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Carter County Times

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CARTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 20, 2026

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Public expresses outrage over wrongful arrest

Viral video leads to response from mayor

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

A recent video posted on the YouTube Channel of Civil Rights Lawyer John H. Bryan shows the arrest of Grayson resident Nathan Stephens by former Grayson Police officer Michael Bell for driving under the influence (DUI). According to 911 calls obtained for the video, and testimony of the other driver seen on body camera footage, Stephens and the other individual were involved in a minor accident. The accident occurred

in October of last year when a vehicle being driven by the other driver, a minor, backed out of a driveway in his neighborhood and struck the vehicle Stephens was driving.

Most of the interaction between the police officers and Stephens was recorded on the body cam of Officer Bell, with the exception of time when Bell obscured the camera and covered the microphone while he spoke to his superior officer at the scene. Throughout the video shown Bell repeatedly accused Stephens of being under the influence of alcohol and stating that he could smell alcohol – this in spite of the evidence that when Stephens agreed to take a breathalyzer test, the result was zero alcohol detected.

See **OUTRAGE** on A-8



A screenshot from court proceedings shows former Grayson PD officer Michael Bell as he struggles to provide evidence of or context for the erratic behavior his report indicated he observed. (submitted photo)

Grayson receives funds for fire truck

\$400K in state money will cover half of new vehicle cost

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

The City of Grayson received state funds in the amount of \$400,000 from the Commonwealth of Kentucky toward the purchase of a new fire truck for the city. The check was presented to the city by State Representative Patrick Flannery and State Senator Robin Webb. Representative Flannery thanked the city for the opportunity to be there and said he and Senator Webb

were very happy to present the check to the city.

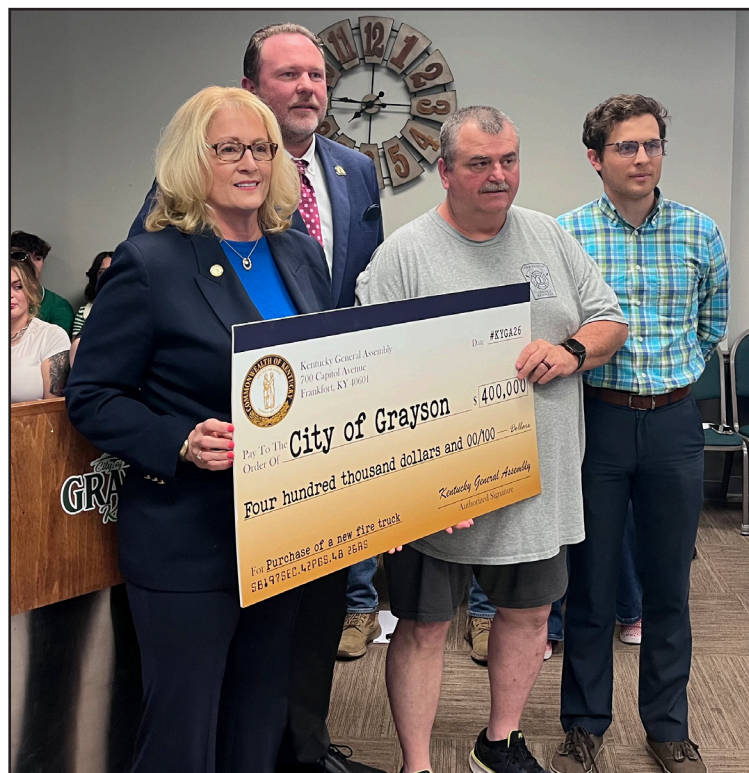
"This was a budget year," Senator Webb said. "And it was very competitive. I just want to say that the Grayson Fire Department has done a very good job in making the need known."

Webb said the information presented concerning everything the city fire department does in the city, county, and region helped with the determination to award the funds to the department.

"It was a hard budget session," Webb said. "It was number one on the mayor's (Combs) priority list, and we were just happy to be able to deliver."

"It's not the whole truck," Webb said, referencing the

See **TRUCK** on A-3



Grayson Mayor Troy Combs presents a Key to the City of Grayson to Congressman James Comer. (Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

Tourism president resigns

Secretary will not seek reappointment

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

Grayson Tourism Commission President Daniel White resigned from the commission during last Thursday's (May 14) meeting. White said his resignation was effective immediately, citing that the position was not a good environment for him. Commissioner Deana Miller, who has been serving as the commission secretary, also informed the commission that she will not be seeking reappointment when her term expires this year. Both of these announcements came at the

end of the regularly scheduled meeting.

Miller reminded the commission that at the April meeting, the commission had received a contract for an attorney appointment of Brandon Music, but no action was taken on the bid during that meeting. Commissioner Shadow Skaggs had agreed during the April meeting to reach out to two other attorneys to secure bids for the contract of attorney to represent the commission, and he presented the results of this at the May meeting.

Skaggs said he had spoken to Attorneys Justin Criswell and Whitley Bailey.

"They both agreed to give me estimates after the last special meeting," Skaggs told the commission. "Whitley quickly gave me her contract. Basically, there

is a \$500 one-time fee, and then she charges \$250 per hour with no minimum. Justin Criswell bowed out and said he didn't feel this was for him."

Skaggs told the commission he would attempt to get another contract estimate, but that he personally felt it would be more expedient to choose from the two contracts already presented. The commission voted to approve the contract with Music.

The commission then reviewed and discussed tourism financials, with White going over points listed. White directed the commission's attention to page one of the financials sheet, and began by saying there was at that time \$143,000 in the transient tax account and \$3,700 in the First National Bank account. Page

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.

- Stephen Parker, 43, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked May 10.
- Brent Blankenship, 23, of Morehead, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of first degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), and possession of drug paraphernalia, arrested and booked May 10.
- Gloria Maggard, 67, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to ap-

pear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked May 10.

- Hannah Pence, 22, of Huntington, WV, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked May 10.
- Staci Porter, 26, of Morehead, arrested by Olive Hill PD, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked May 10.

- Dana Robinson, 37, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of failure to notify owner of damage to an unattended vehicle, failure to maintain required insurance, no or expired registration plates, no or expired registration receipt, operating a motor vehicle on a suspended or revoked operator's

license, arrested and booked May 11.

- Juan Rodriguez, 25, of Ashland, arrested by Grayson PD, on a charge of alcohol intoxication in a public place, arrested and booked May 11.

- Jesus Rivas-Gonzalez, 38, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, charges unavailable, arrested and booked May 11.

- Boyd Salyers, 50, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of failure to or improper use of a signal, first degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), operating a motor vehicle on a suspended or revoked operator's license, failure to produce an insurance card, no or expired registration receipt, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance, obstructed

See **ARRESTS** on A-3

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This Week's Obituaries

Bonnie Jean Stafford Fultz, 84
Edward W. Isaacs, 88
Mary Louellen Keatley, 80

Charlene Roberts Spargur, 62
Sarah Atherton Stamper, 78
Graham Walker Thompson, infant

Harold L. Middleton, 83

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LIFESTYLE



A smoky-sweet Memorial Day menu for affordable backyard grilling

Memorial Day weekend doesn't have to mean elaborate menus or expensive cuts of meat. Some of the best gatherings happen around simple grilled food. There's a nostalgic happiness around a backyard grill: cut grass, glowing charcoal, drifting conversations, overloaded paper plates, kids running through the yard with sticky hands. This menu leans into easy gathering food: inexpensive chicken legs brushed with sticky smoky glaze, alongside grilled zucchini and sweet peppers lacquered with the same sauce. Meant for lingering outside as evening stretches on, with beer in

the cooler and a seat waiting.

SMOKY ORANGE BALSAMIC GLAZE

Yield: 1 cup
Total Time: 25 mins.

- 1 large orange, zest and juice
- 1 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 1/4 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon coconut aminos or Worcestershire sauce
- 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard
- 3 garlic cloves, finely minced
- 1 teaspoon smoked paprika
- 1/2 teaspoon sea salt
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper

Whisk all ingredients together in a saucepan and bring to a gentle boil over medium heat. Reduce heat and simmer 15 to 20 minutes, stirring occasionally, until thickened and glossy. Makes about 1 cup. Use on grilled meats, vegetables or as a dipping sauce.

GLAZED DRUMSTICKS

Chicken legs are technically safe to eat at 165 F, but they're far better when cooked to 185 F to 190 F. The higher temperature breaks down connective tissue for juicy, tender meat that pulls easily from the bone.

Yield: 6 servings
Total Time: 45 mins.

- 5 pounds chicken drumsticks
- 1 teaspoon granulated garlic

- 1 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon smoked paprika

Season the chicken with garlic, salt, pepper and smoked paprika.

Grill Directions:

Heat grill to medium-high heat, about 425 F. Place chicken over indirect heat and cook, covered, for about 30 minutes, until nearly cooked through and the skin is crisp. Add wood chips if desired for extra smoky flavor.

Brush generously with Smoky Orange Balsamic Glaze and continue cooking 10 minutes more, turning and glazing once or twice, until sticky, caramelized and cooked through to 185 F.

Oven Directions:

Heat oven to 425 F. Line a baking sheet with foil and lightly coat with nonstick spray. Arrange chicken on the pan and bake 40 minutes, turning halfway through, until browned and crisp.

Brush generously with glaze and return to the oven 5 to 10 minutes more, until caramelized. Chicken should reach at least 185 F internally. Let rest a few minutes before serving.

GLAZED VEGETABLES

Yield: 6 servings
Total Time: 25 mins.

- 4 medium zucchinis
- 16 ounce bag mini sweet



Sticky orange balsamic glaze transforms simple drumsticks and vegetables. (Photo Credit: www.JasonCoblentz.com)

- peppers
- 1 small red onion
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper

Slice zucchini into thick diagonal slices. Halve peppers lengthwise and remove seeds. Cut onion into thick rounds, leaving slices mostly intact. Toss vegetables with olive oil, salt and pepper.

For the grill:

Grill over medium-high heat 8 to 12 minutes, turning occasionally, until lightly charred and crisp-tender. Brush with glaze during the final few minutes of cooking.

For the oven:

Spread vegetables on a foil-

lined baking sheet and roast at 425 F for 20 to 25 minutes, stirring once halfway through cooking, until tender and lightly caramelized. Brush with glaze during the last 5 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature.

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

To fold, or not to fold, that is the question

So, you've just done two loads of laundry and are faced with putting your clothes away, this is the perfect time to reevaluate your closet and dresser space. We have a tendency to overcrowd by stuffing clothes in drawers or hanging things without giving a thought to making those spaces organized. We hang things that could be folded and fold things that could be put on hangers. So, here are some of the ways we can make the decision about how to store our clothing that will help us find what we need and never have to consider the situation again.

1. Start by removing everything from your closet and your dresser. I know this seems drastic, but it will give you a fresh



Daryl Ashley
Guest Columnist
Confusion Solution

look at what you have. It will also give you the opportunity to clean the space and possibly donate what you no longer wear.

2. Dresses, suits, pants, and blouses should all end up on hangers. These are items that generally wrinkle easily or are too bulky to fold.
3. Casual wear like jeans or t-shirts can take up hanging space when they can easily be folded. Any clothing that doesn't have to be ironed can be folded.
4. Scarves can be folded and placed in a drawer making it easy to see when looking for an accessory to go with that special outfit. Hanging scarves is an option but they can become difficult to access and appear messy. There are wonderful drawer inserts for keeping scarves neat and

free from unraveling.

5. Folding under garments can be time consuming but the result is a better way of finding what you need instead of rummaging through a pile. When it comes to socks, folding pairs in half instead of rolling them into themselves will save space and keep them from stretching. Using drawer inserts for socks is also a better way of using drawer space.
6. If you have shelves in your closet, use shelf dividers to keep folded items in order.
7. Take the time to evaluate what's in your closet or dresser and you will find it will be easier to maintain what you wear. It's as simple as that!

Send your questions and comments to me at info@confusionsolution.com



Extension Notes

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

Kentucky woodland owners short course returns with webinars, field sessions for landowners

Lexington, Ky.— Kentucky woodland owners looking to better care for their land will have a chance this summer to learn from forestry and natural resources professionals through the 2026 Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Course.



Rebecca Konopka
Carter County Extension Agent

Hosted by the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, the program offers seven evening webinars in June and an optional in-person field session in July or August.

The course is designed for woodland owners, families, farmers and anyone interested in learning how to make Kentucky woodlands healthier, more productive and better suited for wildlife, timber, recreation and long-term stewardship.

Kentucky woodlands cover nearly half the state and provide benefits that reach beyond property boundaries. They support wildlife, protect water, store carbon, offer recreation and contribute to rural economies. The Department of Forestry and Natural Resources (FNR) created the Woodland Owners Short Course to help woodland owners understand those benefits and manage their land according to their goals.

"Kentucky's woodlands are owned largely by families and individuals, and those owners make decisions every year that shape the health of our forests," said Billy Thomas, FNR Extension forester. "The Woodland Owners Short Course gives woodland owners an opportunity to connect with the programs and organizations to help become a better woodland

steward." The 2026 program begins online with seven webinars, scheduled from 7-8:30 p.m. ET, June 2-23. Recordings of each webinar will be available to registered participants.

- June 2: Why and How to Manage Your Woodlands/ Tree ID
- June 4: Comprehensive Woodland Management
- June 9: White Oak Management and White Oak App
- June 11: Wildlife Management in Kentucky
- June 16: Woodlands and Water Quality
- June 18: Woodland Health
- June 23: Woodland Owner Related Organizations and Programs

Participants may choose an online-only option or combine the webinar series with one of two in-person field sessions and a regional Woodland Owner Resource Extravaganza. Field sessions are scheduled for July 18 in Fleming

See **WEBINARS on A-6**

Joyful Noise

Made by God

By Pastor Naomi Mitchell for *Carter County Times*

Have you ever seen anything that is more fearfully and wonderfully made than a human being? The grand redwood forest? A breathtaking sunset? A magnificent storm with giant bolts of lightning and deep roaring thunder? A clear starry night with the magnificent milky way and shooting stars? A tiny

flower growing up through the crack of a concrete sidewalk? The songs of birds sweetly singing their melodies in the treetops? The mirage appearing on a hot desert? This list could go on and on. Psalm 24:1 states: "The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." God is the ultimate owner and ruler of all creation, including the land, seas,

resources, and all living beings. The phrase "we are fearfully and wonderfully made" is found in Psalm 139:14, which states: "I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well." This verse emphasizes the incredible nature of our creation and the marvelous works of God. It shows a deep appreciation for the complexity and beauty of human life. Our very existence is a deliberate and wonderful act of divine craftsmanship God. See **JOYFUL NOISE on A-3**

Kentucky Dept of Agriculture Livestock and Grain Market Report

Compared to last week feeder steers sold steady to 3.00 higher and feeder heifers were 3.00 to 5.00 higher. Yearling steers and heifers were mostly 3.00 to 5.00 higher with good demand for all feeder and yearling classes. Slaughter cows and bulls sold mostly steady with good demand.

Week ending 5/9/26

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

	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
Steers (M&L 1-2)			
350-400 lbs	563.27	564.75	431.93
400-450 lbs	527.71	518.87	413.29
450-500 lbs	515.29	510.72	391.37
500-550 lbs	479.69	479.39	374.08
550-600 lbs	465.17	460.11	355.63
600-650 lbs	431.41	423.89	336.09
650-700 lbs	409.32	403.72	325.35
700-750 lbs	373.92	372.96	309.77
750-800 lbs	371.65	364.20	295.70
800-850 lbs	350.64	349.97	274.14
850-900 lbs	340.29	341.11	268.91
Heifers (M&L 1-2)			
300-350 lbs	532.72	525.12	389.35
350-400 lbs	510.80	506.54	385.02
400-450 lbs	477.53	470.53	366.22
450-500 lbs	454.69	450.70	352.54
500-550 lbs	419.31	417.72	331.53
550-600 lbs	402.50	399.79	318.40
600-650 lbs	371.50	373.69	292.73
650-700 lbs	350.29	361.29	283.22
700-750 lbs	334.27	337.55	261.73
750-800 lbs	327.68	330.20	252.87

	Average	High	Low
Slaughter Cows			
Breakers	157.50-188.00	174.00-201.00	161.00-178.00
Boners	145.00-190.00	165.00-211.00	130.00-178.00
Lean	119.00-170.00	152.00-210.00	101.00-159.50
Slaughter Bulls			
Yield Grade 1&2	187.00-220.00	206.00-245.00	165.00-208.00

Apr 26, 2026		Bowling Green, KY	
SLAUGHTER GOATS: 147			
Kids-Selection 1	54 lbs 500.00; 73 lbs 380.00	Selection 1-2	83 lbs 305.00.
Selection 2	51 lbs 500.00 58.	Selection 2-3	50-52 lbs 280.00-305.00; 65 lbs 285.00.
SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 937			
Hair Breeds-Choice & Prime 1-2	54 lbs 360.00; 65-66 lbs 360.00-365.00; 73-78 lbs 360.00-395.00; 89 lbs 350.00; 108 lbs 330.00.	Wooled-Choice & Prime 1-2	53-59 lbs 377.50-385.00; 67 lbs 375.00; 75-76 lbs 350.00-365.00; 88 lbs 330.00; 105 lbs 355.00; 120 lbs 300.00.

	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
GRAINS			
Corn	4.48-5.14	4.44-5.07	4.28-4.74
Soybeans	11.01-12.58	10.91-12.27	9.46-10.74
Red Winter Wheat	5.37-6.45	5.51-6.62	4.39-5.31

Arrests from A-1

vision and/or windshield, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of marijuana, arrested and booked May 11.

- Tony Chancy, 63, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a substance, possession of an open alcoholic beverage container in a motor vehicle, failure to wear seat belts, aggravated trafficking in narcotics – 10 or more grams of carfentanyl/fentanyl derivatives, tampering with physical evidence, and importing carfentanyl, fentanyl, or fentanyl derivatives, arrested and booked May

15.

- Edward Martinez, 23, of Louisville, arrested by Jefferson County Jail, on charges of being a second degree felony offender, speeding 26 MPH or greater over the limit, reckless driving, disregarding traffic light, improper passing, no tail lamps, first degree fleeing or evading police – motor vehicle, no or expired registration receipt, no or expired registration plates, and failure to maintain required insurance, arrested and booked May 15.
- David Harlow, 47, of Grayson, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and

booked May 15.

- Dusty Tolliver, 32, of Denton, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and booked May 15.
- Todd Auer, 60, of Olive Hill, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and booked May 15.
- Robert Carroll, 37, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on charges of first degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), and failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked May 16.
- Gregory Conn, 44, address unavailable, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on charges of rear license

not illuminated, no or expired registration plates, no or expired registration receipt, failure to produce an insurance card, and driving on a DUI suspended license, arrested and booked May 16.

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.

Truck from A-1

projected cost of a new fire truck, which, according to Fire Chief Greg Felty, would be in the \$800,000 range. “It’s half the truck.”

Representative Flannery told those gathered that he thought it was appropriate to say thank you to our firefighters adding, “any person who is willing to go into a burning building deserves our appreciation.” Flannery also said he hoped the funds would help the firefighters do their difficult job.

Several guests were on the agenda for the Tuesday meeting to address the council. Kris Morgan from Oxford House Recovery spoke to the council and shared her story of becoming addicted and overcoming that addiction. Morgan introduced herself as “a woman in long-term recovery,” acknowledging that recovery itself is a process. She herself is an alumna of Oxford House and now does outreach work from Winchester to Ashland.

“I have approximately 30 houses that I help keep on the right track,” Morgan told the council. “I train them to help them follow the model, but each house operates independently. That means there are no bosses, but there is accountability.”

Oxford House has just completed its first documentary, Morgan said.

“I have been doing networking and trying to get a lot of community partners to be part of the documentary showing. There will be a big showing in Lexington,” she said. “There will be one in Bowling Green and also one in Portsmouth, Ohio.”

“And I also wanted to talk about Grayson maybe doing a hub like Recovery Rowan County,” she said.

Recovery Rowan County, she explained, has a hub that helps those in recovery with things such as filling out job applications, help writing resumes, and other things to help them get back on track and give them some recovery capital.

Morgan said that her own struggles with addiction culminated in her being in a federal prison, and when she was released, all she had was “the shoes that the jailer gave me.”

“I didn’t have anything, and I didn’t know what I was going to do,” Morgan told the council. “And I knew that if I went back to the same people and places my life was never going to change.”

Morgan thanked the city for supporting recovery,

adding that it was what helped change her life.

Rene Parsons from Business Cultivation Foundation addressed the council and spoke about a collaborative project her organization is doing with Kentucky Christian University that involves the United States 250 Year Celebration. The project is a History Walk that leads people through Grayson where they will be able to learn about the city’s rich past.

“Last year the White House set aside funding for a collaborative, full United States Celebration,” Parsons told the council. “They deployed that funding to each state’s Historical Society. The Kentucky Historical Society put out a grant cycle and said if you want your city to be part of this national fabric of America, and you have an idea, then give us your best idea. BCF (Business Cultivation Foundation) applied and we were awarded. We applied with a walking historical tour of Grayson.”

Parsons said the idea was to provide those on the walking tour with an actual passport of Grayson’s history. Kentucky Christian University Professor Gerald Dyson, Parsons said, and his students including

Katelyn Justice and Christian Altizer, collaborated with her to bring the walking tour to life. Parsons credited Dyson and his students with doing the lion’s share of the work.

All summer long beginning on June 1, 2026, the Lusby Center at KCU will be open and there will be a section dedicated to the history of Grayson. The passports will be able to be picked up there for free, Parsons said, and it will take them all over Grayson where signs will be posted. There will be a short tour or a longer tour of the city, she said, and at the signs they will be able to use their phones to take a picture of a QR code at each sign. The code will lead those scanning the code to a full history of that spot. Following the path through history will end in downtown Grayson where walkers will be able to avail themselves of the stores in that district.

City council members were provided with temporary passports for the walking history tour and were encouraged to help “Beta Test” the tour before its June 1 launch.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Joyful Noise from A-2

Psalm 139: 1-10 says, “O lord, thou hast searched me and known me. Thou knowest my downsitting and mine uprising, thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compassest my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways. For there is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou knowest it altogether. Thou hast beset me behind and before and laid thine hand upon me. Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot attain unto it. Whither shall I go from thy spirit? Or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven,

thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me.”

Out of all the grandiose God created, we top it all! Genesis 1:27 teaches that humans were created intentionally by God to reflect His nature, endowed with dignity, purpose, and the capacity for moral and spiritual relationship. The verse states: “So God created man in His own image; in the image of God, He created him; male and female He created them.” Both men

and women equally bear the divine image, highlighting the awesome value of every human being. The creation in God’s image is not about physical resemblance but about reflecting God’s character and attributes.

Psalm 34:15 – “The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are attentive to their cry,” showing that God actively listens and responds to those who seek Him. Psalm 91:11 – “For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways,” illustrating God’s protective care through His angels. Matthew 10:29-31 – Jesus teaches that not even a

sparrow falls without God’s notice, and that we are valued even more, reinforcing His attentive care over every detail of our lives. Wow! You are of great value to God!

Amen! So be it!

JOYFUL House of Prayer, 2519 Quicksand Road, (P.O. Box 856), Jackson, Kentucky 41339. Send Comments/Prayer Requests: Pastornaomi4god@gmail.com. FB: JoyfulHoprayer. Services: 10am Sunday and Joyful Kids Class at 10:30am, 6:30pm Thursdays. Radio Broadcast: WJSN 97.3 FM & WEKG 81.0 AM Sundays 1-2pm.

CALENDAR

- **5/20: Senior Farmer's Market Vouchers** | Carter County Extension Office | Call 474-6686 or 713-1840 for an appointment
- **5/21: Grayson Book Club @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **5/21: Olive Hill Area Chamber of Commerce @ 6 p.m.** | Commercial Bank of Grayson - Olive Hill
- **5/25: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 474-6686
- **5/25: Open Art Studio @ 10 a.m.** | Grayson Gallery & Art Center
- **5/25: Girl Scouts meeting @ 6:30 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **5/26: Building Club @ 4 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library, Olive Hill
- **5/26: Olive Hill Book Club @ 5:30 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **5/29 Final Friday @ 6 p.m.** | Grayson Gallery & Art Center
- **6/1: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 474-6686
- **6/1: Open Art Studio @ 10 a.m.** | Grayson Gallery & Art Center
- **6/1: Carter County Tourism @ 5:30 p.m.** | Carter Caves State Resort Park
- **6/2: Building Club @ 4 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library, Olive Hill
- **6/2: Rattlesnake Ridge Water District Board meeting @ 4 p.m.** | Rattlesnake Ridge Water District office
- **6/4: Carter County Library Board @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson

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

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



Pet of the Week

Marshall is a male lab mix, around two-years-old. He’s a very friendly boy who loves to play, walks on a leash, and gets along well with other dogs. Marshall’s \$100 adoption fee includes rabies vaccination and being neutered. 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.

Bigger memories, better days

Grayson prepares for Memory Days this weekend

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

Grayson Memory Days is here again, and event coordinator Michelle Boggs couldn’t be happier.

“This is going to be the biggest one we’ve had yet, and there is so much to see and do,” Boggs said.

The full schedule of events is available at graysonchamber.com, but Boggs shared a few

highlights people can look forward to this year.

“The Veterans Float is going to be really special,” Boggs said of one entry in the Memory Days Parade. “We’re going to bring Wes Boggs down first, then the guys from Genesis will come down and bring the flag. The veterans will be walking, and when they

get to the Veteran’s Square they will stop and someone will play Taps. Then we will have prayer for the country, and we will have kids holding miniature flags (Boggs said she ordered 500 in anticipation of a huge turnout) lead the Veterans through the parade.”

See *MEMORY DAYS* on A-8

Bank like a local, no matter where life takes you.

Commercial Bank of Grayson
Here for a century, here for you.

cbgrayson.com

Member FDIC

CITY OF GRAYSON

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

OBITUARY

Bonnie Jean Stafford Fultz

1941–2026



Bonnie Jean Stafford Fultz, age 84, passed away peacefully Thursday, May 14, 2026, at Lifecare Center in Morehead, Kentucky, surrounded by her daughters.

She was born Friday, June 6, 1941, in Carter County, Kentucky, the 7th child of the late James and Nelly Stafford.

Bonnie married Sam Fultz Jr. on November 25, 1970, and had two beautiful daughters, Eugenia Fultz Fitzgerald and Roseanna Fultz. During this time, she worked at the card factory multiple sewing factories in Olive Hill, then finally retired from Saint Claire Medical Center in Morehead, Kentucky.

She was devoted to her family. Bonnie cared for her mother, father, brothers, Ralph and James

Stafford, until their passing. She enjoyed going to farmers markets, reading and watching the birds. She loved her granddaughters and enjoyed spending time with them.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband of 35 years, Sam Fultz; three brothers, Lee-Roy Stafford, James Stafford Jr., Ralph Stafford; three sisters, Mary Stafford, Betty Watson and Louise Mashburn.

Bonnie is survived by two daughters, Eugenia Fultz Fitzgerald, Roseanna Fultz (Mark Littleton), both of Olive Hill, Kentucky two granddaughters, Charity Littleton and Samantha Fitzgerald, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss her.

Graveside services were held at 11:30 a.m., Monday, May 18, 2026, at Bowen Chapel Cemetery with Brother James Corbie Stafford officiating.

Friends visited from 10 a.m. until 11 a.m., Monday, May 18, 2026, at Globe Funeral Chapel.

Globe Funeral Chapel is honored to serve the family of Bonnie Jean Stafford Fultz.

Charlene Roberts Spargur

1964 – 2026



Charlene (Roberts) Spargur, 62, of Grayson, Kentucky, passed away on April 19, 2026, in Lexington, Kentucky.

Born in Hammond, Indiana, on February 21, 1964, she was the daughter of Marvin Lee and Minnie Irene (Logan) Roberts. She was defined by her devotion to her family, kind soul, adventurous mind and endless love for animals.

Charlene is survived by her children, Salina Spargur, Cheyenne (Anthony)

Spargur, and Robert L. Spargur; and her cherished grandchildren, Aero Jaxon and Chesney Lynn. She also leaves behind her siblings, Ruby Stamper, Jerry Roberts, Darlene (Paul) Rogers, and Emily (Shane) Stevens.

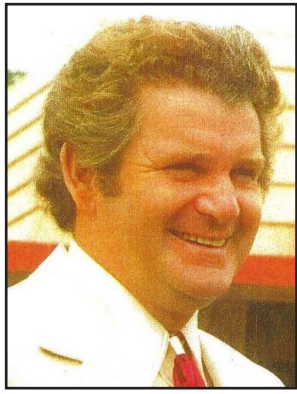
She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Robert Spargur Jr.; her stepsons Robert Spargur III and Anthony Spargur; and many beloved aunts, uncles, and grandparents.

The family wishes to express their deepest gratitude to Ms. Susan and Charlene's caregiver, Nicole. Your compassion, kindness, and unwavering support provided immense comfort to both Charlene and her family throughout her journey.

Per Charlene's wishes, no public services will be held. A private, quiet goodbye will be observed by her immediate family.

Edward W. Isaacs

1937 – 2026



Edward Isaacs, 88, of Olive Hill, formerly of Hitchens, Kentucky passed away Friday, May 8, 2026 at Elliott County Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. He was born June 23, 1937 in Hitchens, Kentucky; a son of the late Chilton H. and Julia Johnston Isaacs.

In addition to his parents, he is preceded in death by five brothers, John C. Isaacs, George P. Isaacs, Matt Isaacs, Millard Burton, and Earl W. Burton; two sisters, Irene Burton, and Naomi Isaacs.

Mr. Isaacs was member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and was an entrepreneur. He was a co-owner of Isaacs & Isaacs painting

company in the Washington DC area. Later, he was the owner of Dallas Restaurants. When moving back to Carter County, he was very instrumental in the success of The Carter Christian Academy in Hitchens.

He is survived by his loving wife, Alice K. Roller Isaacs; two sons, Chilton E. Isaacs, of Olive Hill, and Jared W. Isaacs (Katrina Gnip) of Harwood, Maryland. Many family and friends will mourn his passing.

Funeral services were Saturday, May 16, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. at the Sparks Funeral Home in Grayson, Gary Sparks, minister. Burial followed in the Damron Cemetery at Oak Grove.

Visitation was Friday, May 15, 2026 from 6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to Carter Christian Academy, 3547 Hwy. 773, Hitchens, KY 41146.

Online condolences www.sparksfh.com.

Sarah Atherton Stamper

1947 – 2026



Sarah Atherton Stamper, age 78, of Olive Hill, Kentucky, passed away Tuesday, May 12, 2026, at University of Kentucky Medical Center in Lexington, Kentucky, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born Thursday, June 27, 1947, in Belleville, Ohio, a daughter of the late Stanley Caldwell and Marie Horn Atherton.

Sarah was a member of Bethel Christian Church. She enjoyed Sunday dinners, holidays, especially Christmas and spending time with friends, especially her family and grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sons, James Alvin Stamper, Virgil Stamper Jr.; two brothers, Kenny Atherton, Richard McPete and two sisters, Mary Louise Fyffe, Martha Jean Jones.

Sarah is survived by

her loving husband of 62 years, Virgil Gail Stamper; two daughters, Debbie (Wade) Thomas of Morehead, Kentucky, Frances (Tim) Glover of Olive Hill, Kentucky; 10 grandchildren; 16 great-grandchildren; one brother, Melvin Atherton of Mansfield, Ohio; three sisters Nina Williams of Paducah, Kentucky, Dorothy Smith of Harrod, Ohio, Beverly Brown of Mt. Vernon, Ohio, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss her.

Funeral services were held at 12 noon, Sunday, May 17, 2026, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 W. US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Brother Ray Glover and Brother Tim Glover officiating. Burial followed in Fultz Cemetery on Bethel Ridge in Olive Hill.

Friends visited from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., Saturday, May 16, 2026, and after 9 a.m., Sunday, May 17, 2026, until the service hour at Globe Funeral Chapel.

Brandon Callihan, Virgil Stamper III, David Parker, Shawn Glover, Tyler Glover and Caleb Burrows served as pallbearers.

Globe Funeral Chapel is honored to serve the family of Sarah Atherton Stamper.

Mary Louellen Keatley

1946 – 2026



Mary Louellen Keatley, of Olive Hill, Kentucky, went to be with the Lord Monday, May 11, 2026, at Carter Nursing and Rehabilitation in Grayson, Kentucky.

She was born March 23, 1946, in Fayette County, West Virginia, the daughter of the late Ruby Pritt.

In her free time, Mary enjoyed quilting, word searches, gardening, crafts, and games, but her favorite activity was spending time with her family. At every family get-together, she could be found playing games with her family, particularly beating them at the game Trouble.

She was a devout member of the Grahn community, often volunteering at Grahn Elementary School, where she would chaperone school events that led to her joining in on the fun.

In addition to her mother, she was preceded in death by Shorty and Mary Roe, whom she thought of

as her parents; one brother, David Roe; one sister, Gwenella Roe and one sister-in-law, Karoyn Roe.

Mary is survived by one brother, Jim (Susan) Roe of Grayson, Kentucky; two sisters-in-law, Jean Roe of Olive Hill, Kentucky, Cheryl Caudill of Morehead, Kentucky; special niece and nephew Dora (Wes) Steagall, Jimmy (Rhonda) Roe; three great-nieces Alannah and Hallie Steagall, and Gabby Roe and one great nephew Garrett Roe, along with many other family and friends who will greatly miss her.

Although Mary never had children herself, she played a significant role in raising her nieces and nephews, whom she loved dearly and thought of as her own.

Funeral services were held at 12 p.m. noon, Saturday, May 16, 2026, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Brother Terry Dean officiating. Burial followed at the Boggs Cemetery on Roe Lane in Olive Hill.

Friends visited after 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 16, 2026, until the service hour at the Globe Funeral Chapel.

Globe Funeral Chapel is honored to serve the family of Mary Louellen Keatley.

Harold L. Middleton

1942 – 2026



Harold L. Middleton age 83, passed away peacefully Friday, May 15, 2026, at Elliott County Nursing and Rehabilitation, surrounded by his loving family.

He was born June 18, 1942, in Elliott County, Kentucky, a son of the late Madge Middleton Clark and his grandparents, Walter and Francis Middleton who raised him as their son.

Harold was a man who loved the outdoors and treasured time spent with family and friends. In his younger years, he was an avid hunter who enjoyed hunting deer, coon, rabbit, but pheasant hunting was his favorite with his bird dog, Nancy. He also had a deep love for baseball and softball, spending countless hours on the ballfields coaching Little League and playing softball. Harold especially loved coaching his children through the years. Back in the day, he enjoyed a good hand of poker. He loved giving his great-grandchildren nicknames and was always ready to help out with a benefit auction for anyone in need.

In addition to his mother, he was preceded in death by Joe Walter and Frances Middleton, his loving wife of 45 years, Shirley Evans Middleton; two sons, Terry L. Middleton, Timmy Middleton;

two brothers, Odith Clark and Donald Clark.

Harold is survived by two sons, Harold G. (Barb) Middleton, Danny J. (Amy) Middleton all of Olive Hill, Kentucky; one daughter, Becky (Mitch) Adkins of Olive Hill, Kentucky; one daughter-in-law, Shawna Middleton of Olive Hill, Kentucky; special cousin that he talked to almost every day, Cleo Middleton; 8 grandchildren, Kayla (Matt) Logan, Stephanie (Travis) Duvall, Amberleigh (Angie) Middleton, Trey (Emily) Middleton, Whitley (Brandon) Bornhauser, Brooke (Dustin) Black, Trevor (Joshlyn) Middleton and Hope Middleton; 13 great-grandchildren, Myles, Piper, Luka, Cooper, Mila, Larson, Liza, Parker, Berkeley, Kolter, Lottie, Crimson and 2 more on the way, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss him.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Brother Brandon Bornhauser, Brother Carmel Middleton and Brother David Rayburn officiating. Burial will follow in Tick Ridge Cemetery.

Friends may visit from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., Tuesday, May 19, 2026 and after 9 a.m., Wednesday, May 20, 2026, at Globe Funeral Chapel.

Trey Middleton, Trevor Middleton, Matt Logan, Travis Duvall, Brandon Bornhauser, Dustin Black Myles Duvall, Cooper Logan and Luka Black will serve as pallbearers.

Globe Funeral Chapel is honored to serve the family of Harold L. Middleton.

Graham Walker Thompson

2026 – 2026



Graham Walker Thompson of Olive Hill, Kentucky, was carried home by angels Friday, May 8, 2026, at UK-King's Daughter Medical Center in Ashland, Kentucky.

He was born Friday, May 8, 2026, in Boyd County, Kentucky, a son of Joey Dale and Kristin Henderson Thompson of Olive Hill, Kentucky.

In addition to his

parents, he is survived by one brother, Moxon Thompson of Olive Hill, Kentucky; paternal grandparents, Bobby and Debbie Walker Thompson; maternal grandparents, Dewayne and Crystal Stamper Henderson; maternal great-grandmother, Cloteen Henderson and several aunts, uncles and cousins who will sadly mourn his passing.

Graveside services were held at 10 a.m., Monday, May 15, 2026, at Olive Hill Memorial Park with Brother Ron Arnette officiating. Burial followed.

Bobby Thompson and Dewayne Henderson served as pallbearers.

Globe Funeral Chapel is honored to serve the family of Graham Walker Thompson.

Carter County Times

www.cartercountytimes.com

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MALONE

FUNERAL HOME

325 Malone Ln.
Grayson, KY 41143

(606) 474-5126

OPINION

EDITORIALS | LETTERS | COLUMNS | COMMENTARY

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

Guest Editorial

This Federal Proposal Would Put the Brakes on Kentucky Innovation

By Jennifer Pagán

Innovation and entrepreneurship are essential to Kentucky's economy. And thanks to the launch of innovation hubs across the state, university research and businesses are soaring. But a proposal from Secretary of Commerce Howard Lutnick threatens to derail that progress.

Lutnick claims that taxpayers in Kentucky and beyond receive "zero" return on the federal money invested in university discoveries that become commercial products. His solution? Seize half the royalty profit from any product resulting from government-backed research.

It's a bold proposal that sounds reasonable at face value. However, taxpayers and Washington already receive benefits from government-backed research in the form of new job and business creation.

What the proposal fails to understand is that the current process by which academic research is translated into real-world products didn't take shape by accident. It was carefully designed by lawmakers under the Bayh-Dole Act of 1980 to promote innovation, drive economic prosperity, and reward inventors. And by any measure, it has worked far better than expected, particularly here in Kentucky.

Before the Bayh-Dole Act took effect, inventions that benefitted from tax dollars belonged to the federal government. As a result, few were ever translated into practical technologies, cures, and other life-enhancing products.

Bayh-Dole changed that — allowing universities, federal labs, and small businesses to own the patents from their inventions. Crucially, it also allowed them to license these patents to private partners who could turn these inventions into products.

My own company is a prime example.

Through Bayh-Dole, I licensed my technology from UNC Charlotte and helped launch AQUIsense to develop and commercialize our mercury-free UV-C LED water disinfection systems. Our operations and manufacturing facilities are headquartered in Erlanger, Kentucky. We have invested over 50 times more than the federal government's funding to commercialize our products.

Ten years in, we employ dozens of U.S. workers and ship our Kentucky-made equipment worldwide. Today, AQUIsense is acknowledged as the global leader in LED based water treatment systems.

My story isn't unique. Kentucky's research ecosystem — anchored by world-class institutions and innovation hubs in Lexington and Louisville — continues to launch university-born startups and attract substantial private investment.

The University of Kentucky alone holds over 1,000 global patent assets and has dozens of affiliated startup companies. In 2025, the university's overall R&D expenditures generated more than \$1 billion in statewide economic impact and supported over 5,000 Kentucky jobs.

But the benefits from Bayh-Dole aren't merely economic. The law has also led to countless new products and technologies that have changed our way of life for the better.

This is what real return on taxpayer investment looks like. Seizing half of any royalty profits from these ventures would simply destroy the system of incentives that has made successful products like these — and the jobs and prosperity they promise to create — possible.

Following Lutnick's plan would mean abandoning this successful strategy and penalizing risk-takers and entrepreneurs like myself, who continue to generate dynamism and opportunity throughout our state and the nation at large.

Jennifer Pagán is the Co-Founder and Chief Technology Officer at AQUIsense, Inc.



Trump is correcting the bad campaign pledge that damaged FEMA

I was among many Americans surprised and angry when candidate Donald Trump went to the flood-ravaged mountains of North Carolina in the summer of 2024 and savagely attacked the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) while promising to dismantle it.

As a former National Guard officer and newspaper reporter, I had seen firsthand numerous examples of the incredible lifesaving and community spirit-lifting work that had endeared FEMA to millions of Americans caught in disasters.

Sadly, the President's campaign advisors in 2024 convinced him to adopt a "slash and burn" strategy to reduce the size of the federal payroll and eliminate or downsize numerous federal agencies.

Today we are seeing the aftermath of that grandstanding as shown by the shortages of air traffic controllers and other vital employees such as FEMA-trained emergency managers on the national, state and local levels. We even have a serious shortage of IRS agents.

The ineptitude of the Department of Homeland Security was highlighted by the near collapse of FEMA. Personally, I was shocked last year when the White

House fired Cameron Hamilton as FEMA director after he told Congress that the American public didn't want FEMA abolished or downsized.

In just five months on the job in Washington last year, Hamilton recognized the cold, hard truth that individual states, counties and cities do not have the fiscal resources or equipment or trained personnel to manage disasters on their own.

To his credit, President Trump has realized that Hamilton, a former Navy Seal, perhaps is the right person to lead FEMA after all. This change-of-heart also has seen three cabinet secretaries lose their positions to mid-course corrections.

If you've ever seen the joy on the faces of flood or tornado or wildfire victims as they are rescued or as they move into temporary housing or receive a new blanket or a box of food, you'll better understand why the President now is doing exactly the right thing with FEMA.

Keith Kappes can be reached at keithkappes@gmail.com



Keith Kappes
Columnist
Carter County Times

Not until I've had my coffee

One way to make me irrationally mad is when someone tells me to "stop going to get coffee," as if my iced coffee habit is going to make or break my finances. The same goes for grabbing dinner or lunch. These are small pleasures of life, and depriving oneself of them sucks. What do we go to work for? What do I exchange my labor for if I can't afford basic life things like a night at the movies or the good brand of popcorn — the kind that doesn't immediately burn once the microwave nukes it?

I just did the math. I spent around \$1,200 a year on coffee. Let's also reframe this: I'm a working writer who works from coffee shops and never goes to Starbucks. I only go to local spots. I don't feel guilty about this. I view it as a cost of doing business. I quit drinking. This is my vice.

Recently, our landlord decided to sell the house, and we had to find new digs. Hiring movers was like taking out a small personal loan — \$1,800, and that was a deal. I had to fill up my gas tank: \$60 for my reliable Hyundai Santa Fe. It's not just gas. It's everything. Rents are insane. Insurance is a joke. Medical insurance is a bigger joke.

What are we doing here? Capitalism is killing us. Everyone is tired. We're all stressed out. Big-name musical artists are canceling their tours; a trend the industry is calling "Blue Dot Fever" — named for the unsold seats that show

up as blue dots on ticketing maps — because nobody can afford a high-dollar ticket. We're all stuck buying groceries that cost \$89 for two bags of nothing.

Even if I quit coffee, the \$1,200 becomes just another bill. Another thing to pay off. Those coffees — my moments of joy — a year's worth of them doesn't add up to what movers cost, or to what office space would cost, and it's nowhere close to my rent. When George Strait recently played Austin, nose-bleed tickets started at \$700. Those tickets sold out, and I'd be willing to bet 90% of his working-class fans bought them on Klarna or credit. Who's got \$700 for a single ticket? That's not even including gas, parking, or dinner. Post Malone is probably pissed — his fans skew younger and have worse credit.

Why is the default setting always "stop going out to lunch" or "stop getting coffee," and why can't it be "why is my insurance premium so high?" or "why am I paying a fortune in rent?" or "will I ever be able to buy a house?"

It feels like I see more people with signs looking for a buck every day. Every day it feels like one of us could be next. And that really sucks. No one wants to pay \$100 to fill up their car. No one wants to debate which store is cheaper because they need to feed the kids. And yet here we are, being told the problem is the cold brew.

Contact us at or send submissions to news@carter-countytimes.com



Robert Dean
Guest Columnist
Carter County Times

Carter County Times

Members of the Editorial Board

Nicole Wells, publisher

Jeremy Wells, editor Keith Kappes, columnist

Policies

General

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

Circulation

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

Letters & Opinion

The Times welcomes all letters to the editor.

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

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

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

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

Deadlines

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

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

ORDINANCE 03-2026

AN ORDINANCE RENEWING AND AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 11-2015 GRANTING AN EXCLUSIVE SOLID WASTE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL FRANCHISE TO GRAYSON SANITATION, INC.

WHEREAS, the City of Grayson previously enacted Ordinance No. 11-2015 granting to Grayson Sanitation, Inc. an exclusive franchise for the collection and disposal of residential and commercial solid waste within the City; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section One of Ordinance No. 11-2015, the City may, at its discretion, grant a ten (10) year extension upon mutually agreed terms; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grayson and Grayson Sanitation, Inc. desire to renew said franchise for an additional ten (10) year term and to amend certain provisions thereof;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF GRAYSON, CARTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY:

Section One: [This franchise is granted for a term of ten years commencing January 16, 2016, at 12:00 midnight and ending January 15, 2026. At the time of the close of the 10 year term, the City may, at its discretion, grant a 10 year extension upon mutual agreed terms, which shall be negotiated between the parties prior to the initial term expiring on January 15, 2026.] This franchise is granted for an additional term of ten (10) years commencing January 16, 2026, at 12:00 midnight, and ending January 15, 2036, at 12:00 midnight. All rights, duties, and obligations of the parties shall continue during said renewal term, except as otherwise modified herein. At the time of the close of the 10 year term, the City may, at its discretion, grant a 10 year extension upon mutual agreed terms, which shall be negotiated between the parties prior to the initial term expiring on January 15, 2026.] January 15, 2036.

Section Three (A) (Added): Section Three (A): The exclusive franchise granted herein shall include, but not be limited to, the exclusive right to provide: (a) Residential solid waste collection services; (b) Commercial dumpster collection services; and (c) Roll-off container services and temporary debris removal services, commonly referred to as "rolloff," "rollback," or similar services, within the corporate limits of the City of Grayson. This exclusivity shall not prohibit the City from contracting for solid waste services for municipal purposes or in emergency situations; provided, however, that in the event of an emergency, the City shall first make reasonable and good faith efforts to utilize the services of Grayson Sanitation, Inc. to address such emergency. Only in the event that Grayson Sanitation, Inc. is unable or unwilling to adequately respond within a reasonable time under the circumstances may the City engage a third party to provide such services, and only to the extent necessary to address the emergency.

Continuation of All Other Terms

Section Four and all other provisions of Ordinance No. 11-2015 not expressly amended herein shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

Severability

If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions.

Effective Date

This Ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and publication as required by law.

First reading and approval this 14th day of April, 2026.

Second reading, approval, and adoption this 12th day of May, 2026.

/s/ Troy Combs, Mayor

Attest: /s/ Dawnita May, City Clerk

Date of publication: May 20, 2026

Grayson Optical

166 S. Carol Malone Blvd Suite A Grayson, KY 41143

(606) 474-2940



Garrett S. Kee, O.D. Optometrist

Webinars from A-2

County and August 8 in Caldwell County.

The field sessions allow participants to see woodland management practices in person and meet representatives from organizations that support Kentucky landowners. The Resource Extravaganza brings together agencies, associations and professionals who can answer questions about forestry, wildlife, conservation programs, timber, tree health and other woodland topics.

"The Woodland Owner Resource Extravaganza portion of the field sessions will allow woodland owners to connect with local programs to jumpstart conservation efforts," Thomas said. "The farm tours will let you get out in the woods and see conservation practices."

For many landowners, woodland management can feel complicated. Questions about selling timber, improving wildlife habitat, controlling invasive plants, planning for the next generation or simply knowing where to start may not have easy answers. The short course gives participants a starting point and connects them with people who work on these issues across Kentucky.

The online-only registration fee is \$10 per person. Registration for the webinar series plus one field session is \$30 for a single participant or \$45 for a couple.

"You do not have to be a forestry expert to take part," Thomas said. "This program is built for people who care about their woods and want practical, Kentucky-based information that can use."

Those interested in registering for the Kentucky Woodland Owners Short Course can visit

the registration page at <https://wosc.mgcafe.uky.edu/2026-wosc>.

This article was written by Jordan Strickler, jstrickler@uky.edu, and published on May 8, 2026 at <https://news.mgcafe.uky.edu/>.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The 2nd Reading of the Carter County Fiscal Court proposed budget ordinance for Fiscal Year 2027 is scheduled to be held at the courthouse on Thursday, May 28, 2026 at 4:00.

BUDGET SUMMARY

AN ORDINANCE relating to the Annual Budget and Appropriations.

Be it ordained by the Carter County Fiscal Court of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

WHEREAS, the proposed budget was tentatively approved by the Carter County Fiscal Court on the 28 day of April, 2026, and approved as to form and classification by the State Local Finance Officer on Friday, May 8, 2026.

SECTION ONE. The following budget is adopted for the Fiscal Year 2027 and the amounts stated are appropriated for the purposes indicated.

GENERAL Fund		
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	2,221,980.20
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY	40,000.00
5200	GENERAL HEALTH AND SANITATION	126,100.00
5300	SOCIAL SERVICES	2,500.00
5400	RECREATION AND CULTURE	27,000.00
7000	DEBT SERVICE	204,277.25
9000	ADMINISTRATION	1,803,109.44
Total GENERAL Fund		4,424,966.89

ROAD Fund		
6100	ROADS	3,907,896.70
7000	DEBT SERVICE	778,984.47
9000	ADMINISTRATION	393,700.00
Total ROAD Fund		5,080,581.17

JAIL Fund		
5100	PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY	2,531,244.70
7000	DEBT SERVICE	30,000.00
9000	ADMINISTRATION	1,306,505.30
Total JAIL Fund		3,867,750.00

LGEA Fund		
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	40,000.00
5100	PROTECTION TO PERSONS AND PROPERTY	394,174.00
5200	GENERAL HEALTH AND SANITATION	196,500.00
5300	SOCIAL SERVICES	5,000.00
6100	ROADS	20,000.00
9000	ADMINISTRATION	400,750.00
Total LGEA Fund		1,056,424.00

CDBG Fund		
5200	GENERAL HEALTH AND SANITATION	200,000.00
Total CDBG Fund		200,000.00

FORESTRY FUND Fund		
5100	PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY	22,200.00
Total FORESTRY FUND Fund		22,200.00

CLERK STORAGE FEE Fund		
5000	GENERAL GOVERNMENT	105,000.00
Total CLERK STORAGE FEE Fund		105,000.00

OPIOID FUND Fund		
9000	ADMINISTRATION	683,805.00
Total OPIOID FUND Fund		683,805.00

ENHANCED 911 Fund		
5100	PROTECTION OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY	372,613.50
9000	ADMINISTRATION	130,851.38
Total ENHANCED 911 Fund		503,464.88

SECTION TWO. This ordinance shall be published in a local newspaper by title and summary within thirty (30) days following adoption.

SECTION THREE. This ordinance shall become effective upon passage and publication.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

All interested persons and organizations in the County are hereby notified that a copy of the County's adopted budget in full is available for public inspection at the office of the County Judge/Executive during normal business hours.

AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 01-2025

AN ORDINANCE CREATING THE ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF GRAYSON, KENTUCKY FOR FISCAL YEAR OF JULY 2025 THROUGH JUNE 30, 2026.

ESTIMATING REVENUES AND RESOURCES AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS FOR THE OPERATIONS OF CITY GOVERNMENT

WHEREAS, an annual budget proposal and message has been prepared and delivered to the city council, and

WHEREAS, The Grayson City Council has reviewed such budget proposal and made necessary modifications for the operation of city government for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2026, and

WHEREAS revenues are estimated to be sufficient for the anticipated expenditures of city government during the fiscal year ending June 30, 2026 creating a balanced spending plan, NOW

THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE GRAYSON CITY COUNCIL:

Section 1: The annual budget proposal for the fiscal year beginning July , 2025, and ending June 30, 2026, is hereby adopted as follows:

	General Fund	Changes	Tourism	Enterprise Fund (Utility)	LGEA Fund	MRAP Fund
Administrative Revenue	\$2,839,269.00					
Police Dept Revenue	\$116,000.00					
Street Dept Revenue	\$217,930.00	\$218,430.00				
Fire Dept Revenue	\$45,449.00	\$42,500.00	Other: \$134,000.00			
Intergovernmental Rev.			Restaurant: \$1,304,308.30 Hotel/Transient \$188,100.00	\$6,501,870.00	\$25,188.88	Street
Emergency Mgmt	\$00.00					
Parks and Rec Revenue	\$3,000.00					
ABC Revenue	\$302,000.00					
Opioid Abatement	107,046.90	\$130,471.00				
Carry Forward						
TOTAL REVENUE	4,478,305.00		\$1,652,408.69	\$6,501,870.00	\$25,188.88	Street

APPROPRIATIONS						
General Government	650,000.00					
Police	1,341,528.00	\$1,168,000.00				
Fire	705,000.00	\$769,000.00				
Streets	740,000.00	\$900,680.00			\$25,188.88	
Enterprises	TBD		1,652,408.80	\$6,501,870.00		
Parks and Rec	57,000.00					
Emergency Management	59,000.00					
ABC	75,000.00					
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS	\$3,627,528.00		1,652,408.80	\$6,501,870.00	\$25,188.88	

This Ordinance shall be effective upon second reading and publication.

ATTEST:

Given my signature, I hereby affirm that this is a true and accurate record of legislative action.

First reading and approval this 14th day of April, 2026.

Second reading, approval, and adoption this 12th day of May, 2026.

/s/ Troy P. Combs III, Mayor

/s/ Dawnita May, CKMC, City Clerk

Date of publication: May 20, 2026

edu/. For more information on woodlands, contact your local Carter County Extension office.

Upcoming Events:

• Senior Farmer's Market Vouchers – Call 474-6686 or 713-1840 on May 20th

between 8:00-4:00 for appt.

• Little Sandy Beekeepers – Tuesday, June 2nd @ 6:00 PM - Speaker: Dr. Tom Webster, KSU Entomology Professor; Topic: Probiotics for Bees

PUBLIC NOTICE

Northeast Kentucky Community Action Agency, Inc. would like to inform that, effect July 1st, 2026 there will be an increase in transportation fares across all of our routes and services.

This adjustment has become necessary as of the significant increase in operation expenses such as fuel, maintenance, and staff wages. In order for us to continue providing this service that is available to our community we must adapt to this slight change in the rate.

We still remain committed to delivering the highest standard of public transportation to our communities and appreciate your understanding and continued support of our program.

For a detailed breakdown of the new fare structure please see below:

Current Public Transportation Rates

- Inside City Limits > \$1.00 Per Stop
- 1-5 Miles > \$5.00 Round Trip
- 6-20 Miles > \$10.00 Round Trip
- 21-50 Miles > \$25.00 Round Trip
- Over 50 Miles > \$25.00 + \$1.00 per mile after exceeding 50 miles.

New Public Transportation Rates

- Inside City Limits > \$5.00 minimum with limit of 3 stops
- 1-5 Miles > \$5.00 Round Trip
- 6-20 Miles > \$10.00 Round Trip
- 21-50 Miles > \$25.00 Round Trip
- Over 50 Miles > \$25.00 + \$1.00 per mile after exceeding 50 miles.

We do know these proposed changes have an impact on our riders, and we want to hear any feedback. Here's how you can contribute.

Attending our public meeting:

When: May 21, 2026 from 1:30-2:30

Where: Olive Hill Senior Center
220 Railroad Street
Olive Hill, Ky. 41164

ORDINANCE 04-2026

ORDINANCE AMENDING "ALCOHOL BEVERAGE CONTROL ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF GRAYSON, KENTUCKY" NO. 03-2013 and 05-2016

WHEREAS, the City of Grayson previously enacted Ordinance No. 03-2013 authorizing the manufacture, trafficking, and sales of alcoholic beverages within the corporate limits of the City of Grayson pursuant to KRS Chapters 241 through 244; and

WHEREAS, Ordinance No. 05-2016, amended the original Ordinance to establish uniform regulation and requirements for the licensing and regulation of alcohol beverage manufacture, trafficking and sales; and

WHEREAS, the City of Grayson desires to establish a license specific to a Cigar Lounge limited to the sales of distilled spirits only;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY OF GRAYSON, CARTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY:

Amendments have been made to Article II: Adoption of Comprehensive Regulatory Ordinance; City Licenses, that hereby reads as follows:

Section 2.3 CITY LICENSES. In accordance with KRS 243.070, the City imposes license fees as set out below for each license authorized to be issued pursuant to KRS Chapter 243. In the event KRS 243.070 shall hereafter be amended to authorize additional City licenses or fees, the fees for each City license shall be the maximum fee provided in the statute as amended.

Distilled Spirit Licenses:

- Distiller's License, per annum \$500.00
- Rectifier's License, per annum \$3,000.00
- Wholesaler's Distilled Spirit and Wine License, per annum \$3,000.00
- Quota Retail Package License, per annum \$1,000.00
- Quota Retail Drink License, per annum \$1,000.00
- Special Temporary License, per event \$166.66
- Special Temporary License, per event \$166.66
- Nonquota Type 1 Retail Drink License (includes distilled spirits, wine, and malt beverages), per annum \$2,000.00
- Nonquota Type 2 Retail Drink License (includes distilled spirits, wine, and malt beverages), per annum \$1,000.00
- Nonquota Type 3 Retail Drink License (includes distilled spirits, wine, and malt beverages), per annum (Bed and Breakfast) \$300.00
- Nonquota Type 3 Retail Drink License (includes distilled spirits only), per annum (Cigar Lounge) \$1,000.00
- Distilled Spirits and Wine Special Temporary Auction License, per event \$200.00 Special Sunday Retail Drink License, per annum \$300.00
- Extended Hours Supplemental License, per annum \$2,000.00
- Caterer's License, per annum \$800.00
- Bottling House or Bottling House Storage License, per annum \$1,000.00

Malt Beverage Licenses:

- Brewer's License, per annum \$500.00
- Microbrewery License, per annum \$500.00
- Malt Beverage Distributor's License, per annum \$400.00
- Nonquota Retail Malt Beverage Package License, per annum \$200.00
- Nonquota Type 4 Retail Malt Beverage Drink License, per annum \$200.00
- Malt Beverage Brew-On-Premises License, per annum \$100.00
- Limited Restaurant License (includes distilled spirits, wine, and malt beverages), per annum \$1,200.00
- Limited golf course license (includes distilled spirits, wine, and malt beverages), per annum \$1,200.00

Section 2.11A NONQUOTA TYPE 3 (NQ3) RETAIL DRINK LICENSE. "Nonquota type 3" or "NQ3" retail drink license may be issued to a qualifying establishment. An NQ3 retail drink license may be issued to a bed and breakfast. An NQ3 retail drink license issued to a bed and breakfast shall authorize the licensee to exercise the privileges of an NQ2 retail drink license, but the licensee may only sell alcoholic beverages by the drink to paid overnight guests of the licensee. "Bed and breakfast" means a one (1) family dwelling unit that: (a) Has guest rooms or suites used, rented, or hired out for occupancy or that are occupied for sleeping purposes by persons not members of the single-family unit; (b) Holds a permit under KRS Chapter 219; and (c) Has an innkeeper who resides on the premises or property adjacent to the premises during periods of occupancy.

Section 2.11B Cigar Lounge Limited Distilled Spirits License

(A) The City may issue a Cigar Lounge Limited Distilled Spirits License to an establishment whose primary business purpose is the retail sale of premium cigars and tobacco products and which maintains a designated indoor cigar smoking lounge.

(B) A license issued under this section shall authorize the sale of distilled spirits by the drink for consumption on the premises only, subject to the following limitations:

1. The sale of cigars and tobacco products shall constitute the primary business activity of the establishment.
2. Distilled spirits may only be served to patrons within the designated cigar lounge area and shall be offered only as an ancillary amenity to patrons purchasing or actively consuming cigars or tobacco products on the premises.
3. Alcoholic beverages sold under this section shall be limited to distilled spirits served by the drink, including bourbon and whiskey. The sale of beer, malt beverages, wine, or packaged alcohol for off-premises consumption shall not be permitted under this license.
4. Alcoholic beverages may only be consumed within the designated cigar lounge area.
5. This license shall not authorize the operation of a bar, tavern, nightclub, or other general drinking establishment.
6. The premises must maintain a retail display and inventory of cigars and tobacco products available for sale at all times during hours of alcohol service.
7. The City Council may consider the overall character and operation of the establishment in determining whether the cigar lounge remains the primary business activity.

(C) The City Council may deny, suspend, or revoke a license issued under this section if it determines that the establishment is being operated primarily as a drinking establishment rather than as a cigar lounge.

(D) All licensees under this section shall comply with all applicable Kentucky Alcoholic Beverage Control laws and regulations, as well as all other provisions of this chapter.

Continuation of All Other Terms

All other provisions of Ordinance No. 03-2013 and Amended Ordinance 05-2016 not expressly amended herein shall remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

Severability

If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions.

Effective Date

This Ordinance shall become effective upon its passage and publication as required by law.

First reading and approval this 14th day of April, 2026.

Second reading, approval, and adoption this 12th day of May, 2026.

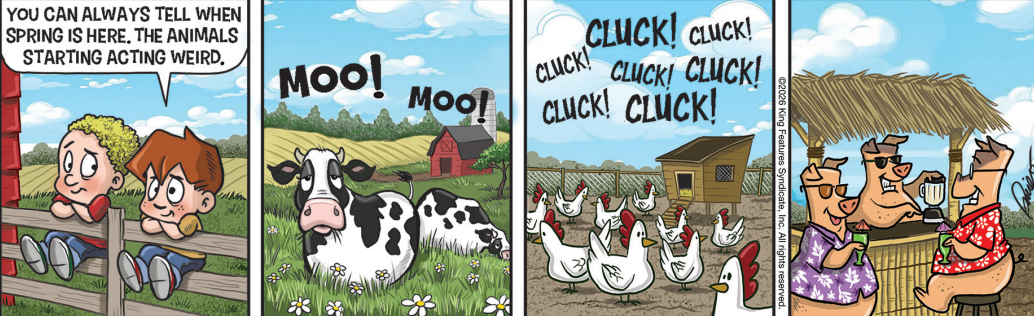
/s/ Troy Combs, Mayor

Attest: /s/ Dawnita May, City Clerk

Date of publication: May 20, 2026

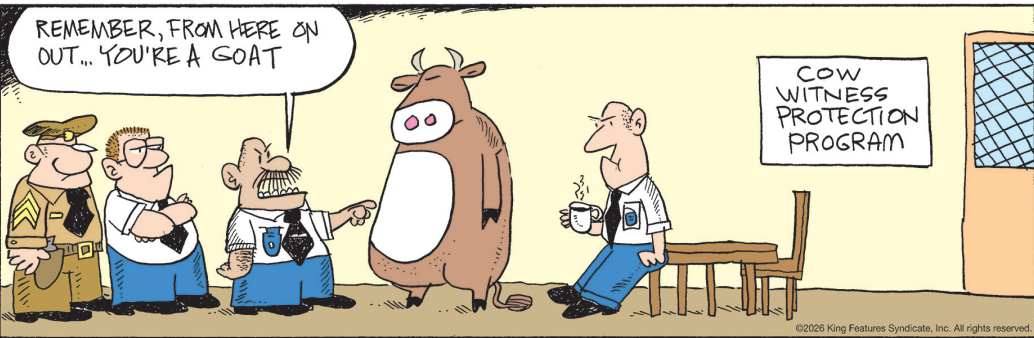
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



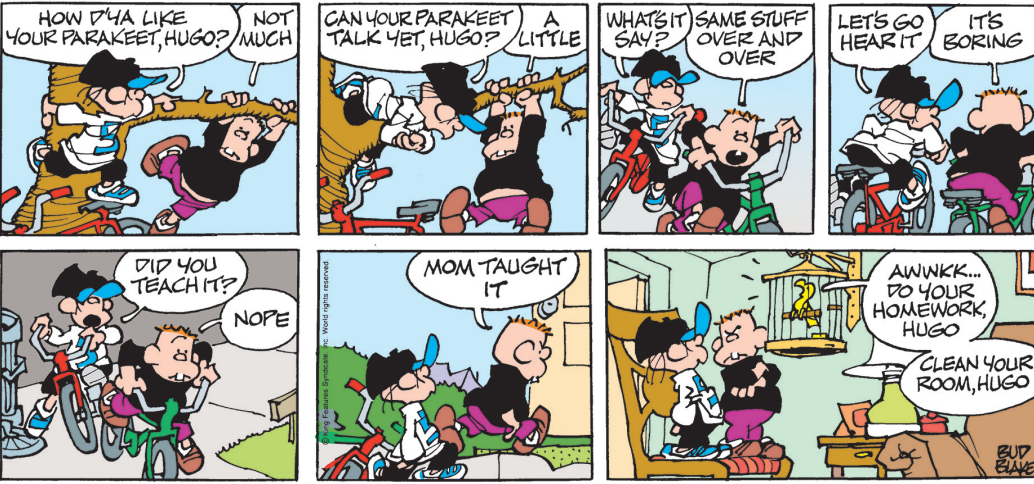
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



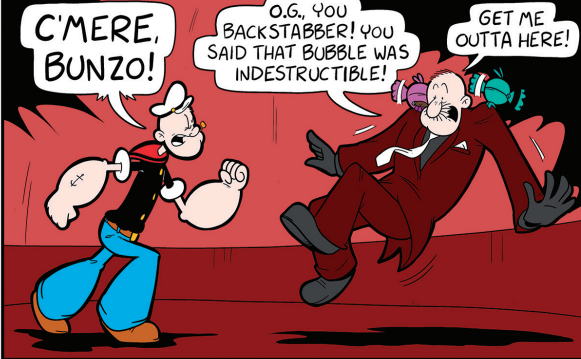
TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



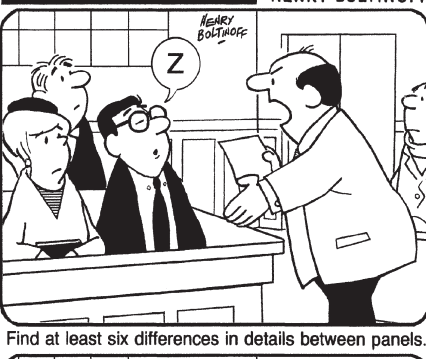
OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland



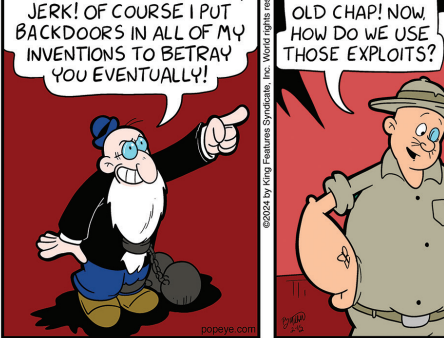
HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF



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: V equals G

HX MTFHXN MTDO VTZPF, BQTI
HF IQP APTFI TZNYXI JPNJAP
TDP NCAHVTIPO IN CPI?
ZHXHYZ BTVPD.

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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!

Ring: MIHCE
Mad: NANIES
Plush: EXLUDE
Piece: CELSI

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. Heavenly being _____ L _____ Fury _____ R
2. Kangaroo's pocket P _____ Sofa _____ C
3. Slouch _____ L _____ Baffle _____ T
4. Financial executive _____ N _____ Carnival announcer _____ R
5. Wobble like gelatin _____ G _____ Advertisement tune _____ N
6. Without color _____ T _____ Moan _____ N
7. Shirt neckline _____ O _____ Wine vault _____ E
8. Italian river _____ B _____ Striped feline _____ G
9. Buy stock _____ S _____ Create _____ N
10. Musical tones _____ D _____ Household task _____ E

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 to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

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King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Detox center
6 Gives up
12 Swiss metropolis
13 Unexpected
14 Ingratiate
15 Stahl of "60 Minutes"
16 Disposition
17 "La — Bonita"
19 Casual shirt
20 Third son
22 Capote nickname
24 Canine greeting
27 Furnace fuel
29 Branches
32 President of South Africa, 1994-1999
35 Pronto
36 Monumental
37 Half dozen
38 Fannie —
40 Former Laker Lamar
42 Sashimi fish
44 Neatnik's nightmare
46 Jazzy James
50 Legislative group
52 Camelot king
54 Aerie newborn
55 Organize an art show

DOWN

1 Nevada city
2 Within (Pref.)
3 Obeys
4 "Selma" director DuVernay
5 Male singing voice
6 Humpty's perch
7 Skip — (flutter)
8 Tax-collecting org.

9 Birds of prey
10 Duel tool
11 Ocular woe
12 Tiara jewel
18 Rug cleaner
21 — friendly
23 "Awesome, dude!"
24 Navarro of "The View"
25 Scale members
26 Pink wading bird
28 Relaxed
30 Roman 1051
31 Coltrane's instrument

33 Aromatherapy spot
34 Sgt., e.g.
39 Lauder of cosmetics
41 Paris subway
42 Cruising
43 Lettuce unit
45 Reply to "Shall we?"
47 Spring meltdown
48 Mild rebukes
49 "How — you?"
51 Cleric's tunic
53 Scamper

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- FOOD & DRINK: When fish eggs are served as food, what are they called?
- LITERATURE: Which Dr. Seuss book about trying new foods has a character called Sam-I-Am?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the most populated country in Africa?
- U.S. STATES: Which state's nickname is The Pine Tree State?
- ANIMAL KINGDOM: What kind of animal produces mohair?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: How many times does a standard dinner fork have?
- FOOD & DRINK: In what year was Kool-Aid introduced?
- TELEVISION: Which animated TV show features a baby named Stewie?
- MOVIES: What is the name of the character played by John Travolta in "Saturday Night Fever"?
- SCIENCE: What is a googol?

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FiveSpot™

Phonetics

S	O	U	N	D	Coastal inlet
					Hunting companion
					Accord maker
					Keep for yourself
					A hearty green
					Keep track

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.sproutsuzzles.com 02640

EXCUSES

Today's Word
3. Deluxe; 4. Slice
1. Chime; 2. Insane
solution

SCRAMBLERS

T	A	H	C
D	A	H	C
D	A	O	H
A	N	O	H
D	N	O	H
D	O	N	S

Solution

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

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Minimum wager.

is the least amount people are obligated to bet?

In casino card games, what answer

CryptoQuip

10. The digit "1" followed by 100 zeros

9. Tony Manero

8. "Family Guy"

7. 1927

6. Four

5. Angora goats

4. Mame

3. Nigeria

2. "Green Eggs and Ham"

1. Roe

King Crossword

Solution time: 21 mins.

Answers

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

Even Exchange

Answers

1	+	7	-	5	=	3
+						
6	+	2	÷	8	=	1
+						
3	+	4	+	9	=	16
=						
21						

5. Jingle, Jingle
4. Banker, Banker
3. Slump, Slump
2. Pouch, Couch
1. Angel, Angel

6. White, White
7. Collar, Collar
8. Tiger, Tiger
9. Invest, Invest
10. Chord, Chord

Tourism from A-1

three of the report showed activity for the month and year-to-date. For the month of April \$4,683 income was listed, with a year-to-date income of \$63,450 for the 10-month fiscal year period.

The tourism financial report also listed advertising and marketing expenses of \$6,500 for the month. Among other expenses were interest payments and the Blue Goose loan, as well as bank loans and other small expenses for events. Total expenses for the month were totaled at \$11,394. The net loss for the month was calculated at \$6,709. The commission also discussed the financials for the Grayson

Sports Park.

Sports Park Director Bert Bayes told the commission that the sports park was going like “gangbusters.”

“We have already hosted seven events,” Bayes told the commission. “And we have everything scheduled out to the month of November. We are averaging about 1,200 guest per month, not counting weekend events.”

Those events, he said, saw about 1,500 to 2,500 guests on the weekends.

“We are staying very busy,” Bayes said.

Bayes also informed the commission that the sports park will be hosting a District Little League

Tournament, in all four age categories. That tournament is scheduled for May 27, he said, and the park will also be hosting the State Little League Tournament for three age groups July 18.

“Those are five-day events,” Bayes said. “They run from Saturday to Wednesday.”

Bayes said to prepare for the tournaments he would need to order new, regulation pitching mounds. The new mounds will cost between four and six thousand each, and Bayes said that four mounds would need to be ordered.

“I’d like to get those in before the District Tourna-

ment to do sort of a dry run before the State Tournament,” Bayes said.

A decision would also need to be made on the PA system required by the tournaments, meaning four would be needed. Bayes said the Sports Park had one in good working order and another that could be repaired for around \$500, and he was working on an estimate for what else was needed to meet the criteria for the tournament play.

In other sports park related business, the commission discussed the proposed pickleball and basketball courts. Financing for the projects was listed as a line item in the Tourism Commission

budget utilizing regular funds. Grayson Mayor Troy Combs addressed this expense, stating that the Grayson City Council (the entity that approves tourism’s budget) would prefer grant money was utilized instead.

Certain government grants are available, Combs told the commission, through the City of Grayson. In order to apply for these grants, however, the commission would be required to either sign a long-term lease (minimum of 25 years) with the City of Grayson or the property would need to be put in the city’s name. Combs told the commission he believed this was the best

way to move forward, and that it was at the commission’s discretion on whether to lease the property or deed it to the city.

Tourism Director Lana Axtell told the commission that they were preparing for the Memory Days event in Grayson. Axtell said that since Maker’s Lot was not yet ready, she was going to try to use the sub flooring used for the skating rink so a tent could be set up for the event.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Outrage from A-1

In spite of the fact that Bell testified that Stephens was “being erratic,” his body camera footage clearly shows that Stephens was sitting calmly, and easily passed not only the breathalyzer test but also appeared to pass other, more subjective field sobriety tests that Bell insisted on administering. Inconsistencies between camera footage and Bell’s filed report were glaring and egregious. In addition to these issues, Bell refused to allow Stephens to call his lawyer before taking any tests, and advises Stephens that if his lawyer were present then he would become a witness to the investigation and unable to represent him anyway.

The end result was that Stephens was held overnight at the Carter County Detention Center,

unable to secure release until the following day, on a charge for which the body camera footage shows insufficient cause. Body camera footage also indicates that Bell was aware this would be the result, with the officer even commenting on this in a flippant manner to his supervisor who was also present at the scene.

Stephens was given a hearing to determine whether he legally refused to submit to a blood test, and it was determined that he was not properly advised of the ramifications of a refusal. He was charged with DUI, failure to have an operator’s license in his possession, and leaving the scene of an accident (though he had returned before the officers arrived on the scene). The DUI charges were dismissed,

the failure to have operator’s license in his possession was dismissed when proof was shown that he had a valid operator’s license, and rather than proceeding to trial the leaving the scene charges were diverted. A diversion in this case means there is no guilty plea required as long as the person in question has no other similar issues for a 90-day period. Stephens never admitted any fault nor stipulated probable cause.

Attorney Derrick Willis, who represents Stephens, stated that his client’s constitutional rights were clearly violated.

“He suffered real damages over this,” Willis said. “So, he does have legal recourse. And we are still discussing how to move forward with a potential lawsuit.”

Grayson Mayor Troy

Combs shared a message concerning the incident and the video which sparked community outrage and numerous comments. In the statement Combs said that Bell had been with the Grayson Police Department for 13 months, but had not been with the department since February of 2026.

“Communication was received after the first referenced incident,” Combs said, acknowledging a second incident with the same officer. “And the concerns were noted by the department as the case was going through the judicial process. Mr. Bell tendered his resignation prior to the resolution of both cases.”

Combs then made reference to the fact that, while Bell acted inappropriately, it was footage from the body

cameras council approved that brought these incidents to light.

“We are fortunate to have the resources necessary to have secured body cameras for our officers, and did so in October of 2025,” Combs said in his message. “Our officers have embraced and will continue to embrace the utilization of body cams for the level of accountability and transparency that they provide for our internal operations and for the public.”

Stephens attorney also noted that his client didn’t harbor any ill will toward police officers prior to this incident, or to law enforcement in general. His issues were simply with the officers involved in his arrest.

“Mr. Stephens wants to make it very clear that

he has never had any problem with the Grayson Police Department before this incident,” Willis said, “which was another reason he was completely flabbergasted when this happened.”

Ultimately, the charges were dismissed due to lack of evidence, Willis said. Willis, who had himself served as prosecutor in the past, said there were only a few cases where he experienced any problem with the GPD.

“Coincidentally, they also involved the same officer.”

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Memory Days from A-3

“We have Jason Crabb Thursday Night,” Boggs said of the entertainment.

Crabb is a big name in bluegrass music, she said, and he will help make the event’s Gospel Night amazing.

“He is a national gospel singer, so he’s going to be amazing,” Boggs said. “Churches are going to set the tables up on Main Street so they can pass out their information whether it is for Vacation Bible School, their food banks, or whatever they have going on.”

Boggs said that a lot of area churches are going out into the community and working on people’s houses who can’t do the work themselves.

“Right up the street at the gazebo, Center Stage Studio is going to be danc-

ing this year at the Veteran’s Park. Dance With Hope dancers will be doing the same thing on Friday night,” Boggs said, with both groups of dancers beginning their performance at 5 pm. Dancing With Hope will also be performing patriotic numbers before the parade begins, Boggs said.

“Sundy Best will be performing Saturday night,” Boggs said. “There will be an amazing turnout for that.”

“The high school bass team is having a huge bass tournament at Grayson Lake,” Boggs said, though the Saturday event obviously isn’t part of the Main Street attractions. “It starts at 7 am and the prize is going to be based on how many entrants they have. Even if you don’t want

to come to Grayson for Memory Days, go up there and support those boys. You don’t have to be in the tournament, but donate a little money to their sports teams.”

“There will be a 5K early Saturday morning on Main Street,” Boggs said, returning to the Memory Days event and what it has to offer.

Boggs said she wanted to remind everyone that the merchant’s parking lot will be closed down on Wednesday at 4 pm to accommodate assembling the stage. The event will also have 21 food trucks and 30 to 40 vendors to serve Memory Days patrons, she said. Boggs said she encourages everyone to check out the event on the Chamber of Commerce website so that they will

know for sure when their favorite thing is happening and where their favorite

thing is located. Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

times.com



3D MAMMOGRAPHY NOW AVAILABLE IN GRAYSON MONDAY-FRIDAY

UK King’s Daughters is pleased to offer 3D mammography screenings at UK King’s Daughters Grayson Primary Care, 100 Bellefonte Drive. Screenings are performed on our permanently stationed mammography unit Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 3 p.m.

When breast cancer is found early, the chance of survival is 98%. Screening mammograms are an excellent way to detect abnormalities early – before they can be felt! For women at average risk, screening mammography should begin at age 40 and continue annually thereafter.

Women at higher risk should follow the advice of their provider.

A provider order is not needed. Most insurances cover screening mammography at 100%. Financial assistance is available for those who qualify.



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO SCHEDULE A SCREENING, CALL (606) 408-1111.





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Switching Providers? We're Here For You.

NOW WELCOMING NEW CLIENTS!

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STI & Hep. Care



Psych & Counseling



Transportation

SAME-DAY IN-OFFICE & REMOTE APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE

Ashland • Grayson • Morehead • Vanceburg