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# Carter County Times

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CARTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY

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## Icy rescue

Police and EMS save resident from burning home

By Charles Romans  
Carter County Times

In an emergency situation quick response can mean the difference between life and death. This was the case when first responders from two separate agencies responded two weeks ago (January 28), fighting inclement weather to respond to a house fire on Christy Drive in Grayson. The call came in

as a possible structure fire, and Assistant Director Mike Wears of Carter County EMS and K9 Officer Justin Stone of the Grayson Police Department arrived at virtually the same time.

"The house was fully involved and on fire at that point," Wears said.

He knew the house was occupied because he had just been at the residence two days prior and helped the resident, a woman who was bedridden, get out for a doctor's appointment. The reason for officer Stone responding, Wears said, was that all departments respond to fire and traffic emergencies, offering

See FIRE on A-3



Police and fire crews secure the scene after the fire was extinguished. (Submitted photo)

## Decades of Memory

Chamber plans for Memory Days 2026

By Charles Romans  
Carter County Times

The Grayson Chamber of Commerce has begun planning for their 2026 Memory Days event. Director Mike Nelson said that the popular event, which showcases Grayson businesses with live music, vendors, and food trucks, has been going on every year for over half a century.

"Memory Days was put

together by the Chamber of Commerce as a tribute to Memorial Day," Nelson explained. "It started as just a weekend festival, and as it grew, we added on additional days leading up to Memorial Day. Traditionally we don't have events actually on Memorial Day, though last year there was a car show on that day that we publicized."

Nelson himself has been involved with Memory Days since he came on board at the chamber, which is about four years, he said. He works closely with the Memory Days Coordinator, Michelle Boggs,

See MEMORY on A-3



(File photo by Jeremy D. Wells, Carter County Times)

## Fiscal court approves purchase of transport vans

Appoints new member to library board

By Charles Romans  
Carter County Times

The Carter County Fiscal Court approved the purchase of three new transport vans for the Carter County Detention Center on Monday, February 9. The jail is currently operating its transport with vehicles that are over ten years old, and all of those vehicles have experienced major maintenance issues. Two of the vehicles have needed engines



(Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

replaced and the jail has also had to purchase replacement trans-

missions. Carter County Jailer R.W.

See VANS on A-4

## 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.

- Leshiara Powell, 34, of Ashland, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on a probation violation (for a felony offense), arrested and booked February 2.
- Michael Overton, 31, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of operating a motor vehicle with an expired operator's license, and being a convicted felon in possession of a handgun, arrested and booked February 4.
- Bryson Crider, 18, of Morehead, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of public intoxication on a controlled substance (excludes alcohol), and first degree possession of a

- controlled substance (heroin), arrested and booked February 4.
- Kyle Greer, 29, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of second degree fleeing or evading police (on foot), third degree burglary, public intoxication on a controlled substance (excludes alcohol), first degree possession of a controlled substance (heroin), first degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), possession of drug paraphernalia, and three counts of failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked February 4.
- Stephanie Porter, 38, of Olive Hill, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of second degree burglary, failure to pay support, and three counts of failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked February 4.
- Elaina Malone, 48, of Grayson,

arrested by Kentucky State Police, on two counts of failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked February 5.

- Jacob Hoffman, 23, of Buford, GA, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, failure to wear seat belts, failure to produce an insurance card, and no or expired registration receipt, arrested and booked February 7.
- Cari Hayes, 42, of Clearfield, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked February 7.

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.



### This Week's Obituaries

Dewey Lee Caudill, 70

Thomas Richard "Tommy" Thompson, 58

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# LIFESTYLE



## A love letter to chocolate

Chocolate doesn't need a holiday, but Valentine's Day gives us permission to notice it. Chocolate melts patiently. It waits. It forgives mistakes. When treated gently, it rewards you with far more than the sum of its parts. That's not a bad lesson for life or love.

- Most of us think we know chocolate, but the labels tell an important story:
- Dark chocolate is made from cocoa solids, cocoa butter and minimal sugar. Higher cocoa percentages mean deeper flavor and less sweetness.
  - Bittersweet and semisweet are both dark chocolates and interchangeable in most recipes. Exact cocoa percentages matter less than choosing chocolate you enjoy.
  - Milk chocolate includes milk solids and more sugar, giving it a softer, creamier flavor.
  - White chocolate contains cocoa

butter, sugar and milk solids but no cocoa solids. When well made, it's still real chocolate. You may have noticed that some chocolate costs more than others. The difference often lies in better cocoa beans, higher cocoa butter content, fewer fillers and ethical sourcing.

Some of chocolate's higher cost reflects how cocoa is grown and who benefits. When you're able, choosing fair trade or ethically sourced brands is a small way to support better practices.

That said, not every recipe asks for your very best chocolate. Cakes, brownies and bark loaded with toppings do just fine with good grocery-store chocolate. Save higher-end bars for simple recipes, where flavor and texture truly shine.

If chocolate has a greatest magic trick, it's ganache. It sounds fancy, but it's simply chocolate and cream, and one of the most useful techniques a home cook can learn. By adjusting the ratio of chocolate to cream, ganache can be thin and pourable or thick and scoopable, serving as a sauce, glaze, frosting, truffle filling or the thing that makes a simple cake feel extraordinary.

### HOW TO MAKE CHOCOLATE GANACHE

- 8 ounces chocolate chips
  - 1 cup heavy cream
- Place the chocolate chips in a heatproof bowl. Heat the cream, on the stovetop or in the microwave, just until steaming with small bubbles at the edges. Pour the hot cream over the chocolate and let it sit undisturbed for 3 minutes. Starting in the center, gently stir outward until smooth and glossy.
- Use warm as a pourable glaze, dip or sauce. Let it cool to thicken for spreading or frosting. Strawberries are always welcome.

And if you want the simplest Valentine's dessert of all, these straightforward chocolate cupcakes never fail. No fuss, just rich flavor and a tender crumb.

### EASY CHOCOLATE CUPCAKES

- Yield: about 16 cupcakes  
Total Time: 30 minutes
- What You'll Need:**
- 1 1/2 cups all-purpose flour
  - 1 cup granulated sugar
  - 1/4 cup unsweetened cocoa powder
  - 1 teaspoon baking soda
  - 1/2 teaspoon salt
  - 1 cup coffee
  - 1 tablespoon white distilled vinegar
  - 1/3 cup vegetable oil
  - 1 large egg, room tempera-



Ganache in the middle, chocolate-dipped cupcakes and strawberries circling like devoted Valentines. (Photo Credit: www.JasonCoblentz.com)

- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

**Here's How:**  
Preheat oven to 350 F with rack centered. Line a muffin tin with cupcake liners.

In a large bowl, whisk together flour, sugar, cocoa powder, baking soda and salt. In a second bowl, whisk coffee, vinegar, oil, egg and vanilla until blended. Pour wet ingredients over dry and whisk just until combined. Do not overmix.

Using an ice cream scoop, portion batter into liners, filling each about two-thirds full. Bake for 20 minutes, or until a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Cool 5 minutes in the pan, then transfer to a rack to

cool completely before frosting. Chocolate doesn't ask for perfection. It teaches patience, provides us with self-care. Say it with me: "Chocolate, will you be my Valentine?"

\*\*\*  
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](http://www.divasonadime.com) and join the conversation on Facebook at [DivasOnADimeDotCom](https://www.facebook.com/DivasOnADimeDotCom). Email Patti at [divapatti@divasonadime.com](mailto:divapatti@divasonadime.com)

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## Ask Daryl: Your Professional Organizer

# Grownups and their toys

Yes, grownups have their toys too. It actually can be more problematic than the toys your children own, simply because they are larger and more complex to dispose of.



Daryl Ashley  
Guest Columnist  
Confusion Solution

For instance, since the dawn of the modern technological age, adults have collected everything from CDs to computers. And let's not forget the cords, chargers, and phones. We have purchased shelves, entertainment centers, and desks in which to house our toys and yet our collections seem to multiply as we attempt to keep up with changes in technology, and these things are not cheap.

Adults also collect outdoor toys. These can be camping gear, swimming apparatus, and sporting goods, all of which are much larger than a plush teddy bear or a child's table and chairs. And again, these things are not cheap.

To put this into perspective, the same principles you apply to managing your child's toys can be applied to managing your own. Here are some suggestions.

1. Think before you buy. As technology changes, back up your data before you add that new laptop or phone and take stock of cords and chargers that no longer serve a purpose. Consider the space you need and the space you have before you add furniture or other organizers to store your things.
2. Replace the old with the new. Search for companies who will discard your electronics safely. Sending them to the dump isn't eco-friendly. These companies may also be able to use the parts from your old computers to recondition others.
3. Donate items that can still be useful for someone else. Students that

are in need of computers or tablets to help with studies or finding jobs, or maybe someone just wants something simple to use to communicate through social media. There are many people out there who don't have the funds to purchase expensive tech. And think about donating those old fishing rods, or basketballs, or tents to charities that support youth.

4. Be mindful of your budget. Don't let the thought of a new toy end up costing you more than you actually earn. Simple planning for that next thing is necessary when there is a constant stream of bigger and better always available.

All in all, you should be able to enjoy what you have and look forward to what's coming up without putting a strain on your living space or your finances.

It's as simple as that!  
Send your questions and comments to me at [info@confusionsolution.com](mailto:info@confusionsolution.com)

## Joyful Noise

# The battle of the mind

By Pastor Naomi Mitchell  
for *Carter County Times*

Has someone ever asked you what you were thinking about? Maybe you said something like, "Oh, my mind has been all over the place!" We can be very stressed by our overthinking. Some days our mind feels at peace. Other times our mind may think about many things in a day's time. Maybe you have had days that your mind was on a certain project, event, or

good or bad news for days. Did you know that the Bible speaks about different "minds" and even what we should think on?

The condition of our mind shapes our choices, our peace, our relationships, and our walk with Jesus. Scripture shows us that not all "minds" are the same. Some lead to life, others lead to bondage. Through Christ, our minds can be renewed, which is great news!

RIGHT MIND. Mark

5:15 says, "This is the man who had been possessed by demons, now sitting clothed and in his right mind." This man's mind was no longer ruled by torment, but he was now stable and clear minded in peace.

SOBER MIND. Titus 1:8 says, "...but hospitable, a lover of what is good, sober minded, just, holy and self-controlled." He was alert, not being

See JOYFUL NOISE on A-4

## Kentucky Dept of Agriculture Livestock and Grain Market Report

There is no trend analysis available due to market closures during the previous week.

Week ending 2/7/26

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

	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
<b>Steers (M&amp;L 1-2)</b>			
350-400 lbs	516.69	560.00	363.37
400-450 lbs	479.98	500.00	338.39
450-500 lbs	469.81	470.00	335.15
500-550 lbs	424.96		314.94
550-600 lbs	407.78	425.00	303.11
600-650 lbs	393.30		284.09
650-700 lbs	380.67		272.08
700-750 lbs	353.03		261.71
750-800 lbs	345.59		256.73
800-850 lbs	327.00		246.38
850-900 lbs	328.85	237.50	241.42
<b>Heifers (M&amp;L 1-2)</b>			
300-350 lbs	464.61	346.83	313.15
350-400 lbs	443.68	450.00	313.49
400-450 lbs	432.87	429.77	306.22
450-500 lbs	408.68	385.00	291.13
500-550 lbs	396.51	400.00	277.74
550-600 lbs	369.69		267.02
600-650 lbs	347.84		253.29
650-700 lbs	337.95		247.53
700-750 lbs	317.88		233.95
750-800 lbs	310.69		226.68

	Average	High	Low
<b>Slaughter Cows</b>			
Breakers	152.00-172.00	171.00-201.00	140.00-153.00
Boners	140.00-180.00	160.00-199.00	120.00-167.50
Lean	130.00-162.00	148.00-182.50	100.00-152.00
<b>Slaughter Bulls</b>			
Yield Grade 1&2	170.00-201.00	195.00-228.00	150.00-182.00

Jan 22, 2026 Bowling Green, KY  
**SLAUGHTER GOATS: 65**  
**Kids-Selection 1** 54 lbs 390.00; . **Selection 2** 45 lbs 325.00; 52 lbs 365.00; 69 lbs 292.50; 75 lbs 312.50. **Selection 2-3** 54 lbs 355.00; 65 lbs 300.00.  
**SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 484**  
**Hair Breeds-Choice & Prime 1-2** 55 lbs 380.00; 67-68 lbs 367.50-370.00; 73-76 lbs 362.50-365.00; 86-88 lbs 325.00-355.00; 110.00. **Choice 2** 52-57 lbs 355.00-365.00; 66 lbs 357.50; 73 lbs 340.00; 88 lbs 292.50.  
**Wooled-Choice and Prime 1-2** 120 lbs 232.50; 148 lbs 212.50.

	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
<b>GRAINS</b>			
<b>Corn</b>	4.11-4.64	4.09-4.64	4.78-5.18
<b>Soybeans</b>	10.05-11.07	10.03-11.15	9.65-10.91
<b>Red Winter Wheat</b>	4.71-5.51	4.58-5.56	4.97-6.04

## University of Kentucky Extension Notes

# Seventh annual National Pesticide Safety Education Month

February is National Pesticide Safety Education month. This is a time to carefully examine current best safety practices with pesticide use. Pesticides are key tools used to manage a diverse group of pests, diseases, and weeds.



Rebecca Konopka  
Carter County  
Extension Agent

Pesticide safety is just as important with pesticides used around homes as it is on farms and businesses. In Kentucky, pesticides are defined quite widely and include any substance or mixture of substances to prevent, destroy, control, repel, attract, or mitigate any pest; any substances used as plant regulators, defoliants, or desiccants; or any substance used as a spray adjuvant, once they have been mixed with an EPA registered product.

Recently, new laws and regulations for pesticides were approved by the Legislature that affect core competencies expected of pesticide applicators as well as updated training and certification requirements.

Safe use of pesticides does not have a simple, one-size-fits-all solution, but here are some basic pesticide safety principles – a starting point for safety from purchase to disposal.

- Read the entire pesticide label before purchase and use. You are legally required to read and follow everything on the label except the information about crops or sites that you are not going to treat. Labels are periodically updated, users need to review the label even when they purchase materials

- they have used in the past.
- Follow all applicable federal, state, tribal, and local laws and regulations concerning the use of pesticides and personal protective equipment.
- Wash your reusable PPE with soap and water after use.
- Seek competent advice if there is something you don't understand on the label or in other applicable laws and regulations.
- Transport pesticides in the car trunk or truck bed, separate from passengers, groceries or animal feed, and secure the containers to prevent spills.
- Store pesticides in original containers in a locked cabinet or secure area, away from food, feed, or personal protective equipment.
- Follow all applicable Worker Protection Standards information

See PESTICIDE on A-3

**Memory** from A-1

to help make the event a success, he said.

“She (Boggs) takes care of everything,” Nelson said, quick to give credit where credit is due. “And I sort of approve it through the chamber.”

“Memory Days is a way for the Chamber of Commerce and its members to honor those who have gone on,” Nelson said of the event. “The businesses back the events that happen, with a lot of the businesses actually putting on the events themselves. Everything from ice cream socials to offering cotton candy.”

Some people attending the event even dress in clothes from bygone days, honoring the memory of Grayson’s past and those who built the city.

Nelson said many of the businesses in Grayson get more involved in the event, with some businesses

even moving some of their inventory outdoors in the style of a sidewalk market so that people can browse through the downtown area. This helps local residents enjoy what the city has to offer, as well as bringing others in from out of town.

“The City of Grayson has a lot to offer,” Nelson said. “And we want everyone to be able to enjoy it.”

The best way to keep up to date on what is being planned for Memory Days 2026 is to visit the event’s Facebook page or the Grayson Area Chamber of Commerce Facebook page, Nelson said. Currently the event is in the advanced planning stage where they accept sponsors and vendors, and plan talent. Anyone interested in becoming a vendor should apply now, he said, and numerous levels of sponsorship are available.

“The events that we do, especially the entertainment we have each night, does cost money,” Nelson said. “So, to put on these things we reach out to our chamber members to help support them.”

But even if you aren’t a member of the Chamber of Commerce, you can still help sponsor the event, he said. The chamber accepts small donations for the event, but at certain levels of sponsorship the name of the donor is placed on a t-shirt or on banners.

“There is even what we call a corporate level sponsorship. That’s where you can basically sponsor an entire day of entertainment,” Nelson said.

“Without the sponsors helping us out, we couldn’t have the events we do,” Nelson added.

Sponsors help to get the entertainment that

draws people to the event, he said. Nelson said that anyone interested in sponsoring Memory Days, or seeking more information about the event, can call him at the chamber office, or email him at graysonchamber41143@gmail.com. The website also has an electronic sponsor form available, which can be submitted through the webpage or sent to the email address if you prefer.

“We are looking for merchandise vendors,” Nelson said. “Everyone loves looking at handmade items. And we are also looking for food trucks that would like to participate.”

Vendors and food truck operators can contact the chamber and apply in the same way as potential sponsors.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

**Fire** from A-1

what is commonly known as mutual aid.

“Everyone is kind of covering everyone’s back when those kinds of calls happen,” Wears said.

And it was fortunate for the woman (whose name was not released) that two responders arrived at the same time because it required both men to assist in getting the woman out of the home.

“When we got to the house, we could see the front door was partially open,” Stone said. “Smoke was already through the whole structure, and was already banked down to the floor.”

Added to this, he said, there was noticeable fire on the corner of the dwelling opposite the front door.

“It was visible from the outside of the house,”

Stone continued. “All the departments – fire, police, and EMS – had responded to multiple calls in that area. We knew she was bedridden and in the living room. So, when Mike and I were able to confirm that she was still in the house, that’s when we removed her and pulled her out into the front yard.”

Stone and Wears, working quickly, decided that the safest and most expedient means of removing the woman from the burning, smoke-filled structure, was to carry her out using the mattress of her bed.

“The mattress slid across the floor, then across the ice in the front yard,” Stone said.

“It worked better taking her with the mattress rather than trying to pick her up,”

Wears added. “She was totally unresponsive and incapacitated. There was no chance of her assisting us in any way. So, we basically used the mattress as a lift sheet and that’s what we took her out of the house with.”

Wears said there was another EMS truck right behind him, and it was staged at the end of the street.

“At that point they (the other truck) didn’t know it was confirmed entrapment. Justin and I got there first, and we had her out of the house by the time the first ambulance showed up. At that point we got her onto the ambulance, and got the ambulance headed back out as the first fire truck was pulling up,” he explained.

The ambulance took

the woman to the burn unit at Cabell Hospital, Wears said.

“Any time we have anyone that is involved in a situation like that, even if they aren’t physically burned, they are still taken there because that is their specialty, burns and respiratory burns.”

Stone and Wears responded quickly to save the woman’s life, working together in spite of being from different departments. Both say that mutual aid is a key factor in protecting the residents of Grayson in the best manner possible.

“We help each other,” Wears said. “We do what needs to be done, and we do it better working together.”

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

## Japanese-based Kirin announces deal to sell the Four Roses bourbon brand to wine giant Gallo

By Bruce Schreiner  
Associated Press

Gallo signaled Friday that it sees wine and whiskey as a good mix for business.

The wine giant said it plans to add a prominent Kentucky bourbon brand to its portfolio in a deal to purchase Four Roses Distillery from Japanese-based Kirin.

The deal, valued at up to \$775 million, is expected to close in the second

quarter of this year, Kirin said in a release. California-based Gallo said no changes are planned in operations, production or distribution once it acquires the Four Roses brand — produced in Lawrenceburg in the heart of Kentucky bourbon country.

“As we move through the regulatory process and await a closing date, we’re incredibly excited about this acquisition and the opportunity to welcome Four Roses into our portfolio,”

Gallo said in a statement. Founded in 1933 by brothers Ernest and Julio Gallo, Gallo is a family-owned company with an extensive portfolio in wine, spirits, malt beverages and ready to drink products.

Kirin said Four Roses has achieved strong growth, primarily in the U.S., since it acquired the brand in 2002.

“Kirin regularly reviews its balance sheet and business portfolio from a medium to long term

perspective,” it said Friday. “After careful consideration as part of this review, Kirin decided to enter into an agreement to transfer the business to Gallo. This transaction will allow Kirin to reallocate its resources toward businesses that could further grow by leveraging Kirin’s own organizational capabilities.”

Kirin didn’t immediately signal how it will use proceeds from the Four Roses sale. The beverage

See WINE on A-4

**Pesticide** from A-2

exchange, notification, posting, and other requirements.

- Measure and mix pesticides in a well-ventilated area away from children, pets, toys, and food.
- Calibrate and maintain application equipment so that the amount of pesticide applied will be accurate, uniform, and legal.
- Keep pesticides on target – use untreated buffers if necessary or delay the application if conditions favor off-target movement due to wind or water.
- Identify sensitive areas and organisms that

could be affected by the application and take all necessary precautions.

- Do everything possible to prevent spills and leaks; always have absorbent material, such as cat litter or sawdust, readily available.
- Wash slightly contaminated work clothes separately before re-use; follow all directions on care and disposal of personal protective equipment.
- Dispose of pesticides properly, as well as any excess spray mixture, empty containers, and contaminated cleanup material and clothing.

Always read and follow all pesticide label requirements as well as all applicable state and federal laws and regulations regarding pesticide use.

Written by Ric Bessin, Entomology Extension Specialist, and originally published on February 3, 2026 in Kentucky Pest News. 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:**

- Berry Plant Orders Due – Deadline extended to February 12th
- Northeast Area Livestock Association Meeting – February 24th @ 6:00 PM; Topic: USDA Programs
- Beef Quality Care & Assurance Training – February 27th @ 10:00 AM; Call 474-6686 to register.

# CALENDAR

- **2/11: Girl Scouts meeting @ 5:30 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **2/13: Shoppes on the Hill @ 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.** | 110 Comet Dr, Olive Hill
- **2/13: Shoppes on the Hill @ 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.** | 110 Comet Dr, Olive Hill
- **2/14: Shoppes on the Hill @ 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.** | 110 Comet Dr, Olive Hill
- **2/16: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 474-6686
- **2/16: Open Art Studio @ 10 a.m.** | Grayson Gallery & Art Center
- **2/16: Carter County EMS Board @ 4 p.m.** | Carter County EMS Station
- **2/16: Carter County Board of Education @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Board of Education office
- **2/17 Building Club @ 4 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library, Olive Hill
- **2/17 Olive Hill City Council @ 6 p.m.** | Olive Hill Senior/Community Center
- **2/18: Grayson Book Club @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson Branch
- **2/18: Olive Hill Area Chamber of Commerce @ 6 p.m.** | Commerical Bank of Grayson - Olive Hill
- **2/20: Sit & Sew @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For more info or to RSVP call 474-6686
- **2/20: Shoppes on the Hill @ 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.** | 110 Comet Dr, Olive Hill
- **2/21: Shoppes on the Hill @ 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.** | 110 Comet Dr, Olive Hill

**Have an event to add to the calendar?**  
Email info to [advertise@cartercountytimes.com](mailto: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

Buddy is a male mixed breed, believed to be around three-years-old. He’s a very friendly boy, good with other dogs, and is already neutered and up to date on shots. Buddy also 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.



## 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.**

**EXPECT MORE**  
**We are Here for You.**  
Extended Drive Thru Hours –  
**7am till 6pm Monday thru Friday**  
**7am till 1pm Saturday**

Commercial Bank of Grayson  
Member FDIC  
Equal Housing Lender  
cbgrayson.com

**Joyful Noise** from A-2

ruled by his fleshly desires or emotions. He began to live with an alert, watchful mind, being disciplined. **SPIRITUAL MIND.** Romans 8:6, "to be spiritually minded is life and peace." 1 Corinthians 2:16 says, "For who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct him? But we have known the mind of Christ." We should be thinking God's thoughts, not just of things on earth.

**ANXIOUS MIND.** Luke 12:29 says, "And do not seek what you should eat or what you should drink, nor have an anxious mind." That is a mind that is consumed with worry and fear about a lot of things. We forget God is our Provider. **DEBASED/REPROBATE MIND.** Romans 1:28 says, "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge,

God gave them over to a reprobate mind." This mind set has rejected the truth of God so much that their hearts become hardened. They continue to resist the commands of God. **CARNAL MIND.** Romans 8:6-7 says, "The carnal mind is death...it is enmity against God." This mind set is saying, "I want what I want and not what God wants." Our fleshly

desires are causing us to resist God as it is more pleasurable to live for ourselves. Philippians 4:6-8, says, "Be careful for nothing; ... the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things

are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things." We are to renew our minds daily in the Word. Jesus said if we keep our minds stayed upon Him He would give us our perfect peace. There is hope for a troubled mind. Get into the Word of God! 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.*

**Vans** from A-1

Boggs told the fiscal court that the transport vans currently in use had been purchased in 2014 and 2016, and the vehicles had reached their limit. "We have broken down seven times this year," Boggs said, referring to the issues the vans had experienced since the beginning of 2016. There were three instances, he said, where the vehicles had effectively stranded them while working for the US Marshall Service. Boggs voiced his apprehension that consistent

breakdowns and/or delays might compromise that contract, which currently brings in around \$2 million per year for the county jail. He presented the fiscal court with quotes for new cargo vans, the cheapest being from Mark Porter Chevrolet in Ashland, at a cost of \$35,000 per vehicle. As is the case with most official service vehicles, Boggs told the court they would need to be ordered soon because of the delay in delivery. One of the three vehicles, Boggs said, might arrive fairly quickly but he

was not given a time frame for delivery of the remaining two vehicles. That delivery might be up to six months, he said. Fortunately, however, the jail would not be out a re-equipping fee for changing radios and cages because jail employees would be able to handle that conversion themselves. Boggs also mentioned to the court that he had spoken with Kentucky Deferred Comp about a retirement supplement that could be made available to county employees. "It's kind of like the

health departments in the state systems use," Boggs said. "They allow for the counties to participate in that, and all we have to do is have a resolution stating that we want to participate." They program runs a 401K and a 457B deferred compensation for county employees who choose to sign up. The program allows employees to designate a portion of their payroll to the account before taxes, and the county, if it chooses to do so, can match those funds, but it is not required to do so. The

program, Boggs said, was designed as a supplement to the county employees' pensions. The court voted to approve a resolution (No. 450) that the county wished to participate. In other business, the court voted to renew the interlocal agreement with the Carter County Public Library. The agreement, which has a two-year term, lists the fiscal court's support of the public library (along with the City of Grayson and the City of Olive Hill) in the amount of \$27,000 per year. The court also accepted

the recommendation from Mindy Click to appoint Olive Hill teacher Diane Stephens to replace Aaron Baldwin, who resigned from the Carter County Library Board. The court has the right to appoint one board member to the Library Board, Click explained, and Baldwin was the last member appointed by the court. *Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com*

**Wine** from A-3

giant also has holdings in health sciences and pharmaceuticals. Four Roses Distillery completed a \$55 million expansion several years ago that doubled production capacity at its Lawrenceburg plant. The iconic brand was a post-Prohibition powerhouse but

disappeared from American shelves as a Kentucky straight bourbon for decades. It's only been since Kirin purchased Four Roses that the brand's straight bourbons returned to American bars and liquor stores. A previous owner had turned Four Roses into a blended whiskey for U.S.

consumption, while shipping the straight bourbons to foreign markets. The Four Roses sale comes amid a period of uncertainty for American spirits producers as they navigate trade conflicts and nagging inflation that's pinched consumers' pocketbooks.

"While total U.S. spirits sales edged down 2.2% in 2025, the spirits industry remains resilient, driven by innovative products that continue to spark consumer interest," Chris Swonger, president and CEO of the Distilled Spirits Council of the United States, said Thursday during its annual

industry report. Domestic sales of American whiskey — a category that includes bourbon, Tennessee whiskey and rye whiskey — totaled \$5.1 billion in 2025, down nearly 1% from the prior year, the council said. Demand for high-end premium whiskey brands

remains strong, Swonger said. Those whiskeys age longer and fetcher higher prices for producers. Bourbon gets its flavor and golden brown color during aging. "There is still a great deal of consumer interest and passion for America's native spirit," he said.

# Trump versus Massie tensions flare at local Kentucky event, on national stage

By McKenna Horsley  
*Kentucky Lantern*

Flaring midterm election tensions among Kentucky Republicans were on display over the weekend after a microphone was taken away from U.S. Rep. Thomas Massie during a Lincoln Day Dinner. Meanwhile, Republican Massie, who faces a Trump-endorsed challenger, took the Republican president to task on national television Sunday for posting a racist video and criticizing Massie's wife. As Kentuckians prepare to vote this year for members of Congress, including electing a successor to U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell, the Republican president's eagerness to defeat Massie is casting a national spotlight on the Kentucky GOP. It's also seeping into the U.S. Senate race as Republican candidates vie for an endorsement by Trump who easily carried Kentucky in all three of his elections. Videos that have gone viral on social media show state House Speaker David Osborne taking the microphone away from the congressman, who is seeking reelection against a primary challenger recruited by President Donald Trump. Massie was speaking at the Oldham County Republicans' Lincoln Day Dinner. Massie, who spoke for about eight minutes, said he wanted to take "a

little extra time to defend" his wife, Carolyn Grace Moffa, after Trump attacked her online last week. Trump said on Truth Social that Moffa was "supposedly a Radical Left 'flamethrower.'" She is a former staffer for U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, another Kentucky Republican, and has voted for Trump three times, Massie previously said. "This will be the first and last time I respond to the president's tweet, and I wouldn't even respond to it if Ed Gallrein hadn't retweeted it," Massie said during the Lincoln Day dinner. "I feel like a woman needs defended, and I'm going to defend her here tonight." Gallrein, a former Navy SEAL and Shelby County farmer, is Massie's Trump-backed Republican opponent. Osborne can be seen stepping toward Massie in the videos around the six-minute mark. Massie continued to talk and was critical of Gallrein, who also attended the dinner. Eventually, another person walks up from a table in front of the lectern. "Come up here and hug me," Massie said to the person and Osborne while holding his arms out before returning to his remarks. Osborne then takes the microphone from the lectern. According to one video

*See MASSIE on A-6*

# OBITUARY

## Thomas Richard "Tommy" Thompson 1967 – 2026



Thomas Richard "Tommy" Thompson, age 58, of Hitchens, Kentucky, passed away Monday, February 2, 2026, at UK-King's Daughter Medical Center in Ashland, Kentucky. He was born Monday, July 24, 1967, in McHenry, Illinois, a son of Clifton Isaacs of Hitchens, Kentucky and the late Donna Coburn Isaacs. Tommy proudly served his country for 4 years in the United States Army and 11 years in the Army National Guards. He was a man with a rare and beautiful soul, one that drew people in and made them feel at home. He loved cooking for others, traveling, and sharing life's experiences with those he cared about. There was nothing he couldn't figure out; his mind, determination, and curiosity knew no limits. He was a loyal friend to all, the kind of person you could always count on, and someone who left a lasting impression on everyone he met.

Above all, he was the greatest son, brother, nephew, and uncle, roles he carried with pride, love, and devotion. To know him was to truly love him. He was deeply loved by many, and his absence leaves a space that can never be filled. He will be missed beyond words and remembered forever for his kindness, strength, and the love he gave so freely. Tommy is survived by two brothers, Wade (Angelia) Thompson of Grayson, Kentucky, Lennie (Tina) Isaacs of Ashland, Kentucky; one sister, Justice (Mark) Kouns of Grayson, Kentucky; six nephews; three great-nephews and special friends, Chris and Kim Prince, and the entire Burton family. Funeral services were held at 11 a.m., Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at Grayson Funeral Home and Cremation Services, 49 McCoy Road, Grayson, Kentucky, with Lennie Isaacs and Derrick Burton officiating. Burial followed in Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Northeast in Grayson, Kentucky. Friends visited from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., Monday, February 9, 2026, and from 9 a.m., Tuesday, February 10, 2026, until the service hour at Grayson Funeral Home. Grayson Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Thomas Richard "Tommy" Thompson.

## Dewey Lee Caudill 1956 – 2026



Dewey Lee Caudill, age 70, of Grayson, Kentucky, passed away Thursday, January 22, 2026, at St. Mary's Medical Center in Huntington, West Virginia. He was born January 4, 1956, in Grayson, a son of the late David Wiley Caudill Jr. and Virginia Johnston Caudill. He was also preceded in death by his brother, David Wiley Caudill III (Goldie Caudill). Dewey truly loved life and lived it to the fullest. He had a generous heart and would do anything to help someone in need. Family, both by blood and by choice, meant everything to him, and his friends were more like family than anything else. Dewey never met a stranger, and those who knew him knew they were loved. He worked many

years drilling coal rigs and later found great joy building log homes. A master carpenter, Dewey loved woodworking and spent countless hours creating and building in his woodshop. He also had a lifelong love for fast cars and good music, both of which brought him pure happiness. Dewey is lovingly remembered by his significant other, Angela Kemp, whose love and companionship meant the world to him. He is also survived by his daughters: Christy Caudill of Peterborough, Ontario; Lisa Bishop of Rush, Kentucky; and Jessica Horton of Warwick, Georgia. He leaves behind his stepsons, Brandon Glispie and Leroy Glispie; grandsons Stephen Horton and Jonathan Horton; step-grandson Lincoln Glispie; bonus children Charles Paulsell (Dawn) and Dawn Paulsell (Dave); along with numerous bonus grandchildren and many dear friends who were family in every way that mattered. Dewey was deeply loved and will be greatly missed by all who had the privilege of knowing him. A Celebration of Life will be held at a later date.

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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.

## Letter to the Editor

### Scrutinizing utility rate bills

Editor,  
I have done as much research as I possibly could in the last five days on House Bills 398 and 535. I am not an expert on energy policy, nor do I claim to be. What I will say is that, as a concerned constituent, legislators are either not being fair and transparent about these bills, or they refuse to speak up when they know it will hurt their constituents. Legislators are forgetting who they were sent to Frankfort to represent.

These bills work hand in hand. HB 398 makes sure that when a plant is closed the cost of decommissioning, retirement, and the overall cost of closure, can be put on the ratepayer's bill even when no new plant is scheduled or planned to open in the region and provide energy to its customers.

However, HB 398 does require the PSC to approve this closure, which I believe is a good aspect of the bill. The issue lies in moving the cost on consumers

HB 535 allows utility companies to purchase securities, which is a fancy way of saying they're going to refinance the debt. It removes the provision that utility companies prove to the PSC that these refinancing opportunities could save ratepayers money.

HB 398 locks in a cost to customers, and HB 535 stretches it out, so it doesn't look as bad. Just because it doesn't look bad, doesn't mean that it isn't bad. These bills have the potential to make our energy affordability crisis worse, not better.

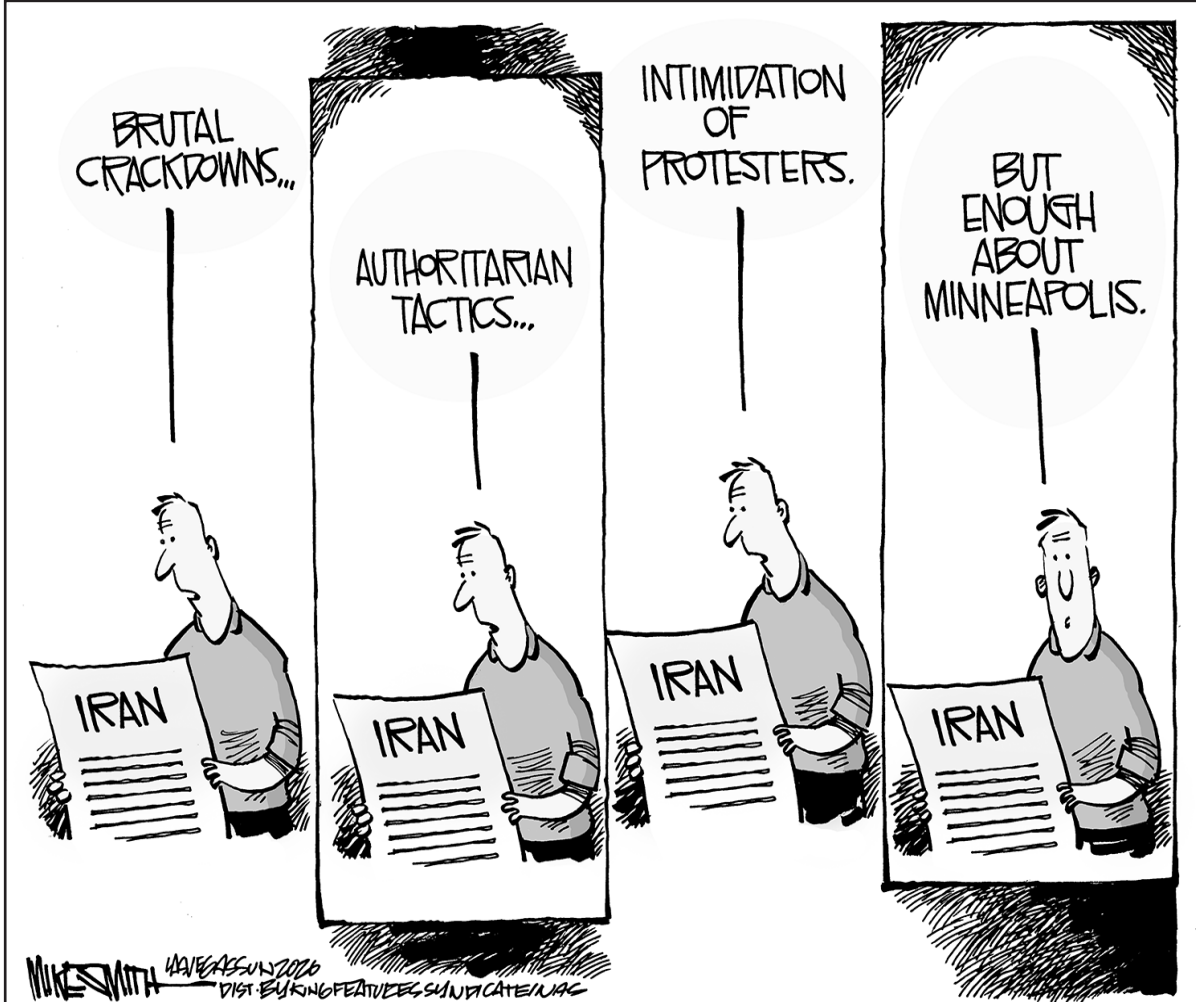
I've spoken with constituents about their electric bills and their usage. Most speak of times when they wish they could have done something. Whether it's holding utility companies or legislators accountable. Most didn't because they were unaware the legislation had been filed or the PSC meetings took place.

This week, I'm putting my political opinions aside, and I'm traveling to the capitol. While there, I will attempt to speak with any legislator or official that will listen to my concerns. I will be asking legislators if they support the PSC's authority to verify savings, whether they believe that the risk is balanced between utility companies and ratepayers, and whether energy burdens in East KY have been considered while writing these bills.

If you are just as concerned as me, and have questions or suggestions, follow my personal page. I'll be providing an update after my day with legislators soon. Everyone, regardless of political affiliation, should be concerned because...

Everybody pays an electric bill!

McClain Dyer  
Concerned Constituent



## General Assembly can help religious groups in fighting homelessness

Yes, I've teased members of the Kentucky General Assembly in the past about trying to fix things that aren't really broken but the 2026 legislative session already has produced an opportunity to help ease a growing social problem -- homelessness.

House Bill 333, a bipartisan measure with a co-sponsor from each party, received unanimous support last week from the House Local Government Committee and now moves to the full House for consideration.

The bill would enable religious institutions to build small-scale, affordable housing units for short-term occupancy on property already owned by such organizations.

Rep. Michael Pollock, R-Campbellsville, is the primary sponsor of the bill. He said the Sisters of Loreto, a Roman Catholic religious congregation of women, had asked him and Sen. Jimmy Higdon, R-Lebanon, about a plan to renovate an empty structure into short-term housing.

Pollack told his fellow committee members that he came away from that conversation with an understanding of both the need and opportunity here in Kentucky for affordable temporary housing.

HB 333 would allow faith-based organizations to

build up to 24 small-scale affordable housing units on a parcel or contiguous parcel owned by the institution within a half mile of the proposed site.

The developer of such housing would be required to guarantee that the units remain affordable for at least 15 years.

Additionally, the bill would expand a religious institution's ability to operate modestly-sized homeless shelters, including cooling or warming centers, in industrial zoned areas. Such facilities would be required to follow health and safety regulations.

Rep. Sarah Stalker, D-Louisville, is a co-sponsor of the legislation. She noted that creating rental housing on church-owned property would return it to the property tax base.

More than a dozen Kentuckians died as a result of the snow and ice storms which recently ravaged most of the U.S. Some of them were homeless, no doubt.

That means enlightened legislation like House Bill 333 would be a lifesaver and definitely should become law.



**Keith Kappes**  
Columnist  
Carter County Times

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## The typecast conundrum

Years ago, I was channel surfing when I stumbled across an old movie called "Murder in Coweta County." Johnny Cash played a Georgia sheriff, and Andy Griffith—yes, that Andy Griffith—played the villain, a wealthy landowner named John Wallace who thought he was above the law.

I couldn't look away. Here was Sheriff Andy Taylor, America's beloved small-town lawman. Here was Matlock, the folksy defense attorney who always got to the truth. And he was playing a cold-blooded killer who murdered a man and tried to cover it up with the arrogance of someone who'd gotten away with everything his whole life.

The most unsettling part? He was brilliant at it. And it just seemed wrong.

We do this with actors all the time—lock them into boxes based on the roles for which we know them. John Wayne playing Hamlet? Unthinkable. Meryl Streep in a Marvel movie? We'd probably assume we walked in the wrong theater. Once we've decided who someone is, we resist seeing them any other way.

But here's the thing: we don't just do this to actors. We do it to everyone.

The teacher is always the teacher, even at the grocery store. The boss is always the boss, even at their kid's baseball game. The clerk, the coach, the pastor, the parent—we see them in their roles and forget there's a whole person underneath, someone with

dimensions we've never considered.

I think about Marcel Marceau. Most people knew him as the silent performer in the striped shirt and white face paint. But during World War II, he was a Jewish teenager whose father was captured by the Gestapo and died at Auschwitz. Marcel joined the French Resistance with his cousin and brother, and together they rescued Jewish children across France, leading them to safety in Switzerland.

While he wasn't a mime yet, he used his innate gift to keep those children calm and silent during the dangerous journey. When they were frightened, when they wanted to cry out, he made them smile without making a sound. The same talent that later made him famous on stages around the world first saved lives in the darkness of war.

We only knew him as the mime. He was so much more. His silence saved them before it ever entertained us.

I remember a moment closer to home that taught me this lesson as well. Two friends, Sarah and Amanda, saw my dad one afternoon. He was a middle school social studies teacher and principal, and Amanda only knew him in that context—dressed in jacket and tie, standing in school hallways, speaking with that particular authority teachers carry.

But Sarah knew him differently. Her father owned the local general store, and she'd seen my dad there countless times in his farm clothes—worn jeans, work

See TYPECAST on A-6



**Tommy Druen**  
Guest Columnist  
Carter County Times

**Carter County Times**  
Members of the Editorial Board  
Nicole Wells, publisher  
Jeremy Wells, editor Keith Kappes, columnist

## 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.

## ■ Typecast from A-5

boots, and stained shirt.

That day, he was dressed for the farm. Amanda was genuinely surprised. Sarah was not. I heard about it the next day.

Same man. Different contexts. Both equally real. We see people only as

they appear to us in our limited interactions. We forget they go home to full lives we know nothing about. The stern principal coaches his daughter's soccer team with patience and laughter. The quiet clerk writes poetry. The in-

timidating boss volunteers at an animal shelter every weekend.

Walt Whitman wrote, "I contain multitudes." So do all of us.

Andy Griffith could play both the gentle sheriff and the ruthless killer

because he contained multitudes, like all of us do. Marcel Marceau was both the entertainer and the hero. My dad was both the principal and the farmer.

The next time you see someone in their uniform—literal or other-

wise—remember: you're watching one scene from a movie you walked into halfway through. The rest of the story might astonish you.

Maybe we need to slow down. Maybe instead of just seeing people, we need

to truly know them—to remember that everyone we meet is living a story far bigger and more complex than the single chapter we happen to witness.

# Ghislaine Maxwell appeals for clemency from Trump as she declines to answer questions from lawmakers

By Stephen Groves  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ghislaine Maxwell, the former girlfriend of Jeffrey Epstein, declined to answer questions from House lawmakers in a deposition Monday, but indicated that if President Donald Trump ended her prison sentence, she was willing to testify that neither he nor former President Bill Clinton had done anything wrong in their connections with Epstein.

The House Oversight Committee had wanted Maxwell to answer questions during a video call to the federal prison camp in Texas where she's serving a 20-year sentence for sex trafficking, but she invoked her Fifth Amendment rights to avoid answering questions that would be self-incriminating. She's come under new scrutiny as lawmakers try to investigate how Epstein, a well-connected financier, was able to sexually abuse underage girls for years.

Amid a reckoning over Epstein's abuse that has spilled into the highest levels of businesses and governments around the globe, lawmakers are searching for anyone who was connected to Epstein and may have facilitated his abuse. So far, the revelations have shown how both Trump and Clinton spent time with Epstein in the 1990s and early 2000s, but they have not been credibly accused

of wrongdoing.

Dressed in a brown, prison-issued shirt and sitting at a conference table with a bottle of water, Maxwell repeatedly said she was invoking "my Fifth Amendment right to silence," video later released by the committee showed.

During the closed-door deposition, Maxwell's attorney David Oscar Markus said in a statement to the committee that "Maxwell is prepared to speak fully and honestly if granted clemency by President Trump."

He added that both Trump and Clinton "are innocent of any wrongdoing," but that "Ms. Maxwell alone can explain why, and the public is entitled to that explanation."

Maxwell's appeal hits pushback

Democrats said that was a brazen effort by Maxwell to have Trump end her prison sentence.

"It's very clear she's campaigning for clemency," said Rep. Melanie Stansbury, a New Mexico Democrat.

Asked Monday about Maxwell's appeal, the White House pointed to previous remarks from the president that indicated the prospect of a pardon was not on his radar.

And other Republicans push backed to the notion quickly after Maxwell made the appeal.

"NO CLEMENCY. You comply or face punishment," Republican

Rep. Anna Paulina Luna, wrote on social media. "You deserve JUSTICE for what you did you monster."

Maxwell has also been seeking to have her conviction overturned, arguing that she was wrongfully convicted. The Supreme Court rejected her appeal last year, but in December she requested that a federal judge in New York consider what her attorneys describe as "substantial new evidence" that her trial was spoiled by constitutional violations.

Maxwell's attorney cited that petition as he told lawmakers she would invoke her Fifth Amendment rights.

Family members of the late Virginia Giuffre, one of the most outspoken victims of Epstein, also released a letter to Maxwell making it clear they did not consider her "a bystander" to Epstein's abuse.

"You were a central, deliberate actor in a system built to find children, isolate them, groom them, and deliver them to abuse," Sky and Amanda Roberts wrote in the letter addressed to Maxwell.

Maxwell was moved from a federal prison in Florida to a low-security prison camp in Texas last summer after she participated in two-days of interviews with Deputy Attorney General Todd Blanche.

The Republican chair of the committee, Rep.

James Comer of Kentucky, had also subpoenaed her at the time, but her attorneys have consistently told the committee that she wouldn't answer questions. However, Comer came under pressure to hold the deposition as he pressed for the committee to enforce subpoenas on Bill Clinton and former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton. After Comer threatened them with contempt of Congress charges, they both agreed to sit for depositions later this month.

Comer has been haggling with the Clintons over whether that testimony should be held in a public hearing, but Comer reiterated Monday that he would insist on holding closed-door depositions and later releasing transcripts and video.

Lawmakers review unredacted files

Meanwhile, several lawmakers visited a Justice Department office in Washington Monday to look through unredacted versions of the files on Epstein that the department has released to comply with a law passed by Congress last year. As part of an arrangement with the Justice Department, lawmakers were given access to the over 3 million released files in a reading room with four computers. Lawmakers can only make handwritten notes, and their staff are not allowed in with them.

Rep. Jamie Raskin, the

top Democrat on the House Judiciary Committee, spent several hours in the reading room Monday morning. He told reporters as he returned to the Capitol that even if all the House members who triggered the vote on releasing the files "spent every waking hour over at the Department of Justice, it would still take us months to get through all of those documents."

Democrats on Raskin's committee are looking ahead to a Wednesday hearing with Attorney General Pam Bondi, where they are expected to sharply question her on the publication of the Epstein files. The Justice Department failed to redact the personal information of many victims, including inadvertently releasing nude photos of them.

"Over and over we begged them, please be careful, please be more careful," said Jennifer Freeman, an attorney representing survivors. "The damage has already been done. It feels incompetent, it feels intimidating and it feels intentional."

Democrats also say the Justice Department redacted information that should have been made public, including information that could lead to scrutiny of Epstein's associates.

Rep. Thomas Massie, a Kentucky Republican who sponsored the legislation to force the release of the files, said that after reviewing the unredacted

versions for several hours, he had found the names of six men "that are likely incriminated by their inclusion." He called on the Justice Department to pursue accountability for the men, but said he could potentially name them in a House floor speech, where his actions would be constitutionally protected from lawsuits.

Massie, along with California Democratic Rep. Ro Khanna, said they also came across a number of files that still had redactions. They said that was likely because the FBI had turned over redacted versions of the files to the Justice Department.

Khanna said "it wasn't just Epstein and Maxwell" who were involved in sexually abusing underage girls.

Release of the files has set in motion multiple political crises around the world, including in the United Kingdom, where Prime Minister Keir Starmer is clinging to his job after it was revealed his former ambassador to the U.S. had maintained close ties to Epstein. But Democratic lawmakers bemoaned that so far U.S. political figures seem to be escaping unscathed.

"I'm just afraid that the general worsening and degradation of American life has somehow conditioned people not to take this as seriously as we should be taking it," Raskin said.

## ■ Massie from A-4

of Massie's speech, shared by Republican U.S. Senate candidate Michael Farris, someone in the crowd said after Massie leaves the lectern, "Welcome to the snake pit, baby!"

The Louisville Courier-Journal reported that Massie left the dinner with some of his supporters after his speech and they got drinks at a local restaurant.

Spokespeople for Massie did not immediately return a request for comment Monday.

Lincoln Day Dinners are annual fundraisers for county Republican parties. They often draw candidates who hope to speak directly to the party faithful. After the dinner, the Oldham County Republican Party said on Facebook that all campaigns were "given explicit instructions on how long

they were permitted to speak well in advance of the event to allow them to prepare for the opportunity." The post did not list the exact minutes allotted to the candidates. Osborne, who represents Oldham County in the Kentucky House, was "entrusted with enforcing these rules," the party said.

Massie represents the 4th Congressional District, which includes Oldham County.

The county party's statement also said that Massie, Gallrein, and U.S. Senate candidate Nate Morris "all went over their allotted time and were ushered from the stage when they continued past their time limit."

When asked for additional comment, a spokesperson for Osborne referred the Lantern to the

Oldham County Republican Party's statement.

Gallrein posted a clip on X of Osborne taking the microphone away with the caption "Massie Melt-down!"

A spokesperson for Gallrein referred the Lantern to the X post on Monday and declined to give additional comment.

Trump effect in Kentucky

U.S. Rep. Andy Barr, one of three Republican frontrunners for U.S. Senate, endorsed Gallrein against Massie last week. Barr posted on X a photo of himself with Gallrein at the Oldham County Lincoln Day Dinner. Morris quickly followed suit, also endorsing Gallrein against Massie.

Massie again took issue with the Republican president over the week-

end. Massie has split with Trump by pushing for release of government files on the investigation of sex offender Jeffrey Epstein and criticizing Trump's military intervention in Venezuela.

In a Sunday interview on CNN, Massie criticized Trump's posting of a video on social media that depicts former President Barack Obama, the first Black president, and First Lady Michelle Obama as apes.

"He should absolutely apologize. He's gone too far," Massie said. "I mean, he's attacked my wife recently online, and I do think there are limits," Massie told host CNN journalist Manu Raju.

Barr slams DEI in new television ad

Also over the weekend, Barr began airing a new

ad that shows the congressman disavowing DEI programs, which he said means "Dumb, Evil, Indoc-trination." The acronym is shorthand for diversity, equity and inclusion.

"It's not a sin to be white, it's not against the law to be male, and it shouldn't be disqualifying to be a Christian," Barr said in the ad. "I'm Andy Barr and I approve this message to give woke liberals something else to cry about."

According to a Monday press release from Barr's campaign, the commercial is part of a \$1 million ad buy on broadcast, cable and digital platforms. The press release highlighted the "unhinged tweets from woke liberals across KY and the country" that were in response to the ad. Democratic U.S. Senate

candidates Charles Booker and Amy McGrath were among those criticizing the ad.

Booker's and Barr's campaigns had a back and forth about the commercial on X.

"It's not a sin to be white. It should be a sin to be this desperate though," Booker said in one of his posts about the ad.

McGrath wrote on X that "Kentuckians don't wake up worried about culture-war acronyms," but are concerned about "bills, jobs and health care."

Kentucky's primary election is May 19.

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Contact us at [news@cartercountytimes.com](mailto:news@cartercountytimes.com)

# Trump's aggressive tactics force a reckoning between local leaders and Washington

By Steven Sloan  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON (AP) — Denver Mayor Mike Johnston regularly games out responses to threats like destructive tornadoes or hazardous waste leaks. He's added a new potential menace: the federal government.

When President Donald Trump deployed National Guard troops to some U.S. cities last year over the objection

of local leaders, Johnston said his tabletop exercises expanded to consider what might happen if federal officials took aim at Denver, which the Trump administration has sued for limiting cooperation on deportations. The city now prepares for the impact of federal activity on everything from access to schools and hospitals to interference with elections.

"We used to prepare for natural disasters," Johnston, a Democrat, said

in an interview. "Now we prepare for our own federal government."

A half-dozen state and local officials from both major political parties over the past week described an increasingly hostile relationship with Washington. While there's inherent tension between city, state and federal governments over power, politics and money,

the current dynamic is unlike anything they've experienced, particularly

after federal agents killed two U.S. citizens in Minneapolis last month.

While partnerships are still in place, the officials said the Minneapolis killings have hardened opposition to excessive federal power.

"This is unprecedented," said Jerry Dyer, the Republican mayor of Fresno, California, and a former police chief. "I've never seen federal law enforcement come to the cities, whether it's National

Guard or ICE, and police cities without a level of cooperation from local police."

GOP long sought to empower local governments

The tensions have upended longtime Republican arguments that the federal government should leave local governance to the states under the 10th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. Now a Republican president is articulating a

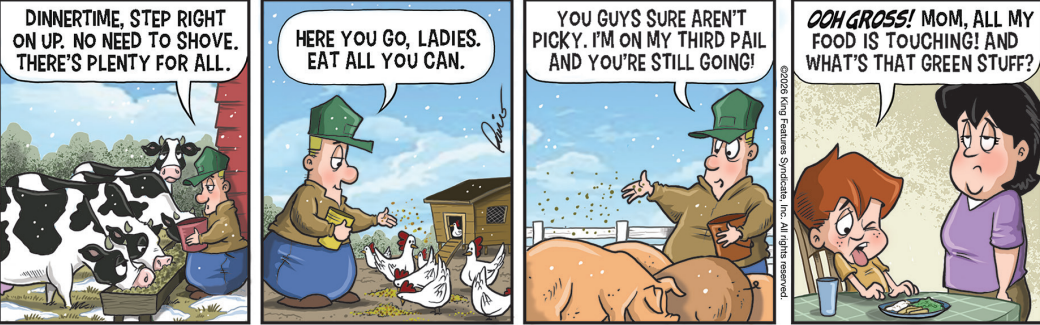
muscular federal approach over the protest of Democrats.

"There's no question that the Trump administration has repeatedly violated the Constitution and how it deals with states," Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear, a Democrat, said in an interview.

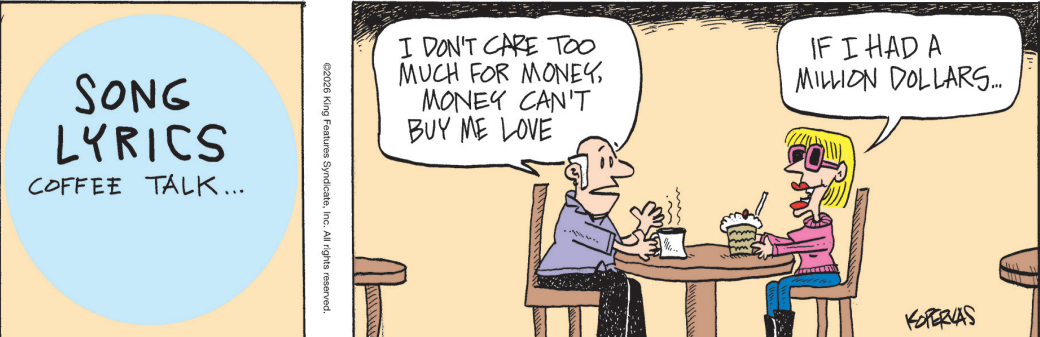
"My hope," he added, "is that we are quickly approaching our

*See WASHINGTON on A-8*

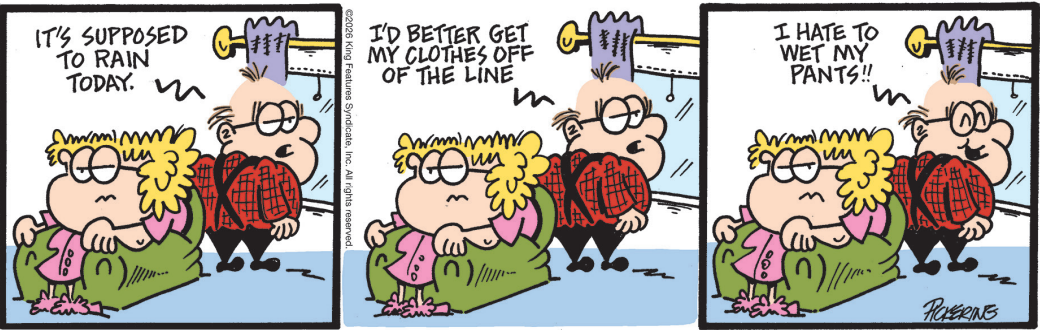
# Amber Waves



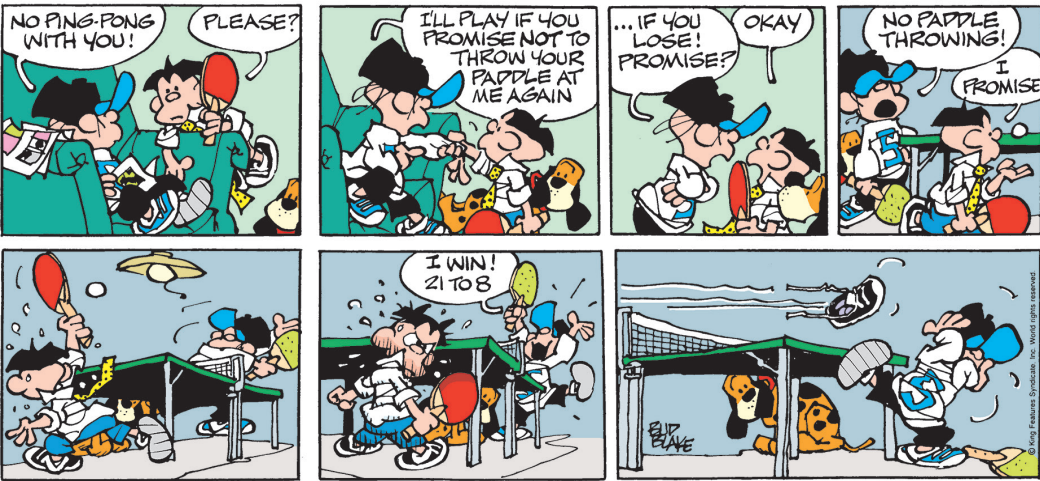
Out on a Limb



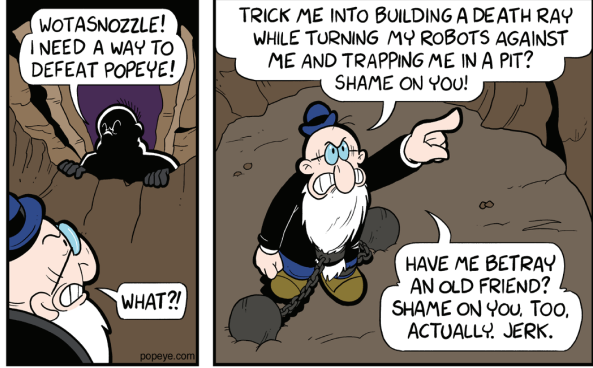
The Spats



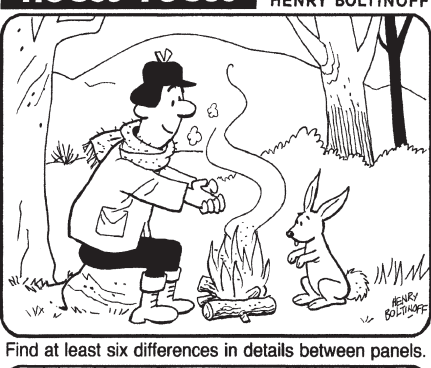
# TIGER



# OLIVE & POPEYE



# HOCUS-FOCUS



# Just Like Cats & Dogs



## 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: Q equals C

COEHOEMQK YVEY E TKOGRGK  
 QWGTEML NMYKMJKJ YW  
 QETYROK YVK FKOL EOWGE  
 WC TEOEJNBK: VKEFKM-BQKMY.

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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!

King: HICLAP  
 Inset: ALIYN  
 Weight: REDBUN  
 Feint: ODDEG

TODAY'S WORD: \_\_\_\_\_

## Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

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

1. Elongated square	___ B ___	Amber tea	___ O ___
2. Big Ben's home	T ___	Force	P ___
3. Be of importance	___ A ___	Grumble softly	___ U ___
4. Get used to	___ A ___	Take as one's own	___ O ___
5. Greasy grunge	___ M ___	Complain	___ P ___
6. "Purple Rain" artist	___ I ___	Cavort	___ A ___
7. Nile or Amazon	___ S ___	Reporter Geraldo	___ A ___
8. Multitude	___ D ___	Trigger or Secretariat	___ S ___
9. Tailor's cord	___ D ___	Intimidation	___ T ___
10. Harriet Beecher	___ W ___	Pebble	___ N ___

## 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.

	+		×	=	36			
-		+		+				
	+		+	=	17			
×		-		×				
	+		+	=	15			
=		=		=				
10		11		10				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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## Even Exchange

Donna M. Feltsman

1. Olong, Olong	6. Prince, France
2. Tower, Power	7. Rivers, Rivera
3. Mether, Miller	8. Horde, Horser
4. Adap, Adopt	9. Thread, Threat
5. Grime, Gripe	10. Stowe, Stone

# King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
15			16					17		
		18			19	20				
21	22			23	24					
25			26	27	28		29	30	31	
32		33		34	35		36			
37			38		39	40		41		
		42		43		44		45		
46	47	48			49		50			
51				52	53			54	55	
56				57				58		
59				60				61		

**ACROSS**

1 Canine cry  
 4 Dalai —  
 8 Sultry Horne  
 12 Uncle, to Juan  
 13 Bard's river  
 14 401(k) relatives  
 15 Provider of free groceries  
 17 Lapel jewelry  
 18 Fawn's mom  
 19 Nome resident  
 21 Nuanced  
 24 English cathedral city  
 25 100%  
 26 Poseidon's realm  
 28 Follow  
 32 L-Q bridge  
 34 Cover  
 36 Gear teeth  
 37 Avid  
 39 Kauai souvenir  
 41 Last (Abbr.)  
 42 Conducted  
 44 Justice Antonin  
 46 Movie promo  
 50 Sprite  
 51 Campus mil. group  
 52 Eats for parakeets  
 56 Jazzy James Braxton

**DOWN**

1 Justice Dept. agency  
 2 2016 Olympics city  
 3 Gourmand's online journal  
 4 File stickers  
 5 Director DuVernay  
 6 "— Lisa"  
 7 Bracelet site  
 8 Feign singing

9 Composer Satie  
 10 "Peter Pan" dog  
 11 Professional gp.  
 16 Speck  
 20 Pub pint  
 21 "Ditto"  
 22 Forearm bone  
 23 Snaky fish  
 27 Be sick  
 29 1997 Vanessa Williams film  
 30 Hybrid fruit  
 31 "Como — usted?"  
 33 Louisiana symbol

35 — Moines  
 38 Seminary subj.  
 40 Stranded during a blizzard  
 43 Unpaid bills  
 45 TV alien  
 46 Not kosher  
 47 Indian flatbread  
 48 Envelope abbr.  
 49 Funny person  
 53 Genetic letters  
 54 Wilder's "— Town"  
 55 Insult, slangily

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## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

- GEOGRAPHY:** What is the capital of Honduras?
- FOOD & DRINK:** What is the name of the Pillsbury Doughboy?
- TELEVISION:** In which state is the sitcom "Roseanne" set?
- PSYCHOLOGY:** What is the fear represented in the condition called arachnophobia?
- MUSIC:** Which 1992 Radiohead song has the lyric "I wish I was special"?
- MOVIES:** Who is Indiana Jones' nemesis in "Raiders of the Lost Ark"?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS:** Which president is known for giving the longest inauguration speech to date?
- LITERATURE:** "Cry, the Beloved Country" is a novel set in which country?
- HISTORY:** Which organization was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1917?
- ANATOMY:** Which element is a primary component of bones?

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## FiveSpot™

Night out

D	A	N	C	E

Conservatory major  
 Keaton or Ladd  
 Hash house  
 Brought on  
 Where to find a Baggins  
 Top

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.sproutsudoku.com 02626

## BALONEY

Today's Word

1. Agent; 2. Catch; 3. Glean; 4. Rapid

## SCRAMBLERS

T	R	I	H	S
E	I	R	H	S
D	I	R	E	H
E	R	I	N	E
E	I	A	N	E
D	A	N	C	E

Solution

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

Answer

## King Crossword

Solution time: 25 mins.

Answers

1. Tegucigalpa  
 2. Poppin' Fresh  
 3. Illinois  
 4. Fear of peanut butter sticking to the roof of one's mouth  
 5. "Creep"  
 6. Dr. Rene Bellot  
 7. William Henry Harrison, 1 hour and 45 minutes  
 8. South Africa  
 9. International Committee of the Red Cross  
 10. Calcium

Washington from A-1

McCarthyism moment where even Donald Trump's supporters are going to recognize this has gone too far."

Trump has expressed frustration at reflexive resistance from Democratic mayors and governors, insisting this week that he doesn't want to force federal law enforcement on communities. He prefers to work with officials like Louisiana GOP Gov. Jeff Landry, who requested National Guard troops to patrol New Orleans.

The president's willingness to use federal power is often issue-based, favoring states in areas like abortion or education while embracing a strong federal role on immigration and elections.

Trump said this week that Republicans should "nationalize" elections, a power the Constitution expressly gives to states. White House press secretary Karoline Leavitt said he was referring to a push that voters prove they are U.S. citizens, though Trump still described states as an "agent for the federal government."

"That's not what the Constitution says about elections," Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., told MS NOW.

Beshear and the

23 other Democratic governors released a statement Thursday objecting to "interference from the federal government." In the interview, Beshear pointed to Paul's comments as an example of bipartisan agreement.

"Rand and I don't agree on a lot," he said.

Paul and some other Republicans, including Govs. Phil Scott of Vermont and Kevin Stitt of Oklahoma, have also expressed concern about the immigration operation in Minnesota.

Preliminary steps to ease tensions

Trump has taken preliminary steps to ease tensions, replacing Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Department of Homeland Security leaders in Minneapolis with Tom Homan, the administration's border czar. Homan is withdrawing 700 of the roughly 3,000 federal officers deployed around Minneapolis, though Trump and Vice President JD Vance reject any suggestion of a federal drawdown.

Minneapolis Mayor Jacob Frey said the continued presence in the

Twin Cities of thousands of federal officers contradicts his demand that the administration end its operation there. In a sign of the frustration between local and federal officials there, the rhetoric has taken on militaristic tones.

Trump has referred to federal law enforcement in Minneapolis as "soldiers." Homan has described agents as being "in theater," a military phrase typically used in reference to a conflict zone. During a quick trip to Washington last week to address fellow mayors, Frey spoke of an "invasion" and "occupation" in his city.

"We are on the front lines of a very important battle," he said.

At the same event, Elizabeth Kautz, the Republican mayor of suburban Burnsville, Minnesota, said she now carries her passport around the city she's led since 1995.

"With the introduction of ICE, our cities are no longer safe," she said.

That's also how it feels to leaders in places far from Minneapolis, even if they haven't been targeted by ICE.

"What I can't tolerate is the approach to immigration operations in

a place like Minneapolis that are causing people to look over their shoulder in cities like Allentown," said Matt Tuerk, the Democratic mayor of Allentown, Pennsylvania, which has a large Latino population. "Even though you're not in Allentown, you're having an impact."

Reshaping Washington's priorities

The immigration crackdown is one element of Trump's work to dramatically reshape the U.S. government's priorities and operations at home and abroad. Trump and his supporters describe a need to strictly enforce immigration laws in the U.S. and end social safety net programs they say are prone to fraud. The president's foreign policy has shown little patience for longstanding alliances or diplomatic niceties that are seen as out of step with U.S. interests.

That's manifested most clearly in Trump's push for Denmark to cede control of Greenland to the U.S., a demand that brought the NATO alliance to the brink in January. Canadian prime minister Mark Carney spoke at the time of a "rupture" between the U.S. and its allies that would be difficult to repair.

For some local leaders in the U.S., that sense of a seismic shift felt familiar.

"It's profoundly changed," Cincinnati Mayor Aftab Pureval, a Democrat, said of his views toward the federal government. "Given that the administration has used partisan politics and used the power of the federal government and its various agencies to put pressure on mayors and local officials not to follow the law but to follow their politics is absolutely new and it's absolutely affecting trust at every level."

While foreign leaders can explore a shift in alliances, as some are actively considering, that's nearly impossible for local leaders in the U.S., whose budgets are tied to federal funding. Those funds have been unstable during Trump's second term as Washington has canceled grants that he considered wasteful or out of line with the administration's priorities, prompting some mayors to turn to philanthropy for help.

But nothing can replace the power of the federal government, said Tuerk, who described defending grants by connecting the money to the administration's priorities,

including job creation.

"When we're like, 'Hey, don't take away this grant that is designed to get people to work,' I hope that message is getting through," he said.

Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass called the federal shift "absolutely historic." Trump has fiercely criticized her, issuing an executive order last month deriding her wildfire response and pressing to "cut through bureaucratic red tape" to speed up reconstruction.

In an interview, Bass, a former member of Congress, said she turns to administration officials she knew from her time in Washington.

"I'm fortunate," she said. "I have an ability to have a relationship."

But as January came to a close, local officials in Minnesota seemed exhausted.

"You think about, 'Why us?'" said Jim Hovland, the nonpartisan mayor of the Minneapolis suburb Edina.

"We've had a historically really good relationship with the federal government, and it's really sad to see it fray."

# Kentucky's congressional delegation supports Gov. Beshear's request for a Presidential Major Disaster Declaration after deadly winter storm

WASHINGTON, DC — Kentucky's congressional delegation, including U.S. Representatives Hal Rogers, Andy Barr, James Comer, Brett Guthrie, Morgan McGarvey, Thomas Massie, and U.S. Senators Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul, sent a joint letter to President Donald J. Trump, in support of Governor Andy

Beshear's request for a Major Disaster Declaration following the deadly severe winter storm that began on January 23, 2026.

"This event was caused by a polar vortex system and produced heavy ice and extreme cold temperatures, resulting in impassible roadways, loss of utilities, and disruptions in critical government

services. The Kentucky National Guard, Kentucky State Police, and local law enforcement and volunteer fire departments performed more than 1,000 wellness checks. However, further federal assistance is necessary given the widespread nature of this disaster," the federal delegation expressed in the letter.

"Tragically, 21 Kentuckians are confirmed dead. Hundreds of homes and businesses have been impacted, with peak electrical outages impacting over 75,000 connections. Critical infrastructure has been severely damaged. Many counties reported closure of government offices for up to 5 days, and mail

distribution was halted in at least 66 counties. Gas stations experienced shortages, and emergency response vehicles struggled to reach those in need of medical and firefighting assistance," they continued.

President Trump issued three Major Disaster Declarations for the Commonwealth of

Kentucky in 2025.

Only the governor of each state can make an official request for a federal disaster declaration. Kentucky's federal delegation urged a timely and favorable consideration of Governor Beshear's request.

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