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# Carter County Times

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CARTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY

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## Recognizing service

**Grayson Council honors retiring police chief and other first responders**

By Charles Romans  
Carter County Times

Grayson City Council took the opportunity, during their February meeting, to announce the official retirement of Police Chief Tony Cantrell and celebrate his service to the city. "Congratulations to you, Tony," mayor Troy Combs told

the now former police chief.

The mayor mentioned that the police department held an event for Cantrell earlier that day, but the city also wished to recognize his service and offer a heartfelt thank you.

Cantrell received several mementos of the city's appreciation, including a gift of his service revolver. Mayor Combs also presented Cantrell with meritorious citations at the meeting. One was a citation from the Kentucky State Senate for his nearly thirty years of exemplary service and citing him as an "Officer of the highest caliber..."

"I would like to thank the Mayor and the Council for

See **SERVICE** on A-3



Retired police chief Tony Cantrell accepts a plaque from Grayson Mayor Troy Combs. (Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

## Chamber discusses child car business

**Memory Days planning underway**

By Charles Romans  
Carter County Times

Grayson Chamber of Commerce Director Mike Nelson began the February meeting discussing upcoming projects the chamber has in store for 2026.

"It is time for us to get busy on Memory Days," Nelson told chamber members. "This

is year 55 for Memory Days in Grayson."

Thresholds of that nature are extremely important and should be treated as such, he said.

"We have a lot of cool things planned for this year's Memory Days," Nelson said. "Obviously, we can't do it without your support and help. There are different levels you can sponsor, and different benefits you get by those levels."

Nelson said that getting sponsors early helps the chamber plan better for entertainment

See **CHAMBER** on A-4



Left to Right, Michelle Spriggs from the Kentucky Small Business Development Center and Amanda Kelly from SKEDC. (Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

## Tourism discusses managing finances

**Takes KCU event sponsorship under advisement**

By Charles Romans  
Carter County Times

The Grayson Tourism Commission discussed finances at their February meeting. President Daniel White said that one thing that had been discussed was the cash balances on some tourism accounts, and how best to manage those balances. The balances of those accounts totaled



(Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

approximately \$1 million, White told the commission. Half of those funds were the sports park reserves, he said, with \$170,000 in the tourism account.

The point, White said, was that these funds were currently sitting in non-interest-bearing

See **TOURISM** on A-8

## Weekly arrests report

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

- Austin Benson, 27, of Olive Hill, arresting agency unavailable, on charges of providing a false report of an incident to law enforcement, and leaving the scene of an accident/failure to render aid or assistance, arrested and booked February 9.
- Joseph Sackman, 42, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on two counts of failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked February 10.
- Dustin Martin, 39, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence, failure to wear seat belts, failure to

yield right of way, no or expired registration receipt, and failure to produce an insurance card, arrested and booked February 11.

- Amanda Henderson, 33, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on a charge of receiving stolen property valued between \$1,000 and \$10,000, arrested and booked February 11.
- Kelli Keever, 26, of Ashland, of Carter County Sheriff, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, and resisting arrest, arrested and booked February 11.
- Kayla Lewis, 37, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance – second offense (aggravating circumstances), careless driving, license not in possession, and failure to produce an insurance card, arrested and booked

February 11.

- Danny Cline, 54, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of failure to wear seat belts, no or expired registration receipt, failure to maintain required insurance, operating a motor vehicle with an expired operator's license, menacing, resisting arrest, and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance, arrested and booked February 11.
- Robert Prichard, 56, of Ashland, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked February 12.
- Thomas Boggs, 53, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on a charge of violating a Kentucky emergency protection order/domestic violence order, arrested and booked February 12.
- Ashley Himes, 36, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State

See **ARRESTS** on A-3



### This Week's Obituaries

Lena Deloris Perry Henderson, 78

Charles David Lewis, 55

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# LIFESTYLE



## Cheap meals start in the pantry

When grocery prices rise, and we begin to search for savings, many people assume the solution must be found at the store. New sales. New substitutions. New strategies. But the truth is far less difficult and far more comforting.

Cheap meals don't start at the grocery store. They start at home, with what you already have.

Most households are sitting on the framework of dozens of meals without realizing it. Rice, beans, pasta, canned tomatoes, frozen vegetables, onions. These aren't odds and ends. They're infrastructure, and they're probably in your pantry.

The pantry is where inexpensive cooking becomes possible.

Before planning the week's meals, open the pantry and freezer and take inventory with curi-

osity. Ask one simple question: What meals are already halfway made?

When you cook from the pantry first, the grocery store becomes a supporting character instead of the star of the show. You stop shopping for meals and start shopping to finish meals. That shift alone can dramatically reduce your grocery bill.

Pantry-based meals rely on shelf stable ingredients that stretch easily, welcome substitutions and adapt to whatever you have on hand.

A well-used pantry reduces waste, one of the most expensive habits in any kitchen. Food thrown away is money thrown away, and pantry cooking gives forgotten ingredients and small leftovers a second chance.

This isn't about deprivation. It's about competence.

This meal-prep-friendly curried chickpea salad is a good example of what pantry competence looks like. Made primarily from shelf-stable ingredients, it can stand on its own or shift roles depending on the meal. Spoon it over greens, tuck it into a pita or wrap, pile it onto toast or serve it alongside a sandwich or bowl of rice. It's flexible and adapts to whatever the day requires.

### CURRIED CHICKPEA

### SALAD

Yield: 4 servings  
Total Time: 30 minutes

- 1/2 cup mayonnaise or Greek yogurt
- 1 tablespoon curry powder
- 1 teaspoon cumin
- 1/2 teaspoon turmeric powder
- 1 tablespoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon red wine vinegar
- 1/2 teaspoon granulated sugar
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 cup celery, minced
- 1/4 cup red onion, minced
- 1/4 cup green onion, thinly sliced
- 2 (15-ounce) cans low or no sodium garbanzo beans (chickpeas), drained
- 1/2 cup fresh cilantro or parsley, chopped and loosely packed
- 1/4 teaspoon salt, optional

In a medium bowl, whisk together the mayonnaise or Greek yogurt, curry, cumin, turmeric, lemon juice, vinegar, sugar and black pepper until smooth. Taste and adjust as needed. Set aside.

Mince the celery and onion, thinly slice the green onions, and roughly chop the cilantro or parsley.

Drain and rinse the chickpeas well. For a creamier, more scoopable salad, lightly mash about a quarter of the chickpeas with a fork. Leave the rest whole



Pantry cooking turns everyday staples into meals that are affordable, adaptable and delicious. (Photo Credit: www.JasonCoblentz.com)

for texture. Add the chickpeas, celery, both onions and herbs to the bowl with the dressing. Stir gently until everything is evenly coated.

Taste and add salt if needed. Chill for 20-30 minutes to let the flavors settle or serve right away if you're hungry.

Why add black pepper? Turmeric's active compound, curcumin, is hard for the body to absorb on its own. Black pepper boosts absorption by up to 2,000%, making this a smart pairing, not just a flavorful one.

Once you know how to turn pantry staples into real meals, you gain flexibility. You're less vulnerable to price swings, less

tempted by takeout on tired nights and more confident you can feed yourself well even when things get tight. Cheap meals come from building skills, learned in the pantry.

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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

# Discover the world of organizers!

One of the things we are often in the dark about is knowing how many different kinds of organizers exist in the world today. I'm here to tell you that the selection is vast, and with a little research your eyes will be open to possibilities you never knew existed.



Daryl Ashley  
Guest Columnist  
Confusion Solution

Finding where to look is the first start. To get a good grasp on the many styles, colors, and uses, you will need to research many stores and websites, but never fear all this research can change the way you organize your home. Once you know what's available, new ideas for managing your things will

give you a fresh approach to putting your home in order. To avoid becoming overwhelmed at the volume, research by category. For instance; search for in-home and outdoor storage items, baskets, drawers, shelves, etc. Shop by style.

You will also be pleasantly surprised at the cost. There are a variety of manufacturers, which allows you to compare and making spending easier on your wallet. Keep in mind your needs and budget your time to save on shipping if you are buying online. You will also want to be sure anything you are interested in needs to fit into your living space, that is unless

you are willing to make other changes.

Here are some of the locations to begin that are either right in your own backyard or online.

1. Dollar stores
2. Walmart
3. The Container Store
4. Amazon
5. Hardware stores
6. Target
7. YouTube Channels
8. Home Organizer Tips
9. Uline
10. Organize-it

When looking for furniture, keep in mind that pretty isn't always a space saver. The ideas are endless and investigating is fun.

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

## Joyful Noise

# Feeling alone?

By Pastor Naomi Mitchell  
for Carter County Times

Technology today connects us through the world wide web and yet people are more isolated and lonelier than ever before. What happened with the good old days of front porch fellowships and kitchen table talks? A lot of newer homes don't even have big front porches, just entryways. It is sad that we are too busy to enjoy those simple pleasures from days

passed.

The Bible has numerous scriptures that brings us comfort that you are not alone, emphasizing God's constant presence, love, and protection. Key verses include John 16:32 that says, "I am not alone, because the Father is with me." Hebrews 13:5 says, "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" and Isaiah 41:10 says, "Fear thou not; for I am with thee."

Let's look at a few of the scriptures for 'assur-

ance of His presence.'

John 16:32: "Behold, the hour cometh... that ye shall be scattered... and shall leave me alone: and yet I am not alone, because the Father is with me."

Hebrews 13:5: "...for He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."

Isaiah 41:10: "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee..."

Joshua 1:5: "...as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

Matthew 28:20: "...and, See JOYFUL NOISE on A-4

## University of Kentucky Extension Notes

College of Agriculture, Food and Environment  
Cooperative Extension Service  
carter.ca.uky.edu

# The dos and don'ts of pruning your trees

Pruning can generally be good for a tree, but make sure you have a reason, use the right cut, and don't get careless, as a bad pruning job can impact a tree's appearance and performance for years.



Rebecca Konopka  
Carter County  
Extension Agent

First, the "why." Pruning is usually about fixing problems or preventing future ones. That can mean removing dead, broken or diseased branches, removing limbs that are rubbing together or trimming overhanging branches. It can also be about shaping a young tree so it grows stronger and to increase visual appeal.

Landscape or ornamental trees are managed differently than forest trees. For advice and tips on managing Kentucky timber stands, consult your local county Extension agent or Kentucky Master Logger.

You can prune most landscape species any time, but late winter is usually a sweet spot for deciduous trees. Trees are dormant, branches are easier to see without leaves, and you're less likely to tear bark when spring growth starts. Evergreen pruning is more seasonal,

depending on the reason for trimming. It's smarter to cut branches when they're small. Smaller wounds close faster and give decay fewer chances to move in. Smaller branches are also more easily managed. City residents should

check with local waste management companies about guidelines for limb disposal.

One no-no is topping trees. That's when someone chops off the tops or the ends of big branches to "make it shorter" or "make it round." Topping leads to weak, messy regrowth, more breakage and often tree decline or death.

Cutting correctly matters more than people may think. For small branches, hand pruners or loppers that are clean and sharp work fine. Make cuts at the branch collar—the little swollen area where the branch meets the trunk. Don't cut flush against the trunk, and don't leave a stub. Both mistakes slow healing and raise the risk of rot. Let the tree heal naturally. There is no need to paint the cut—tree "wound dressing" isn't

recommended.

For larger branches (greater than an inch in diameter), use a sharp, clean blade and the three-cut method so you don't rip bark down the trunk. First, make a small undercut past the branch collar about half-way through the limb, then cut the branch off about an inch farther out on the limb to drop the weight, then make the final cut at the branch collar. It's a little extra effort that can save you from a big ugly tear.

Last, but not least, is safety. Always wear proper safety gear when pruning trees. It's recommended not to prune within 10 feet of power lines, and do not use a ladder. Chainsaws in trees are also a "no" unless you're trained. If the branch is big, high or anywhere near utilities, the smartest move is calling a pro (like an ISA Certified Arborist). The Kentucky Arborists' Association maintains a list of certified arborists to make it easy to find one in your local area.

To learn more about tree pruning, contact the Carter County Extension office. Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless

See TREES on A-3

## Kentucky Dept of Agriculture Livestock and Grain Market Report

There were a limited number of comparisons available today due to the weather shutdown of most stockyards over the past couple of weeks. The markets that were able, reported active markets with limited comparisons. Feeder steers and heifers were mostly 5.00-10.00 higher with instances sharply higher showing good to very good demand. Buyers showed best interest for quality long weaned packages and groups. Slaughter cows and bulls sold mostly steady to firm with moderate to good demand.

Week ending 2/14/26

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

	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
<b>Steers (M&amp;L 1-2)</b>			
350-400 lbs	541.15	516.69	342.57
400-450 lbs	499.51	479.98	334.07
450-500 lbs	497.53	469.81	320.95
500-550 lbs	457.20	424.96	307.90
550-600 lbs	434.69	407.78	300.42
600-650 lbs	411.70	393.30	280.84
650-700 lbs	400.03	380.67	267.63
700-750 lbs	367.68	353.03	259.02
750-800 lbs	354.86	345.59	253.98
800-850 lbs	342.65	327.00	251.81
850-900 lbs	333.54	328.85	237.56
<b>Heifers (M&amp;L 1-2)</b>			
300-350 lbs	492.80	464.61	306.00
350-400 lbs	479.29	443.68	305.71
400-450 lbs	458.05	432.87	288.15
450-500 lbs	447.05	408.68	284.53
500-550 lbs	414.24	396.51	272.85
550-600 lbs	381.55	369.69	262.00
600-650 lbs	360.53	347.84	252.09
650-700 lbs	343.81	337.95	245.18
700-750 lbs	329.85	317.88	236.42
750-800 lbs	320.82	310.69	225.82

	Average	High	Low
<b>Slaughter Cows</b>			
Breakers	127.00-178.00	159.00-208.00	135.00-169.00
Boners	135.00-179.00	160.00-204.00	101.00-169.00
Lean	111.00-160.00	144.00-180.00	110.00-147.50
<b>Slaughter Bulls</b>			
Yield Grade 1&2	180.00-208.00	197.00-223.00	151.00-189.00

**Feb 12, 2026 Bowling Green, KY**  
**SLAUGHTER GOATS: 60**  
**Kids-Selection 1** 52-56 lbs 510.00-520.00; 69 lbs 485.00; 105 lbs 375.00. **Selection 2** 72 lbs 460.00; 81 lbs 422.50. **Selection 2-3** 52 lbs 435.00; 68 lbs 400.00.  
**SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 530**  
**Hair Breeds-Choice & Prime 1-2** 54 lbs 410.00; 65 lbs 400.00-405.00; 76-79 lbs 395.00-402.50; 90-93 lbs 365.00-370.00. **Choice 2** 52-57 lbs 395.00; 64 ;bs 395.00; 75-77 lbs 390.00-405.00; 91 lbs 345.00. **Wooled-Choice and Prime 1-2** 115 lbs 325.00. **Choice 2** 60 lbs 375.00; 80 lbs 360.00.

	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
<b>GRAINS</b>			
<b>Corn</b>	4.12-4.64	4.11-4.64	4.74-5.20
<b>Soybeans</b>	10.21-11.71	10.05-11.07	9.43-10.73
<b>Red Winter Wheat</b>	4.69-5.62	4.71-5.51	5.09-6.19

**Arrests** from A-1

Police, on charges of no or expired registration receipt, no tail lamps, improper equipment, failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance, and possession of marijuana, arrested and booked February 12.

- Rick Hargis, 58, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, on a charge of fourth degree assault with minor injury, arrested and booked February 12.
- Rebecca Elkins, 44, of Wurland, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges

of trafficking in narcotics (carfentanyl or fentanyl derivatives), first degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), possession of drug paraphernalia, public intoxication on a controlled substance (excludes alcohol), first degree possession of a controlled substance (opioids), arrested and booked February 13.

- Tylor Hampton, 31, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of tampering with physical evidence, possession of matter portraying a sexual performance

by a minor over 12 and under 18, and kidnapping of a minor,

- William Church, 54, of Webbville, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked February 13.
- Parish Hamm, 31, of Morehead, arrested by Carter County Circuit Court, on a hold for drug court, arrested and booked February 13.
- Kevin Skaggs, 39, of Mazie, arrested by Elliott County Sheriff, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested

and booked February 14.

- Donna Chinn, 40, of Vanceburg, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on a charge of violating a Kentucky emergency protection order/domestic violence order, arrested and booked February 15.

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.

**Service** from A-1

giving me the opportunity to be the chief of police,” Cantrell said as he received the citation.

He said he was humbled by their trust in him and wished that he had been able to remain in that position longer. Cantrell also said that he had every confidence that the incoming chief would do an amazing job and serve the City of Grayson with distinction.

Following Cantrell’s official retirement, the council voted unanimously to swear in acting chief Dean Ison, a veteran Grayson Police Officer and former assistant police chief, as the cities new chief of police.

The City of Grayson also recognized the heroic actions of two of its first responders at the February meeting. Carter County EMS Assistant Director Mike Wears and K9 Officer Justin Stone were recognized for their critical life saving measures for rescuing a Grayson resident from a burning home. Both were awarded citations from the State of Kentucky and an award for going above and beyond the call of duty by the City of Grayson.

In other business Gerald Haney, director of the Grayson Utilities Commission, presented his end of year report to the council. Haney reported on the previous year’s activities which included the number of new taps installed, new gas services,

boil water advisories, and any outages. The utilities report also included other important figures such as water produced by the water treatment plant.

Haney’s report showed a reduction of water produced from the previous year by nearly eighty million.

“So, the water loss project we did really improved our ability to find leaks,” Haney said.

The project, which began in 2023, has also yielded other benefits such as a reduction of man hours and chemicals used in the treatment process. A reduction in water lost to leaks results in less water being ‘consumed’ and treated, which yields both an economic and ecological impact.

“Last January, for instance, before the downtown project,” Haney told the council, “We fixed six leaks just in that area. This year, we fixed zero because we took away about a mile of 100-year-old pipe in that area.”

In other business, Mark Denny from Pathways addressed the council. Denny told the council that Pathways Quick Response had been working closely with Boyd County, have moved into Greenup County, and would like to increase their presence in Carter County.

“What we do in the Quick Response Team is respond to overdoses through reports given to us by law enforcement and

emergency management,” Denny said.

“We look at it as though every overdose we respond to is more than just a medical emergency. It is a potential turning point moment in someone’s life,” Denny said. “We meet people on their hardest day, and we also meet their families and children. We try to connect these people to treat through recovery support and mental health services.”

Denny said that he was addressing council to make them aware of a potential new program on the horizon from Pathways Quick Response.

“We plan to move forward with deflection,” Denny said. “We are trying to partner closer with law enforcement and emergency management in order to prevent overdoses.”

Denny explained that first contact is often when the substance abuser is caught for possession of narcotics and other illegal substances.

“They are put in jail and go through the courts,” Denny said. “And it becomes a cycle that is really hard for people to break.”

Denny said Quick Response is hoping to come together with cities like Grayson and Ashland and have a deflection agreement to mitigate that cycle. The proposed plan is that if a potential substance user is caught with an amount that would

be considered ‘personal use,’ then Quick Response could be notified before the person is arrested. At that point they would be offered long term treatment in lieu of arrest, Denny said, facilitated by Quick Response.

“We know this would be something that would need to be worked out with individual police departments and the courts to make sure this was acceptable,” Denny said.

“But in other counties and states that’s what QRT does. We keep one of our members available at all times to respond when anything like this happens. That way we can try to help people when we know it’s a substance abuse problem and not a criminal problem. That way we can get them connected with treatment, because that’s what they need.”

Denny said he wanted to make the council aware of the program so that an agreement might be made in the future. Quick Response Team, he said, is a national initiative and the goal is to bring that program into the Commonwealth while following all applicable rules and statutes.

“At the end of the day we want to be a tool for law enforcement,” Denny told the council. “We want to give them another option.”

Contact the writer at [charles@cartercountytimes.com](mailto:charles@cartercountytimes.com)

# Legislative update

## Week six of the 2026 Legislative Session



**Robin L. Webb**  
Senator  
State of Kentucky

As we close out week six of the 2026 Legislative Session, the work in Frankfort is moving quickly but my focus remains on what it means for families here in Eastern Kentucky.

Committees are meeting every day with full agen-

das, and legislation is steadily advancing to the Senate floor. More than 100 bills have now passed at least one chamber, a strong sign that the General Assembly is actively working on the issues that impact our mountain communities and rural counties.

While there’s still important work ahead, we’re making real progress on policies aimed at strength-

ening our local economy, supporting small businesses and family farms, addressing affordability, improving our schools, protecting taxpayers, and ensuring government operates with transparency and accountability.

Eastern Kentucky has unique challenges but we also have strong communities, resilient families, and tremendous opportunities. My commitment remains the same: making sure the voices of our region are heard and that the policies we pass in Frankfort deliver real results back home.

This week, the Senate approved the following

measures.

Senate Bill 2 is intended to ensure fairness and balance in educator compensation by preventing school administrator pay raises from outpacing those of classroom teachers. The bill prohibits administrators from receiving a percentage pay increase greater than the average percentage increase provided to teachers within the same district, while still allowing for waivers under existing law. SB 2 also updates conforming language and removes outdated statutory provisions.

Senate Bill 4 Seeks to

See [UPDATE on A-6](#)

**Trees** from A-2

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:**

- Northeast Area Livestock Association Meeting – February 24th @ 6:00 PM; Topic: USDA Pro-

grams

- Beef Quality Care & Assurance Training – February 27th @ 10:00 AM; Call 474-6686 to register.
- Small Ruminant Quality Assurance Training – March 3rd @ 6:00 PM; Call 474-6686 to register.

- Little Sandy Beekeepers Association – March 3rd @ 6:30 PM; Topic: Brainy Bees - Using Honey Bee Brains to Understand Shifts in Behavior

# CALENDAR

- **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
- **2/21: Friends of the Library @ 5 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill Branch
- **2/23: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 474-6686
- **2/23: Open Art Studio @ 10 a.m.** | Grayson Gallery & Art Center
- **2/23: Girl Scouts meeting @ 6:30 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **2/24 Building Club @ 4 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library, Olive Hill
- **2/24: Northeast Area Livestock Association @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Extension Office | Topic: USDA Programs
- **2/25 Olive Hill Book Club @ 5:30 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **2/27: Beef Quality Care & Assurance Training @ 10 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Office | Call 474-6686 to register
- **2/27: 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

Bub is a male boxer mix, around one-year-old. Bub is good with other dogs, neutered, and up to date on his vaccines. 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.**

**Pay YOUR way.**

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## Joyful Noise from A-2

lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”

Psalm 23:4: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”

Psalm 46:1: "God is our

refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.”

Deuteronomy 31:6: "Be strong and of a good courage... for the Lord thy God, He it is that doth go with thee; He will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.”

Romans 8:38-39: Assures that nothing can separate you from the love

of God in Christ Jesus.

Real-world interactions are irreplaceable for building deep, meaningful connections. While technology is useful, it cannot fully replicate the benefits of face-to-face contact. No matter what is going on in your life just stop and take inventory of why you

feel alone. Pray and ask the Lord to help you set some boundaries especially in the tech world. God created us to interact with each other. God wants a relationship with you daily and as you meet with Him in scripture and prayer, He will guide your steps into a life of peace and joy. Start

reconnecting with others around you. You will be happy you did.

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.

## Chamber from A-4

at the event. Currently Nelson said the band Sunday Best is confirmed for the Saturday of the event, with Dustin Burchett opening.

The featured speakers at the February meeting were Michelle Spriggs from the Kentucky Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and Amanda Kelly from Southeast Kentucky Economic Development Corporation (SKEDC).

“We are administered through the University of Kentucky,” Spriggs told chamber members. “We are funded in part through the Small Business Administration, and many other stakeholders.”

“We provide free business coaching services to all the clients we assist,” Spriggs said. “We do loan packaging, projections, feasibility analysis, marketing, and

we do a huge amount of free training. We service all 120 counties throughout Kentucky, we have 10 centers throughout the state, and about 35 business coaches.”

Spriggs told the chamber she has been involved with SBDC since 2009.

“So, I have been doing this for a bit,” she said. “Things have changed a lot, and we have seen a lot of great things.”

The main topic of Spriggs talk to the chamber involved the Childcare Initiative, which she said came into play after a meeting she was part of with Truist Bank.

“I started thinking about the need we had,” Spriggs said. “We need more childcare centers and more childcare centers that provide better care for the ones that are already

operating.”

Spriggs said she thought about what could be done, and how it could work with the CRA grants they have available. Spriggs said she realized she needed a stakeholder that could help her make this idea a reality, and someone she had trained with – Amanda Kelly – came to mind.

“She was the first person I called,” Spriggs said. “Because I knew she had the same passion and the same work ethic.”

Spriggs said Kelly’s response was an immediate yes.

“So, we wrote the first grant,” Spriggs said. “It didn’t get awarded, so we wrote the second grant.”

The second grant was funded, she said, and now they are currently in their third year of operation.

“It’s one of the most

passionate things I have ever done at the Kentucky SBDC,” she said.

Spriggs said she has met many amazing, passionate people that are invested in the future of the children of Kentucky.

Kelly, who serves as Small Business Training Director for the SKEDC, also talked to the chamber about her and Spriggs’ project.

“We are a small business lender,” Kelly said of her organization.

“We are located in Somerset, but we cover all of the Fifth Congressional District. So, we do loans throughout eastern and southern Kentucky.”

Kelly said she heads the technical department, so she deals directly with small businesses to help them get whatever they need to make them successful.

“With childcare business we realized pretty early on that childcare is a passion business you do because you love the children. And a lot of them are not seen as real businesses.”

“They absolutely are real businesses,” Kelly said definitively. “But they are not viewed that way. They are viewed more as a babysitting service, but that is so far from the truth. That’s not what quality childcare service is.”

Kelly said that she and Spriggs are involved in helping childcare business owners to start thinking like business owners. They hope to accomplish that by helping business owners to examine their profit margins and other financial concerns, and to understand other business needs such as payroll costs. Kelly said these things are

crucial to any business, but especially childcare because it is regulated by the state.

“There is a cap to what you can make,” Kelly said. “The state tells you how many children you can have in that childcare center.”

Another challenge, she said, is that the vast majority of the children are funded by the state, and there is a limit to what the state will pay for each child. But, she said, the challenges can be managed. And her and Spriggs are there to help with that management, so she encourages everyone connected to childcare to reach out for training and potential business management.

Contact the writer at charles@ cartercountytimes.com

# SPORTS

## East falls to Lewis County

### Raiders trim deficit, but Lions finish strong

By Brayleigh Boggs  
Carter County Times

East Carter battled possession-for-possession Friday night, but a late surge by Lewis County proved too much to overcome, as the Raiders fell 66-54.

Despite early momentum and multiple second-half runs, turnovers and foul trouble hindered East Carter’s ability to close the gap. Lewis County capitalized on key opportunities throughout the night to secure the victory.

East Carter opened the night with early energy as the Raiders jumped out to a quick 3-2 lead over Lewis County. But from the opening tip, it was clear the Lions weren’t going to make it easy.

Lewis County’s Daylen Bivens (32) answered with a basket to give the

Lions their first spark, while Caden Tussey (15) countered on the other end to keep East within reach. A steal by Lewis County’s Julian Puente (11) shifted the tempo, and although Grant Menix (10) fought for an offensive rebound, Lewis continued to capitalize. The Lions moved ahead 6-5 before William Burton (5) knocked down a three-pointer to briefly swing momentum back toward the Raiders.

Puente (11) responded with an and-one finish for Lewis County, and East’s Max Karle (11) stepped to the line for two free throws after drawing contact. Lewis County maintained control, stretching its lead to 13-10. The Lions continued to find success inside, while Menix (10) battled through contact for an opportunity of his own. Bivens (32) added another basket late in the quarter, and by the end of the first, Lewis County held a 19-14 advantage.

East Carter struggled with consistency to open the second quarter, turning

See EAST on A-8

## OBITUARY

### Charles David Lewis 1970 – 2026



Charles David Lewis, age 55, of Olive Hill, Kentucky, went home to be with the Lord, Saturday, February 7, 2026, at UK-St. Claire Medical Center in Morehead, Kentucky, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born Thursday, June 25, 1970, in Boyd County, Kentucky, a son of Emilie Underwood Lewis and the late Charles Herman Lewis.

A devoted child of God, David lived his life grounded in faith; his trust in the Lord guided his actions, shaped his values, and carried him through both joy and hardship. He found comfort in prayer and believed deeply in God’s promise of eternal life.

Family was the center of David’s world. He was a loving son, brother, uncle and friend who showed up without hesitation and loved without condition. Time spent with family—whether gathered around a table, working side by side, or sharing stories—was time treasured most.

David was a loyal friend to many, known for a generous heart, steady presence, and a willingness to help whenever needed. Their friendships were lasting and meaningful, built on trust, laughter, and shared experiences. Many looked on David as an example of perseverance, grit, and grace under pressure; in addition, David never hesitated to give advice or opinions.

An avid outdoorsman, David had a deep appreciation for hunting and the quiet peace found in the woods. Those moments in nature brought him joy,

reflection, and connection—both to creation and to God.

Equally strong was David’s passion for anything with motors and wheels. From cars, trucks, ATVs, racing and engines, he found freedom, excitement, and satisfaction in the roar of an engine and the open road. It wasn’t just a hobby—it was part of who he was.

David leaves behind many extended family members and friends who will miss him deeply and will remember him always.

“He fought the good fight, finished the race, and kept the faith. - an overcomer in life, now victorious in eternity.”

David is survived by two sisters, Patty (J.D.) Hignite, Paulette (Kurt) Parker all of Olive Hill, Kentucky; nieces and nephews, Sidonna Gayle (Cary) Cox, Justin Douglas Parker, Crystal Dawn (B.A.) Oney, Jonathan Wesley (Jessica) Parker, Jacklyn Elizabeth (Alex) Napier; great-nieces, Carmen Cox, Georgia Parker, Shanelle Oney, Dylan Oney, Eden Napier and Ivy Napier, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss him.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m., Saturday, February 14, 2026, at Oakland Christian Holiness Church, 6405 Carter Caves Road, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Brother Randy Kiser and Brother Raymond Steagall officiating. Burial followed in Bethel Cemetery in Carter County, Kentucky.

Friends visited from 6 p.m. until 9 p.m., Friday, February 13, 2026, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, after 11 a.m., Saturday, February 14, 2026, until the service hour at Oakland Church.

Justin Parker, Jonathan Parker, Dwayne Moberly, Stephen Kitchen, J.D. Gee and David Wolfe served as pallbearers.

Globe Funeral Chapel is honored to serve the family of Charles David Lewis.

### Lean Deloris Perry Henderson 1947 – 2026



Lena Deloris Perry Henderson, age 78, of Olive Hill, Kentucky, passed away peacefully, Saturday, February 14, 2026, at Life Care Center in Morehead, Kentucky.

She was born Tuesday, December 16, 1947, in Carter County, Kentucky, a daughter of the late Austie and Mary Inez Stevens Perry. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband and high school sweetheart, Azel Lavern Henderson; special brother, David Marlin Perry and infant sisters, Shirley Mae Perry and Vonda Sue Perry.

She attended Olive Hill Wesleyan Church and loved going to church. She enjoyed traveling on bus trips with her sisters, shopping and spending time with her family.

Lena is survived by two daughters, Annette (Vaughn) Dyer of Olive Hill, Kentucky, Betha-

ny (Ronald) Graham of Elizabethtown, Kentucky; two grandchildren, Gabrielle (Brock) Murphy of Morehead, Kentucky, Christopher Graham of Elizabethtown, Kentucky; two brothers, Donnie (Faye) Perry, Eugene (Alice) Perry, of Olive Hill, Kentucky; five sisters, Wilma (Allen) Wells of Olive Hill, Kentucky, Loretta (Dwight) Cimino of Waldo, Ohio, Linda (Doug) Tackett, Nellie (Robert) Perry, Barbara (Troy) Brickles all of Olive Hill, Kentucky; a host of nieces and nephews, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss her.

Funeral services were held at 1 p.m., Tuesday, February 17, 2026, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Brother Bobby Day officiating. Burial followed 1 p.m., Wednesday, February 18, 2026, in Elizabethtown Memorial Gardens in Elizabethtown, Kentucky.

Friends visited after 11:30 a.m., Tuesday, February 17, 2026, until the service hour at Globe Funeral Chapel.

Family and Friends served as pallbearers.

Globe Funeral Chapel is honored to serve the family of Lena Deloris Perry Henderson.

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# OPINION

EDITORIALS | LETTERS | COLUMNS | COMMENTARY

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

## Guest Editorial

### How many more tow operators must die before Kentucky acts?

By Bubba Johnson  
*Bubba's Towing & Recovery*

How many more tow truck operators must die on Kentucky highways before this state decides their lives are worth protecting?

That question weighs heavily on the men and women who work the shoulders of our interstates every day. It weighs on their families. It weighs on every small towing business owner who sends a driver out into traffic knowing there is no real barrier between them and a distracted driver traveling 70 miles per hour.

"Troy's Law," currently filed as House Bill 282, was introduced to provide tow operators with an added layer of protection while assisting stranded motorists. The bill would allow tow trucks to use rear-facing blue flashing lights while stopped on highways to improve visibility and alert approaching drivers to slow down and move over.

The legislation is named in honor of Troy Caldwell, a Kentucky tow operator who was tragically killed while working along Interstate 64 in 2024. His death was not just another statistic. It was a devastating reminder of how dangerous roadside recovery work truly is.

Tow operators work in conditions most drivers rarely think about. They respond in the middle of the night. They respond in heavy rain and snow. They respond on narrow shoulders with traffic rushing past them. When a family breaks down on the side of the road or a crash blocks a highway, it is a tow operator who answers the call.

Their job requires them to stand inches from moving traffic while hooking chains, loading wrecked vehicles, clearing debris, and helping strangers in crisis. They do not have the protection of guardrails or patrol cars blocking traffic. They rely on visibility and the attention of drivers who may be distracted by phones, fatigue, or speed.

Kentucky already has a Move Over law requiring drivers to slow down and change lanes when approaching emergency vehicles. But many in the towing industry believe it is not enough. Tow trucks are not always as immediately recognizable as police cruisers or fire engines, especially at night or in poor weather conditions.

Troy's Law addresses that gap. It allows the controlled use of rear-facing blue flashing lights strictly while a tow truck is stopped and assisting motorists. It does not allow blue lights while actively towing or driving down the road. It is specific, limited, and focused solely on increasing visibility during roadside assistance.

This is not about turning tow trucks into law enforcement vehicles. It is not about expanding authority. It is about being seen. It is about creating one more unmistakable signal to drivers that they need to slow down and move over.

Yet despite the clear safety purpose, Troy's Law remains in committee and has not been brought forward for a vote. Many in the towing industry believe it is being held up and not allowed to advance.

That delay has sparked growing frustration among blue-collar workers across the Commonwealth. These are small business owners and employees who pay taxes, hire local workers, and help keep Kentucky's highways safe and open. They clear wrecks after storms. They remove disabled vehicles that block traffic. They assist law enforcement at crash scenes.

They are not asking for special privileges. They are asking for protection.

Kentucky would not be breaking new ground by passing this legislation. Other states have already taken similar steps and seen positive results.

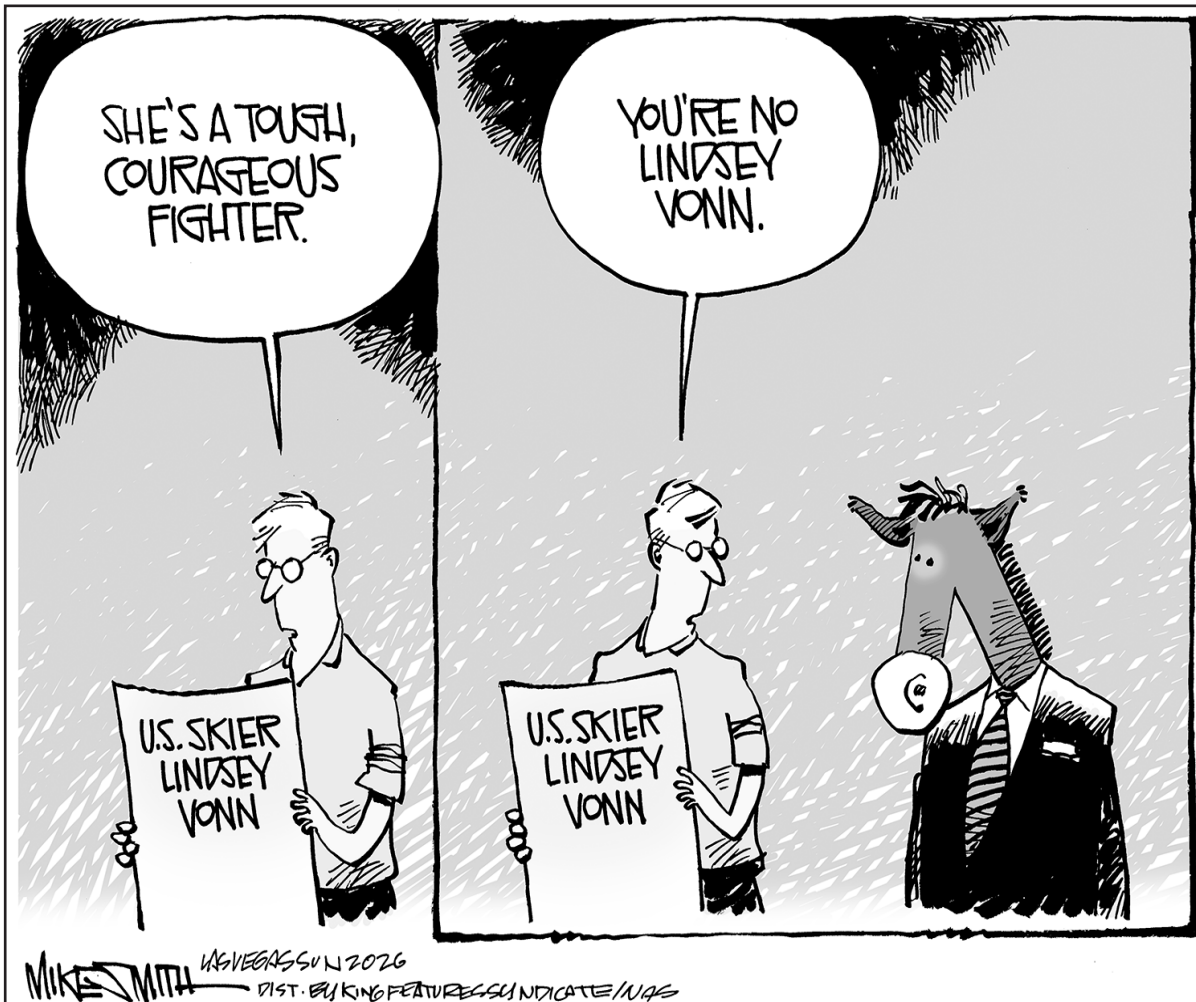
Pennsylvania strengthened its Move Over protections through Senate Bill 1281 in 2020 and Senate Bill 1123 in 2022. Those measures expanded visibility requirements and reinforced the responsibility of drivers to slow down and change lanes when approaching emergency response areas.

Supporters of Troy's Law point to Pennsylvania's experience as proof that enhanced roadside visibility laws can improve driver compliance and reduce incidents involving tow operators and other responders.

In fact, Kentucky advocates have received formal written

See *TOWING* on A-6

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



### Opinion: Senate Bill 7 offers relief for drivers' licensing services

Kentuckians, especially in rural areas, know what it feels like to take a day off work, spend money on gas and drive long distances just to renew a driver's license. That frustration is real. It affects people across the state. We hear it every day when we talk with folks in our communities.

That's why Senate Bill 7 was filed this session. As we said on the Senate floor, this bill is not a permanent fix. It's a practical first step the Senate has taken to give Kentuckians relief now while we work toward long-term improvements in how the state delivers driver licensing services.

SB 7 gives local communities the option to help their residents with basic renewal services. It allows one of four local offices—circuit court clerks, county clerks, sheriffs or judges/executives—to take on renewals and duplicate licenses if they choose. If none of those local officials opt in, the county can enter into an agreement with a neighboring county to better serve its constituents. SB 7 gives people more access without taking anything away.

Under SB 7, if your county doesn't offer local services, you can still renew online or by mail if eligible. Pop-up services may continue in many communities. The Senate proposal gives counties another tool to bring basic services closer to home.

The Senate quickly passed the bill, reflecting the concerns we hear daily from Kentuckians. It had 29 co-sponsors in a chamber of just 38 members. That kind of early support does not happen often. It shows how serious this issue is and how ready Senators are to act. The Senate quickly passed the bill, to the overwhelming approval of Kentuckians.

Some have argued that the bill doesn't do enough, and we understand those frustrations. But we deal with the art of the possible, and Senate Bill 7 is more than possible. This year, the Senate put one forward in Senate Bill 7, a bill that carries significant momentum.

Some have called for all driver licensing services to return fully to Circuit Court Clerks. We understand that desire. However, that approach would require a heavy-handed mandate from Frankfort with no flexibility on implementation.

Facts matter, as do the realities of truly governing.

The issue came into focus in 2017, when Kentucky reluctantly moved to comply with the federal REAL ID Act. As implementation progressed, Circuit Court Clerks made clear they could not meet the new federal security and technology requirements, and that equipping all 120 clerk offices would place an overwhelming cost on local governments and ultimately

See *LICENSING* on A-8

### Here come the robots

If you're reading this, first off, thanks for being literate in a world of smart phones. But secondly, we need to talk. I've been saying this forever, but I need you to understand that no matter how comfortable you are in your job, tech companies are looking to replace you.

I interviewed to be head writer with a company that, with a smartphone, can scan a whole warehouse and tell a user how it should be laid out down to the box. They said their software would make warehouses so efficient they could cut staff by a quarter — at least. I have also seen that robots are being built in China that can do human tasks with ease. The Chinese also have full car manufacturing plants that are fully automated — no people.

McDonalds, Chipotle, Popeyes, Panera Bread, and Arby's have all invested in robotics and AI. If you work in marketing, you can throw a flyer together in moments. You can write a paper, and our kids are using it more. And if you're used to spreadsheets, those days are about to be way over.

Bricklaying? Meet Walter. Roofing? Renovate Robotics. Plumbing? Pipebots. All these are real. Google any of these and you'll find a company for each sector.

As a journalist, I can use Gemini, which is built into Word, to do my job for me. I can check my work with Grammarly. I can also use Claude or ChatGPT to check for weaknesses in the text. If I was a cartoonist, I could stick a drawing into any of the models, and it could tell me exactly what my weakness is as an artist.

Like the person painting your ceiling, these are all things we trained for and worked hard to get good at.

I'm not anti-AI. I think it's a useful tool. I love making stupid artwork of our inside jokes. And it's fantastic when you need to figure out why the air conditioner broke in the middle of the night. But you need to understand that companies exist that are trying to take your job.

Profit motivates people. And before you say, "Not my boss," people cost insurance, take time off, get sick, and want raises. Robots and AI are one-time investments. For the working class, you don't have the option of being the one who pulls the purse strings.

You know what Google's AI overview just told me? "78% of organizations reported using AI in 2024, up from 55% the year before." And ChatGPT alone had 5.6 billion visits in November 2025.

We're going to need to have real conversations about the implications of all this forward propulsion. What are useful tools today will soon be doing our jobs for us, and the people above aren't making laws. The companies buying the tech aren't sad they'll be cutting workforce and making profit.

It may sound like socialist propaganda, but we're going to need to consider Universal Basic Income. What are people going to do when there are no jobs? How are you going to pay the rent when there are fifty people trying to work in your local gas station? What is a guy who spent his years as a miner going to do when a robot can outperform him thanks to a comput-

See *ROBOTS* on A-8



Robert Dean  
Guest Columnist  
Carter County Times

## Policies

### General

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

### Circulation

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

### Letters & Opinion

The Times welcomes all letters to the editor.

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

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

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

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

### Deadlines

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

**Towing** from A-5

support from Pennsylvania officials.

In a letter dated February 10, 2026, Donald Beishl, Chief of Staff to Pennsylvania Senator Doug Mastriano, expressed support for Troy's Law and thanked Kentucky advocates for their efforts to advance the legislation.

The letter stated: "Troy's Law is an important proposal aimed at improving safety for tow truck operators by allowing the use of rear-facing blue flashing lights while stopped and assisting motorists on highways. Named in honor of Troy Caldwell, a tow operator

who was tragically killed while working on I-64 in 2024, the legislation is intended to increase visibility and encourage drivers to slow down, while appropriately restricting the use of blue lights during active towing."

The letter further noted that Pennsylvania had enclosed copies of its enacted Move Over bills and letters of support sent to Kentucky Governor Andy Beshear, Senate President Robert Stivers, and House Speaker David Osborne. Pennsylvania officials offered to serve as a resource and share their experience as Kentucky considers the

measure.

Kentucky does not need to lead the nation on this issue. But we should not lag behind when other states have already shown that stronger visibility laws can save lives.

Every time a tow operator steps out of a truck onto a highway shoulder, there is risk. Every time traffic speeds past without slowing down, that risk increases. And every time legislation designed to improve safety sits idle, families continue to wait and wonder whether their loved one will make it home.

This is not a partisan is-

sue. It is not about politics. It is about protecting hard-working men and women who serve the public every single day.

The question remains: How many more funerals will it take before action is taken?

Troy's Law deserves a vote. It deserves open debate. And Kentucky's tow operators deserve to know that their safety matters.

It is time to move Troy's Law out of committee and put it to a vote.

Lives depend on it.

*Submit your letters or guest editorials to editor@cartercountytimes.com*

**Update** from A-3

create a new statewide leadership training program for new school principals. Beginning in the 2027–2028 school year, principals in their first five years on the job would participate in a structured, cohort-based practicum that provides mentoring, professional training, and peer support. The program is designed to better prepare principals for instructional leadership, school safety, accountability, and managing staff and student needs—without adding new financial burdens for school districts. Most participation costs would be covered by the state, and training hours could count toward existing professional requirements.

Senate Bill 71 SB 71 strengthens fiscal oversight and governance by expanding required training for local school board members. The bill establishes a structured in-service training framework that includes finance, ethics and open meetings and open records education, with requirements tailored to a board member's length of service. It also adds training related to superintendent evaluation and requires boards to formally review budget roles and responsibilities with district leadership. SB 71 makes reforms to ensure school board members have a consistent understanding of financial responsibilities and public resource management. It aims to improve financial decision-making and accountability in public education.

Senate Bill 136 Updates Kentucky's unemployment insurance fraud procedures by requiring the Education and Labor Cabinet to refer suspected fraud cases directly to the U.S. Department of Labor and local prosecutors. It removes the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet and the U.S. Department of Justice from the referral process, streamlining investigations and clarifying lines of accountability. The bill also requires referrals to be made within 30 days of detecting suspected fraud and ensures no employment termination occurs without a legal finding of guilt under state evidentiary standards.

Senate Bill 183 Strengthens corporate accountability in Kentucky by requiring proxy advisory firms—companies that influence shareholder votes—to prioritize financial reasoning over political or ideological agendas. The bill builds on the 2025 bill of the same number by expanding the law's standards to cover all publicly traded companies doing business in Kentucky, not just those incorporated here. If a proxy firm bases its recommendations on environmental, social or other non-financial factors, it must clearly disclose that information to shareholders, the company

and the attorney general, explaining how those interests shaped its advice. SB 183 treats violations as deceptive business practices under Kentucky law and empowers companies, shareholders and state officials to take legal action. It also bars proxy firms from giving materially different advice to different clients without disclosure. By holding major players like ISS and Glass Lewis accountable, SB 183 ensures proxy recommendations align with sound financial judgment and protect long-term investor value.

Senate Bill 45 is my legislation to protect Kentucky's agriculture community and ensure that a vital part of our economy is not undermined by overreach or radical activist efforts aimed at shutting down lawful operations.

SB 45 strengthens protections for agritourism and working-animal activities across the commonwealth by making clear that local governments cannot impose unreasonable or impractical restrictions on legitimate agricultural businesses. Kentucky's farms and rural enterprises are already subject to health, safety, zoning, and animal welfare laws. This bill ensures they can continue operating within those existing standards without facing burdensome or politically motivated regulations.

The legislation clarifies and modernizes our agritourism statutes by formally recognizing activities such as farm tours, rodeos, livestock exhibitions, carriage rides, and other working-animal events when conducted in compliance with current law. It prevents cities, counties, and other political subdivisions from adopting rules that create undue obstacles for farmers and operators, while preserving full authority to enforce animal welfare, public safety, and criminal laws.

Kentucky agriculture is more than a tradition, it is a cornerstone of our economy and our way of life. Senate Bill 45 ensures that family farms, rural businesses, and responsible animal-related operations remain protected, competitive, and free to operate without unnecessary interference.

Senate Bill 118 Updates Kentucky law to establish clear consumer protections and regulatory standards for credit personal property insurance sold with closed-end loans, including coverage for financed collateral. The bill limits the amount and term of coverage, requires insurers to reflect a genuine risk of loss, and prohibits bundling or pricing practices that increase borrowers' costs. It strengthens transparency by requiring timely disclosure of coverage and costs and ensures refunds of unearned premiums when policies are canceled early. SB 118 requires insurers to

file policy forms and rates with the Department of Insurance while clarifying that vehicle financial protection products are regulated separately.

Senate Bill 145 Expands flexibility and modernizes licensing rules for alcoholic beverage caterers while improving efficiency at the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC). The measure allows licensed caterers to sell alcoholic beverages at restaurants, removes outdated storage and Sunday sale restrictions and prevents the ABC from imposing arbitrary limits on event size or frequency. It prevents bureaucratic delays and provides greater certainty for Kentucky businesses by requiring the ABC to approve or deny all license applications within 45 days. The bill carries an emergency designation, which allows the changes to take effect immediately upon the bill's filing with the Secretary of State's Office.

Senate Bill 153 Strengthens accountability for contractors and protects homeowners from fraudulent and abusive practices, particularly following natural disasters. The bill targets deceptive marketing, damage inducement, improper financial relationships and unenforceable contract terms tied to insurance-funded repairs. It requires clear notice before assignment of insurance benefits and prevents contractors from collecting illegal or misleading fees. During declared emergencies, SB 153 authorizes the Attorney General to require contractor registration, limit aggressive in-person solicitation and require proof of registration at job sites while coordinating with local governments. The bill also strengthens enforcement by requiring prosecutors to refer suspected fraudulent insurance activity to the Department of Insurance for review. Recent enforcement actions, including court-ordered bans against contractors engaged in fraudulent conduct, underscore the need for stronger accountability tools to protect Kentucky families after disasters.

Senate Bill 155 Establishes a clear framework for responding quickly and effectively to animal health emergencies that threaten livestock, poultry or other domesticated animals across Kentucky. The bill authorizes the Commissioner of Agriculture, in consultation with the state veterinarian, to declare an animal health emergency and take targeted action when disease outbreaks, severe conditions or supply disruptions put animal welfare at risk. SB 155 grants emergency authority to deploy veterinary services, order quarantines, restrict the movement of animals or equipment, waive transportation rules for feed and medicine and

secure critical goods and services without delay. The measure supports coordination with local, state and federal partners to protect Kentucky agriculture, food supply chains and rural communities.

Senate Bill 158 Sets clear rules to protect consumers when buying optional financial products tied to vehicle purchases, such as debt cancellation or value protection plans. The bill makes sure these products are optional, clearly disclosed and priced separately from loan interest. It prevents lenders or dealers from requiring consumers to buy them as a condition of financing or a vehicle sale. SB 158 establishes consistent standards for contracts and applies to new agreements beginning Jan. 1, 2027, helping provide transparency and fairness for Kentucky vehicle buyers.

Senate Bill 160 Improves oversight of licensed child care centers while ensuring fair and consistent treatment for providers across Kentucky. The bill establishes clear standards the Cabinet for Health and Family Services must follow when reviewing violations and considering corrective action, suspension or revocation. It prevents a single violation of a corrective plan from automatically triggering license revocation unless the violation alone justifies that action, and it allows providers up to five business days to submit the requested documentation. SB 160 requires structured weekly support for new centers operating under preliminary licenses and limits violations during that probationary period, except in cases involving serious safety concerns. The reforms apply to pending licensing actions and take effect immediately, promoting accountability while preserving strong protections for child safety statewide.

Senate Bill 172 Known as the Fuel Surcharge Stability Act, SB 172 helps stabilize bills and improve affordability by allowing the Public Service Commission to extend the period during which utilities recover fuel costs, reducing sudden rate spikes for consumers. The bill requires coal severance taxes to be considered during fuel adjustment reviews and gives regulators flexibility to smooth fuel cost recovery when requested by a utility. The measure includes an emergency clause to take effect immediately, supporting greater rate stability for Kentucky households and businesses.

Senate Bill 72 The Health Care Heroes Recruitment and Retention Act seeks to address Kentucky's health care workforce shortage by protecting the rights of medical professionals and health care institutions to decline participation in

**CLASSIFIEDS****PUBLIC NOTICES**

**KRS: 926.011 and KRS: 424.120 and 424.340**

Administration has been granted in the District Court of Carter County upon the following fiduciary appointments.

Dakota Alexander Beard, deceased, fiduciary. Administratrix/Administrator, Brian and Lisa Beard, 245 Paradise Hill, Grayson, KY. Attorney for Estate, Hon. Robert W. Miller, P O Box 357, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment December 5th, 2025.

Marie Wilburn, deceased, fiduciary. Administrator, Keith Wilburn, 3105 Maple Leaf Sp. Lexington, KY 40509. Date of appointment November 26, 2025.

Kathy Ryna Wilburn, deceased, fiduciary. Executrix, Amy Bledsoe, 84 Edison Road, Grayson, KY 41143. Attorney for Estate, Hon. W. Jeffrey Scott, P O Box 608, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment November 21, 2025.

Jo Ann Kiser, deceased, fiduciary. Executrix, Alisa Kiser Messer, 615 St Hwy 1773, Grayson, KY 41143. Attorney for Estate, Hon. Whitley Hill Bailey, 106 Park Street, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment December 11, 2025

Carl Adren Fannin, deceased, fiduciary. Executrix, Opal Ann Fannin, 2589 Jordan Fork, Olive Hill, KY 41164. Attorney for Estate, Hon. W. Jeffrey Scott, P O Box 608, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment December 8th, 2025.

Marsha Lynn Marcum Hall, deceased, fiduciary. Executrix, Hon. Sarah Hall, 611 Kewanna Drive, Jeffersonville, IN 47130. Attorney for Estate, Hon. Sarah N Hall of FBT Gibbons LLP, 400 W Market Street Suite 3200, Louisville, KY 40202. Date of appointment December 11th, 2025.

Ray Dearl McCoy, deceased, fiduciary. Executrix, Rhonda Reynolds, 114 Binion Cem. Road, Olive Hill, KY 41164. Attorney for Estate, Hon. Brandon Hamilton, P O box 1387, Olive Hill, KY 41164. Date of appointment December 17, 2025..

Charles R Teague, deceased, fiduciary. Executrix, Teresa Sagraves, 21 River Lane, Grayson, KY 41143. Attorney for Estate, Hon. W. Jeffrey Scott, P O Box 608, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment December 17, 2025.

Terry Martin Horsley, deceased, fiduciary. Executor, Micky Brown, 2202 Grah Road, Olive Hill, KY 41164. Attorney for Estate, Hon. Patrick Flannery, P O Box 1269. Date of appointment January 2, 2026.

Don Everman Jr. deceased, fiduciary. Executrix, Valerie Everman, 81 Speaks Street, Grayson, KY 41143. Attorney for Estate, Hon. Kayla D Porter, 117 South Hord Street, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment January 2, 2026.

Christopher Bradford, deceased, fiduciary. Administratrix, Hannah Bradford, 88 Tulip Drive, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment January 15th, 2026.

Lou Ella Thompson, deceased, fiduciary. Executor, Bobby Dale Thompson, 630 Mason Circle, Olive Hill, KY 41164. Attorney for Estate, Hon. Brandon Hamilton, P O Box 1387, Olive Hill, KY 41164. Date of appointment January 15th, 2026.

Joyce Houck, deceased, fiduciary. Executrix, Regan Willer, 117 Ever charm Drive, Grayson, KY 41143. Attorney for Estate, Kayla D Porter, 117 South Hord Street, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment February 6th, 2026.

Rodrick Burnett, deceased, fiduciary. Administrator, Tony Pope, P O Box 433, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment January 28, 2026.

Marcella Joan Herron, deceased, fiduciary. Administratrix, Denise Knipp, 315 Oscar Lane, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment February 12th, 2026.

Ralph John Binion, deceased, fiduciary. Administratrix, Katelyn Binion, 6130 E US Hwy 60, Rush, KY 41168, Date of appointment February 10th, 2026.

Betty Zane Criswell, deceased, fiduciary. Executor, David Criswell, P O Box 129, Hitchens, KY 41146. Attorney for Estate, Hon. Randall J Greer, P O Box 145, Grayson, KY 41143. Date of appointment February 10th, 2026.

All persons having claims against the above estates are notified to present same to the fiduciary or Attorney, verified according to law no later than (6) months from the date of this publication.

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**OPEN FOR BID**

Carter County Jail is looking for bids for up to 3 transport vans. Must be chevy express CARGO extended wheel base 155 inch with chevy vortec 6.6 engine. Vans must be cargo as we install our own cages. Bids must be received by or before February 27th. Bids should be sealed and turned in to 13 Crossbar Road Grayson KY 41143 C/O Carter County Detention/ Van Bids Rena Collins

specific procedures or services that violate sincerely held religious, moral or ethical beliefs. The bill prohibits retaliation or discrimination against doctors, nurses and other providers for exercising conscience protections while preserving federal requirements related to emergency medical treatment and sexual assault evidence collection. SB 72 clarifies key definitions, strengthens due process protections by requiring timely notice and response to complaints, and establishes enforcement tools for violations. By reinforcing conscience protections alongside patient safety standards, the bill aims to retain experienced providers and attract new health care professionals to the commonwealth.

Senate Bill 110 Modernizes Kentucky's vehicle titling and registration system by continuing the transition to secure electronic processes that reduce paperwork, improve efficiency and better serve vehicle owners, lenders and county clerks. The bill requires lienholders to use the electronic lien system beginning in 2027 and ensures the state's electronic titling and centralized lien systems are fully operational before broader implementation. It allows vehicle titles to be stored electronically with an option to request a printed copy, expands the use of email or text notifications for registration and tax notices and authorizes the Transportation Cabinet to set certain titling and registration fees through administrative regulation beginning January 1, 2027. SB 110 also streamlines county clerk operations, eliminates outdated requirements and codifies current best practices to make vehicle transactions faster, clearer and more

reliable for Kentuckians.

Each of these bills now move to the House for consideration.

Several important measures also cleared Senate committees this week and are now headed to the full Senate for a vote.

Natural Resources and Energy

Senate Bill 57 Advances a new Nuclear Reactor Site Readiness Pilot Program designed to accelerate nuclear energy development in Kentucky by supporting early federal permitting and structured partnerships between the state, utilities and private-sector partners. The legislation allows the state to invest up to \$25 million per project while incorporating strict accountability measures, milestone requirements and financial safeguards to protect taxpayers. Projects will be evaluated based on site suitability, regional economic impact and geographic diversity, with final approval retained by the General Assembly. The proposal positions Kentucky to compete for advanced nuclear investment as a part of our energy portfolio and provide long-term economic growth.

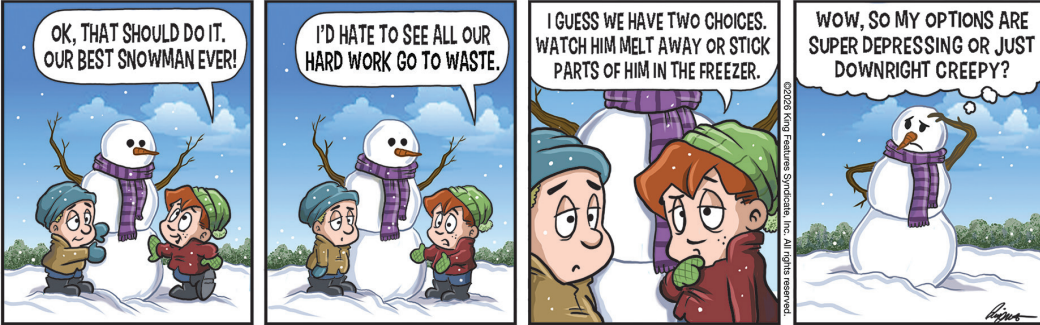
Committee passage is a notable step in the legislative process. It allows subject-matter experts and stakeholders to weigh in before measures reach the Senate floor.

As we move into week seven, floor action will continue to increase and our attention will begin turning more toward budget discussions and key priority legislation.

I remain committed to working hard on behalf of the people of the 18th District, so your voice is represented in every vote taken.

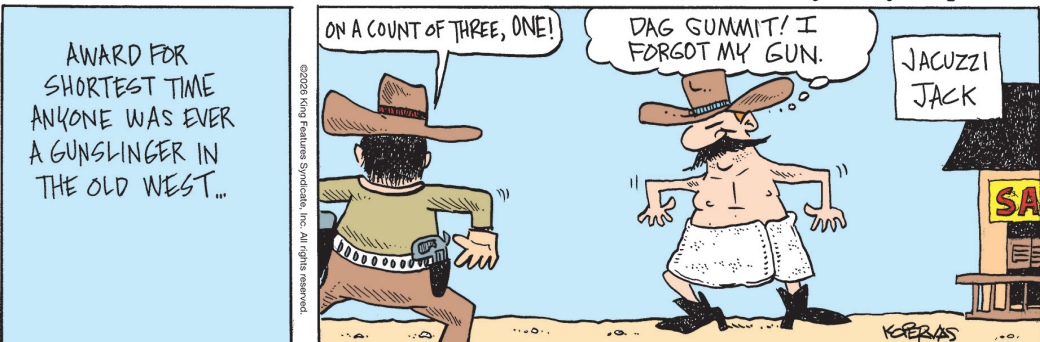
# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



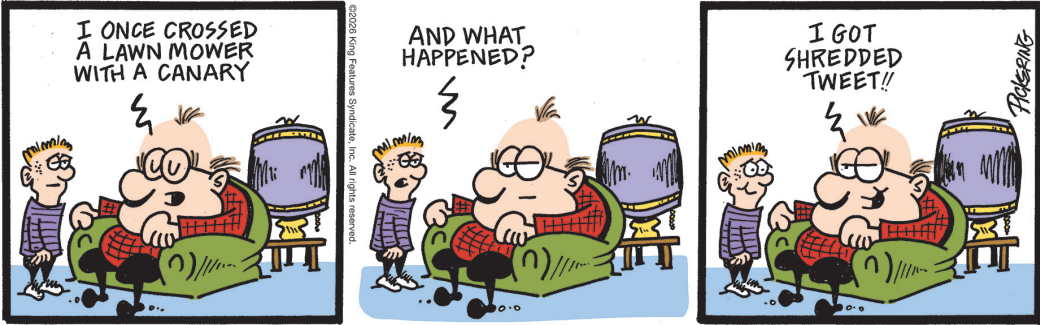
## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



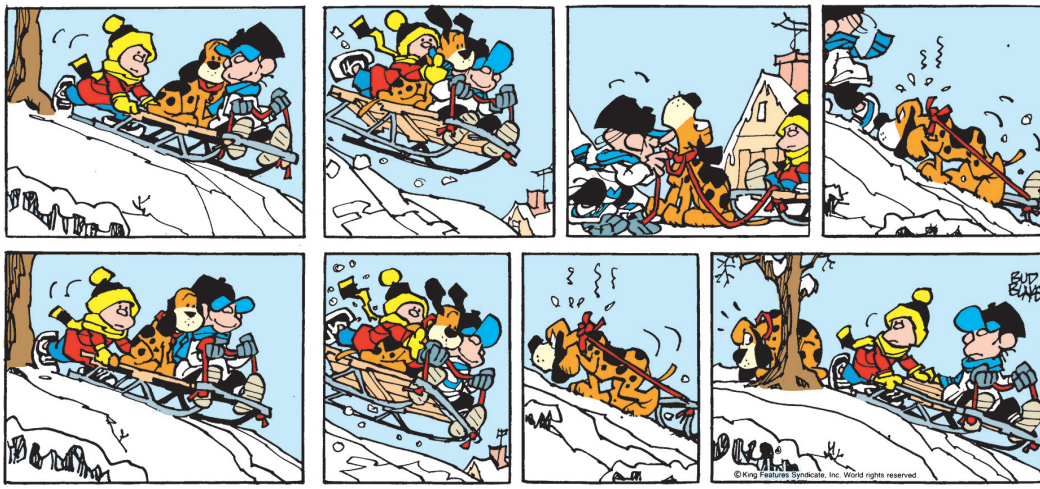
## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



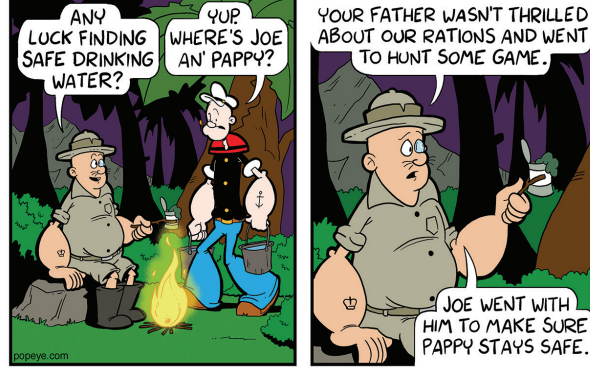
## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



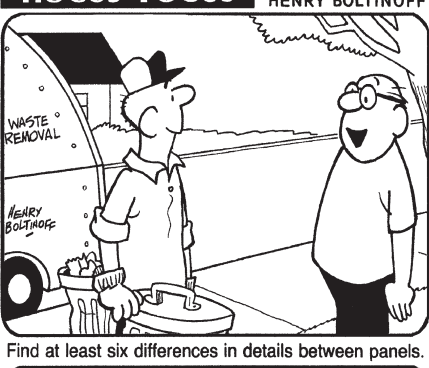
## OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Millholland



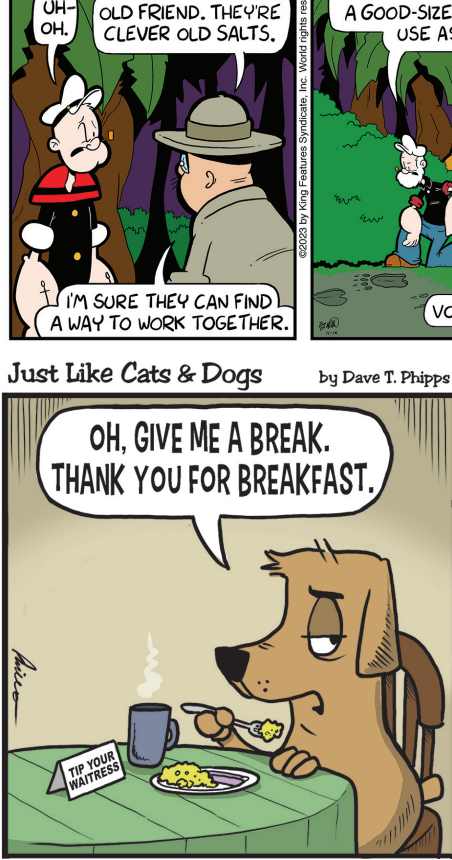
## HOCUS-FOCUS

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: N equals V

NFQV QFEOHGIS OICG-OIHGFCV  
AQTS BOITJOMCTQFA GI  
RWTCYFQI MOEGJWQIGO:  
ROI JFQIOIAW NOEGTB.

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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!

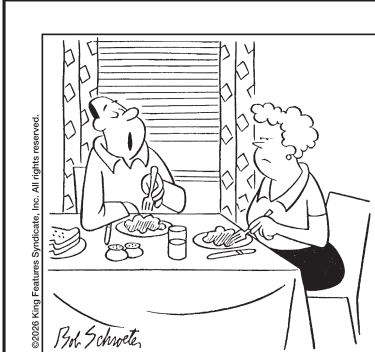
Fly **TEAVIA** \_\_\_\_\_

Notebook **RIBEND** \_\_\_\_\_

Walk **REDITS** \_\_\_\_\_

Press **NAKED** \_\_\_\_\_

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. Center              | ___ I ___ | Interfere        | ___ E ___ |
| 2. Semi or pickup      | ___ U ___ | Racer's path     | ___ A ___ |
| 3. Love interest       | ___ M ___ | Snowy particle   | ___ K ___ |
| 4. Football pass       | ___ R ___ | Of the backbone  | ___ N ___ |
| 5. Washington's pen    | ___ L ___ | Blanket          | ___ T ___ |
| 6. Cartoon canary      | ___ E ___ | One score        | ___ N ___ |
| 7. Actress Symone      | ___ N ___ | Composer Maurice | ___ L ___ |
| 8. Actress Day         | ___ I ___ | Frat houses      | ___ M ___ |
| 9. Human being         | ___ E ___ | Preacher         | ___ A ___ |
| 10. Humpbacked or Orca | ___ A ___ | Undivided        | ___ O ___ |

## 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.

	+		÷	=	2			
+		-	+					
	+		×	=	45			
×		÷	-					
	+		×	=	36			
=		=		=				
56		4		11				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

Go Figure!

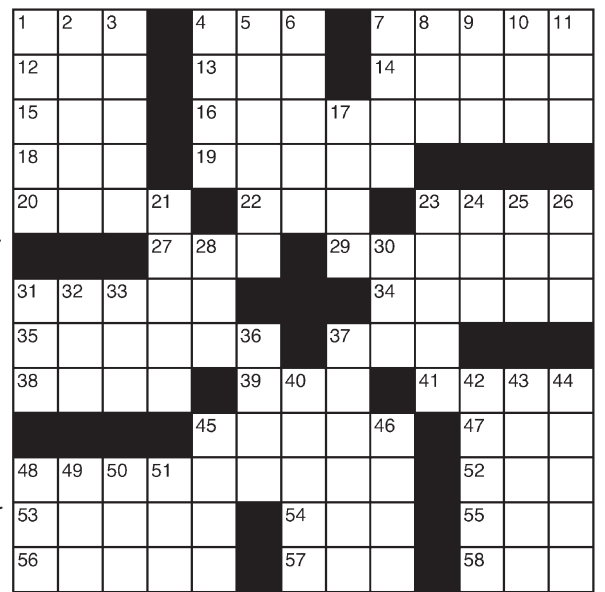
56	=	4		11
8	+	1	×	4 = 36
2	+	3	×	9 = 45
5	+	7	÷	6 = 2

- Donna M. Pettman
- Middle, Middle
  - Truck, Truck
  - Frame, Flake
  - Person, Person
  - Quilt, Quilt
  - Truck, Truck
  - Truck, Truck
  - Person, Person
  - Person, Person
  - Truck, Truck
  - Truck, Truck

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- Lawyers' gp.
- Radiator sound
- Explosion
- Bottom line
- Ref
- Ababa
- Hindu honorific
- Obstruction
- Work unit
- Incursion
- Frog's relative
- Aviv
- Chumps
- Fan's shout
- Owing money
- Choir member
- Like anchovies
- Hour follower
- Dog's foot
- Yuletide tune
- GPS suggestion
- Lounge about
- Toe woes
- Nev. neighbor
- "Psycho" director Alfred
- Chemical suffix
- Petrify
- "QB —" (Uris novel)
- Cacophony
- "One L" author Scott
- Right angle



### DOWN

- Plus
- Small pack animal
- Spanish girlfriend
- Ride the waves
- Suave
- Memoir by Prince Harry
- Infant
- "Bad" cholesterol
- Commotion
- Bracketed word
- Chiding sound
- Painter Salvador
- Slobber
- Shoulder wrap
- "You've got mail" co.
- Agt.'s cut
- Cloud setting
- Rainbow
- Code-breaking gp.
- Great weight
- Green prefix
- Mets' div.
- Ray of McDonald's
- Writing instrument
- Treasure stash
- Lab liquids
- "The Fraud" author — Smith
- Justice Kagan
- Enjoy gum
- Power tool brand
- FDR follower
- Post-op area
- Sailor
- -Magnon

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## Weekly SUDOKU

5	7	3						
				7	1	5		
8	2	1	4	5		6		
1	8	4	2			9		6
	9				7	3	1	
6			4					
6	3	9	7				8	
		8	2	6	7	3		
7	5						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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## FiveSpot™

Last stage

F	I	N	A	L

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

02627

A	B	A	S	S	B	L	A	S
N	I	D	I	V	I	L	I	S
C	O	C	K	I	D	E	I	D
C	O	R	N	S	C	A	L	L
E	L	A	Z	E	R	T	E	L
P	A	W	P	A	W	P	A	W
T	E	N	O	R	A	H	N	O
K	O	C	K	I	N	H	N	O
S	A	P	S	A	P	S	A	P
E	R	G	F	O	R	A	V	A
S	R	I	R	O	A	D	B	L
K	O	C	K	I	D	E	I	D

Solution time: 26 mins.

## King Crossword — Answers

Trivia Answers

- A hand, and each banana is a finger
- Agent Smith
- The Four Seasons
- Los Angeles
- Marine One
- Missouri
- 1961
- A fear of cooking
- Jupiter
- England

## CryptoQuip

Very relaxing anti-anxiety drug manufactured in southern California.

San Fernando Vallum.

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

Trivia Answers

Go Figure!

Answers

Even Exchange

Answers

Even Exchange

Answers

Even Exchange

Answers

Even Exchange

Answers

Even Exchange

Answers

Even Exchange

Answers

Even Exchange

Answers

Even Exchange

Answers

**Tourism** from A-1

accounts. Options exist for money market accounts, White told the commission.

"If we simply move the funds into a money market checking account, there can be a 0.5 to 2.5 interest based on fund balance," White said.

White also made the commission aware that there were some restrictions on moving money into and out of those accounts. Another option White presented to the commission was a 3.6 interest rate CD for 13 months.

"That would tie that

money up for the 13 months," he said.

White said that as part of the discussion it might be a good option to pay down part of the current debt owed by the tourism commission, because the interest that could potentially be earned by the movement of funds into a money market account or CD would be less than the interest currently being paid on some debts. One existing loan the commission is paying on currently carries a 3.7 percent interest rate. Another carries a 5.5 percent interest rate.

Discussion centered

around the amount of funds to be moved and into what type of accounts, with the general consensus that there could be a combination of CD and money market accounts. A motion was made to transfer funds from a maintenance account into a money market account, and was approved unanimously.

In other business, Todd Maynard, the Dean of the School of Business and Leadership at Kentucky Christian University, addressed the commission. Maynard approached the commission about sponsorship opportunities for

the school's upcoming Mission Minded Leadership Conference scheduled for April 15.

"Our program is in charge of the annual leadership conference," Maynard told the commission. "And this is my first year over the conference."

Maynard said that he was very excited about the program and that this year they were blessed with nationally recognized speakers for the event, which will be held at KCU's Nash Chapel with a networking session afterwards at the school gym.

Maynard said that what

his department was seeking for this year's conference was a \$5,000 sponsorship. For that sponsorship, he said, the tourism commission would have their logo prominently displayed on digital and marketing materials, and recognition for tourism and the City of Grayson as the event's main sponsor. Maynard said the event is expected to bring 600 people into Grayson, and there will be a great draw for tourism based on the notoriety of the speakers.

Admission for the event is \$35 per attendee, Maynard told the commission,

and the pricing of tickets should aid in the drawing power of the event. The \$5,000 donation would help defray the cost for the speakers, he said, as well as branding for the city and tourism. Maynard said there were other sponsorship levels available, but the \$5,000 level would be the main sponsor for the event. The commission decided on further consideration before any decision was made.

Contact the writer at [charles@cartercountytimes.com](mailto:charles@cartercountytimes.com)

**East** from A-4

the ball over and fighting to settle into rhythm. After a travel call on Lewis, the Raiders found life with a smooth backdoor pass to William Burton (5) for two. Jackson Steele (22) followed with a basket to narrow the gap to 22-18.

However, Bivens (32) struck again from beyond the arc, and Lewis County's offensive chemistry continued to shine. A layup connection from Bivens (32) to Brody Detillion (15) widened the margin. Colton McGuire

(12) grabbed a key rebound for East, and Puente (11) was called for a charge as the Raiders searched for momentum. Still, East Carter struggled to finish possessions. Lewis added another three-pointer, and although Thomas Burton (1) and Tussey (15) chipped in baskets, the Lions answered each push. Turnovers plagued both sides late in the half, but Lewis County maintained control heading into the break.

The Lions controlled

possession at the start of the second half, wasting no time, heading straight for the rim and securing their first of many baskets in the third quarter. East Carter countered with their own pair of points, but it was no match for the seven straight Lewis had coming their way. Thomas Burton (1) kept the Raiders alive, along with Karle (11), who both brought in key shots for East.

The Raiders found a spark midway through the third with a 5-0 run,

highlighted by a put-back from McGuire (12). Still, the defensive foul count began to climb, putting Lewis County back at the line. Tussey (15) fired up the home crowd with a long three-pointer, but Lewis answered dramatically with a clutch shot at the buzzer to close the third.

A turnover plagued East Carter's offense to start the final eight minutes. On their next possession, McGuire (12) made a diving effort to keep the

play alive, refusing to let momentum slip without a fight. With both teams struggling to find the net, Karle (11) and McGuire (12) continued attacking. A huge three-pointer from McGuire (12) brought the bench to its feet and cut the Lions' lead to six.

With 3:47 left in the contest, Lewis County responded with a key basket and a momentum-shifting block to regain control. Back-to-back shots from Karle (11) kept the Raiders within striking

distance, and missed opportunities by the Lions gave East hope late. But as the final seconds ticked away, the Raiders couldn't overcome the deficit.

When the buzzer sounded, the scoreboard read 66-54 in favor of Lewis County, as East Carter's late push fell just short.

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

**Licensing** from A-5

mately our taxpayers. In response, clerks requested that the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet become the sole provider of driver licensing services. That request led to House Bill 453, which Governor Andy Beshear signed into law in 2020 after it passed the House 81-19 and narrowly cleared the Senate 21-17.

SB 7 respects constitutional boundaries and confronts political reality with a reasonable proposal. It offers a voluntary step toward something better than we have now.

We also want to be

clear. We share the public's frustration with how long it has taken to fix Kentucky's driver licensing system.

Since 2020, the General Assembly has approved funding, opened more regional offices and passed numerous reforms. We passed laws that allow mail-in and online renewals. We approved third-party renewals through organizations like AAA. To date, that change still has not been implemented.

SB 7 is only halfway through the process. The Senate moved quickly and passed the bill to respond

to years of concern from our constituents. That action created momentum.

We strongly encourage our colleagues in the House to pick up the conversation the Senate started and move it forward. Kentuckians have long asked for change. Let's aim for

better, as perfection is not possible.

We respect the legislative process and the House's role in it. We also believe now is the time to act.

Let's give SB 7 a fair hearing. Let's give Kentuckians the relief they

need. Let's keep working together to find solutions that reflect what good public service looks like: listening, taking action and delivering results for the people we represent.

Sen. Aaron Reed represents Kentucky's 7th Senate District. He is the

primary sponsor of SB 7. Sen. Jimmy Higdon represents Kentucky's 14th Senate District. He serves as chair of the Senate Transportation Committee.

**Robots** from A-5

er that's beyond what we can imagine?

As a matter of fact, according to the site Mining Technology, "Companies like Komatsu and Sandvik are develop-

ing autonomous mining systems — including remote-operated vehicles, automated haulage, and robotic drilling and loading equipment designed to run with minimal human

presence underground and on surface sites."

This isn't a kick-the-can-down-the-road situation. It's one that is becoming more real daily. Don't believe me? We

haven't even had iPhones for 20 years, and look how much has changed in their wake. Don't say I didn't warn you.

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