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Jury acquits Estepp on sexual abuse charges

Finds former West Carter teacher not guilty on all counts

By Jeremy D. Wells
Carter County Times

A Carter County jury heard six days of evidence from law enforcement, school administrators and personnel, and the alleged victim and her family before returning a verdict on Tuesday, March 3 finding former West Carter and Paul Blazer special education teacher Harlee Estepp not guilty on all three charges against him, including

two counts of first degree sexual abuse and one count of unlawful use of electronic means to induce a minor to engage in sexual activities.

The verdict marks the end of a tumultuous five years for both the accused and the alleged victim since the allegations first surfaced in the summer between the alleged victim's freshman and sophomore years of high school.

According to the story presented by the alleged victim and her mother, the family was set up at the Haldeman Volunteer Fire Department when Estepp allegedly sent a text message to the minor. The mother saw the message pop up on the unattended phone, displaying the

See **ESTEPP** on A-8



Harlee Estepp, center, is flanked by his attorneys as the verdict is read in this still image from court provided video. (Submitted image)

Grayson Council discusses ordinances and tax reduction

City honors Willis Johnson, plans to pass ordinance in special meeting

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

Grayson City Council welcomed Mike Nelson to their regularly scheduled meeting in March. Nelson, who is very active in the community in roles such as Director of the Grayson Chamber of Commerce, was present at the meeting in his media capacity through local radio station WUGO.

"We are recording tonight's meeting, and actually streaming it on our YouTube page," Nelson told the council. "We started streaming East Carter athletics earlier this year as a test to see how it would go. We had numerous games where we have had a couple of thousand people

watching it at the same time. And we are basically running this test tonight just to see how it goes."

"We will be able to stream council meetings live on our Go Radio local YouTube page each and every month," Nelson told the council. "If the council would like that, we have the capability of doing that."

Nelson said that the March meeting was a test to make sure everything went well.

Mayor Troy Combs told council that Nelson had brought the proposal to him, and he subsequently invited Nelson to the meeting so he could address the council and answer any questions the members of council might have.

"I invited him to do a test run," Combs said. "But this is the council's chambers, and I would like to have your approval going forward."

The council members will be able to view the finished product and then discuss it at the next regular meeting.

The council next heard from

See **GRAYSON** on A-6



(Photo by Brayleigh Boggs, Carter County Times)

Chamber promotes job fair

Event scheduled for next Wednesday at KCU

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

Grayson Chamber of Commerce Director Mike Nelson reported during last week's meeting that chamber membership was currently at 230 members. Nelson also alluded to an upcoming new restaurant and new chamber members that he will release more information about soon. In the meantime, Nelson

told the chamber that rumors concerning a hibachi restaurant coming to Grayson were true, and the new restaurant will be going in at the location of the old Giovanni's in Grayson. Nelson told the chamber that the owners of the new restaurant are also the owners of the Hibachi Express food truck that is regularly set up during Memory Days.

In other news, Nelson told chamber members that the chamber was grateful to partner with Kentucky Christian University twice a year for their job fair. The next job fair is scheduled for March 25, Nelson said.

"I still have spots available," Nelson said. "So, if you would like to take that day from 10 am

until 1 pm the table is provided for you for free. The venue can also accommodate electrical needs for those wishing to participate in the job fair."

"Come and find new employees for your business," Nelson said. "And if you are not hiring right now, it is still a good opportunity for public relations. You can tell people a little about your business and what you do," he added.

Students from the business school will be at the fair, Nelson told the members present, as well as students from East and West Carter High Schools.

Nelson also announced

See **CHAMBER** on A-3

Weekly arrests report

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

- Gary Conley, 59, of Rush, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked March 9.
- Terry Carter, 51, of Louisville, arrested by Grayson PD, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked March 9.
- David Whitt, 64, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked March 10.
- Charles Dunn, 47, of Carlisle, arrested by Nicholas County Sheriff, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor,

- arrested and booked March 10.
- Rex Parsons, 48, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of reckless driving, no or expired registration receipt, no or expired registration plates, improper display of registration plates, failure to maintain required insurance, operating on a suspended or revoked operator's license, possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of marijuana, failure to surrender revoked operator's license, and two counts of failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked March 10.
- David Barnes, 48, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on two counts of failure to appear on a citation for misdemeanor, arrested and booked March 10.
- Nichlos Collins, 31, of Wheelersburg, OH, arresting agency unavailable, for failure to

appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked March 11.

- Dianna Martin, 25, of Soldier, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of first degree trafficking in narcotics (two or more grams of methamphetamine), trafficking in a controlled substance (heroin), possession of drug paraphernalia, and tampering with physical evidence, arrested and booked March 11.
- Charles Dunn, 47, of Carlisle, arrested by Nicholas County Sheriff, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked March 12.
- Woodrow Mays, 51, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on two counts of violation of a Kentucky emergency protection order/domestic violence order, arrested and booked March 12.
- Lynuel Conn, 59, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of operating

See **ARRESTS** on A-3



This Week's Obituaries

Shandra Dell Brown, 48

Linda Wilson Harper, 82

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LIFESTYLE



Divas ON A DIME By Patti Diamond

Canned salmon: The pantry secret for healthy, budget-friendly meals

Here's a pantry staple I don't write about often enough: canned salmon.

Fresh salmon is one of the healthiest foods you can eat. It's rich in protein and omega-3 fatty acids, and it's wonderfully versatile. The problem, of course, is that fresh salmon can also be expensive, seasonal and sometimes difficult to find, especially if you're trying to buy wild-caught fish instead of farmed.

That's where canned salmon shines. It delivers the same nutritional benefits as fresh salmon at a fraction of the cost, and it's always waiting in the pantry when you need it.

When shopping, take a moment to read the label. Health experts recommend choosing wild-caught Pacific salmon whenever possible. Salmon labeled "wild Alaskan" or "Pacific salmon" is harvested from well-managed fisheries and is a more sustainable choice.

You'll also notice two types of canned salmon on the shelf: boneless-skinless, and the traditional variety that includes skin and soft bones. If you buy salmon with skin and bones, there is one small drawback: namely, skin and bones. The boneless version is convenient but costs more. The version with bones is economical and just as nutritious.

The bones in canned salmon are pressure-cooked until they become soft and completely edible. In fact, they're an excellent source of calcium. Many people mash them right into the fish and never notice them. If the idea makes you hesitant, you can easily remove the larger pieces before using the salmon.

A clever trick I've used for years is adding a small handful of slivered almonds to recipes made with canned salmon. They add a pleasant texture and completely disguise any remaining bones.

Canned salmon is versatile. Use it in pasta, salads, chowders or sandwiches. In my house,

however, our favorite is salmon patties. Crisp on the outside and tender on the inside, they're quick to make and satisfying enough for dinner.

Serve them as burgers on buns, make smaller cakes for appetizers or enjoy them alongside a fresh green salad.

SIMPLE SALMON PATTIES
Yield: 4 servings
Total Time: 30 minutes

- 1 teaspoon olive oil or avocado oil
 - 1/4 cup green onions, sliced
 - 1/4 cup red bell pepper, minced
 - 1 (14.75-ounce) can pink salmon
 - 1/2 cup panko breadcrumbs
 - 1 tablespoon slivered almonds, optional
 - 1/4 cup mayonnaise
 - 2 large eggs
 - 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
 - 1 tablespoon lemon juice
 - 1 teaspoon lemon zest, optional
 - 1 teaspoon seafood seasoning (such as Old Bay) or paprika
- Olive oil or avocado oil for cooking

Warm 1 teaspoon oil in a skillet over medium-low heat, add the onions and pepper. Sauté until just softened.

Meanwhile, place the salmon



Canned salmon transforms into crisp, flavorful patties in just minutes. (Photo Credit: www.JasonCoblentz.com)

in a bowl and gently break it apart with a fork. Remove any large pieces of skin or bone if desired. Add breadcrumbs and almonds. Add the softened onion and pepper and stir to combine.

In a small mixing bowl, stir together the mayonnaise, eggs, Dijon mustard, lemon juice, lemon zest and seafood seasoning.

Add the mayo mixture to the salmon and mix until well combined and the mixture holds together. If the mixture is too dry, add mayonnaise. If it's too wet, add breadcrumbs.

Form the mixture into 8 patties and refrigerate for 15 minutes.

Heat a thin layer of oil in a skillet over medium heat. Cook the patties for about 4 to 5 min-

utes per side, until golden brown and heated through. Serve warm.

Leftover patties can be stored in the refrigerator for up to three days, or frozen for up to three months.

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

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Ask Daryl: Your Professional Organizer

You and your fur babies

Most of us know how to make our pets comfy and happy. However, we don't think of organizing solutions to truly give them the extra special care they deserve.

We give them a place to sleep, food, water, toys, and, for cats, a place for them to enjoy some privacy. But there are so many options for organizing supplies, as well as toys and food.

Here are some tips to make things easier for you to care for your pet.

- Set up a special place in your home for storing

your pet supplies.

- Transfer dry food and treats from bags into clear plastic sealable containers just like the ones you would use for storing cereal or pasta. This will keep food fresh longer and make it easier to see when your supplies are running low.

- Use clear plastic trays for small items, like wet food in cans, grooming tools, and dental care.

- Keep shampoos, flea collars, litter, and sprays on shelves in the same area but not adjacent to food.
- Use decorative baskets for toys that compliment

your decor and cycle them out to give your pets some variety.

- Mount hooks near the back or front door for leashes, collars, and rain gear.

Even if you have other pets like, birds, reptiles, or fish, storing their supplies in a manageable location – just for them – makes them safer and easier to access when needed. A few small adjustments can make a big difference in how you care for your pets.

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



Daryl Ashley
Guest Columnist
Confusion Solution

University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment Cooperative Extension Service

Extension Notes

carter.ca.uky.edu

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Beyond the scarecrow: smart approaches to controlling wildlife on the farm

Wildlife is integral to Kentucky's landscape, and farms inevitably share space with a diverse range of animals. Rather than attempting to eliminate wildlife — an unrealistic and counterproductive goal — effective on-farm wildlife management can work to reduce conflicts and encourage natural behaviors that keep wildlife and people safely separated. Consider these strategies:

Define the problem — and the likely culprit.

Is the interaction causing harm or simply inconvenience? Economic loss, crop damage or threats to safety clearly require intervention, while other encounters — like a harmless snake sighting — may only require tolerance.

Identifying the species responsible for damage is not always simple. Clues such as habitat type, height of tree damage, bite patterns, tracks and scat can narrow the possibilities. Trail cameras, field guides and expert assistance can

also provide confirmation.

Modify the habitat.

Small changes can make the environment less inviting and discourage wildlife from lingering near crops, buildings and livestock areas. Modifications can include:

- Reducing cover by mowing or clearing vegetation

- Removing attractants such as fallen fruit, unsecured feed or debris
- Eliminating denning or nesting sites such as hollow trees or woodpiles

Use deterrents strategically.

Deterrents can provide short-term protection. Visual tools like decoys or scare devices often work best when rotated frequently so animals do not become accustomed to them. Try to introduce them right before wildlife pressure increases, such as just before fruit ripens or during calving season.

Deterrents like lasers or noise-making devices can help in certain scenarios but rarely offer permanent relief. For any deterrent, timing and variety matter

more than the device itself.

Invest in fencing and enclosures.

Fencing is one of the most reliable long-term options for reducing wildlife damage, especially around high-value crops and livestock. Though they require higher upfront costs, well-designed enclosures reduce the need for repeated deterrents.

Deer generally require structures at least eight feet tall, but an offset fence disrupts their depth perception. Electrified fences are more appropriate for wildlife that climb or dig.

Enclosures also work best when installed proactively, before animals get accustomed to feeding or traveling in the protected area.

Trap and hunt to reduce populations.

Trapping and hunting can be effective, especially for species like raccoons and deer. Kentucky law (KRS 150.170) allows landowners to protect their property from most wildlife, except those protected under federal law (bats and migratory birds). When animals are taken, landowners must notify

See SCARECROW on A-3

Joyful Noise

Faithfulness and truth!

By Pastor Naomi Mitchell
for Carter County Times

I have good news for you. In a world where everything seems to be chaos or on the brink of disaster there is one thing for certain, God's counsel (Word) hasn't changed! His Word is forever settled! The thoughts of God's heart are still to all generations. His thoughts are about you and me right now at this very moment, everyday!

Psalm 33:11 The counsel

of the Lord standeth forever; the thoughts of his heart to all generations. Isaiah 25:1 says, "O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth." Psalm 33:4 says, "For the Word of the Lord is right; and all His works are done in truth."

His counsels of old are faithfulness (they do not fail) and truth (the purposes of God are firm and will certainly be fulfilled).

When we think about all the wonderful things the Lord has done, it is easy to make the decision to worship the Lord. God wants our worship to be filled with thought and remembrance of God's great works, not only an emotional response. When we remember the greatness and permanence of God's Word, it makes us want to praise Him. What is more reliable, more everlasting, more enduring than the Word of God?

See FAITH on A-4

Kentucky Dept of Agriculture Livestock and Grain Market Report

Compared to last week, feeder steers and heifers were reported mixed with most markets showing 2.00 to 6.00 higher and some showing sharply higher for lighter weight calves. However there a few markets showing 2.00 to 6.00 lower. Yearlings sold mostly steady with limited comparisons. Demand was good to very good throughout the week with active buyer participation. Slaughter cows and bulls sold mostly steady to firm with good demand.

Week ending 3/14/26

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

	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
Steers (M&L 1-2)			
350-400 lbs	527.01	543.98	387.01
400-450 lbs	507.75	508.63	386.33
450-500 lbs	495.78	496.26	365.84
500-550 lbs	462.71	466.88	334.56
550-600 lbs	442.11	447.91	330.17
600-650 lbs	413.52	419.46	306.06
650-700 lbs	389.83	397.92	294.82
700-750 lbs	364.07	367.22	279.85
750-800 lbs	353.38	359.14	267.78
800-850 lbs	335.25	339.52	256.73
850-900 lbs	324.46	330.04	243.57
Heifers (M&L 1-2)			
300-350 lbs	483.01	514.46	346.88
350-400 lbs	481.45	485.68	352.28
400-450 lbs	452.47	455.91	330.86
450-500 lbs	440.40	438.49	315.86
500-550 lbs	402.30	405.26	297.76
550-600 lbs	385.30	387.38	289.73
600-650 lbs	356.79	353.34	270.19
650-700 lbs	339.79	343.66	260.14
700-750 lbs	321.88	326.68	240.07
750-800 lbs	313.40	318.41	230.57

	Average	High	Low
Slaughter Cows			
Breakers	145.00-179.00	161.00-196.00	145.00-148.00
Boners	137.00-176.00	160.00-219.00	116.00-168.00
Lean	120.00-160.00	142.00-177.50	80.00-145.00
Slaughter Bulls			
Yield Grade 1&2	179.00-205.00	198.00-224.00	148.00-188.00

Mar 12, 2026 Bowling Green, KY

SLAUGHTER GOATS: 190
Kids-Selection 1 56 lbs 490.00; 72 lbs 375.00. **Selection 1-2** 83 lbs 355.00.
Selection 2 54 lbs 420.00; 67 lbs 400.00.

SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 705
Hair Breeds-Choice & Prime 1-2 54-56 lbs 407.50; 66 lbs 390.00-400.00; 75 lbs 375.00-390.00; 86-88 lbs 365.00-375.00; 105 lbs 275.00 105 lbs 275.00.
Wooled-Choice and Prime 1-2 55 lbs 415.00; 61 lbs 305.00; 75 lbs 402.50; 88 lbs 382.50; 93 lbs 350.00; 115 lbs 265.00; 155 lbs 230.00.

	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
GRAINS			
Corn	4.32-4.87	4.24-4.86	4.43-4.82
Soybeans	10.59-12.39	10.54-12.21	9.03-10.37
Red Winter Wheat	5.24-6.20	4.99-6.20	4.80-5.72

Arrests from A-1

a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, first degree possession of a controlled substance (fentanyl), convicted felon in possession of a handgun, and first degree possession of a controlled substance (drug unspecified), arrested and booked March 12.

- Jacob Steagall, 31, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of third degree burglary, receiving stolen property valued at more

than \$1,000 but less than \$10,000, theft by unlawful taking or disposition of items valued at more than \$1,000 but less than \$10,000, and two counts of contempt of court, arrested and booked March 13.

- William Perry, 23, of Olive Hill, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of speeding 5 MPH over limit, possession of an open alcoholic beverage container in a motor vehicle, and operating a motor

vehicle under the influence of alcohol, arrested and booked March 14.

- Aaron Dickerson Jr., 33, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of third degree terroristic threatening, and fourth degree assault (domestic violence) with minor injury, arrested and booked March 14.
- Corey Parker, 38, of South Webster, OH, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear on a citation for

a misdemeanor, arrested and booked March 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.

March Marks the 41st Anniversary of Music In Our Schools Month®!

GRAYSON — For more than 40 years, March has been designated by the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) as Music In Our Schools Month® (MIOSM®). The positive impact of music education in the lives of students lasts a lifetime. Therefore, ensuring equitable access to music education for the youngest members of our society – students – is paramount.

Every day, in classrooms and rehearsal rooms across our school district, music educators dedicate themselves to reaching all students with life-changing musical experiences. Parents, administrators, and the wider community often only see the wonderful results of music performances; however, we miss the months of practice and rehearsals and more importantly the learning process that takes place to make it all happen.

Members of our community are encouraged to acknowledge and celebrate music education as an essential part of every student's educational journey. As part of Carter Coun-



Lawrence Banks conducts the Carter County All-County Band during a practice. (submitted photo)

ty's Music In Our Schools Month celebration we recently held our annual Carter County All-County Band. This took place at West Carter High School on Saturday March 14.

This year we were very excited to have Lawrence Banks as our guest conductor, conducting the band on Excelsior! by James Cunrow, Stay by Randall Standridge, Irish Legend arranged by Joseph Eidson, Joy by Frank Ticheli, and the Phantom of the

Opera arranged by Michael Sweeney.

Lawrence Banks is an experienced and dedicated music educator currently in his fifteenth year with the Catholic Diocese of Lexington. He teaches 5th-8th grade band at Seton Catholic School and Christ The King School, as well as grades 9-12 at Lexington Catholic High School (LCHS), where he conducts both the Concert and Symphonic Bands. In addition to his responsibilities with the main ensembles,

Mr. Banks also oversees the jazz band, percussion ensemble, and pep bands at LCHS.

Mr. Banks is a respected member of several prestigious music organizations, including the Music Educators National Conference, the Kentucky Music Educators Association, and the American School Band Directors Association. He is also a proud member of Phi Mu Alpha and Phi Beta Mu

See MUSIC on A-8

Chamber from A-1

that Kentucky Christian University will be partnering with the chamber for the chamber's annual Chamber Banquet, where the chamber looks at the year in retrospect and also passes out yearly awards. The banquet had been held for the last several years at Carter Caves State Resort Park, Nelson said, and the experience has consistently been amazing.

"We love having the banquet at Carter Caves, and the staff is always amazing," he said.

The only problem, he said, was that the banquet had grown so much that it had "run out of space." Nelson said that the event

had grown so large that the chamber had been forced to limit the number of interested parties that might want to attend.

"So, we are happy to announce that we will be moving our Chamber Banquet to Kentucky Christian University inside their gymnasium," he told the members in attendance.

"To do this, we have had to change the day," Nelson said. "We have always had the banquet in December, but this year we will be moving it up to November. This year's banquet will be on November 10, and you will be able to purchase your tickets well in advance."

Nelson said he wanted to thank both Kentucky Christian University and KCU Director of Development Danny Stamper for all their help with the transition of venue.

The chamber also discussed plans for the upcoming Memory Days event. The 2026 Memory Days will celebrate 55 years of the popular event, and Nelson said there was a desire to "do it up right." Nelson told chamber members that Memory Days planner Michelle Boggs has been hard at work to ensure that this year's Memory Days will be the best one to date.

"We are expecting thou-

sands of people this year," Boggs told the chamber. "And we have a lot going on in those four days."

Boggs said that there will be new things for people to enjoy as well as the return of wonderful live music, headlined by the group Sunday Best. The event will be held May 21 through 24, and the roster continues to grow, Boggs said. For updated information Boggs encourages everyone to visit the event's Facebook page.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Scarecrow from A-2

a conservation officer to obtain a confirmation number and may only keep consumable meat.

Hunting also supports long-term deer management and can provide supplemental income through leased access. Effective population control requires harvesting does, and landowners should monitor harvest outcomes.

Plan for long-term management.

There is no one-time,

permanent fix. Effective management requires persistence and the combination of multiple strategies.

Every farm is different, and species-specific recommendations vary widely. Next week we will take a deeper dive into managing small mammals in the garden. For additional tailored assistance, contact your Carter Extension office, where agents can help identify wildlife problems and recommend

safe, effective management options. 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:

- Northeast Area Livestock Association – March 24th at 6:00 PM; Topic: Farm Management Strategies for Improved Decision-Making; Speaker: Dr. Jordan Shockley, UK Ag Econ Extension Professor
- Ag Advancement Council – March 30th @ 6:00 PM
- Hike & Learn – April 2nd @ Ohio River Bluffs

CALENDAR

- **3/19: Grayson Book Club @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson Branch
- **3/19: Olive Hill Area Chamber of Commerce @ 6 p.m.** | Commercial Bank of Grayson - Olive Hill
- **3/20: Sit & Sew @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For more info or to RSVP call 474-6686
- **3/21: Explore the Mega Colon @ 11 a.m.** | Highlands Museum and Discovery Center, Ashland
- **3/21: Friends of the Library @ 5 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill Branch
- **3/23: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 474-6686
- **3/23: Open Art Studio @ 10 a.m.** | Grayson Gallery & Art Center
- **3/23: Girl Scouts meeting @ 6:30 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **3/24: Building Club @ 4 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library, Olive Hill
- **3/24: Resource Fair @ 5:30 p.m.** | East Carter High School Gym
- **3/25: Spring Job Fair @ 10 a.m.** | Kentucky Christian University
- **3/25: Olive Hill Book Club @ 5:30 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **3/27: Final Friday @ 6 p.m.** | Grayson Gallery & Art Center
- **3/30: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 474-6686
- **3/30: Open Art Studio @ 10 a.m.** | Grayson Gallery & Art Center

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

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Pet of the Week

Sunny is a one-year-old, 32 pound, female mixed breed. This playful girl is very friendly, good with other dogs, and full of energy. Sunny's \$100 adoption fee includes rabies vaccination and being spayed. Stop by the Carter County Animal Shelter and meet her or call 475-9771 for more information.

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



CITY OF GRAYSON

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

Destroy your old documents the right way!

Join Us For
Community Shred Day
(Just Don't Tell Your Dog!)

Securely destroy old documents and paper files. Hard drive destruction available this year on-site.



Main Office
208 E. Main Street, Grayson
Saturday, April 18
9:00am till 11:30am


Commercial Bank
of Grayson



Faith from A-2

In the book of Isaiah, Jesus is called "Wonderful Counselor" when the prophet writes about the coming Christ. Isaiah 9:6 says, "For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace." Jesus is called

the Wonderful Counselor because He alone can give us guidance, help, and deliverance through His wisdom and miracles. He causes everything to work together for a twofold purpose: The greatest good of mankind and the highest glory to God.

Reminder of Psalm 33:11 which say, "The Word of the Lord standeth

forever, the thoughts of His heart to all generations." No matter what is going on in this great big world which includes your little world, "The Word of the Lord that stands forever" has already told us about things that will come. We have the assurance that "the thought of His heart is to all generations" and that "the eyes of the Lord are upon

the righteous, and His ears are open unto their cry." Psalm 34:7 says, "The angel of the Lord encampeth round about them that fear Him, and delivereth them." Psalm 35:9 says, "And my soul shall be joyful in the Lord: it shall rejoice in His salvation."

Get into the Word and find out more about His counsels of old that are

faithfulness and truth to all generations. Be joyful and rejoice that His thoughts are higher than our thoughts and His ways are higher than our ways. To find out more about what His thoughts are for you, open your Bible! Stop worrying, God's got this!

Amen! So be it!
JOYFUL House of Prayer, 2519 Quicksand

Road, (P.O. Box 856), Jackson, Kentucky 41339. Send Comments/Prayer Requests: Pastornaomi4god@gmail.com. FB: JoyfulHopprayer. Services: 10am Sunday and Joyful Kids Class at 10:30am, 6:30pm Thursdays. Radio Broadcast: WJSN 97.3 FM & WEKG 81.0 AM Sundays 1-2pm.

Legislative update

Week ten of the 2026 Legislative Session

Before I provide this week's legislative update, I want to take a moment to recognize the loss of one of our own — Staff Sgt. Benjamin Pennington of Glendale, Kentucky.

At just 26 years old, Pennington made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country. He was stationed at Prince Sultan Air Base in Saudi Arabia in support of Operation Epic Fury when the installation came under attack by Iranian drones and missiles on March 1. He was gravely injured during that attack and passed away on March 8. Kentuckians across the commonwealth join our nation in mourning his loss and remembering the sacrifice he made in defense of our freedoms.

Pennington enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2017 and served as a unit supply specialist with the 1st Space Battalion, 1st Space Brigade at Fort Carson, Colorado. In that role, he supported critical systems that help protect our troops, including missile warning capabilities, GPS positioning and satellite communications. Those who served alongside him described him as a dedicated soldier and a dependable leader who took pride in serving something bigger than himself.

This week, the Kentucky Senate honored Staff Sgt. Pennington's life and service with the adoption of a Senate resolution. I join many across Kentucky in offering prayers and condolences to his family, friends and fellow soldiers during this difficult time.

Legislative update: Late-session processes to expect

As the General Assembly moves through Week 10 of the 2026 Legislative Session, activity in Frankfort has picked up considerably. With the closing days of the 60-day session now in sight, committee meetings are becoming more frequent and the list of bills being considered on the Senate and House floors continues to grow.

This is also the time of year when many bills begin arriving at the governor's desk for review. The governor has the authority to veto legislation, but the General Assembly can vote to override those vetoes

during the final days of the session. One bill has already been enacted over a veto this year, and it is possible we will see more in the weeks ahead.

The most important work still ahead of us involves finalizing the state's two-year budget and the two-year road plan. The budget serves as the commonwealth's roadmap for how taxpayer dollars are invested in priorities like education, infrastructure and public safety.

As a member of the Senate budget committee, I've spent many long hours reviewing the details of this proposal alongside my colleagues. That work includes combing through agency requests, evaluating spending priorities and ensuring the plan reflects responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars. Crafting a state budget is one of the most complex and time-consuming responsibilities the General Assembly undertakes, and it requires careful attention to every line item.

The Senate is currently reviewing the House version of the budget, House Bill 500, and considering potential changes before sending our version back to the House. Once both chambers weigh in, the bill will likely move to a conference committee where members of the House and Senate work together to iron out the final details before sending the completed plan to the governor.

As always, I appreciate the opportunity to serve and represent our communities. I will continue working to ensure the voices of folks back home are heard as these final decisions are made.

Bills approved in the Senate

With the close of Senate and House proceedings on Friday, just 14 legislative days remain in the 2026 session. The following is an update on legislation approved by the Senate this week.

Additional bills passing this week include the following.

Senate Bill 6: Appropriates \$150 million in fiscal year 2027 to the Endowed Research Fund created by Senate Bill 1 in 2024. The fund supports five research consortium accounts administered by the Council on Postsecondary Education to advance collaborative research initiatives across Kentucky.

Senate Bill 19: Designates the indigo milk cap, a mushroom native to Kentucky forests, as the

official state mushroom. The proposal was brought forward by students from Letcher County Central High School and is intended to recognize Kentucky's natural heritage and promote environmental education.

Senate Bill 34: Allows Kentuckians to transfer a home or vehicle directly to a named beneficiary at death without going through probate. Owners retain full control during their lifetime and may change or revoke the designation, with the transfer taking effect only upon death if properly recorded.

Senate Bill 41: Requires most local tax increases that exceed four percent above the compensating rate to be submitted to voters for approval. Local governments may avoid a recall election by lowering the proposed rate within the four-percent threshold.

Senate Bill 53: Clarifies that local planning units, commissions and boards may hold public hearings and accept public comment when reviewing subdivision plats and development plans. The bill reinforces transparency and public participation in local land-use decisions.

Senate Bill 65: Nullifies several

administrative regulations deemed deficient by the Administrative Regulation Review Subcommittee. The measure reinforces legislative oversight of agency rulemaking by invalidating rules that lawmakers determined did not properly implement statutory intent.

Senate Bill 66: Updates Kentucky's impaired driving laws to clarify the consequences of refusing a blood test and to improve enforcement procedures. The bill also expands the list of substances subject to per se DUI prosecutions and aligns record-retention requirements for moving violations.

Senate Bill 77: Creates a framework to support research into ibogaine as a potential treatment for opioid use disorder and other neurological conditions. The bill establishes the Ibogaine Research and Intellectual Property Development Fund and authorizes public-private partnerships to conduct clinical research.

Senate Bill 97: Requires health benefit plans to cover medically necessary prosthetic and orthotic devices and establishes minimum coverage standards. The bill also sets patient notification

requirements, network adequacy standards and reporting requirements for insurers.

Senate Bill 100: Strengthens the authority of the Energy Planning and Inventory Commission in evaluating Kentucky's energy supply and utility decisions. The bill expands the executive director's access to information and allows the commission to participate more directly in Public Service Commission proceedings.

Senate Bill 116: Updates statutes governing physician assistants to support more efficient collaboration within physician-led care teams. The bill modernizes practice and administrative requirements to help improve health care access, particularly in rural areas.

Senate Bill 133: Updates fiscal reporting and audit requirements for certain local entities. The bill raises reporting thresholds, allows qualified entities to move to longer audit cycles and aligns audit procedures for several local government offices.

Senate Bill 147: Modernizes Kentucky's vital records laws governing birth and death certificates. The bill clarifies the legal

status of certified copies, updates fee structures and strengthens coordination between death records and voter registration maintenance.

Senate Bill 149: Updates statutes governing the office of county treasurer. The bill aligns treasurer appointments with county election cycles and allows fiscal courts to appoint acting or deputy treasurers when necessary.

Senate Bill 198: Updates statutes governing the authority and responsibilities of the Office of the Attorney General. The bill adds federal tax information security requirements, clarifies agency record custody and establishes a 10-year statute of limitations for certain legal actions.

Senate Bill 219: Requires the commissioner of the Department of Financial Institutions to impose a \$3 fee on deferred deposit transactions. The fee supports the collection and reporting of required data from licensed deferred deposit service businesses.

Senate Bill 221: Strengthens Kentucky's abuse of a corpse statute by making it a Class D felony

See UPDATE on A-6

OBITUARY

Shandra Dell Brown 1977 – 2026



Shandra Dell Brown, age 48, of Olive Hill, Kentucky, beloved mother, nana, daughter, sister, and friend passed away Monday, March 9, 2026, at her residence in Morehead, Kentucky. She was a woman whose presence touched everyone. If you knew her, you loved her. Her smile was constant and genuine, even during the moments when life gave her nothing but pain.

Above all else, her girls were her life. She loved them with every ounce of her soul, and her grand kids were the center of her world. Everything she did was for them, and her love for them was fierce, uncon-

ditional and endless. She will be deeply missed by all who had the privilege of knowing her. Though our hearts are heavy, the memories we share of her laughter, strength and beautiful spirit will be cherished forever. Her love and light will live on in the lives she touched and in the hearts of those who loved her most.

She was born Thursday, September 29, 1977, in Xenia, Ohio, a daughter of the late Lenvil and Judy Pyles Brown.

She is survived by two daughters, Breanna Loschiavo (Kaylib) and Abigail Loschiavo, both of Cincinnati, Ohio; one brother, Devin Brown of Troy, Ohio; two sisters, Buffy Boothe and Diane Dipasqual, both of Mansfield, Ohio, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss her.

At Shandra's request there will be no service at this time.

Globe Funeral Chapel is honored to serve the family of Shandra Dell Brown.

Linda Wilson Harper 1943 – 2026



Linda Wilson Harper, age 82, of Grayson, Kentucky, passed away Saturday, March 14, 2026, at Community Hospice Care Center in Ashland, Kentucky.

She was born Monday, June 28, 1943, in Carter County, Kentucky, a daughter of the late Herbert Lee and Velva Phillips Wilson.

Linda enjoyed gardening, flowers, mowing grass, canning, cooking for her family and caring for Gary and her family.

Linda is survived by her loving husband of nearly 35 years, Earnest Gary Harper; two daughters, Deadrea (Chuck) Oney,

Tammy (David) Skinner, all of Olive Hill, Kentucky; one son, Garry Allen (Karen) Harper of West Liberty, Kentucky; five grandchildren, Justin (Allison) Oney, Ryan (Madison) Buckler, Ashley Jones, Cody (Morgan) Harper, Cory (Sadie) Harper; four great-grandchildren, Callie Roth, Addison Oney, Cadence Straka, Myleigh Buckler; one brother, Bill (Barb) Wilson of Olive Hill, Kentucky; one sister, Phyllis Ann Berry of Grayson, Kentucky, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss her.

Graveside services will be held at 2 p.m., Wednesday, March 18, 2026, at Barker Cemetery, on Mauk Ridge in Elliott County, Kentucky, with Brother Elijah Wagoner officiating.

Justin Oney, Chuck Oney, Garry Allen Harper, David Skinner, Ryan Buckler and Callie Roth will serve as pallbearers.

Globe Funeral Chapel is honored to serve the family of Linda Wilson Harper.

Carter County Times

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OPINION

EDITORIALS | LETTERS | COLUMNS | COMMENTARY

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

AS WE SEE IT

Please don't flush your wipes

Bathroom products have come a long way since Mr. Whipple asked us to please not squeeze the Charmin, and that's a good thing. But as wonderful as it is to leave the bathroom feeling fresh and clean, you can't believe all the marketing hype — especially when it comes to "flushable" wipes. Because while these so-called "flushable" wipes may go down the drain with fewer clogs than old fashioned baby wipes, they can still cause significant issues for wastewater treatment centers.

It's an issue that the Grayson Utilities Commission is unfortunately very familiar with, to the point that the utility recently sent out notices to customers asking them to please refrain from flushing these types of sanitary wipes — encouraging them instead to place these items their bathroom garbage.

The notice asks them to "help in preventing clogged sewers and overflows," noting that "increased flushing of wipes (and) paper towels cause issues in sewer systems and lift station(s)."

"In recent weeks," the letter to customers read, "the Wastewater Lift Station on River Road has experienced frequent pump outages caused by a large volume of 'flushable' wipes and paper towels."

It then goes on to explain that even items marked as "flushable" can create issues when they don't break down exactly like toilet paper.

"Even wipes labeled flushable don't break down like toilet paper," the letter continued. "Once flushed, they often tangle together, blocking pumps, and cause costly backups in homes and throughout the wastewater system. When pumps stations are clogged, they stop working and require cleaning and repair — or even replacement — in order to get the sewage moving again. These expenses can be very costly and could eventually lead to increases in sewage rates for all customers."

You read that right. If folks continue to flush items that shouldn't be flushed, we could all see our utility bills increase.

But why can't you flush these items, even though they are labeled by the manufacturer as flush safe? Well, the utilities commission explained that too.

"Wipes are made from strong fibers, designed to hold together when wet — a feature that makes them useful for cleaning, but disastrous for plumbing," the utility noted. "When flushed, they collect on other debris inside sewer lines and create larger blockages."

So, even though you can still poke a finger through them with relative ease, they don't break down the same way tissue does. And because they can create these "larger blockages," they can also lead to other issues inside the home. Some of these, according to the utilities commission, include "backed up drains and toilets inside homes, and damage to household plumbing systems," as well as "expensive repairs to wastewater pumps and treatment equipment."

No one wants any of that — particularly the first two that are more likely to hit tenants or homeowners than the utility.

So, what can be flushed? According to the utilities commission, "only toilet paper and human waste should be flushed. Everything else belongs in the trash — even items that say flushable."

In addition to avoiding placing flushable wipes in the toilet, the utility says the trash bin is also the best place for baby wipes, cleaning wipes, paper towels, feminine hygiene products, cotton swabs, dental floss, coffee grounds, food waste (including fats, oils, or grease, which the utility says should "never" be poured down drains), cat litter and other pet wastes, or needles and sharps. Flushing any of those items can cause problems both inside the customers' home as well as for the utility. But "taking a few simple steps at home," they note, "can prevent costly repairs and keep the wastewater system running smoothly."

Sure, it's convenient for us to flush them and forget them. Out of sight, out of mind, as they say. Particularly when we aren't the ones who have to clear a clogged pump station. But increased utility rates — or the cost of a plumber to fix problems on your side of the meter — those won't stay out of sight or out of mind very long at all.

Perhaps it's best to just heed the commission's warning, and put those "flushable" wipes in the trash.



In the past, bringing the circus to town was a happy, exciting event

Instead of the proposed \$400 million monstrosity of a gaudy, gilded ballroom overshadowing the White House, it seems we would be better served by erecting a giant circus tent instead.

That much less costly structure is normally what is used to display the clown show at the circus. And, for the last 14-plus months, I believe a clown show is what we have seen operating out of the Oval Office.

Those expensive clown cars and planes that haul the clown cabinet around the world might be better used to generate a few bucks to help defray the cost of an undeclared war and an underfunded federal government that cruelly fired many of its most seasoned employees. Perhaps worst of all, we are witnessing what likely has become the world's most costly ego trip focused on the names and size of various national memorials.

As for the war with Iran, Secretary of War Pete Hegseth, a former TV celebrity, appears more concerned about how he looks in news photographs and how often he can kiss up to his boss who obviously shares his conviction that only white men can become effective military leaders.

A Washington insider was quoted last week as saying that the very old man in charge doesn't like his clown cabinet members to wear sneakers to White House clown meetings so he is buying them dressy leather shoes. It is believed that some of the shoes are too big but are worn to work regardless because no one has the courage to complain.

Come to think of it, don't clowns still wear oversized, floppy shoes with their colorful costumes?

And shouldn't we all be concerned about the other clowns in charge of various departments like the now-being-fired DHS secretary Kristi Noem who made a shambles of ICE and FEMA and damaged the Coast Guard budget with a \$50 million jetliner for her personal travel. My favorite Noem gaffe was featuring herself in glamor photographs in a taxpayer-funded \$200 million advertising splurge.

"Send in the Clowns" is a famous song from Stephen Sondheim's 1973 musical, "A Little Night Music," but surely we have realized that it clearly is not the best way to manage the federal government.

Keith Kappes can be reached at keithkappes@gmail.com



Keith Kappes
Columnist
Carter County Times

Pride on a plate

We are all shaped by the people we watch. Some leave a mark intentionally. Others—like the man I encountered one rainy afternoon in 2006—leave one without ever knowing we exist.

A thunderstorm rolled in while my wife and I were at the beach. The sky turned charcoal, the waves grew choppy, and I found myself trapped indoors with little to do. Flipping through channels, I landed on the Travel Channel and encountered a wiry, sharp-tongued chef named Anthony Bourdain.

I was captivated immediately. Here was a man who traveled the globe not in search of five-star luxury, but in pursuit of authenticity. He ate fermented shark in Iceland, roasted pigeon in Egypt, and balut—that controversial fetal duck delicacy from the Philippines. But what fascinated me most wasn't the shock value of the cuisine—it was the culture surrounding it. The stories. The people. The pride served alongside every plate. Through him, I traveled vicariously for years and came to understand that food is rarely just food. It is history, identity, and community made tangible.

That Christmas, my wife gave me a copy of Kitchen Confidential, Bourdain's 2000 memoir exposing the underbelly of New York's restaurant scene. Having never worked so much as a fast-food shift, I found myself immersed in a world both gritty and strangely beautiful. Kitchens, I learned, weren't simply places where meals were assembled. They were ecosystems

built on hierarchy, discipline, and a relentless pursuit of excellence—as well as an unhealthy amount of stimulants.

I emerged with three practical lessons that reached far beyond the kitchen:

First, never order the Monday special. There's no telling how long it's been sitting around.

Second, pay attention to your server's body language. A server's genuine enthusiasm reveals whether a kitchen cares. Indifference reveals indifference.

And third, the smaller the menu, the more optimistic I become.

That last point seems counterintuitive. After all, wouldn't more options increase the odds of finding something I'd enjoy? Perhaps. But more options also increase the likelihood that nothing is done exceptionally well. My experience has taught me this: the more sprawling and diverse the offerings, the less likely any single dish has been perfected. But walk into a place that offers two or three entrées—prepared the same way every night—and you can rest reasonably assured they've mastered them. Otherwise, they wouldn't remain in business for long.

That principle extends far beyond restaurants.

We all know the phrase "jack of all trades, master of none." It's not the harshest of criticisms, but it's hardly a compliment either. And yet modern life seems determined to push us in precisely that direction.

We're expected to simultaneously be exceptional

See *PRIDE* on A-6



Tommy Druen
Guest Columnist
Carter County Times

Carter County Times

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Nicole Wells, publisher

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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.

Pride from A-5

spouses, parents, children, employees, volunteers, and informed citizens. We're shamed if we haven't seen the award-winning film, formed a thoughtful opinion on international conflicts, responded to every email within the hour, exercised daily, hydrated properly, and somehow found time for self-care in the margins.

For all the conveniences

technology has added to our lifetimes, the result hasn't been leisure—it's been expectation. Our grandparents would have seen our lives as chaos masquerading as productivity. But they had something we've surrendered: the right to down time. To call a day complete. To let something remain undone. Our grandparents had the same twenty-four hours

we do. The clock hasn't changed. So why do we feel so stretched? So fragmented? So perpetually behind? Perhaps it's because we've allowed our menus to become too large. We've tried to offer everything—to everyone—at all times. Mastery requires focus. Deep focus. The kind that demands saying no to almost everything so you can

say yes—fully, deeply—to a few things that matter. Maybe the better path forward isn't to expand our offerings, but to refine them. Choose two or three things that matter most. Invest there. Perfect those dishes. A well-crafted life, like a well-crafted menu, never apologizes for what it doesn't offer. It triumphs because of what it does.

Update from A-4

to knowingly buy or sell a corpse or parts of a corpse after final disposition has been authorized. The bill addresses gaps in law exposed by cases involving the illegal sale of human remains.

Senate Bill 222: Updates Kentucky law governing environmental covenants used in environmental remediation projects. The bill clarifies procedures for creating and enforcing land-use restrictions on contaminated properties to support redevelopment.

Senate Bill 224: Establishes statutory protections for vested property rights in development approvals. Planning authorities must evaluate permit applications using the development standards in effect when the application was submitted.

Senate Bill 225: Requires the Department of Housing, Buildings and Construction to evaluate the impact of proposed building code changes on residential construction. The department must conduct cost-benefit analyses and report findings to the General Assembly.

Senate Bill 226: Allows agents guaranteeing prices under preneed burial contracts to charge a one-time administrative fee of up to 15 percent once the contract is fully paid. The fee is exempt from certain refund requirements and applies to contracts entered into after the law takes

effect. Senate Bill 261: Allows fiscal courts and cities to fund the maintenance of pedestrian swinging bridges used for recreation. The bill also provides liability protections for landowners who lease property to local governments for these purposes.

Senate Bill 262: Proposes a constitutional amendment allowing constitutional amendments to appear on ballots as a clear summary or question rather than the full text. The change is intended to make ballot language easier for voters to understand.

Senate Bill 291: Creates a statewide licensing system for secondary metal recyclers to help deter the resale of stolen metal. The bill requires reporting through the LeadsOnline database and strengthens coordination with law enforcement to combat copper theft.

Senate Bill 312: Expands the authority of certified court security officers to transport individuals in custody beyond courthouse grounds. The bill also allows these officers to assist with certain involuntary mental health commitment transports.

Senate Bill 323: Requires subpoenas for medical records to be served at least 14 days before records must be produced. The change provides health care providers adequate time to

locate and provide records while supporting orderly court proceedings.

Senate Bill 333: Requires proceeds from the sale of confiscated firearms to be transferred to the Office of the Attorney General. The funds will be used to provide grants to police departments for the purchase of body armor.

Senate Bill 343: Reorganizes the Department of Workers' Claims by moving it under the Office of the Governor. The bill establishes leadership qualifications and transfers all related staff and resources as part of the restructuring.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 66: Encourages the University of Kentucky and the University of Louisville to explore participation in federal nuclear energy programs. The resolution also urges expansion of academic programs in nuclear science and engineering.

Senate Joint Resolution 62: Directs the Division of Water to prepare a report outlining the permitting process for debris removal from waterways following flooding. The report will also include recommendations for improving cleanup coordination and efficiency.

Senate Joint Resolution 75: Directs the Public Service Commission to study ways to improve the affordability of utility services, particularly for low-income households. The commission must

report findings and recommendations to the General Assembly by Sept. 1, 2027.

Senate Joint Resolution 116: Directs Kentucky's public universities to collaborate on solutions to address the state's physician shortage. The effort will produce recommendations for expanding health care access in underserved areas.

Senate Joint Resolution 134: Directs the Public Service Commission to review how utilities calculate fuel adjustment charges on customer bills. The commission must gather public input, evaluate ways to reduce volatility and report recommendations to the General Assembly.

House Bill 314: Modernizes oversight of the KentuckyWired broadband network by placing management under the Commonwealth Office of Technology. The bill expands board representation and took effect immediately after the legislature overrode the governor's veto.

It's an honor to represent you in Frankfort. I look forward to continuing my dedication to Boyd, Carter, Greenup, and Lewis counties while representing my fellow communities in District 18. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, you can always contact me at 502-564-8100 or by email at Robin.Webb@kylegislature.gov.

Flex-E Grant program accepting applications

The Center for Rural Development is accepting grant applications for the 2026 Kentucky Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) mini-grant program.

The mini-grant program (sometimes referred to as the Flex-E-Grant program) is open to qualified local units of government and non-profit entities in Carter County for capacity building planning and implementation projects.

The mini-grant program provides strategic investments in projects that

build community capacity to mobilize local resources, gain leadership experience, and strengthen community institutions and networks.

Grants are subject to approval for up to \$10,000, require a 20 percent match of total project costs, and are to be completed within a six-month timeframe. Mini-grant funds are available on a reimbursement basis only.

For more information or to download a request for proposal, visit <https://centertech.com/arc-mini-grant-flex-e-grant/>.

All grant applications

and supporting documents must be submitted to The Center for Rural Development by 5 PM (EDT) on April 10, 2026. Digital files are preferred and may be emailed to arc@centertech.com.

Counties within The Center for Rural Development's primary service area designated as economically distressed by ARC are eligible to apply for the mini-grant program. Eligible counties include Bath, Bell, Breathitt, Carter, Casey, Clay, Clinton, Elliott, Estill, Floyd, Harlan, Jackson, Johnson,

Knott, Knox, Lawrence, Lee, Leslie, Letcher, Magoffin, Martin, McCreary, Menifee, Metcalfe, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, Rockcastle, Rowan, Russell, Wayne, Whitley, and Wolfe.

For questions about the application process or program guidelines, please call 606-677-6000 or email jvanthourout@centertech.com.

The Center for Rural Development administers programs funds in partnership with the Kentucky Department for Local Government and the ARC.

Grayson from A-1

visitors who were listed on their agenda, beginning with Andrew Smith from the Department of Corrections Inmate Services. Smith addressed the council concerning the possibility of the city using inmates to perform work in the city.

"If the council approves, you will get four inmates per day for a minimum of six hours," Smith said. "They will be training with the street department, the mayor, and Joe Hammer."

Smith said the cost for all three inmate workers would be \$350 per month.

"The City of Olive Hill does it," Smith told the council.

Smith said Elliott County also uses the inmate workers, and both of those government entities are very pleased with the results.

Smith explained the

mechanics of making use of the inmate workers to the council, stating that the inmates would need to be picked up to perform whatever work was required, and be supervised constantly from the time of pickup until the time of return. There would also need to be several of these supervisors added to an approved pickup list, and Smith said that as long as the supervisor was on the list, there could be different individuals doing pickup and return. The council made a plan to discuss the possibility of using inmate services, but no vote was taken at the meeting.

In other business, local businessman Larry Doucett addressed the council about amending an alcohol ordinance in the city.

"As you may have heard, I am putting a cigar lounge on 112 East Main

Street," Doucett told the council. "What I want to do is have the license amended so I can sell bourbon. I don't want to sell beer or anything but top shelf bourbon."

Doucett stressed to the council that he had no interest in starting a bar but rather intended to sell only drinks that would heighten the enjoyment of his customers while they smoked premium cigars. The cigar lounge would be selling premium cigars, humidors, and other items geared toward the cigar culture, Doucett said. The business would also sell fine pipe tobacco as well as the pipes themselves.

"You will be able to sit inside and smoke a good cigar," Doucett told the council.

He also informed the council that the projected hours of operation were not before 11 am and

closing during the week not later than 9 pm, and weekend closing hours of no later than 10pm. The council discussed possible ways to accommodate Doucett's request, but no action was taken at the March meeting.

The council took a brief break from city business to remember Councilman Willis Johnson who recently passed away. Council members shared stories of the man who had been a friend to all of them and had served the city for decades. But after this break of remembrance, there was the need to fill the former councilman's seat so that the business of the city could continue. Ultimately, another former council member, Terry Stamper (an 18-year veteran of the council), was sworn in to fill the balance of Johnson's term. There was discussion

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
CARTER CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 24-CI-00227**

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC PLAINTIFF
VS. **NOTICE OF SALE**
**CHRISTOPHER CALDWELL; DEANNA PURSLEY; DEFENDANTS
UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF CHRISTOPHER CALDWELL;
UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF DEANNA PURSLEY; COM-
MONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, CARTER COUNTY;
CITY OF GRAYSON, KENTUCKY**

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Carter Circuit Court, entered on February 10, 2026, I shall offer for sale the property described herein at public auction on the Courthouse steps of the old Carter County Courthouse, 300 West Main Street in Grayson, Kentucky, on the **27th day of March, 2026 at or near the hour of 10:00 a.m.**, to the highest bidder on the following term

The aforementioned real estate shall be sold as a whole. The real estate shall be sold on a credit of thirty (30) days, with the privilege of the purchaser to pay for bid in cash in full, and if not paid in full then the purchaser shall make a cash down payment of at least ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to cover the costs of the judicial sale; and the purchaser shall execute a bond for the remainder of the purchase price, with good surety thereon, to be approved by the Master Commissioner of this Court, and bearing interest at the rate of 3.25% per annum from the date of the sale, until paid; additionally, a lien shall be retained upon the real estate to be sold herein, to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days of the date of sale upon which execution may be levied by the Master Commissioner of this Court.

Description of the Property: 401 Bradford St., Grayson, KY. (For Legal Description see LSOT: Deed Book 455, Page 213, Carter County Clerk's Office.)

Map/Parcel ID Number: 104-70-05-007.00.

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

Honorable John P. Thompson
Master Commissioner
Carter County, Kentucky

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
CARTER CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 24-CI-00432**

EQUITY PRIME MORTGAGE LLC PLAINTIFF
VS. **NOTICE OF SALE**
**DAVID SUTTLES III; UNKNOWN SPOUSE, IF ANY, OF DEFENDANTS
DAVID SUTTLES III; WHITNEY GRIFFITH; UN-
KNOWN SPOUSE, IF ANY, OF WHITNEY GRIFFITH**

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Carter Circuit Court, entered on February 10, 2026, I shall offer for sale the property described herein at public auction on the Courthouse steps of the old Carter County Courthouse, 300 West Main Street in Grayson, Kentucky, on the **27th day of March, 2026 at or near the hour of 10:05 a.m.**, to the highest bidder on the following terms:

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

Description of the Property: 39 Seagraves Lane, Grayson, Kentucky 41143. (For Legal Description see LSOT: Deed Book 498, Page 392, Carter County Clerk's Office.)

Map/Parcel ID Number: 094-20-00-011.00.

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

Honorable John P. Thompson
Master Commissioner
Carter County, Kentucky

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

This is a Request for Proposal is to provide GIS Mapping and Technical services to assist the Grayson Utilities Commission to comply with the Environmental Protection Agency's Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), and the Kentucky Division of Water's agency requirements.

Firms wishing to be considered should submit five (5) proposals to be received no later than **10:00 am** local time on **April 3, 2026**. The proposals should be no longer than twenty (20) pages. The proposals should be submitted to Gerald Haney, Grayson Utilities Commission, 671 South State Highway 7, Grayson, Kentucky 41143.

This Request for Proposals consists of the following information, which can be obtained by contacting Gerald W. Haney, Utility Superintendent at utilitiesupt@graysonutilities.com or (606)474-7569.

- A – Background and Objectives
- B – Proposal Schedule
- C – Proposal Contents
- D – Selection Criteria

Grayson Utilities Commission will enter negotiations for a contract with the responsible offeror whose proposal is determined to be the most advantageous to the Commission. The factors to be considered and the method to be utilized in the evaluation of the proposals and selection of the firm are set forth in Section D. Grayson Utilities Commission reserves the right to reject any and all responses and to waive any technicalities.

Qualified Minority, Female, and Disadvantaged businesses are encouraged to reply. Grayson Utilities Commission is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Gerald W. Haney, Utilities Superintendent

CLERK'S NOTICE OF FIDUCIARIES ACCOUNTING

Upon requirements of Section 424.129 Kentucky Revised Statutes, the following fiduciary appointments have been filed with the Carter County District Court Clerk.

Final Settlement Robin Wentz and Sherry Wolfe, Co- Executrix, in the estate of: Laura Lucille Withrow. Attorney for Estate, Hon Brandon Music, April 8th, 2026, at 10:30am having been set as date of hearing, no cause for exceptions, having been shown, the settlement will be confirmed at date of hearing.

FOR RENT

3 Bedroom house, 2 bathrooms, 2 car garage. \$750 per month, \$750 damage deposit. No pets inside. Call 606-474-5707. Leave message. Will accept HUD

PUBLIC NOTICE

Yummy Grayson, Inc. DBA Yummy Express hereby declares its intention(s) to apply for an NQ2 Alcohol license no later than April 1st, 2026. The licensed premises will be located at 522 E Main St, Grayson, Kentucky, 41143. The owner and president is Jian Zheng, 352 Township Road 1533, Proctorville, OH, 45669. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the license(s) by writing to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero Street 2NE33, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, within thirty (30) days of the date of legal publication.

FREE

Puppies free to a good home. Call (606) 770-1279

terms, the savings each Grayson taxpayer can expect will be around ten dollars per month, Combs said. But especially considering unilaterally rising costs and the recent increase to electric bills, Combs said the .5 percent reduction is one thing the city is able to do to help its residents with their own monthly expenses.

The amended ordinance was scheduled for a second reading Tuesday, March 17, and was expected to pass.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

during the meeting concerning a reduction to the municipal tax, but no action was taken. In a special meeting, however, the council conducted a first reading of the amended Municipal Insurance Premium Tax Ordinance. The amended ordinance effectively reduces the tax from 10.5 percent to 10 percent, lowering it by a half of a percent.

Mayor Troy Combs said that the loss of revenue from reducing the tax would be between \$30 thousand to \$50 thousand each year, but the benefit to Grayson residents would far outweigh that budgetary loss. In practical

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



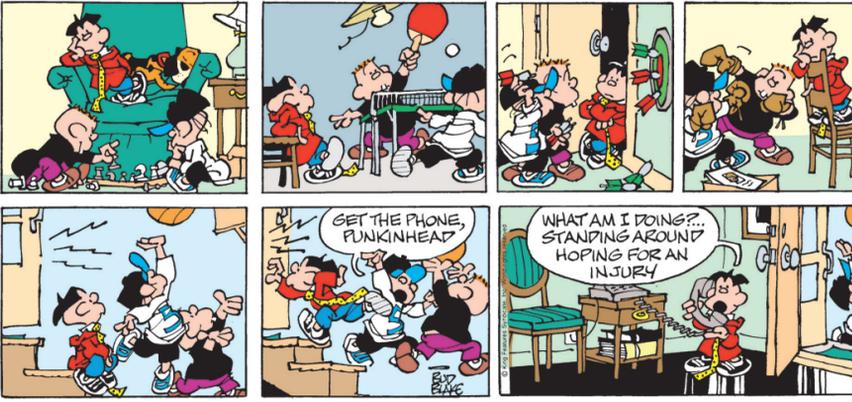
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



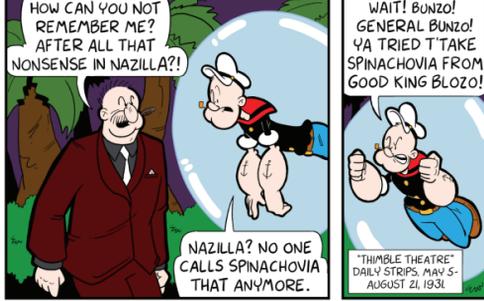
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Millholland



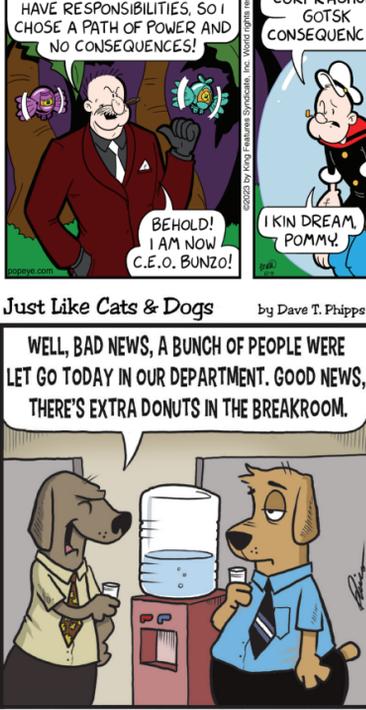
HOCUS-FOCUS

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: C equals E

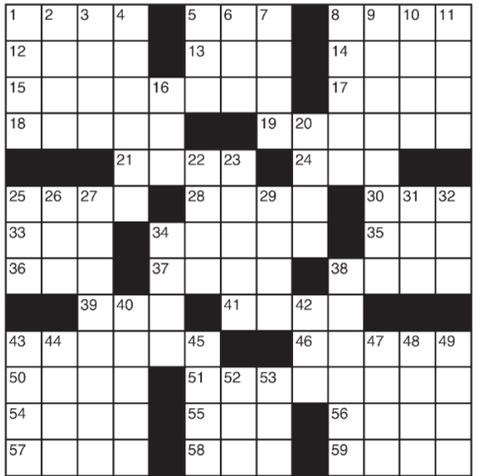
JDCE G LUPCUADCK OW IPOL
 USJIPK UDC ADZPAD LGHECHPL,
 WSZ OGHDU LIW G JIL
 PCIADGEH US UDC ADSGP.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Banner
- 5 Invoice fig.
- 8 Experts
- 12 Earring site
- 13 Brit's restroom
- 14 Carry on
- 15 Capital of Paraguay
- 17 Slender weapon
- 18 Rationed (out)
- 19 Urges forward
- 21 "La Dolce —"
- 24 Granola morsel
- 25 Luke's teacher
- 28 Folklore monster
- 30 Mel of Cooperstown
- 33 "Caught ya!"
- 34 Welcome
- 35 Bankroll
- 36 "Tasty!"
- 37 Give temporarily
- 38 Burden
- 39 Navarro on "The View"
- 41 Mausoleum
- 43 Continue
- 46 Skiers' mecca
- 50 Bank statement no.
- 51 Capital of India



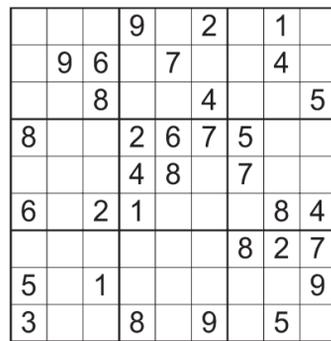
- 54 Close
- 55 Crime lab evidence
- 56 Motown genre
- 57 Bouquet
- 58 Tofu source
- 59 Norms (Abbr.)
- 8 Venezuelan corn patty
- 9 Capital of South Africa
- 10 Daring kniveel
- 11 Beholds
- 16 Roman 401
- 20 Champagne brand
- 22 Ripped
- 23 Rep
- 25 Candied veggie
- 26 Resistance unit
- 27 Capital of Syria
- 29 Make over
- 31 Sigma follower
- 32 QBs' goals
- 34 Glitzy rock genre
- 38 Fixate
- 40 Peculiar
- 42 Irate
- 43 Grate
- 44 Canyon comeback
- 45 Concludes
- 47 Conspiracy
- 48 Barak of Israel
- 49 Guitarist Lofgren
- 52 Rock producer Brian
- 53 Method

DOWN

- 1 Two-stroke drumbeat
- 2 Misplace
- 3 Border on
- 4 Swiss metropolis
- 5 Foreman foe
- 6 Cattle call
- 7 Author

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Weekly SUDOKU



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

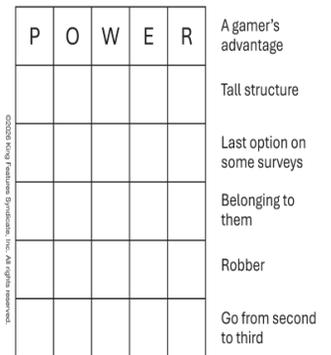
DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

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

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FiveSpot™

Turbo mode



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.sproutspuzzle.com

02631

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES: Who is the director of the Oscar-winning movie "Parasite"?
- FOOD & DRINK: What is miso?
- LITERATURE: What are the names of the romantic couple in "Wuthering Heights"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which city's nickname is "Pearl of the Orient"?
- HISTORY: In what year were the first modern Olympic Games held?
- U.S. PRESIDENTS: Before becoming president, Barack Obama served as a senator from which state?
- GEOGRAPHY: Which peninsula is the largest in the world?
- MYTHOLOGY: Who is the Greek god of war?
- MUSIC: Who composed the opera "The Ring of Nibelung"?
- ACRONYMS: In computer emails, what does the acronym "CC" stand for?

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SIXES

Today's Word

1. Worsen; 2. Tier solution

SCRAMBLERS

T	F	I	H	S		
F	E	I	H	T		
R	E	I	H	T		
R	E	H	O	T		
R	E	R	O	W	E	R
P	O	W	E	R		

Solution

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

Answer

CryptoQuip

When I stretched my arms toward the church singers, you might say I was reaching to the choir.

answer

10. Carbon Copy (once used in type-writers)
9. Richard Wagner
8. Aes
7. Arabian Peninsula
6. Illinois
5. 1896 in Greece
4. Manila, Philippines
3. Heathcliff and Catherine
2. Fermented soybean paste
1. Bong Joon Ho

King Crossword

Solution time: 24 mins.

Answers

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

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. Billfold | W _ _ _ _ | Baryshnikov's dance | B _ _ _ _ |
| 2. Prank | _ P _ _ _ | Provide food | _ T _ _ _ |
| 3. Country | _ A _ _ _ | Idea | _ O _ _ _ |
| 4. Reader's _____ | _ _ G _ _ | Part from | _ _ V _ _ |
| 5. Thames or Seine | _ _ _ _ R | Rosie's target | _ _ _ T |
| 6. Hair stylist | _ A _ _ _ | Carpet style | _ E _ _ _ |
| 7. Pasture growth | _ _ A _ _ | Twelve dozen | _ O _ _ _ |
| 8. Throw a horseshoe | _ I _ _ _ | Repair torn jeans | _ A _ _ _ |
| 9. Ned or Warren | _ _ _ T _ | _____ and the Beast | _ _ U _ _ |
| 10. Shady alcove | _ _ B _ _ | Knight's gear | _ _ M _ _ |

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.

-		X		= 10				
+		+	-					
	+		+	= 11				
+		-	+	= 15				
=		=	=					
22		3		16				
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9

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Even Exchange

ANSWERS

1.	Wheat	Barrel
2.	Capri	Cater
3.	Nation	Notion
4.	Digest	Digest
5.	River	Rivet
6.	Barber	Barber
7.	Grass	Grass
8.	Patch	Patch
9.	Beatty	Beauty
10.	Arbor	Armor

Music from A-3

Bandmaster Fraternity. His expertise extends beyond the classroom, as he is a sought-after adjudicator and clinician throughout the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

A graduate of Morehead State University, Lawrence earned his bachelor's degree in music education

there. During his time at Morehead, he was an active member of the university's marching band, serving as drum major for three years. He studied tuba under Dr. Stacy Baker and received his conducting instruction from Dr. Richard Miles, both of whom influenced his

development as a musician and educator.

Before joining the Diocese of Lexington, Mr. Banks served as the assistant band director at George Rogers Clark High School in Winchester, KY, where he also taught elementary music for grades K-5.

In addition to his teaching career, Lawrence has a rich performing background. He has played with several notable musical ensembles, including the Morehead State University Symphony and Marching Bands, The Sacred Winds Music Ministries, The Lexington Brass Band, The

Miles of Jazz Orchestra, The Bluegrass Area Jazz Ambassadors, the Central Kentucky Concert Band, and the BlueBrass Quintet.

Outside of his professional commitments, Lawrence is passionate about working with area high school marching bands. A sports enthusiast, he is an

avid supporter of the UK Wildcats and the Cincinnati Bengals. Lawrence also maintains a private lesson studio, where he teaches middle and high school students in the local area.

Lawrence lives in Lexington, KY with his wife, Emily, and their two daughters.

Estep from A-1

name Harlee according to the mother's testimony. The alleged victim said it should have come up as "H" but that when the mother - who had her daughter's passcode - opened the phone she would have been able to see the full first name. That name was the tipoff for the mother, who didn't believe her daughter's claim that it was someone else messaging her because of the unique spelling of Estep's first name. After discussing the content of the text with her husband, which they read as a request for nude images from the minor without explicitly stating such, the alleged victim's stepfather suggested calling the police.

During the course of those initial police interviews and the subsequent investigation, the alleged victim denied any wrongdoing by Estep. The mother of the alleged victim claimed that her child expressed concern about the teacher getting in trouble, a sentiment that the alleged victim echoed during her testimony. The alleged victim, now a freshman at UK, said that over the time that has elapsed since the initial investigation, she'd come to understand how damaging Estep's alleged actions had been, and no longer felt the need to protect him. After discussing the incident with someone at a later date the incident was reported as required by law, prompting the second investigation, arrest, and trial.

Over the course of the

trial the jury heard from Kentucky State Police detectives involved in the original investigation, as well as the second investigation about the evidence collected. While a number of photos and videos showed Estep spending time with students, including the alleged victim, during weekly school field trips for special education students, known as CBI or community based instruction days, none of those videos or photos showed any of the allegations of inappropriate touching.

Likewise, the suggestive text message seen by the alleged victim's mother was not preserved by the mother or the state police. The mother testified that after the initial investigation faltered, she deleted her screen shot or photo of the text message because it distressed her having it on her phone.

School administrators, including the principal at West Carter at the time of the alleged incident, testified about the CBI trips, including the need to document which students participated as student peer mentors or in related capacities. While the alleged victim could not be a peer mentor yet as a freshman, she was involved with the club that peer mentors are drawn from.

The director of transportation and maintenance for the school district also testified about the capabilities and limitations of the cameras employed on all buses

used for such field trips, and reviewed footage from some of those trips with the court.

Clothing that the alleged victim said Estep gave her to wear for him, Estep's lawyers argued, was actually old clothing that Estep had brought into his classroom for instances when students had accidents and needed a change of clothing. Photos taken by the alleged victim in those items of clothing were shared by the alleged victim, but investigators

did not find any evidence of those photos being shared to Estep's phone or any apps on his device that could have saved such evidence. Likewise, images from Snapchat that clearly showed communication between the alleged victim and Estep were from a trivia game that Estep played with individuals or the entire peer mentor group.

Estep's attorney, Sebastian Joy, admitted that his client did engage in a non-professional

manner by chatting via social media, but that this did not amount to a crime - particularly as the law banning such communications had not been enacted yet at the time of the alleged incidents, while the prosecution alleged that Estep engaged in a pattern of grooming, including those unprofessional communications, and according to the alleged victim expressed concerns about what could happen to him if people found out

about his inappropriate relationship with a student.

Ultimately, the jury agreed that there was not sufficient evidence to convict Estep, finding him not guilty on all three counts. The verdict elicited audible sobs from those in the courtroom, drawing an admonition from the judge to remember where they were.

Contact the writer at editor@cartercountytimes.com

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