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Carter County Times

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CARTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY

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Best foot forward

Olive Hill tourism aims to promote community

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

The Olive Hill Tourism Commission was established late last year, and the members of the commission have been working on the best way to promote tourism in the city. Olive Hill Tourism has funded several projects and is considering more, but tourism commission president Jeremy Rayburn said they are taking a measured approach and are not rushing the process. This is their approach,

he said, in spite of the fact that the relatively new commission has little to no external regulation.

“There was supposed to be an ordinance that stated we (the tourism commission) couldn’t spend anything over \$20,000 without the city’s approval,” Rayburn said. “But that resolution sort of slipped through the cracks.”

Rayburn said that he plans to let the city know everything the commission votes on anyway, regardless of whether or not that resolution is in place.

“The city needs to be kept in the loop,” he said. “I think it would be kind of shady if they weren’t. That way they know

See **OLIVE HILL** on A-8



Visitors to Olive Hill enjoy the first annual Carter County Bigfoot Festival last September. (Photo by Jeremy D. Wells, Carter County Times)

That's a wrap

Grayson Tourism seeks Hometown Holidays feedback

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

Grayson Tourism wrapped up a year full of events with their Hometown Holidays celebration around the Christmas season, showcasing everything from a Festival of Trees to an

ice-skating rink for Grayson residents and visitors to enjoy. Local businesses also joined in all along Main Street to add to the fun, with most offering special sales for the season.

Now, as the decorations are all being packed away to await the next season, Grayson Tourism Director Lana Axtell said she would like the public to offer their views on both what went extremely well, and what could be improved in the future.

“It was a real busy event,” Axtell said of Hometown Holidays, before admitting that

See **HOLIDAYS** on A-3



Members of the East Carter High School marching band perform in Grayson's Hometown Holidays parade. (Photo by Jeremy D. Wells, Carter County Times)

Undefeated and unstoppable

Barker's Comets cement their place in EKC history

By Brayleigh Boggs
Carter County Times

The West Carter Middle School Comets have cemented their place in local football history with back-to-back undefeated seasons under the guidance of head coach Chris Barker. Across 2024 and 2025 the Comets strung together 23 consecutive victories, claimed two Beckham Bowl championships, and finished the most recent campaign with a flawless 13-0 record.



(submitted photo)

Barker, named EKC Coach of the Year, has built a program defined by discipline, resilience, and a winning culture that has made West Carter a force to be reck-

oned with. His leadership has not only produced victories but has also developed players who excel individually, as evidenced

See **COMETS** on A-3

Weekly arrests report

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

- Eddie Kennedy, 70, of Webbville, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of failure to produce an insurance card, driving on a DUI suspended license – first offense (aggravating circumstances), first degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a substance, possession of an open alcoholic beverage container in a motor vehicle, tampering with physical evidence, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, and possession of drug

paraphernalia, arrested and booked December 30.

- Angela Stapleton, 39, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of operating motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance, failure to produce an insurance card, no registration receipt, arrested and booked December 30.

- Robert Carroll, 36, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on two counts of failure to appear, arrested and booked December 31.

- Garriet Greer, 19, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, for non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked December 31.

- William Sloas, 54, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of first degree possession of a controlled

substance (methamphetamine), possession of drug paraphernalia, and four counts of failure to appear, arrested and booked December 31.

- Stephanie Brown, 39, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on charges of theft by unlawful taking – shoplifting, three counts of failure to appear, two counts of non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, and one count of contempt of court – libel/slander – resistance to order, arrested and booked December 31.

- Wendell Adams, 35, of Ashland, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on a charge of contempt of court – libel/slander – resistance to order, arrested and booked January 2.

- David Phillips, 38, of Olive Hill, arrested by Grayson PD, for failure to appear, arrested and booked January 2.

- Dale Kitchen, 69, of Grayson,

See **ARRESTS** on A-3

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This Week's Obituaries

Bobby Lee DeBord, 83

Samuel W Kozee, 85

Mike Eugene Leadingham, 65

Alice Joan Bryant Strickland, 91

Autumn Kay Watkins Hanshaw, 49

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LIFESTYLE



Super foods on a shoestring: Eating well for less than \$1 a serving

When food prices rise, many people assume that eating well is the first thing that has to go. But some of the most nourishing foods in the grocery store are also the least expensive and they've been quietly holding the line for years.

You don't need specialty products, protein powders or a long ingredients list to feed yourself well. You need a short list of reliable foods that are affordable, versatile and easy to use.

Here are some of the most powerful "everyday super foods" you can still buy for a dollar a serving or less, even in 2026.

- Eggs: Few foods offer as much nutrition for the price. Eggs provide protein, healthy fats and key vitamins, and they work for

- breakfast, lunch or dinner.
- Beans and Lentils: Canned or dried, beans and lentils are among the most budget-friendly sources of protein and fiber available. They're filling, shelf-stable and endlessly adaptable.
- Oats: Plain old-fashioned oats are inexpensive and versatile. Beyond being my favorite breakfast, they can be used in baking, to thicken soups or to stretch meat dishes.
- Brown Rice and Other Whole Grains: Brown rice, barley and other whole grains provide steady energy and form the backbone of many low-cost meals.
- Cabbage: Inexpensive, long-lasting and packed with nutrients, underrated and overlooked, cabbage works roasted, sauteed, shredded into salads or added to soups and stir-fries.
- Carrots: Affordable year-round and naturally sweet, carrots add nutrition, color and substance to meals.
- Frozen Vegetables: Frozen vegetables are picked at peak ripeness, often cost less than fresh and help reduce food waste.
- Plain Yogurt: Plain yogurt is economical and versatile and can be used for breakfast, sauces, marinades, baking or as a sour cream substitute.
- Seasonal Fruit: Apples, oranges

and bananas remain some of the best values in the produce department. Now, here's an easy recipe that brings several of these foods together.

EVERYDAY BEAN, VEGETABLE & GRAIN BOWL

Yield: 4 servings
Total Time: 40 minutes

4 large eggs, hard- or soft-boiled
1-2 tablespoons olive oil
3 cups frozen mixed vegetables
3 cups cooked rice or other grains (brown rice, barley, farro or quinoa)
3 cups cooked beans or lentils (about 2 15-ounce cans), drained and rinsed
1/2 teaspoon salt, plus more to taste
1/4 teaspoon black pepper

Optional Toppings:
A pinch of garlic powder, cumin or smoked paprika
Plain yogurt or sour cream
Lemon wedges or a splash of vinegar
Fresh or dried herbs

Place eggs in a single layer in a saucepan and cover with cold water by 1 inch. Bring to boiling, then cover and remove from heat. Let sit 6 minutes for soft-set yolks or 10-12 minutes for



These pantry staples still deliver big nutrition for about a dollar a serving or less. (Photo Credit: www.JasonCoblentz.com)

hard-boiled. Drain and transfer to cold water to stop cooking. Peel when cool.

Meanwhile, heat the olive oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the vegetables and cook until tender, 5 to 8 minutes. Stir in the rice and beans and season with salt and pepper. Cook until everything is heated through.

Divide the mixture among four bowls. Top each serving with an egg and finish with any optional toppings you like.

This is the kind of flexible, affordable meal that adapts to what you have and keeps you happily full.

Eating well doesn't require perfection or expensive ingredients. It requires choosing foods

that work as hard as you do. When your pantry is stocked with affordable, nourishing staples, healthy meals become easier and far less expensive. And that's a habit worth keeping all year long. Happy New Year!

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

A new year!

Here it is! 2026! It's a brand new year with all its opportunities for renewal. It is calmer now, giving us breathing room to make decisions about how we want to move forward. Be grateful for this chance to explore and allow for new adventures to unfold.

This is the time to ask ourselves what we want in this new year. It's the time to ask ourselves how we can make a difference, not only in our homes but in our behavior toward ourselves and others. It's a time to reflect on the past

year in order to improve and then put the past behind us with a new outlook for this new beginning.



Daryl Ashley
Guest Columnist
Confusion Solution

Reflection will bring about ways we can adopt new ideas and processes for growth, and that may require changes to our ways of doing things. Since we are creatures of habit, it can be difficult to examine our habits to see if changes may be warranted. We have to want to be open to creating new ways to move through our lives by considering changing our behavior.

Try to let the word 'change' be positive and to let it be the effort we use for a positive outcome. Even if change is difficult and attacks our hearts, we must go through those times to get to the other side where possibility lies waiting. If we look at change as an opportunity, we can set goals that are not so rigid that as changes arise -- and they will -- we will be able to cope. \

We have a wonderful new year ahead with 365 days of life that can be rewarding no matter what comes our way. Live in the moment and be open to the amazing changes ahead.

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

Joyful Noise

Happy New Year 2026

By Pastor Naomi Mitchell for *Carter County Times*

The opinion of others seems to influence us more than it should. Yes, we do care what others think of us. The real question is what does God think of you?

In the Bible, God expresses His omniscience and understanding of our thoughts through several verses. For instance, in Psalm 139:1-2, it states, "O

LORD, you have searched me and known me! You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from afar." This verse emphasizes that God knows our thoughts and is intimately aware of our innermost thoughts and intentions. Additionally, Jeremiah 29:11 reassures believers that God knows His thoughts towards them, indicating His plans for their welfare and hope. These verses collectively

affirm that God is aware of our thoughts and cares deeply for our innermost concerns down to the smallest detail.

As a believer you don't need to do more to change your life. You need to eliminate what no longer serves you. You don't stumble into destiny; you surrender into it. The next level of your life isn't found in doing more. It is found in removing what no longer

See *JOYFUL NOISE* on A-4

University of Kentucky Extension Notes

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Highly pathogenic avian influenza detected in Kentucky: officials urge vigilance among bird owners

State agriculture officials have recently confirmed the presence of Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI) in poultry flocks in three Kentucky counties (Jessamine, Fulton & Lawrence). This is prompting renewed warnings for poultry owners to strengthen biosecurity and monitor their flocks closely.

HPAI is a highly contagious viral disease that poses a severe threat to domesticated birds, including chickens, turkeys, ducks, geese, quail, pheasants, and guinea fowl. While wild migratory waterfowl—such as ducks, geese, and shorebirds—often carry the virus without appearing ill, the disease can spread rapidly and prove fatal once it reaches backyard or commercial poultry operations.

According to the Kentucky Department of Agriculture, the virus spreads through direct bird-to-bird contact, respiratory droplets, and contaminated droppings. People can also inadvertently carry the

virus on clothing, shoes, equipment, or by transporting infected birds.



Rebecca Konopka
Carter County
Extension Agent

Despite the seriousness of the outbreak for poultry, federal health officials emphasize that the current detections do not pose an immediate public health risk. The U.S. Centers

for Disease Control and Prevention reports that properly cooked poultry and eggs remain safe to eat, as heating food to an internal temperature of 165 degrees kills viruses and bacteria.

Bird owners are urged to watch for signs of infection, which may include sudden unexplained death, respiratory distress, decreased appetite or water intake, and a drop in egg production. Soft-shelled or misshapen eggs may also indicate illness.

State officials are asking residents to take simple but critical steps to help contain the spread. These include keeping backyard flocks separated from wild birds, avoiding unnecessary visits to other bird owners, and thorough

ly washing clothing and footwear after any contact with poultry. Sharing information with neighbors and fellow bird enthusiasts is also encouraged.

Anyone who suspects their birds may be sick is urged to call the state's Sick Bird Hotline at 866-536-7593 for immediate guidance.

As monitoring continues, officials stress that community awareness and responsible flock management remain the strongest tools for protecting Kentucky's poultry industry.

For more information about HPAI contact the Carter County Extension Office. Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

Kentucky Dept of Agriculture Livestock and Grain Market Report

There are no comparisons available as most markets were closed for the holidays.

Week ending 1/3/26

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

	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
Steers (M&L 1-2)			
350-400 lbs	415.03		361.05
400-450 lbs	421.39		349.88
450-500 lbs	399.23		334.35
500-550 lbs	370.00		292.94
550-600 lbs	372.51		288.65
600-650 lbs	344.81		281.04
650-700 lbs	351.22		261.70
700-750 lbs	339.41		246.10
750-800 lbs	331.79		252.52
800-850 lbs	327.50		244.55
850-900 lbs			235.00
Heifers (M&L 1-2)			
300-350 lbs	409.30		302.10
350-400 lbs	417.44		305.02
400-450 lbs	376.59		271.53
450-500 lbs	35.94		283.08
500-550 lbs	350.70		263.59
550-600 lbs	350.94		260.51
600-650 lbs	326.72	252.50	230.45
650-700 lbs	321.63		233.06
700-750 lbs	314.94		206.23
750-800 lbs			212.53

WEEKLY COW SUMMARY

	Average	High	Low
Slaughter Cows			
Breakers	144.00-165.00	155.00-182.00	110.00
Boners	129.00-167.00	150.00-190.00	127.50-149.00
Lean	100.00-149.00	146.00-173.00	114.00-130.00
Slaughter Bulls			
Yield Grade 1&2	180.00-208.00	200.00-221.00	149.00-186.00

Dec 11, 2025

SLAUGHTER GOATS: 206

Kids-Selection 1-2 56 lbs 415.00; 73 lbs 370.00; 93 lbs 350.00.
Selection 2 64 lbs 402.50; 67 lbs 412.50; 74-75 lbs 260.00-307.50.

SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 423

Hair Breeds-Choice & Prime 1-2 53-57 lbs 405.00-425.00; 67-69 lbs 375.00-380.00; 80-83 lbs 305.00-360.00; 91 lbs 290.00-295.00; 113-119 lbs 217.50-240.00; 143 lbs 212.50. **Choice 2** 51-57 lbs 405.00-420.00; 67 lbs 360.00; 75 lbs 365.00; 85 lbs 285.00; 110 lbs 255.00.

	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
GRAINS			
Corn	4.20-4.64	4.27-4.68	4.36-4.82
Soybeans	9.65-10.83	9.87-10.80	9.21-10.40
Red Winter Wheat	4.56-5.32	4.62-5.34	4.64-5.49

Arrests from A-1

arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of public intoxication on a controlled substance (excludes alcohol), resisting arrest, non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, and failure to appear, arrested and booked January 2.

- William Yeager, 65, of Olive Hill, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and booked January 2.
- Braylan Hernandez, 24, of

Mount Sterling, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and booked January 2.

- Joseph Jordan, 33, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear, arrested and booked January 3.
- Brittany Jordan, 37, of Ashland, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear, arrested and booked January 3.
- Tami Hay, 35, of

Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on a charge of fourth degree assault (domestic violence) with no visible injury, arrested and booked January 3.

- Jeffery Hay, 41, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on a charge of fourth degree assault (domestic violence) with no visible injury, arrested and booked

January 3. 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.

Comets from A-1

by the long list of awards and accolades earned by his athletes. The eighth-grade team was dominant from start to finish, showcasing talent across every position. Gabe Caudill earned EKC Player of the Year honors, while Jordan Barker was named Defensive Player of the Year. Lucas Tackett stood out as Lineman of the Year and claimed the prestigious Region 3 Player of the Year award. The EKC First Team was filled with Comets, including Isaiah Roe, Landen Boggs, Gabe Davis, Grant Richards, and Kobe Stamper, each of whom played a critical role in the team's success. Together, they formed a unit that overwhelmed opponents

on both sides of the ball, defeating programs such as Raceland, Johnson Central, Nicholas County, Lewis County, Greenup County, Bath County, Rowan County, Mason County, East Carter, Powell County, and Fleming County. Each game may have tested their resolve, but Barker's squad consistently rose to the occasion, proving themselves as the class of the conference. While the eighth graders grabbed headlines, the seventh-grade team also made its mark. The younger Comets captured the Seventh Grade Beckham Bowl Championship, a testament to their growth and potential. Many of these athletes played up with the eighth-grade team, gaining

valuable experience and contributing to the undefeated run. Kolt Inscho was named EKC Player of the Year, while Wayde Keller earned Defensive Player of the Year honors. The EKC First Team featured Tyson Hall, Eli Hanshaw, Nate Lowe, Waylin Wagoner, and Hunter Wagoner, all of whom demonstrated skill and determination beyond their years. Their success ensures that the future of West Carter football remains bright, with a pipeline of talent ready to continue the winning tradition. Coach Barker's influence extends beyond the scoreboard. His ability to instill confidence, foster teamwork, and demand excellence has created

a culture that players embrace wholeheartedly. The back-to-back undefeated seasons are not just a reflection of talent but of preparation, leadership, and belief in one another. With the seventh graders already proving themselves, championship-caliber and the eighth graders leaving behind a legacy of dominance, the Comets have built a foundation that promises continued success. Under Barker's guidance, West Carter Middle School football has become more than a team; it has become a dynasty in the making. *Contact the writer at news@cartercountytimes.com*

Holidays from A-1

she, like many people, is still in the process of taking down her own Christmas décor. "Give me until the middle of January and ask again," she joked. But while a lot of work went into setting everything up, and a lot of work is still left to do in breaking it all down, she said it was worth the time and effort. "I think everyone had a really good time," Axtell said of tourism's most recent event. "We have gotten some good feedback and are always looking for more. I feel like the Festival of Trees went really well. And most of the kids' activities went well." As always, Axtell said there is a learning curve. Once an event is put on, it pays to examine what went well and perhaps how things could have been done differently. The

goal, she said, is to always be improving so that the residents of Grayson always have the best tourism has to offer. "We have learned a lot this year," Axtell said. "Like with the skating rink and the volunteer program. We had a cancellation from some of the volunteers with less than 24-hour notice, which could have put everything in a bind. Fortunately, East Carter Middle Football jumped-in in a big way and covered most of the days we needed volunteers." To prevent this happening in the future, she said, tourism might discuss having paid positions to run the rink on Thursday, Friday, and Sunday during the event. Axtell said the general consensus among the people who have reached out is that the skating rink is an amazing addition to Grayson, and they hope it

continues to be available. And perhaps the next season, she said tentatively, her husband Rob Axtell might be offering skating lessons for kids when the rink is set up. "We don't have a lot of people around Grayson that can show people how to skate," she said. "And I think people would love having that made available to them." And if there are other things they'd like to see, she said, tourism wants to hear about them too. "I'd like to know what the public liked and what they didn't like," Axtell said. "What do they think we could improve? Did they like the skating rink hours and the location? And what did they think about the Festival of Trees and that process?" Those were a few potential questions people could answer, she said. "And what did they

think about the kids activities, the Santa Shack, and the train station?" Any insight people had to offer on the Christmas Market, and the general appearance of Downtown Main Street would also be welcome, she said. The best way for the public to offer feedback, Axtell said, was to reach out through email. That email is graysonkytourism@gmail.com. An alternative contact would be to call the Grayson Tourism office at 606-474-8740 and leave a message. But however they choose to reach out, Axtell said, they'd love to hear the feedback. After all, there's only 11 months to get prepared for the next holiday season. *Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com*

CALENDAR

- **1/12: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 606-474-6686
- **1/12: Open Art Studio @ 10 a.m.** | Grayson Gallery & Art Center
- **1/12: Game Night @ 5 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **1/12: Carter County Fiscal Court @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Courthouse
- **1/13: Extension District Board Meeting @ 10 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Office
- **1/13: Grayson Area Chamber of Commerce @ 12 p.m.** | Perk's Golf & Entertainment
- **1/13: Building Club @ 4 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library, Olive Hill
- **1/13: Grayson City Council @ 5:30 p.m.** | Grayson City Hall
- **1/14: Girl Scouts meeting @ 5:30 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **1/15: Grayson Book Club @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **1/15: Olive Hill Area Chamber of Commerce @ 6 p.m.** | Commercial Bank - Olive Hill
- **1/16: Sit and Sew @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions or to RSVP call 474-6686
- **1/17: Friends of the Library meeting @ 5 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **1/19: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 606-474-6686

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

ONESTOP
PARTS SOURCE
OLIVE HILL AUTO PARTS
670 E Tom T Hall Blvd, Olive Hill
606-286-8788



Pet of the Week

Hoss is a three-year-old, male Aussie mix. This very friendly boy is currently the longest resident of the shelter; but he hasn't wasted his time there. He's been practicing hard and his leash training is coming along nicely! Hoss is neutered, up to date on all shots, 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.

Kentucky's Rural Health Transformation Plan accepted in full

\$212.9 Million Secured

FRANKFORT – On December 20, Gov. Andy Beshear announced that Kentucky's Rural Health Transformation Plan (RHTP) was accepted in full by the Trump administration, securing \$212.9 million in funding to lessen the impacts of recent federal cuts and help support health care in Kentucky's rural communities. The funding was authorized by Congress earlier this year (2025) and administered by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services. "Health care is a basic human right, and it was a priority for me and my administration to submit

this application and fight for funding to support our rural health communities – especially following the passage of devastating Medicaid cuts," said Gov. Beshear. "I am proud our community-driven plan was accepted in full and now \$212.9 million will help provide our fellow Kentuckians with the quality care they need and deserve." Kentucky's plan was developed by the Beshear administration in partnership with health partners from across the state and will use the \$212.9 million over five years to help address the unique challenges rural Kentucky faces, including high rates of chronic conditions, maternity care deserts and

gaps in coverage for oral care, emergency services and behavioral health. "Our Rural Health Transformation Plan reflects the best of Team Kentucky," said Cabinet for Health and Family Services Secretary Dr. Steven Stack. "We are working with local health leaders, hospitals, universities and community partners who share in the vision of a commonwealth where every Kentuckian can reach their full human potential and all communities thrive." The Kentucky Department for Public Health (KDPH) will lead implementation of the plan in partnership with stakeholders across the commonwealth. The Rural

Health Transformation Plan addresses several of Kentucky's most pressing rural health challenges, including:

- Chronic disease: Seventeen percent of Kentuckians live with multiple chronic conditions, compared with 11% nationally.
- Women's health: Nearly 1 in 6 Kentucky women of childbearing age live in maternity care deserts, more than four times more than the national average.
- Behavioral health: Persistent shortages of mental health professionals in rural areas place strain on emergency departments and first responders.

See HEALTH on A-6

Pay YOUR way.

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cbgrayson.com

Commercial Bank of Grayson

Can you pass this test?

Don't risk it.

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

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

OBITUARY

Samuel W. Kozee 1940 – 2025



Samuel W. Kozee, age 85, passed away peacefully in his home, surrounded by loved ones on December 27, 2025.

He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother and friend to all that knew him.

Sam was born on September 4, 1940 to the late Beecher and Ruby Kozee of Johns Run, Kentucky.

In addition to his parents, Sam was preceded in death by two brothers, Carl, Jim, and one sister, Janet Duncan.

Sam served his country in the United States Army and retired from Local 150 as an operating engineer.

Sam is survived by his loving wife of 58 years, Nancy; two daughters, Kellie (Brian) Warren and Samantha (Drew) Perkins.

Sam was lovingly called "Umpy" by his grandchildren, Sam Sophia, Sadie, Max and Kate whom meant the world to him.

Sam loved to golf, fish and was known to many as "The Koz"! May he rest in peace!

Visitation was Friday, January 2nd from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. Funeral services were held 11 a.m., Saturday, January 3, 2026 at Grayson Funeral Home, 49 McCoy Road, Grayson, Kentucky.

Burial was Monday, January 5th, 2026, at the Veterans Cemetery, Grayson.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to St. John and Elizabeth Catholic Church, State Hwy 1947, Grayson, Kentucky, 41143.

Grayson Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Samuel W. Kozee.

Mike Eugene Leadingham 1960 – 2026



Michael Eugene Leadingham, age 65, of Olive Hill, Kentucky, passed away Friday, January 2, 2026, at UK-St. Claire Healthcare in Morehead, Kentucky, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born October 30, 1960, in Carter County, Kentucky, a son of Donald Kay and Loretta Hedge Garvin of Olive Hill, Kentucky and the late Joy Eugene Leadingham.

In addition to his father, he was preceded in death by one son Phillip Randal Leadingham; one granddaughter, Lexi Leadingham; one great-grandson, Brody Flener and one brother-in-law, Bill King.

Mike was the epitome of a good man—one who would give you the shirt off his back, was always just one phone call away, and believed deeply in forgiveness over holding grudges. He truly enjoyed life. Among the many things he loved were coon hunting, horse riding, and carpentry—if it involved working with his hands or being outdoors, he was happy. Mike had a family in every area of his life, but his greatest joy was found at home, sitting on the back porch with a cup of coffee, watching his chickens and the birds when his grandkids weren't there. His pride and joy were his children and grandchildren; he lived for them and always wanted to do his very best by teaching through his actions the importance of hard work, kindness, forgiveness, and faith. He was their protector, encourager, and biggest supporter. He also cherished his parents,

whom he faithfully called every morning and every night, just to check in--- a simple act that reflected his deep love and devotion. Today, we find comfort in knowing that Mike's earthly work is finished and that he is now resting in the presence of his Savior. Heaven gained a faithful servant, and though our hearts ache, we trust God's promise that we will see him again.

In addition to his parents, he is survived by his loving wife, Pam Logan Leadingham; two sons, C.D. (Karri) Leadingham of Morehead, Kentucky, Donald Leadingham (Sarah) of Roanoke, Virginia; three daughters, Michelle (Ryan) Williams of Olive Hill, Kentucky, Haley Leadingham (Katie) of Ashland, Kentucky, Marica Lair of Indianapolis, Indiana; 12 grandchildren, Cory, Heaven, C.C., KayLee, Teagan, Neala, Marley, Brentyn, Jase, Jaxon, Cade, Kashtyn; one great-grandson, Asher; two sisters, Regina King, Angie (Ryan) Barker all of Olive Hill, Kentucky, special daughter-in-law, Heather; Mother of his children, Kimberly (Gary) Major, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss him.

Funeral services were held 11 a.m., Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Brother Kenny Hall officiating. Burial followed in Hedge Cemetery in Olive Hill, Kentucky.

Friends visited from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., Monday, January 5, 2026, after 9 a.m., Tuesday, January 6, 2026, until the service hour at Globe Funeral Chapel.

C.D. Leadingham, Donald Leadingham, Ryan Williams, Rick Bond, Tony Buckler and Donnie Callihan served as pallbearers.

Globe Funeral Chapel in Olive Hill, Kentucky is honored to serve the family of Michael Eugene Leadingham.

Autumn Kay Watkins Hanshaw 1976 – 2026



Autumn Kay Watkins Hanshaw, age 49, of Catlettsburg, Kentucky, passed away Friday, January 2, 2026, at her residence.

She was born Saturday, November 20, 1976, in Boyd County, Kentucky, a daughter of the late Charles Watkins and Mary Ferguson Spurlock.

Kay will be remembered for her joyful spirit and the laughter she brought into every room. She had a love for reality TV shows, enjoyed learning and trying new recipes, and rarely started her day without a good cup of coffee in hand. Kay had a natural gift for making people laugh and feel at ease, and her sense of humor was one of her greatest treasures. Above all, she cherished spending time with her family and friends creating memories.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in

death by one sister, Sally Watkins.

Kay is survived by one son, Derick David Young of Proctorville, Ohio; four daughters, Miranda (Mike) Burchett of Olive Hill, Kentucky, Haleigh (Dillon) Duncil of Hazel Green, Kentucky, Hannah (Christopher) Brown of Olive Hill, Kentucky, Mary Young of Ashland, Kentucky; 9 grandchildren, Lily, Mia, Gracie, Palmer, Sutton, Ian, Lukas, Riley, Owen; two brothers, Scott (Beth) Ferguson of Ashland, Kentucky, Jason Donald of Huntington, West Virginia; one sister, Amanda (Mark) Black of Ashland, Kentucky, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss her.

Funeral services were held 7 p.m., Tuesday, January 6, 2026, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Brother Roger Dale Watkins officiating. Burial will follow at a later date in Hanshaw Cemetery.

Friends visited after 6 p.m., Tuesday, January 6, 2026, until the service hour at Globe Funeral Chapel.

Globe Funeral Chapel in Olive Hill, Kentucky, is honored to serve the family of Autumn Kay Watkins Hanshaw.

Joyful Noise from A-2

fits who you are becoming in Christ Jesus.

God didn't give Abraham a five-year plan. He gave him an instruction for a departure from familiarity. He told him to leave his father's house, to leave what is familiar, to leave what's comfortable. The promise didn't begin where he was. It began when he was willing to walk away.

Elisha didn't keep the plow. He burned it. He didn't leave options open. He removed every exit and backup plan. You won't transform your life while protecting the old one.

Jesus said, "anyone who leaves everything to follow Him will receive more now (in this life) and forever in eternity." God never subtracts without intention to multiply, but multiplication only comes after elimination.

Cycles don't break just with effort. They break with intentional elimination. What you refuse to remove will continue to rule you. Jesus' first message wasn't "try harder." It was "repent." Change how you think, reorient your perspective. Sin isn't just behavior. It's a broken belief system and dysfunction via ignorance. Paul didn't say he changed occasionally. He said, "I die daily" not physically, but to patterns, to pride, to habits that no longer serve destiny. Salvation isn't claimed once; it's surren-

der into every day.

You don't break cycles once. You break them every morning and every day you decide what gets to live, and what must die. If it doesn't serve your future, it cannot survive your present.

This next season (New Year 2026) isn't about grinding harder, as a believer in Christ it's about dying smarter each day. It is about releasing what doesn't serve you. It is about whatever keeps you stuck. It is about letting go so God can take you further. You aren't losing yourself but becoming what God has always meant you to be.

You may feel a different kind of pain going into this new season. But you are coming out of the hardest season maybe you have faced. You won't regret what you are giving up following Jesus in this new season. His thoughts are to prosper you and give you an expected end!

Amen! So be it!

JOYFUL House of Prayer, 2519 Quicksand Road, (P.O. Box 856), Jackson, Kentucky 41339. Send Comments/Prayer Requests: Pastornaomi4god@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.

Alice Joan Bryant Strickland 1934 – 2025

Alice Joan Bryant Strickland, age 91, of Greenville, Kentucky, passed away Tuesday, December 23, 2025, her son's residence in Catlettsburg, Kentucky.

She was born March 31, 1934, in Posey County, Indiana, a daughter of the late Auburn and Mary Robb Bryant.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Vincent Strickland; one son, Morgan Randall Strickland; two brothers, Richard Allen Strickland, James Auburn; one sister, Carolyn Jones.

Alice is survived by three sons Daniel Vincent (Linda) Strickland of Ashland, Kentucky, Robert

Joseph (Deborah) Strickland of Webbville, Kentucky, Michael Douglas Strickland of Litchfield, Kentucky; four daughters, Jeanie Kay Bruce of Boonesville, Kentucky, Deborah Lynn Weldon of Greenville, Indiana, Cynthia Lee (Charles) Berry of Hillsboro, Kentucky, Brenda Sue (William) Bendell of Greenville, Indiana; one sister Gina Thomas of Henderson, Kentucky, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss her.

At Alice's request there will be no service.

Grayson Funeral Home and Cremation Services is honored to serve the family of Alice Joan Bryant Strickland.

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Bobby Lee DeBord 1942 – 2026



Bobby Lee DeBord, age 83, of Xenia, Ohio, passed away Friday, January 2, 2026, at his residence, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born Tuesday, May 19, 1942, in Carter County, Kentucky, a son of the late Frank and Gladys Tabor DeBord.

Bobby loved fishing, bowling, woodworking, tinkering with clocks and spending time with his family. He retired from General Motors after 35 years as a cutter grinder.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by one son, David Lee DeBord; one daughter, Angela DeBord; three brothers, Billy DeBord, Eual DeBord, Roger DeBord; three sisters, Jonda Whitt, Vivian Rice and

Betty Lawless.

Bobby is survived by his loving wife of 64 years, Darlene Rose DeBord; one son Daniel (MaryKay) DeBord of Powhatan, Virginia; one daughter, Donna (Doug) Moore of Centerville, Ohio; 4 grandchildren, Maggie DeBord, Jack DeBord, Kourtney Wolf, Kade Wolf; three sisters, Shirley Gordon of Centerville, Ohio, Virginia Plunkett of Norman, Oklahoma, Sue Turkson of Alliance, Ohio, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss him.

Funeral services will be held 1 p.m., Wednesday, January 7, 2026, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Pastor Paul Santoro officiating. Burial will follow in DeBord Cemetery on Square Lick in Olive Hill, Kentucky.

Friends may visit after 11 a.m., Wednesday, January 7, 2026, until the service hour at Globe Funeral Chapel.

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

MALONE FUNERAL HOME
325 Malone Ln.
Grayson, KY 41143
(606) 474-5126

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

Ever rising power rates sabotage efforts to rebuild economy in Eastern Kentucky

Kentucky Power ratepayers can speak to Public Service Commission Thursday in Ashland

Suanne Barker Griffith and Paula Bowling
Kentucky Lantern

In its most recent rate case, Kentucky Power clarified that population and industrial losses, coupled with the need to increase revenue for investors, relative to its fixed costs, are significant reasons for its proposed 15% industrial rate hike, 14.9% residential rate hike and 13% commercial rate hike.

Annual statistical reports kept by the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) reflect a sad tale. Over 12,000 residential customers have been lost in the past 14 years in Kentucky Power's 22-county service area in Eastern Kentucky. In 2010, Kentucky Power sold 3.3 billion kilowatt-hours of industrial power. By 2024, that number dropped to 2 billion kilowatt-hours, a 38% loss. No doubt, our region is in trouble.

Most people living in Eastern Kentucky do not need numbers on a chart to tell us that industries once depended on to feed our families have declined or, worse yet, completely evaporated. Coal, steel and power, the bedrocks of our communities and local economies, have gone by the wayside.

Kentucky Power itself was a major player in declining power and coal jobs when it chose to decommission its Big Sandy 2 generating plant in Louisa and invest millions of Eastern Kentucky ratepayer dollars in the coal-burning Mitchell plant located just outside of Moundsville, W. Va., a plant that does not employ Kentucky citizens, pay Kentucky taxes or burn coal mined in Eastern Kentucky.

So here we are, looking for new industries to attract to our area and hoping the industries and businesses we do still have stay. None of this is for the faint of heart. To their credit, economic development teams across the region are aiming to create sustainable growth, foster innovation and improve the quality of life in their communities. Adding another 15% to the industrial electrical rate, which is already one of the highest in the state, is not helpful.

More is needed, much more than just decently priced industrial electrical rates to attract and maintain industries and businesses providing good-paying jobs. Infrastructure is key as well.

As they say in the real estate market, our area of Northeast Kentucky has good bones. We have two major waterways, the Big Sandy and the Ohio River; rail services and three major highways that pass through our area: Interstate 64, US 60 and US 23. We are minutes away from the AA Highway, a throughway to Northern Kentucky and the industrial Midwest. We have regional airports nearby. Yet, we have failed to keep up.

Our electrical grid needs work. Extreme weather events due to climate change — hurricanes (the effects of which are felt here in Kentucky), ice storms, floods and tornadoes — are only growing in frequency and intensity. According to Climate Central, 83% of power failures can be attributed to weather changes. We must upgrade or suffer the dire consequences of inaction.

The aging grid in Eastern Kentucky requires a proactive approach to meet the needs of a region seeking a renaissance. Merely trimming trees and clearing brush do not guarantee a resilient power supply. Ratepayers deserve a reliable power supply that only comes from utilizing current technology.

Unfortunately, there has been a major issue at the Mitchell plant requiring significant capital and attention to address. One of Mitchell's two concrete cooling towers is failing structurally at the over-50-year-old coal-burning plant and needs to be reinforced or replaced.

According to Kentucky PSC records, the options to address the failing tower would be \$376 million for a new mechanical draft or \$356 million to shorten the tower. Either way means money out of the ratepayers' pocket for an expense that is not a long-term solution as the Mitchell plant, which Kentucky Power owns half of, is scheduled to be decommissioned in 2040. The money needed to shore up the tower will be in addition to the current proposed rate hike. Kentucky Power has said it is seeking a federal grant to help with this expense; time will tell.

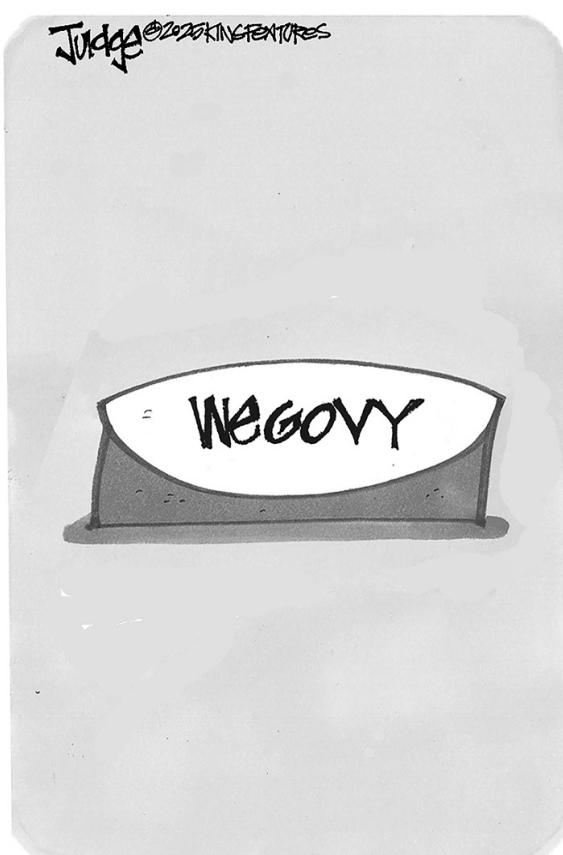
See **KENTUCKY POWER** on A-8

Carter County Times

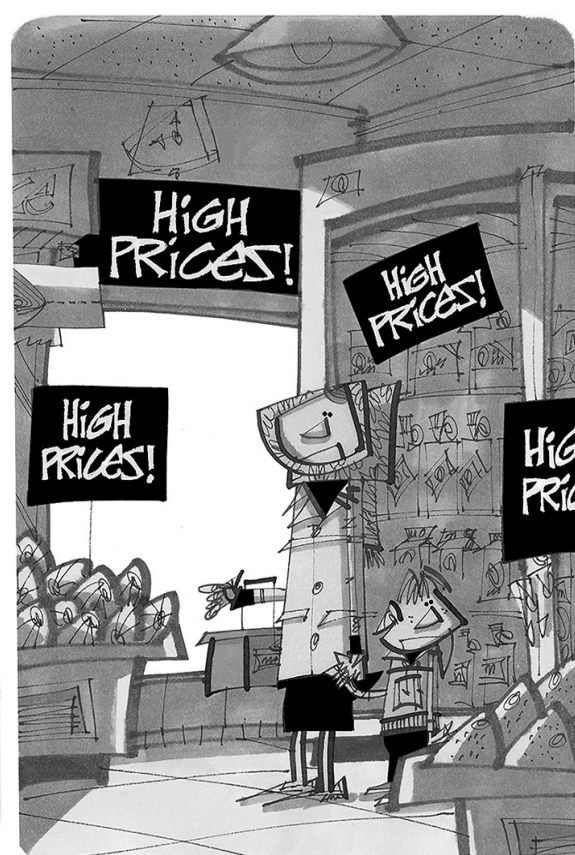
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THE FDA APPROVES A NEW WEIGHT-LOSS PRODUCT...



DONALD TRUMP APPROVES AN OLD ONE.

Could the Venezuelan adventure become another disaster like Afghanistan?

As a student of history, I was greatly surprised Saturday morning when President Donald Trump announced to the world that U.S. military forces had invaded Venezuela to capture that country's president and his wife to bring them to this country to answer federal indictments as accused narco-terrorists.

But I was shocked when he also said that the U.S. would be "running" that South American nation until a new national government could be established and the nation's oil-based economy could be rebuilt.

More than 100 persons have been killed in American attacks on suspected drug smugglers based in Venezuela but those actions happened on the high seas.

Trump said military intervention was ordered to assist U.S. law enforcement with the arrests of Nicolas Maduro and his wife, Cilia. He also made passing reference to the 203-year-old Monroe Doctrine, a U.S. foreign policy announced by President James Monroe in 1823.

That bold declaration warned European powers against further colonization or interference in the Americas, declaring the Western Hemisphere a separate sphere of influence for the U.S.

Trump noted several times in his press conference that Venezuela had nationalized the property of American oil companies 25 years ago but had let its "stolen" oil industry infrastructure deteriorate, losing

its strong position in the global economy, despite having the largest oil reserves in the world.

He promised that U.S. oil companies would rebuild the country's oil industry for the benefit of the Venezuelan people.

Shortly after the press conference in Florida, Maduro's newly-appointed vice president, Delcy Rodriguez, said Maduro was the country's legitimate leader. She also called on the nation to take up arms to resist the Americans.

In another surprise, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio hinted that Cuba could be America's next liberation target since its economy is failing because of poor leadership.

U.S. congressional leaders were not told in advance of the pre-dawn military operation and no declaration of war had been approved, as required by federal law.

Trying to force a regime change in another country can be disastrous, as we learned during 20 years of fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan. That adventure cost us the lives of 2,456 service members, the wounding of 20,700 more, the deaths of 3,846 civilian contractors and total expenditures exceeding one trillion dollars.

Keith Kappes can be reached at keithkappes@gmail.com



Keith Kappes
Columnist
Carter County Times

The damage we don't count

Some things don't stay abstract when you live with their consequences long enough.

I'm a father of three boys and a small business owner here in Carter County. I work, raise my kids, and try to build something steady in the same place a lot of us are fighting to hold together. I'm not writing from theory. I'm writing from absence.

Drugs like fentanyl and meth didn't just hurt my family. They erased it.

I've lost almost everyone. Some are gone to addiction. Some to the long-term damage it leaves behind. Some are dead. These aren't statistics to me. They're empty seats at holidays. Names my sons should know but never will.

My uncle Jimmy Blevins was my hero. He was a veteran. A hard worker. Someone I thought I'd spend my life working beside. Years ago, while working construction on a National Guard project in New Mexico, he became addicted to meth and opioids.

He came home different. He didn't last long. He died of a heart attack at 32.

He never met my boys. Never saw the life I'm trying to build. And there are many others who were supposed to still be here... but who aren't.

We talk about "weapons of mass destruction" as something distant. Something overseas. Some-

thing that comes with sirens and headlines. But I've watched substances wipe out families and hollow out a town quietly, one person at a time, over decades.

If the measure is lives lost and futures erased, then we've been living with mass destruction right here at home.

What makes this harder is that we didn't ignore the problem.

In the mid-2000s, I marched in Grayson with Pastor Jim Varney and thousands of others against drugs. Churches showed up. Schools showed up. Emergency services showed up. Families walked together. There was a shared belief that if we stood shoulder to shoulder, we could interrupt what was happening.

In the period that followed, pressure increased. Arrests were made. For a while, it felt like something real had been disrupted.

Many of the people I marched beside are gone now.

Time has a way of telling the truth. Awareness alone didn't stop it. Enforcement alone didn't stop it. Silence didn't stop it. Pretending it was someone else's problem didn't stop it. The damage resumed quietly, and it kept taking people who burned bright; the complicated, creative, stubborn souls who carried joy and conviction at the same time.

Those are the people who organize cookouts. Who

See **DAMAGE** on A-6



Brandon LaVoie
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.

Damage from A-5

stand up at meetings. Who pull others together. Who would have stood beside me and many others when our community needed defending.

We don't just lose individuals to drugs.

We lose community infrastructure.

I'm grateful to law enforcement for doing their job. Taking dangerous substances off the street matters. But this crisis isn't fixed by arrests alone, and it isn't fixed by treating ad-

diction as a private failure that only requires private recovery.

We talk a lot about rehab for people, and we should. But we rarely talk about rehab for towns.

If we're serious about healing, we should be asking bigger questions. What does it look like to restore the places where people gathered? Where families ate together. Where kids played. Where neighbors argued, laughed, and stayed connected. Where

belonging was built instead of assumed.

Recovery shouldn't end at the clinic door. It should extend back into the communities that were hollowed out.

Imagine spaces designed to bring people back together; community centers with picnic tables and food trucks, places for games and music, rooms for church groups, recovery groups, family gatherings, and town meetings. Places that replace what

was lost instead of just naming it.

We owe that much to the people we buried.

And to the kids growing up now who deserve more than silence and memory.

If we don't take this seriously – not as a headline or a talking point, but as a long-term responsibility – the cost won't show up on a balance sheet.

It will show up as absence.

Again.

Health from A-3

- **Oral health:** Appalachian counties experience some of the lowest dental visit rates and highest rates of complete tooth loss among seniors.
- **Emergency response:** Nearly half of Kentucky's paramedics are concentrated in the state's five largest counties, limiting access in rural communities.

To address these challenges, Kentucky's plan advances five integrated care innovation models:

- 1. Rural Community Hubs for Chronic Care Innovation:** Local hub-and-spoke models focused initially on obesity and diabetes prevention and management, integrating nutrition, physical activity and digital self-management tools.
- 2. Powering Maternal and Infant Health:** Telehealth-enabled, community-based maternal care teams expanding prenatal and postpartum services in maternity care deserts and high-risk regions.
- 3. Rapid Response to Recovery (EmPATH Model):** Mobile crisis response, telepsychiatry and stabilization services connecting individuals to community-based behavioral health and recovery supports.

4. Rooted in Health: Rural Dental Access: Expanded dental hygiene training, externships and portable or tele-dental clinics to improve preventive oral health services.

5. Crisis to Care: Integrated EMS Response: Enhanced pre-hospital care and trauma coordination through treat-in-place protocols, workforce training and improved data connectivity.

"Team Kentucky's rural communities are the heart of our commonwealth," said Kentucky Department for Public Health Commissioner Dr. John Langefeld. "This is about strengthening local health systems, creating jobs and ensuring every family has the opportunity to live healthy and thrive."

The application process for the Rural Health Transformation Plan was guided by input from more than 100 stakeholders across the commonwealth. Team Kentucky collaborated with key partners, including the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, the Kentucky Primary Care Association, the Kentucky Hospital Association, the Kentucky Office of Rural Health and others.

"We've worked for

years to tackle some of Kentucky's toughest health challenges, and we are inspired and energized to see a unified, statewide plan to bring innovation, investment and hope to our rural communities," said Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky President and CEO Allison Adams. "This effort reflects the best of Kentucky: partnership, practicality and a deep belief that healthier communities mean a stronger commonwealth."

"Kentucky's Rural Health Transformation initiative reflects a simple truth community health centers have always embraced: Lasting change begins locally," said Molly Lewis, CEO of the Kentucky Primary Care Association. "Through investments in prevention, primary care and community collaboration, this effort is creating a stronger, healthier future for rural Kentucky."

"The Kentucky Hospital Association has been pleased to work with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to help produce Kentucky's application for the Rural Health Transformation Program," said Nancy Galvagni, president and CEO of the Kentucky Hospital Association.

"Health care access improves health care outcomes. It improves lives and saves lives," said Dr. Jason Smith, CEO of University of Louisville (UofL) Health. "UofL Health supports Kentucky's focus on improving access in our rural communities to address chronic illness, maternity care, mental health, oral health and emergency care."

"We were pleased to learn of Kentucky's notice of award from CMS related to the Rural Health Transformation Program," said Mark D. Birdwhistell, senior vice president for health and public policy at the University of Kentucky. "The University of Kentucky looks forward to partnering with the state and other stakeholders to help transform health in rural Kentucky."

The Rural Health Transformation application process began in September 2025, with awards announced on Dec. 29. In total, the Rural Health Transformation Plan provides \$50 billion nationwide over five fiscal years between 2026 and 2030. More information about Kentucky's Rural Health Transformation Plan will be available at Rural-HealthPlan.ky.gov.

PSC approves Kentucky Power's continued investment in West Virginia plant beyond 2028

FRANKFORT – The Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) issued an Order in Case No. 2025-00175, approving a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for continued capital investments in Kentucky Power's 50 percent share of the Mitchell Generating Station (Mitchell Plant or Mitchell) located in West Virginia.

The PSC, with support of the Kentucky Attorney General's office, in a previous case had rejected Kentucky Power's request to extend this joint ownership arrangement beyond 2028, ruling then that a new power plant would be less expensive than adding environmental compliance upgrades necessary to keep the plant operating after 2028.

West Virginia's Public Service Commission, at that time, ruled that Wheeling Power, which owns the other 50 percent of the Mitchell Plant, would bear the entire cost of the upgrades.

This order approves a

settlement between Kentucky Power and Kentucky Industrial Utility Customers, Inc. (KIUC) and to which the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky's Office of Rate Intervention (Attorney General) did not object. The Sierra Club also a party to this proceeding, rejected the settlement.

The Order, however, expresses the PSC's reluctance in granting the CPCN, stating that the "current request is due to the failure of Kentucky Power to correctly plan for and actually acquire alternative resources."

The Order also reflects the PSC's concern that there are flaws in Kentucky Power's methodology and that "Kentucky Power's analysis was not conducted with the level of rigor that the Commission would expect to see for a decision of this magnitude."

Chair of the PSC, Angie Hatton, expressed her reluctance to sign the Order by saying, "In the three years since the PSC denied the request to

continue investing in this plant, Kentucky Power has failed to propose a feasible plan for new generation or firm capacity contracts to meet its capacity requirements. We are now forced to either permit continued investment in a 54-year-old plant in another state or allow Kentucky Power customers to be at the mercy of a volatile market. Neither option is good for customers and we are forced to choose the least bad."

Kentucky Power filed this case on June 30, 2025, requesting a CPCN for capital investments necessary to continue taking 50 percent of the generating capacity from the Mitchell Plant after December 31, 2028. Mitchell Plant, located on the Ohio River, includes two coal-fired baseload generating units, and is co-owned in equal parts by Wheeling Power and Kentucky Power, both subsidiaries of American Electric Power.

In approving the settlement, the PSC has ruled that Kentucky Power will

now be permitted to recover the cost of the plant upgrades from its electricity customers, raising the average customer's bill by \$2.33. The original application would have raised the average residential customer's bill by \$3.68 per month.

The PSC, in its Order, found that continued access to the plant is the most cost-effective choice at this time and will limit potentially significant market exposure in the short-term. The Order noted that the CPCN is limited to those investments specifically identified in the case and requires Kentucky Power to file annual reports each year until 2031 to track the spending.

As a reminder, Kentucky Power customers will see a refund on their bills for the first four months of 2026 amounting to \$6.40 per month for the average residential customer as a result of the refund ordered in Case number 2023-0008 related to prior fuel adjustment clause charges. Today's order, a

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE

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

2010 CADILLAC ESCALADE, NOT ACTUAL MILEAGE 168,201, DON'T RUN, VIN #1GYUKJEF1A123585.

2011 GMC TERRAIN, MILEAGE 135,034, MOTOR BLOWN, VIN #2CFLREC9B6332705.

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

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

2000 FORD F650 SUPER DUTY, NOT ACTUAL MILEAGE 236,000, VIN #3FDWF65HXMYA05348.

Public Auction will be held on *Friday January 9, 2026 at 3:00 PM, weather permitting if cancelled (follow our Facebook for update) it will be on Friday January 16, 2026 at 3:00 PM, at COMMERCIAL BANK, OLIVE HILL BRANCH, 155 TOM T. HALL BLVD., OLIVE HILL KY.*

Seller reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

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

Terms will be cash.

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

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY CARTER CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 24-CI-00074

ANP TAX LIEN COMPANY, LLC PLAINTIFF
VS. NOTICE OF SALE

JASON O. RAMEY; LATORIA RAMEY; AND COUNTY DEFENDANTS OF CARTER, KENTUCKY

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Carter Circuit Court, entered on July 31, 2025, I shall offer for sale the property described herein at public auction on the Courthouse steps of the old Carter County Courthouse, 300 West Main Street in Grayson, Kentucky, on the **9th day of January, 2026** at or near the hour of 10:05 a.m., to the highest bidder on the following terms:

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

Description of the Property: 81 Dry Fork Road, Olive Hill, KY 41164. (For Legal Description see LSOT: Deed Book 304, Page 296, Carter County Clerk's Office.)

Map/Parcel ID Number: 065-00-00-015.02.

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

Honorable John P. Thompson
Master Commissioner
Carter County, Kentucky

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY CARTER CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 23-CI-00270

U.S. BANK TRUST COMPANY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, AS SUCCESSOR-IN-INTEREST TO U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR RESIDENTIAL ASSET SECURITIES CORPORATION, HOME EQUITY MORTGAGE ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-KS4 PLAINTIFF
VS. NOTICE OF SALE

JACK LESLIE; CAROL LESLIE; COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, CARTER COUNTY; CURD, NEWTON & ASSOCIATES, INC.; KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY A/S/O ZEBEDEE ENIX DEFENDANTS

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Carter Circuit Court, entered on November 19, 2024, I shall offer for sale the property described herein at public auction on the Courthouse steps of the old Carter County Courthouse, 300 West Main Street in Grayson, Kentucky, on the **9th day of January, 2026** at or near the hour of 10:00 a.m., to the highest bidder on the following terms:

The aforementioned real estate shall be sold as a whole. The real estate shall be sold on a credit of thirty (30) days, with the privilege of the purchaser to pay for bid in cash in full, and if not paid in full then the purchaser shall make a cash down payment of at least ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to cover the costs of the judicial sale; and the purchaser shall execute a bond for the remainder of the purchase price, with good surety thereon, to be approved by the Master Commissioner of this Court, and bearing interest at the rate of 3.6876% per annum from the date of the sale, until paid; additionally, a lien shall be retained upon the real estate to be sold herein, to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days of the date of sale upon which execution may be levied by the Master Commissioner of this Court.

Description of the Property: 2207 Hwy. 1662, Olive Hill, KY 41164. (For Legal Description see LSOT: Deed Book 235, Page 395, Carter County Clerk's Office.)

Map/Parcel ID Number: 005-00-00-013.01.

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

Honorable John P. Thompson
Master Commissioner
Carter County, Kentucky

video of the hearing, and other records in the case are available on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov. The case number is 2025-00175.

Kentucky Power is a public utility principally engaged in the provision of electricity to Kentucky retail consumers. Kentucky Power serves approximately 163,000 retail customers located in Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Clay, Elliott, Floyd, Greenup, Johnson, Knott, Lawrence, Leslie, Letcher, Lewis, Magoffin, Martin, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, and Rowan counties. Kentucky Power stated that in 2024 its peak winter

demand was 1,288 megawatts (MW) and that its peak summer demand was 980 MW. Kentucky Power is a Fixed Resource Requirement (FRR) member of PJM Interconnection, LLC (PJM).

The PSC is an independent agency attached for administrative purposes to the Energy and Environment Cabinet. It regulates more than 1,100 gas, water, sewer, electric and telecommunication utilities operating in Kentucky and has approximately 90 employees.

Eastern Kentucky woman charged with fetal homicide after taking abortion medication, KSP says

By Melissa Patrick
Kentucky Health News

Kentucky State Police have charged a Campton woman with first-degree fetal homicide after authorities say she told them she took medication "to complete an abortion" and then buried a "developed

male infant" in a "shallow grave" on her property.

Melinda S. Spencer, 35, was also charged with abuse of a corpse and tampering with physical evidence, according to a KSP news release.

Kentucky has only narrow exceptions to its abortion ban. Health care

providers can perform an abortion only to prevent death or serious injury to the mother, with no exceptions for rape or incest.

According to the release, a medical clinic in Campton contacted state police on Dec. 31 around 2:30 p.m. and reported that "there was a lady in the

clinic (who) disclosed that she had aborted her pregnancy at her residence."

After police arrived at United Clinic, they said the woman "stated to detectives that she had ordered medication online to complete an abortion" and "took the medication, which resulted in the

death of a developed male infant."

Then, the release says, she "buried the infant on the backside of her property in a shallow grave." Police "located the infant in a shallow grave" at the residence.

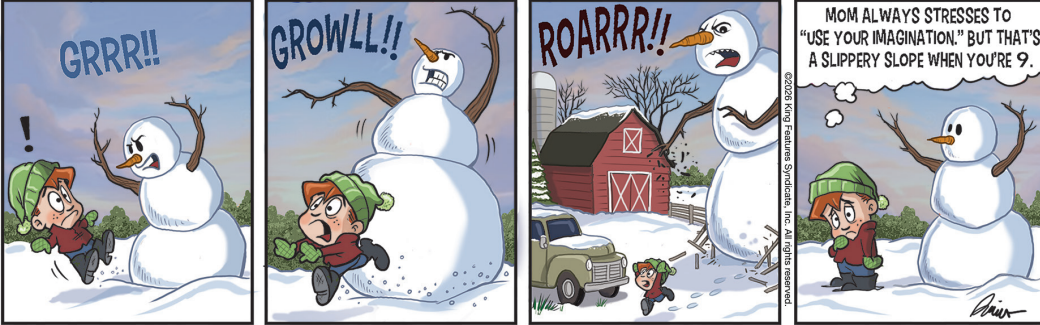
Angela Cooper, a spokesperson with the

Kentucky ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union), said this situation is one example of women being punished for making their own personal medical decisions, D'Quan Lee reports for Spectrum News.

"Pregnancy is an incredibly complicated state

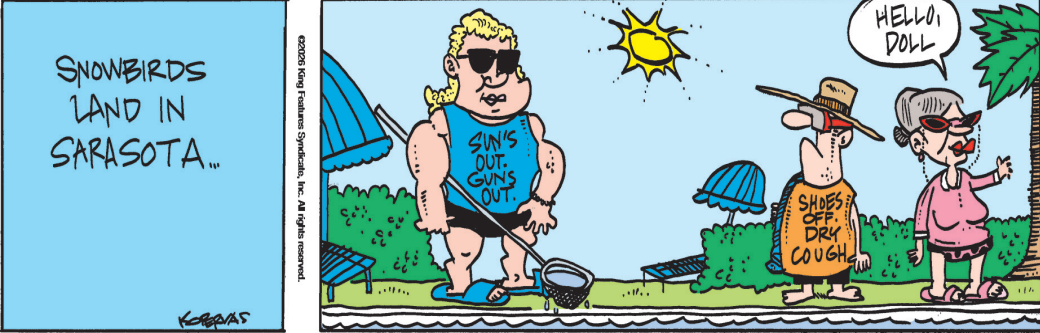
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



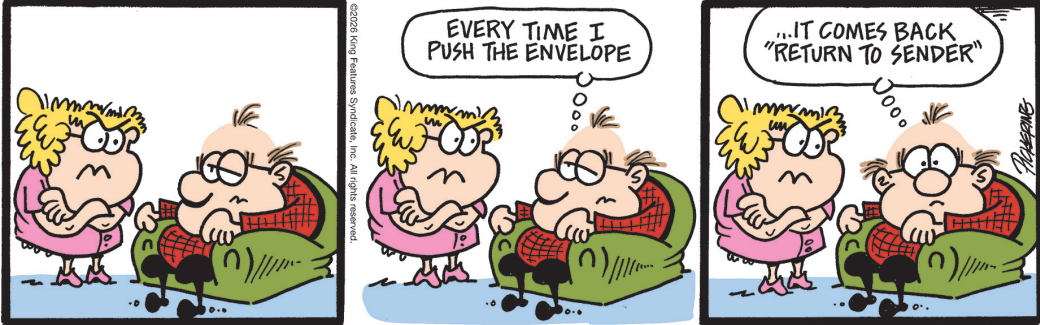
Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



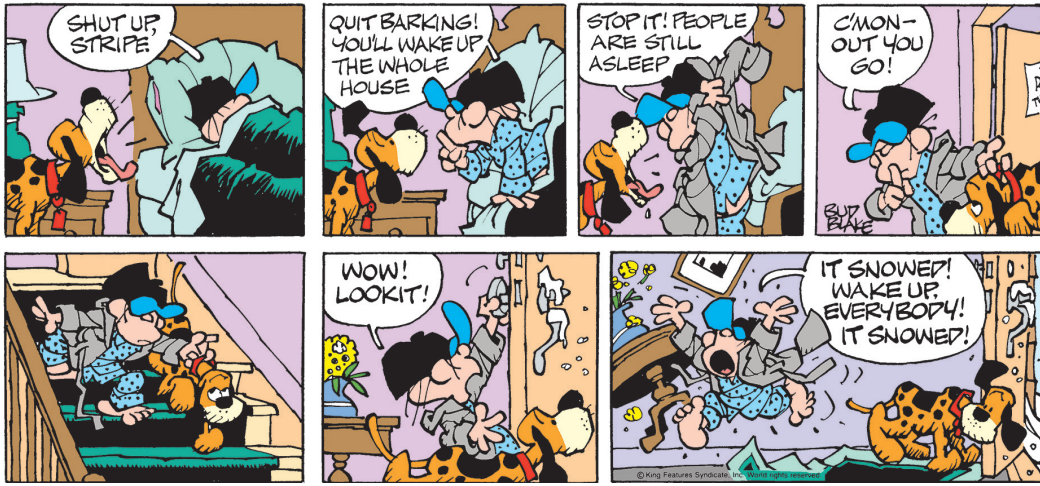
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



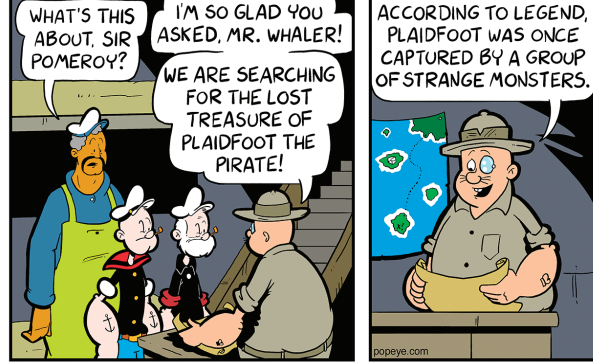
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



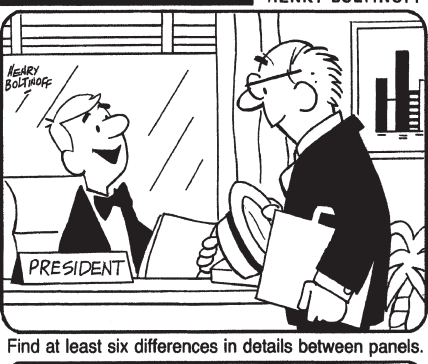
OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Millholland



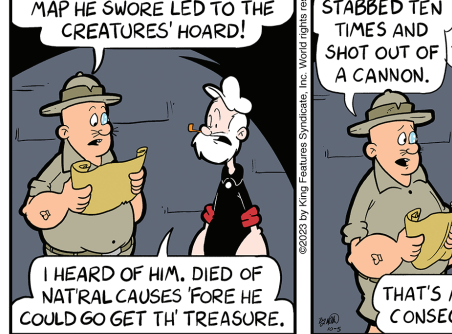
HOCUS-FOCUS

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: L equals X

HQGI JNEGAQSID JPKKGIVB
DNGJ GLASIYA WNX IN
ZOOZXGIA XGZJNI, HQZA
ESDQA BNP YZVV AQZA?
ONNW NW GLSJAGIYG.

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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!



Trap **SUMBAH**

Crack **CHERAB**

Plan **BIGMAT**

Plod **NICHED**

TODAY'S WORD

"Looks to me like the birds will be doing most of the _____!"

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.

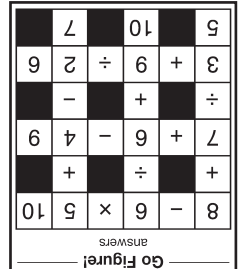
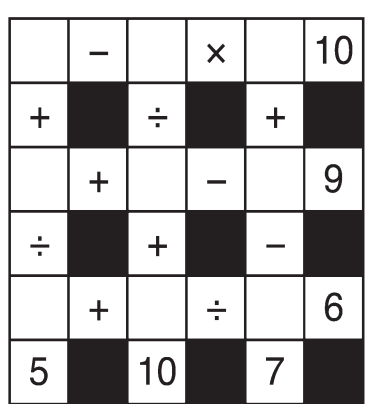
- | | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------|
| 1. Hand warmer | ___ V ___ | Circular map | ___ B ___ |
| 2. More lethargic | S ___ | Tulip or gladiola | F ___ |
| 3. Weeping tree | ___ I ___ | Flounder | ___ A ___ |
| 4. Modify | ___ E ___ | Church table | ___ A ___ |
| 5. Park seat | ___ E ___ | Cluster of grapes | ___ U ___ |
| 6. Wander aimlessly | ___ I ___ | Gentle wind | ___ A ___ |
| 7. Perimeter | ___ G ___ | Hemingway's fish | ___ L ___ |
| 8. Hedge plant | ___ H ___ | Use steel wool | ___ C ___ |
| 9. Prying bar | ___ R ___ | Even | ___ L ___ |
| 10. Football takedown | ___ A ___ | Touch with a feather | ___ I ___ |

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.

DIFFICULTY: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Difficult

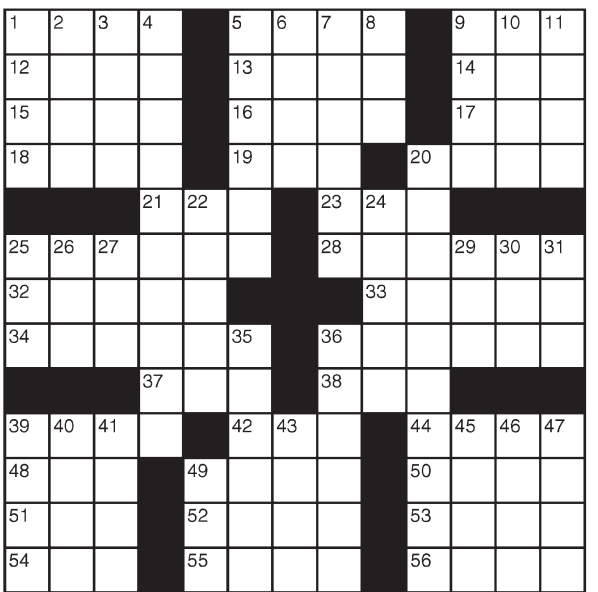


- Donna M. Pettman
- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Glove, Globe | 6. Ditch, Draft |
| 2. Slower, Flower | 7. Margin, Marlin |
| 3. Willow, Willow | 8. Shrub, Scrub |
| 4. Alter, Alter | 9. Level, Level |
| 5. Bench, Bunch | 10. Tackle, Tackle |

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Sketch
- 5 Old name for France
- 9 Microwave
- 12 Top-of-the-line
- 13 Golden Rule preposition
- 14 "As I see it," in a text
- 15 Lady of Spain
- 16 Teen fave
- 17 Stannum
- 18 Out of control
- 19 Pool unit
- 20 Faction
- 21 Humorist
- 23 Follower (Suff.)
- 25 Cerebral
- 28 Car safety feature
- 32 Tree bumps
- 33 Unfettered
- 34 Closed tight
- 36 Outlaw
- 37 Summer in Paris
- 38 Flavor enhancer, for short
- 39 Aspic shaper
- 42 Pair
- 44 Now, in a memo
- 48 Rock producer Brian
- 49 TV's Griffin
- 50 Painter
- Magritte



DOWN

- 1 Baby's father
- 2 Leeway
- 3 Part of A.D.
- 4 Easily swayed
- 5 Culpable
- 6 Forever —
- 7 Perfect place
- 8 Texter's guffaw
- 9 Tubular pasta
- 10 During
- 11 Corn concoction
- 20 Coerces
- 22 Map feature
- 24 "The Da Vinci Code" monk
- 25 Small ammo
- 26 Wish undone
- 27 Coach
- Parseghian
- 29 Physique
- 30 "— was saying ..."
- 31 Retrieve

- 35 Sense
- 36 Low-budget flick
- 39 Small plateau
- 40 Cameo stone
- 41 Single
- 43 Legal document
- 45 Plane reservation
- 46 Pot starter
- 47 Incubator noise
- 49 Bovary's title (Abbr.)

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆

- ◆ Moderate
- ◆◆ Challenging
- ◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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FiveSpot™

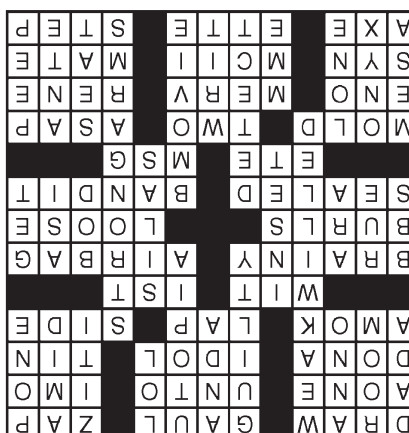
Not really sure

M	A	Y	B	E

- Possibly
- Assist at the climbing wall
- A single unit of grass
- Kept a machine running smoothly
- Provided a hint
- Might be able

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

FiveSpot is a trademark of Michael McLinden. See more at www.sproutsuzzlo.com 02621



Solution time: 21 mins.

King Crossword

Answers

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- GEOGRAPHY:** What is the name of the festival of lights that's celebrated in some European countries as the start of the holiday season?
- MOVIES:** Which actor played folk singer Pete Seeger in "A Complete Unknown"?
- SLOGANS:** Which company uses the advertising slogan "The Best a Man Can Get"?
- HISTORY:** What was the 1848 Seneca Falls Convention about?
- TELEVISION:** What is the name of Liz Lemon's show in the sitcom "30 Rock"?
- SCIENCE:** What kind of substance does Boyle's law govern?
- FOOD & DRINK:** What is the primary ingredient in the Italian dish calamari?
- LITERATURE:** Which Shakespeare play introduces the characters Beatrice and Benedick?
- MATH:** What kind of number is pi (3.14)?
- MUSIC:** What is the name of the house band on "The Tonight Show"?

WATCHING

Today's Word

- 1. Ambush; 2. Breach; 3. Gambit; 4. Inched

SCRAMBLERS

D	L	U	O	C
D	E	U	C	
D	E	B	U	L
E	D	A	B	
E	L	A	V	
M	A	V	B	E

FiveSpot™

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Foot of existence.

When something suddenly goes extinct for no apparent reason, what might you call that?

Answer

CryptoQuip

Answer

10. The Roots

9. Irrational

8. "Much Ado about Nothing"

7. Squad

6. Gas

5. "TGS with Tracy Jordan

4. The first women's rights convention in the United States

3. Gillette

2. Edward Norton

1. St. Lucia's Day

Trivia Answers

Kentucky Power from A-5

The complicated history Kentucky Power has with its ratepayers continues to lean toward customer rate unsustainability. A correction must take place.

We need companies providing good-paying jobs to locate in the service area to combat population

loss, and those companies need fair electrical rates and adequate infrastructure. Ratepayers need Kentucky Power, a monopoly, to manage its operations more effectively. The truth is, families in Eastern Kentucky, who already pay the state's highest average

energy bills, can no longer bear the burden of questionable decisions by Kentucky Power, compounded by a hard-hit regional economy.

PSC meetings on this matter were recently well attended in both Pikeville and Hazard as citizens and

elected leaders alike spoke out in unity about the harmful further rate hikes will cause.

One more community meeting is on the schedule. The Kentucky PSC will be in Ashland at 5 p.m. Thursday, January 8, at the Ashland Transportation Center

to hear from ratepayers.

In addition, the Kentucky PSC accepts written comments by mail or email. To submit written comments, include your name, whether you are a Kentucky Power customer, and reference Case No. 2025-00257 in the subject

line. Mail comments to: PSC, P.O. Box 615, Frankfort, Kentucky 40602, or email to psc.comment@ky.gov.

Abortion from A-6

of being. It is impossible to apply blanket laws, blanket bans, without putting people in danger," Cooper told Lee.

Addia Wuchner, executive director for the anti-abortion Kentucky Right to Life group, disputed the notion that legalized abor-

tion would have prevented this from happening, Lee reports.

"The tragedy would have been you still would

have had a dead child. Seeing this tragic case again reminds us that a child has lost their life and abortion only camouflag-

es it," Wuchner told Lee. Further, she said more needs to be done to address "these illegal pills coming into Kentucky without any

medical care, without any medical advice."

The case is still under investigation.

Olive Hill from A-1

where the city's tax money is going."

Rayburn said the things the commission has voted for so far have mainly been sponsorships of events like last year's Bigfoot Festival that pulled in over 5,000 people to the downtown area and other events such as the Policeman's Block Party. The commission has also matched funds for the renovation of the caboose at the Depot, a project that is ongoing.

"We also gave money to Trail Town to build bridges for their new walking trails," Rayburn said.

"The caboose is supposed to be done by the end of the month," he added. "I have been in there and looked at it, and saw how they were progressing."

The caboose project consisted of a complete restoration to its original state, Rayburn said. This included sandblasting of metal parts, replacement of some panels, and a fresh coat of paint in the originally available colors.

Rayburn joked that he wasn't a huge fan of the yellow to be used, but at one point in the past the

Caboose was yellow.

"If you go back and look at the old C&O colors," Rayburn said, "They were blue and yellow. I would have preferred a blue caboose, but it is what it is."

Trail Town was the organization to originally spearhead the caboose restoration project, Rayburn said. The organization was able to secure funding via a donation from McDonald's, and then the Olive Hill Tourism Commission agreed to match the funds

contributed by that corporation. The project, he said, began last summer and is now nearing completion.

Rayburn said there have been other things the commission has contributed to as well, such as city Christmas lights which, he said, will be an annual expense. Something the commission will be voting to address in the future (possibly the spring of 2026) is the downtown area.

"We need to get that area situated and cleaned up," Rayburn said. "We

didn't get to it last year because we ran out of time."

The Olive Hill Tourism Commission is open to ideas and projects that will encourage people to visit Olive Hill, Rayburn said.

"You always want to leave something better than the way you found it," he said.

But there is a way to go about it, and people and organizations need to be aware that any idea they bring to the commission for funding will need to be voted on by commission members at regular

meetings, or in some cases at special, called meetings. So, it is in everyone's best interest, he said, to plan ahead accordingly.

Olive Hill Tourism Commission Meetings are on the first Tuesday of the month, at 5:30 pm, at the Olive Hill Police Station. All meetings are open to the public, and a time is typically set aside for public comments.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Kentucky State Police investigates death at Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex

WEST LIBERTY – Kentucky State Police (KSP) Post 8 Morehead was contacted by the Eastern Kentucky Correctional Complex (EKCC) on Sunday, January 4 at 6:25 p.m. EDT to investigate

an assault that occurred between two inmates.

KSP troopers and detectives responded to EKCC after correctional officers located Marcus D. Gray, a 49-year-old male from Corbin, Ky., unresponsive

in his cell. Lifesaving measures were provided to Mr. Gray while awaiting arrival of Morgan County EMS. Mr. Gray was transported to Morgan County ARH Hospital then flown to the University of Kentucky Al-

bert B. Chandler Hospital in Lexington, Ky., where he later succumbed to his injuries.

The preliminary investigation reveals that Mr. Gray had been assaulted by John D. Thomas, a

32-year-old male from Burlington, Ky. Criminal charges have not been filed at the time of this release. The case will be presented to the Morgan County Grand Jury at their next meeting.

The ongoing investigation is being conducted by Trooper Wes Montgomery. KSP was assisted on scene by the Morgan County Ambulance Service.

New Year's Kick Off 3v3 tournament

Bringing youth soccer energy to Kentucky Christian University

Staff report
Carter County Times

As the New Year kicks off, eight youth soccer teams will take to the court on Saturday, January 10 at KCU's Lusby Center in Grayson. Each team will be competing for the title of New Year's Champs in a

fast-paced 3v3 futsal-style format that showcases skill, teamwork, and determination. The tournament will feature not only local teams, but also competitors traveling in from across the tristate area, with organizers noting the event is "drawing visitors and energy into the region."

Brandon Glispie, one of the volunteers working with the event, explained that it was organized by local community members with a shared passion for youth soccer. The event, he continued, was designed to do more than crown a champion.

"The goal is to create positive opportunities for

young athletes, encourage participation in sports, and introduce players to a

competitive yet supportive environment that can help inspire youth, strengthen

community connections, and set a positive tone for the year ahead," Glispie said.

While registration for the event is closed, the tournament is open to

spectators, he noted, with the event kicking off at 10 a.m. and running until 4 p.m.

Contact us at news@cartercountytimes.com

If you are 65+ years old or if you are 100% disabled

Stop by the PVA office in the old courthouse or give us a call at 606-474-5663 to see if you qualify for the **Homestead Exemption**. This exemption is a discount for older or disabled taxpayers on the home in which they reside.

Leslie Kiser-Roseberry, Carter County PVA
300 W Main St, Suite 214, Grayson, KY 41143
www.carterpva.com

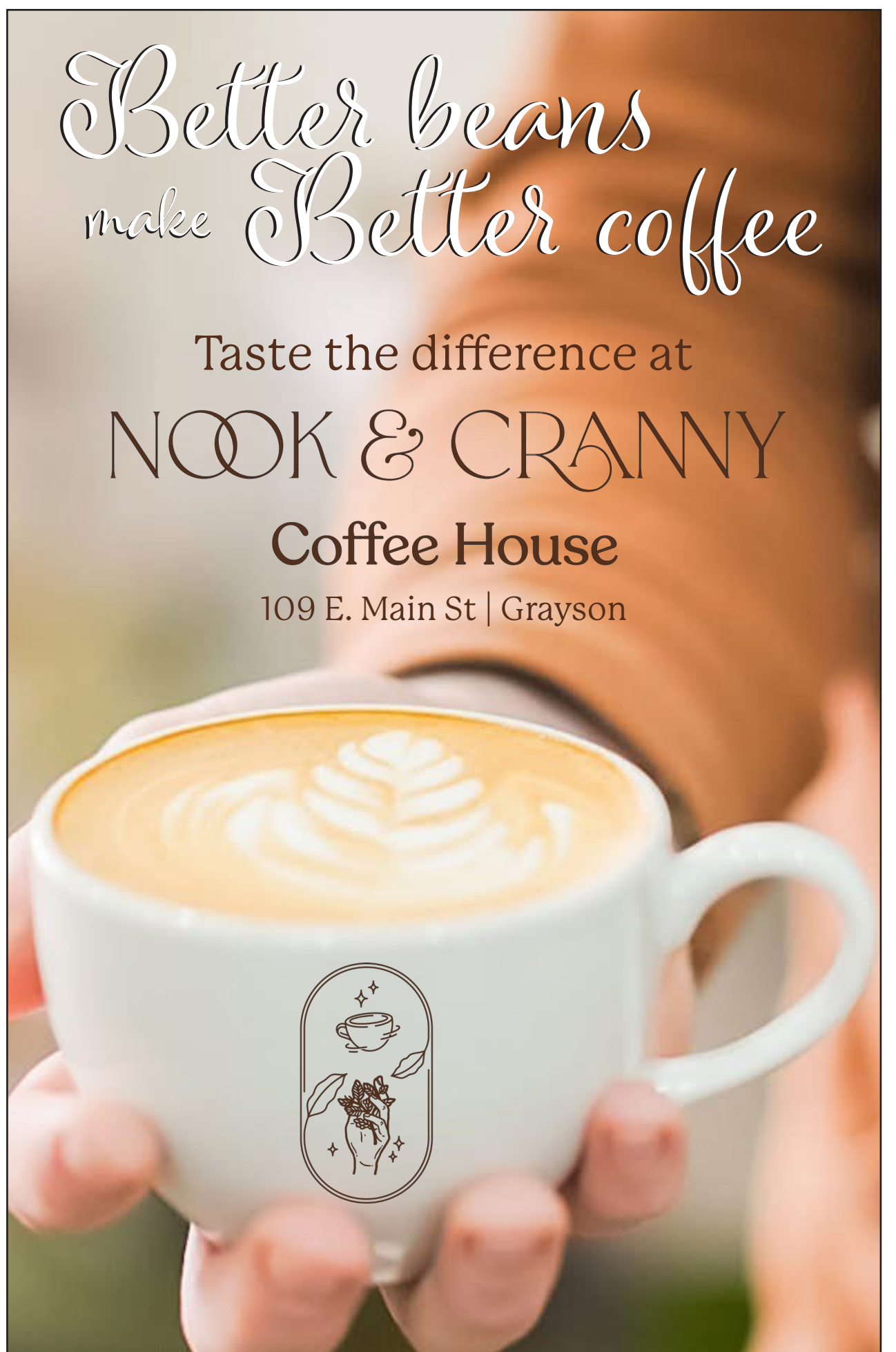


Your local High School Sports Connection

East Carter Basketball on WGOH 1370 AM & 100.9 FM
West Carter Basketball on WUGO 99.7 FM

Also follow East Carter Athletics LIVE video stream on our Go Radio Local TV page on Youtube

Link up, listen, and watch at www.wgohwugo.com

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