karle (11) each buried threes, and McGuire dominated the glass. East Carter went into halftime with a 37-21 lead.

The Raiders continued to apply pressure in the third quarter. McGuire scored through contact for an and-one, and William Burton (5) added points in the paint. Despite West Carter's effort to chip away behind Tabor Tackett (53) and Boggs, East Carter maintained control and entered the fourth quarter ahead 50-34.

West Carter refused to go quietly.

The Comets put together a strong fourth-quarter rally, fueled by steals, offensive rebounds, and clutch buckets. Boggs scored multiple times inside, Peyton Nichols (5) converted off a steal, and Nate Webb (33) knocked down a three to cut the deficit to just three points. With under a minute to play, West Carter briefly took the lead at 59-58 after a basket by Hale.

West Carter continued at the free-throw line, after a late East Carter turnover, Webb converted a free throw to give the Comets a two-point edge. After being fouled, the Raiders moved downcourt, and Tussey was next at the line to shoot. He made the first,

but left East trailing by one point. With time expiring, McGuire was in the right place at the right time, collecting the rebound off the missed free throw and scoring at the buzzer to secure the 61-60 victory.

McGuire's all-around performance, scoring, rebounding, and protecting the rim, proved to be the difference, while West Carter's late surge showcased grit and resilience until the final horn.

In a rivalry matchup that delivered until the very last second, East Carter walked away with the win, but not without a fight.

Contact the writer at news@cartercountytimes.com



(Photo by Brayleigh Boggs, Carter County Times)

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