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Carter County Times

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CARTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026

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Olive Hill to purchase garbage truck

Council hears funding request from library

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

The Olive Hill City Council heard from representatives of the Carter County Library at the council's rescheduled April meeting. Library Director Diane Wingert told the council that until recently the library has paid an annual rent of \$12,000 to the Center for Arts and Heritage in Olive Hill. This amount was paid out of a yearly budget of \$84,000 Wingert said. Wingert also provided figures to the council

of other budget items, including the mortgage for the Grayson Branch location, which is \$8,451 annually.

Wingert told the council that the annual expenses for the library were at \$85,721 (against the \$84,000 available budget) and that the library was partially dependent upon donations in order to continue operations. This deficit was further complicated recently, Wingert told the council, due to the Olive Hill Branch of the Carter County Library being evicted from the current Olive Hill location.

"We have been asked to leave because I made a flood," Wingert said. "It was an accident, but our insurance covered it."

See **TRUCK** on A-3



Supporters of the library turn out for the Olive Hill City Council meeting. (Photo by Charles Romans, *Carter County Times*)

Superintendent clarifies JROTC situation

Board accepts bids on construction

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

Superintendent of Carter County Schools Dr. Jennifer Fraley began the school board's April meeting with a clarification.

"In an effort to keep students, staff, and family informed and clarify recent posts; Carter County Schools has not eliminated the JROTC Program," Dr. Fraley addressed those present. "The JROTC Director from the Seventh Brigade out of Fort Knox met with me to inform the

district that we did not have sufficient enrollment to continue the program housed at West Carter High."

According to enrollment requirements the school must have 100 students enrolled in the program, or ten percent of the total enrollment.

Fraley said that while the West Carter High School program is not "on paper," the district will still be able to offer the program.

"We can still offer it at West Carter High School," Fraley said. "It's just that all the paperwork will be done under the East Carter High School Program. And we are going to work very hard to increase enrollment, and that work has already started."

See **JROTC** on A-3



The WCMS Community Problem Solving Team give a presentation before the Carter County Board of Education. (Photo by Charles Romans, *Carter County Times*)

Honoring the people who feed our kids

Fiscal court recognizes School Lunch Hero Day, approves purchases, road funds, and coroner pay

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

Carter County Judge Executive Brandon Burton said he was asked by the Carter County School System to make a proclamation for the National School Lunch Hero Day. The proclamation recognizes May 1, 2026, as National School Lunch Hero Day and states that it will be recognized on May 1 every



(Photo by Charles Romans, *Carter County Times*)

year forward.

The proclamation recognized all the dedicated school nutrition professionals at Carter County Schools that, "Play a vital role in the daily lives of our students by preparing and serving meals that meet high standards for nutrition, safety, and quality." The

fiscal court voted unanimously to approve the proclamation and recognize the impact that nutrition professionals have on the health and learning of Carter County students.

The fiscal court received a request from the Carter County

See **FISCAL COURT** 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.

- Josue Ibanez, 37, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, for non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked April 26.
- Katelyn Gordon, 37, of Morganfield, arrested by Olive Hill PD, for contempt of court, arrested and booked April 28.
- Timothy Lawhorn, 43, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on charges of speeding 12 MPH over limit, operating a motor vehicle on a suspended or revoked operator's license, failure to pay support, failure to appear

- on a citation for a misdemeanor, and four counts of non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked April 28.
- Christopher Dummit, 31, of Vanceburg, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked April 29.
- Amy Carver, 34, of Carter City, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked April 29.
- Richard Carver, 35, of Carter City, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on four counts of failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked April 29.
- Gary Morgan, 65, of Hitchens, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of failure to appear on

- a citation for a misdemeanor, rear license not illuminated, improper equipment, excessive window tinting, failure to wear seat belts, failure to produce an insurance card, no or expired registration receipt, and no operator's license, arrested and booked April 29.
- Cameron Whitten, 31, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, on a charge of fourth degree assault with minor injury, arrested and booked April 30.
- Andrew Hall, 43, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky Department of Corrections, on a parole violation, arrested and booked April 30.
- Joshua Bohannon, 41, of Grayson, arresting agency redacted, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked April 30.
- Jason Duncan, 40, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD,

See **ARRESTS** on A-3

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This Week's Obituaries

Vada Lou Fyfe Henderson, 91

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LIFESTYLE



Divas ON A DIME By Patti Diamond

Lemon meringue pie meets pavlova: A Mother's Day showstopper

There are desserts you make... and then there are desserts that make an entrance. This one does both.

I've always had a soft spot for what I call a "mash-up recipe." This time, I imagined what might happen if a lemon meringue pie and a pavlova got together and created a dessert that's equal parts fancy-pants and affordable ease.

The result is a crisp-outside, marshmallow-soft pavlova topped with silky fresh lemon custard and clouds of whipped cream. Bright, airy and just indulgent enough for a proper celebration. In other words, perfect for Mother's Day and mostly made ahead.

The pavlova base can be baked up to two days ahead and stored in an airtight container (don't refrigerate). The lemon filling and whipped cream can also be made ahead and chilled. All that's left is assembly, and enjoying the moment when everyone assumes you've been in the kitchen for hours (or spent a fortune at a bakery).

LEMON CUSTARD PAVLOVA

Yield: 6-8 Servings
Total Time: 2 hours 15 mins.

- 3 egg whites
- 3/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1/8 teaspoon salt
- 1 2/3 cups sugar, divided
- 2 lemons, zest and juice
- 3 egg yolks
- 2 whole eggs
- 6 tablespoons butter, cut into 6 pieces
- 1 cup whipping cream
- 1 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Candied lemon slices (optional)

Preheat oven to 300 F. Trace a 9-inch cake pan onto parchment, flip it ink-side down, and place on a baking sheet.

Make Meringue - In a stand mixer with whisk attachment, beat egg whites, cream of tartar and salt to soft peaks. Gradually add 1 cup sugar, beating well

after each addition until dissolved and stiff peaks form, 5 to 7 minutes.

Spread meringue inside the parchment circle, mounding edges to form a bowl. Bake at 300 F for about 45 minutes. Turn off oven, crack door and let meringue cool completely in oven.

Make Custard - Grate the zest from the lemons into a small bowl. Juice both lemons, removing any seeds from the juice. In a stand mixer with whisk attachment, beat egg yolks and eggs until thick and pale, 4 to 5 minutes. Gradually beat in 2/3 cup sugar, then lemon zest and juice.

Transfer custard mixture to a saucepan on medium-low heat. Cook, stirring constantly, until thick enough to coat the back of a spoon and hold a line when swiped, 10 to 12 minutes. (That's about 170 F - 175 F for the meticulous among us.) Add butter a tablespoon at a time, stirring to combine.

Transfer to a bowl, press plastic wrap onto the surface, and chill at least 1 hour or up to 3 days.

Whip the Cream - Beat cream on medium to soft peaks, gradually adding remaining 1 tablespoon of sugar. Fold half into chilled lemon filling; spoon into meringue shell. Top with re-



A crisp pavlova shell layered with silky lemon custard and whipped cream. (Photo Credit: www.JasonCoblentz.com)

maining whipped cream. Garnish with candied lemon slices and/or edible flowers, if desired.

CANDIED LEMON SLICES

Yield: 1 cup
Total Time: 20 mins.

- 3/4 cup sugar
- 1/4 cup water
- 2 lemons, thinly sliced

In a large skillet, combine sugar and water. Bring to a boil, stirring until sugar dissolves. Add sliced lemons; reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, until slices are softened, 3 to 5 minutes. Using a slotted spoon, transfer slices to a wire rack to cool.

At the end of the day, Mother's Day isn't about perfection. It's about making someone feel seen, appreciated and maybe just a little bit spoiled.

This dessert handles the "spoiled" part beautifully.

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

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Ask Daryl: Your Professional Organizer

What is on display in your home?

We all have a tendency to put items on display depicting where we have

been, who we are, and what we have collected. But, sometimes our walls, shelves, and counters quickly become our own personal museums. The more we have, the easier it is to create the feeling

of being confined, let alone increasing the time it takes to clean the places where we put them. Don't get me wrong, it's okay to have things on display – until they become overwhelm-

ing clutter.

My advice is to reduce and refresh by simply limiting the number of items you have on display. This doesn't mean you have to get rid of anything, unless you want to, it just means that storing some things away for a while until you are ready to make

a change. Take some time to choose certain things that show off one trip or one special occasion and put the rest stored for displaying several months down the road. When

the holidays hit, decorate with discretion. Think about temporarily storing non-seasonal items until after the decorations are put away.

Think about refreshing your living spaces instead of creating memorials to all of your achievements. Our lives are full and we want to be reminded of all we have been through, just keep things to a minimum and relive them one moment at a time.

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



Daryl Ashley
Guest Columnist
Confusion Solution



Extension Notes

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

Senior Farmers Market voucher appointments to be made on May 20

Carter County seniors can once again enjoy fresh, locally grown foods through the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, administered by the Kentucky Department of Agriculture in partnership with the Carter County Extension Office. On

May 20th, eligible residents may apply to receive \$50 in vouchers to use at approved farmers markets, including the Grayson and Olive Hill Farmer's Market. The vouchers may be used to purchase locally grown fruits, vegetables, cut herbs, and honey, while supporting local farmers and promoting healthy eating.

The Olive Hill Farmer's Market, located in the Save-a-Lot parking lot, opens for the season on June 17th and is held on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 8:00 AM until sell out. The Grayson Farmer's Market, located in the shed behind the Extension Office, opens on July 11th and is held on Tuesdays at 2:00 PM and Saturdays at 9:00 AM until sellout on both days. Seniors may use their vouchers during regular market hours at approved vendors. Ven-

dors will also accept cash and WIC Farmer's Market vouchers.

Who Is Eligible?

To qualify for the program, applicants must:

- Be 60 years of age or older
- Reside in Carter County
- Have a household income

at or below 185% of the federal poverty level

Income guidelines vary by household size. For example, a single person household may earn up to \$29,526 annually, while a household of four may earn up to \$61,050 annually and still qualify.

How to Apply Enrollment is by appointment only. No walk ins will be accepted.

On May 20th, seniors should call the Carter County Extension Office at 606 474 6686 or 606 713 1840 between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to schedule an appointment. Even if you have a card from last year, you will still need to call and schedule an appointment to receive funds for this year.

During the appointment process, applicants will need to provide name, address, phone number, date of birth, and total

household income. Please have all this information readily available before calling to schedule your appointment.

Applicants must also bring an ID to their appointment.

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

Upcoming Events:
• Hike & Learn – May 8 @ 1:00 @ Grayson Getaways

Joyful Noise

How to rest

By Pastor Naomi Mitchell for *Carter County Times*

2 Timothy 3:1-13 says, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded lovers of

pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers' lusts, ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." ... "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving,

and being deceived."

Moral decline: Selfishness, pride, thankfulness, and lack of natural affection. False teaching: Denying the power of godliness, leading others astray. Persecution: Godly people will face suffering and opposition. Warning to believers: To remain steadfast in truth and doctrine.

Wow! That sounds like the days we are living in. Perilous days. In a world that seems to have gone mad at times, there is still hope in this world every day. The Bible tells us that we are to remain steadfast in truth and doctrine.

Paul exhorts Timothy to See *JOYFUL NOISE on A-4*

Kentucky Dept of Agriculture Livestock and Grain Market Report

Compared to last week, the feeder market showed a mixed trend. Early in the week, most markets reported steer and heifer calves selling steady to 5.00 lower, with a good supply and moderate to good demand. Midweek, however, market conditions shifted, and all reporting locations noted calf prices moving 5.00 to 7.00 higher. Yearling steers and heifers traded firm to 5.00 higher. Slaughter cows and bulls were mixed, with reported prices ranging from 5.00 lower to 5.00 higher, depending on quality and market location.

Week ending 5/2/26

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

	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
Steers (M&L 1-2)			
350-400 lbs	564.75	574.59	423.09
400-450 lbs	518.87	529.81	407.98
450-500 lbs	510.72	514.92	391.32
500-550 lbs	479.39	477.30	361.99
550-600 lbs	460.11	453.91	350.41
600-650 lbs	423.89	420.50	327.64
650-700 lbs	403.72	403.24	325.45
700-750 lbs	372.96	379.32	301.29
750-800 lbs	364.20	357.71	277.88
800-850 lbs	349.97	349.11	273.30
850-900 lbs	341.11	330.11	261.14
Heifers (M&L 1-2)			
300-350 lbs	525.12	535.54	375.74
350-400 lbs	506.54	520.46	379.17
400-450 lbs	470.53	480.53	361.87
450-500 lbs	450.70	455.39	347.80
500-550 lbs	417.72	424.56	327.30
550-600 lbs	399.79	394.82	315.71
600-650 lbs	373.69	369.46	301.60
650-700 lbs	361.29	351.24	280.58
700-750 lbs	337.55	334.15	262.60
750-800 lbs	330.20	329.76	255.06

	Average	High	Low
Slaughter Cows			
Breakers	160.00-187.00	168.00-200.00	150.00-178.00
Boners	143.00-188.00	165.00-201.00	130.00-178.00
Lean	120.00-178.00	154.00-207.50	90.00-165.00
Slaughter Bulls			
Yield Grade 1&2	185.00-226.00	207.50-243.00	168.00-205.00

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	4.44-5.07	4.35-4.95	4.49-4.97
Soybeans	10.91-12.27	10.80-12.15	9.65-10.86
Red Winter Wheat	5.51-6.62	5.27-6.20	4.36-5.43

Arrests from A-1

for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked April 30.

•Samantha Lewis, 37, of Maysville, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of public intoxication on a controlled substance (excludes alcohol), failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, theft by unlawful taking or disposition of items valued between \$10,000 and \$10,000, theft by unlawful taking or disposition – firearm, theft by unlawful taking or disposition of items valued between \$500 and \$1,000, being a convicted

felon in possession of a firearm, second degree criminal mischief, and operating a motor vehicle with no operator's license, arrested and booked May 1.

•Tina Conn, 54, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of no or expired Kentucky registration receipt, failure to wear seat belts, driving on a DUI suspended license, failure to notify DOT of address change, and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance (aggravating circumstances – second offense), arrested and

booked May 1.

•Macenzie Gass, 26, of Crossville, TN, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of second degree wanton endangerment, and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a substance, arrested and booked May 1.

•Rodney Clevenger, 49, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked May 1.

•Randy Mills, 46, of Crittenden, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of speeding 26

MPH or more over the limit, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, failure to maintain required insurance, and reckless driving, arrested and booked May 1.

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

The water break and resultant damage, as well as increased utility bills themselves, became the point of contention between the Carter County Library and the Arts and Heritage Center. The library maintains that the damages were covered by their insurance, but Arts and Heritage maintain that damages were not completely covered due to the library bathrooms being altered (by the library) before the water damage event. The library was granted a 60-day extension at the current location, but it will be required to move in the near future.

The City of Olive Hill along with Carter County and the City of Grayson are in an interlocal agreement where each entity supports the library in the amount of \$27,000 annually. Wingert asked the council, given the library's current immediate need, to pay them the agreed upon amount.

The council did not vote to pay their share of the interlocal agreement at the April meeting, but did discuss options for a future location for the Olive Hill branch.

In other business, the City of Olive Hill discussed garbage pickup in the city. The city had been using Rumpke on a temporary basis for city-wide trash collection while their garbage truck was down for repairs, and in the meeting the council listened to both a proposal from Rumpke to continue that service as well as a bid to purchase a vehicle for that purpose.

Olive Hill Mayor Jerry Callihan told the council that the reason behind the garbage truck being down was that the vehicle was worn out and had declined to the point where maintenance might be more expensive than other options.

"It's time to buy a new one," Callihan told the council. "It has 379,000

miles on it."

Callihan stressed that those miles were "in city" miles, which would be the functional equivalent of many more miles compared to highway operation.

Callihan said that while the garbage truck had been down for numerous repairs, Rumpke had been working with the city to provide necessary services.

"They have offered to do a contract with us for garbage," he said.

The contract would be for a three-year term, he said.

Councilman Kirk Wilburn (present virtually) disagreed strenuously with the possibility of hiring an outside business to provide a city utility, saying that he would prefer the purchase or lease of a new garbage truck. Wilburn also pointed out that three city employees typically worked the city garbage and that he was concerned about their positions. Mayor Callihan responded

to the last concern, saying however the council decided to vote, those employees' positions would not be terminated but rather shifted to other areas of city work.

Councilman Wilburn made a motion to purchase a new truck, and added that he believed most of the payments could be recouped by what would have been spent on future maintenance. After discussion, the council voted 4-1 to move forward with the purchase of the truck, with Councilman Eric Rayburn being the one dissenting vote. The city said they planned to revisit the motion and vote in a special meeting on Tuesday, May 5, under "Consideration of Emergency Purchase of Sanitation Equipment (Garbage Truck) pursuant to KRS 45A.095 and KRS 424.260."

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Fiscal Court from A-1

Sheriff for the purchase of protective vests. The price of the vests is \$4,220 for 11 sets of vests, and the court voted unanimously to purchase them. Judge Executive Burton said the vests were durable and would last several years.

The County Road Aid Agreement was also discussed by the court. The road aid, which is the amount the state allots to a county for road repairs, was down some from last year, Burton told the court. The amount for the fiscal year 2026-27 is \$1,422,334.12 and will begin July 1 of this year. That amount is down by approximately \$300,000

from the previous year. The court voted to accept the County Road Aid, and also voted to accept Resolution 450 for County Road Aid.

The amount paid to the county through County Road Aid – combined with Flex Spending and 80/20 Bridge matches – makes up the total amount the county has to do maintenance and repairs on all county roads. The funds are typically far less than what a county needs, especially given that the estimated cost to pave one mile of road is \$100,000 – and can climb as high as \$500,000 depending upon site preparation. This

shortfall forces counties to aggressively pursue other funding such as grants.

The court also voted to approve FEMA DR4592 contract modifications and voted to accept all bridge bids for Black Hollow Road and Waterfall Creek Road from E and E Contracting.

The court voted to increase the salary of the Carter County Coroner to \$22,500 from \$7,800 starting July 1. Based upon population, the coroner could request a salary of nearly \$48,000. The County Coroner deputies (of which there are two) also saw a pay increase, with their salary

being raised to \$10,000 total from a \$6,800 total, also beginning on July 1. A motion was made by Magistrate Millard Cordle to give all county employees a five percent raise in wages beginning on July 1, and passed with a single dissenting vote.

The court approved the first reading of the 2026-27 budget which passed unanimously. All standing orders were approved by the court as were claims and add-ons as presented by treasurer. Transfers were also approved by the court.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

JROTC from A-1

Dr. Fraley then turned the attention of the board and others present to students from West Carter Middle School Community Problem Solving Team. The team gave their presentation to the board, and Fraley informed everyone present that the team will be competing in the national competition in June in Indianapolis. The team's project involved securing basic hygiene products for students in need and delivering it to those students while avoiding stigma or embarrassment. The board complimented the students on their delivery of the presentation, and encour-

aged them for the upcoming national competition.

The board was also informed that students will start testing for the Kentucky Assessment on May 8. That testing is set to run the last 14 days of the school year, and 2026 will be the last year the accountability system will look the way it currently appears. This is due to House Bill 257 passing, and one change that will be seen in the future is that Chronic Absenteeism will be replacing the current Climate and Culture Survey. Anyone who has questions about these changes is encouraged to contact

the Board of Education. Carter County Schools has also received its first round of SAT Data, and 2026 was the first year high school juniors were able to take the SAT.

In other business, the board heard a report on progress for the new high school project. Bids came in for construction, and were reported to be less expensive than originally expected.

"We did choose the lowest bid," Dr Fraley told the board and those in attendance. "Because of the fact that we had several combo bids included, it brought the price of the

individual bids down a bit. Our bid total is \$40,930,010.52. We did select the lowest bid of each package presented."

The Carter County Board of Education voted unanimously to accept the bids.

In financial news, the board received a positive audit that reported no material internal weakness in finances. The board voted unanimously to accept the financial report.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

CALENDAR

- **5/7: Carter County Library Board @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **5/8: Hike & Learn @ 1 p.m.** - Grayson Getaways
- **5/11: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 474-6686
- **5/11: Open Art Studio @ 10 a.m.** | Grayson Gallery & Art Center
- **5/11: Game Night @ 5 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Olive Hill
- **5/11: Carter County Fiscal Court @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Courthouse
- **5/12: Grayson Area Chamber of Commerce @ 12 p.m.** | TBD
- **5/12: Building Club @ 4 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library, Olive Hill
- **5/12: Grayson City Council @ 5:30 p.m.** | Grayson City Hall
- **5/13: Girl Scouts meeting @ 5:30 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **5/15: Sit & Sew @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For more info or to RSVP call 474-6686
- **5/16: Friends of the Library @ 5 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson Branch
- **5/18: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 474-6686
- **5/18: Open Art Studio @ 10 a.m.** | Grayson Gallery & Art Center
- **5/18: Carter County EMS Board @ 4 p.m.** | Carter County EMS Station

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

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**Pet of the Week**

Henry is a 34 pound Boston terrier mix, around two-years-old. Henry is a very good boy, and gets along well with other dogs. His \$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.

**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.

EXPECT MORE**We are Here for You.**

Extended Drive Thru Hours –
7am till 6pm Monday thru Friday
7am till 1pm Saturday



Commercial Bank
of Grayson



cbgrayson.com

Representatives Massie and Gluesenkamp Perez introduce bipartisan bill to end capital gains taxes on family farms

Washington, D.C.- Representative Thomas Massie (R-KY) announces the introduction of H.R. 8591, the No Capital Gains Tax on Family Farms Act. The bill removes capital gains on the sale or exchange of a farm between family members (including children, siblings, cousins, and their spouses). Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA) is the co-lead on the legislation.

"This bill will allow farmers to sell their land to family members

without being forced to pay punitive capital gains taxes," said Rep. Massie. "This change to the tax law will help sustain America's multi-generational family farms by reducing the financial pressure on landowners to sell productive farmland to real estate developers and data center operators."

"The wealth and health of our nation is married to the soil health and vitality of our farms-this bill recognizes that we need to change financial structures

to advance the generational work of good farming," said Rep. Gluesenkamp Perez. "When a loved one dies and ag land is split up for taxation, it disrupts the generational work that it takes to build healthy soil. By its very nature, the work of building healthy soil can't be done on the same cycle as a 30-year mortgage. We can't treat land like any other financial asset, as though we're just dividing nickels and dimes, and expect good results. Current tax policy

breaks up generations of work and planning. The end result of that approach is an erosion of national health- I'm glad to work with my colleague on a solid step towards keeping farmland together and working."

Under current law, if a farmer were to sell their land to a child and retire, the transfer would incur steep capital gains taxes. The No Capital Gains Tax on Family Farms Act changes this by allowing qualifying family-to-fam-

ily transfers to happen without incurring capital gains tax. Under the terms of the legislation, gains from the sale of qualified farm property are excluded from gross income.

To discourage the immediate resale of farmland to property developers, the farm recipient retains the original basis of the property for a 10-year holding period. After that period, the basis steps up to the fair market value at the time of transfer, encouraging long-term family

ownership while deterring short-term speculation.

Original cosponsors of H.R. 8591 include Rep. Marie Gluesenkamp Perez (D-WA), Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO), Rep. Tim Burchett (R-TN), Rep. Eric Burlison (R-MO), Rep. Mike Collins (R-GA), Rep. Warren Davidson (R-OH), Rep. Chuck Edwards (R-NC), Rep. Julie Fedorchak (R-ND), Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC), and Rep. Chip Roy (R-TX).

Trump causes political earthquake in KY, backing Barr, Alvarado in U.S. Senate, House races

Barr opponent Morris drops out to become Trump ambassador

By McKenna Horsley
Kentucky Lantern

The night before the Kentucky Derby, Republican President Donald Trump placed his bets on two Republicans facing crowded primaries — U.S. Rep. Andy Barr for U.S. Senate and Ralph Alvarado for a U.S. House seat in central Kentucky.

Trump said he was backing "Proven Political Winner" U.S. Rep. Andy

Barr in a race for Kentucky's open U.S. Senate seat Friday night roughly two weeks out from the primary election.

The president gave Barr his "Complete and Total Endorsement" in a post on Truth Social.

"Andy is the only Candidate who will easily defeat the Democrat in what will be one of the most important Elections in American History," Trump said. "He will help ensure Victory against these Radical Left, Country Destroying, THUGS. Andy Barr has my Complete and Total Endorsement to be the next United States Senator from Kentucky — HE WILL NEVER LET YOU DOWN!"

Barr thanked the presi-

dent in a statement.

"Just like the President said at his Northern Kentucky rally in March, I've been with him all the way and I always will be,"

referring to Trump's March event in Hebron. "As our next Senator, I'll stand with President Trump 100% to deliver for Kentucky and to keep Making

America Great Again."

Barr has been facing off against former Attorney General Daniel Cameron and Lexington businessman Nate Morris in a

heated Republican primary race for the seat, which is currently held by longtime U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell. The senator said early

See RACES on A-6

OBITUARY

Vada Lou Fyfe Henderson

1934 – 2026



Vada Lou Fyfe Henderson, 91 years young, passed on to heaven on Sunday, April 26, 2026. Born May 11, 1934 in Olive Hill, Kentucky, she was the youngest daughter of the late Roscoe and Sarah Elizabeth Birchfield Fyfe.

Vada, known as "Tee-Tee" to her many grandchildren, was an incredibly talented and visionary woman, a pioneer for women in business and in life. A trendsetter long before her time, she was placed in this world at just the right time for all of us.

She grew up in Carter County, attended Ross Chapel School on Bens Run, and graduated from Olive Hill High School. She earned her license in cosmetology at Morehead Beauty College in the mid-1960s and operated a beauty shop in Morehead, Kentucky, for several years. In the late 1970s, she attended mortuary school in Cincinnati and became a licensed funeral director and apprentice embalmer, working side by side with her husband, Les, at Leslie A. Henderson Funeral Home throughout the 1970s and 1980s. Following Les's death in 1990, Vada continued to

operate the funeral home independently until selling the business in 1994.

Vada served as a Carter County Deputy Coroner during the 1980s and was narrowly defeated in her bid for County Coroner in the early 1990s, following the death of her husband Les. She was the first female president of the Eastern Kentucky Funeral Directors Association, one of many ways she broke ground for the women who followed her.

Alongside her work in the funeral home, Vada was an independent business owner who owned and operated Personal Touch Beauty Salon for several years. With her irreverent sense of humor, she joked that she originally wanted to name the shop "Curl Up and Dye," but thought better of it, given the funeral home next door. She was active in her national cosmetology organization, traveling to New York City annually for training, to Pennsylvania to learn the specialized Zwicky facial technique, and to New Mexico to study permanent cosmetics in the 1980s. Hers was one of the first beauty shops to partner with Aveda Cosmetics, back when it was a private company sold only in salons.

Vada was of the Christian faith and attended various churches in her community over the course of her lifetime. She was a member of the Olive Hill Order of the Eastern Star and the Ladies Oriental Shrine.

Vada loved to garden

and could wield a hoe to kill a blacksnake in a flash. She enjoyed trips to the beach, riding horses, and deer hunting. In her later years, she found joy in learning to paint portraits and landscapes, and in crocheting little gifts for her great-grandchildren. She loved her family and friends fiercely and embodied the queen matriarch role to a tee. She has been described as loving, kind, feisty, stubborn, fun, and independent. A role model to all her loved ones, friends, and community.

She lived an amazing, full life, and all who know her are blessed.

Survivors

Vada is survived by her brother, Clayton (Ruth Ann) Fyfe of Olive Hill, KY; her three daughters, Pamela Jean (Jimmy) Adkins and Vanessa Lou (Mike) Lowe, both of Olive Hill, KY, and Leslyn Henderson (Johnnie) Spaulding of Lexington, KY.

She is also survived by 11 grandchildren: Wayne (Shawnda) Adkins of Olive Hill, KY; Brianna (Chris) Furst of Greenup, KY; Christopher (Keri) Lowe and Jeremy (Tina) Lowe of Olive Hill, KY; Kindra (George) Hein, Danielle (Travis) Franklin, and Chad (Jennifer) Duncan of Champaign, IL; and Isabella "Bella" Spaulding, Macey Henderson, Abigail Henderson, and Zachary Henderson, all of Lexington, KY.

Special daughters-in-law Amy Henderson of Lexington, KY, and Gina (Owen) Reeves of

Champaign, IL; special grandson-in-love Anthony Evans of Pikeville, KY; 15 great-grandchildren; and 6 great-great-grandchildren. She also leaves behind numerous step-grandchildren, nieces, nephews, special friends, and all those she treated as family.

Preceded in Death

Vada was preceded in death by her parents; six of her siblings, Ruth Fyfe Binion, Wiley Fyfe, William Fyfe, Edna Fyfe Kiser, Nellie Ann Fyfe Blankenbeckler, and Jack Fyfe; her second husband, Leslie A. Henderson Sr.; her two sons, Gregory Ellis Duncan and Robert Nathan Henderson; her five stepsons, L.A. Henderson Jr., J.B. Henderson, Marty Henderson, Greg Henderson, and Brent Henderson; and her cherished granddaughter, Leslyn Elizabeth "Bizzy" Spaulding.

Services

Visitation was held at Duvall and Moore Funeral Home in Olive Hill, KY, with her favorite young female funeral director and step-granddaughter, Lynn Henderson, on Thursday, April 30th from 6:00 to 9:00 PM (family hour at 5:00 PM).

Funeral services were held at Duvall and Moore Funeral Home and Cremation Service, 149 Whitt Street, Olive Hill, KY 41164 on Friday, May 1st at 2:00 PM, with Bro Gary Sparks officiating. Interment followed at the Henderson Circle in Olive Hill Memorial Cemetery.

Online condolences can be made at www.duvall-landmoore.com

Joyful Noise from A-2

"continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of," (v. 14), to hold fast to the Scriptures, which are "given by inspiration of God" and profitable for doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness. The goal is to be "perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (v. 17).

Here are some key principles for living in perilous times with hope in God: Stay grounded in truth. Avoid false teachers and doctrines that deny God's power. Hold fast to Scripture. It is the ultimate guide and defense in times of trial. Be discerning. Recognize the signs of spiritual decline and resist deception. Be prepared and let the Scriptures "make thee wise unto

salvation" through faith in Christ.

The Bible calls believers to remain faithful, rooted in God's Word, and steadfast in Christ, even when the world around them is corrupt and dangerous. Keep your eyes on Jesus, following the Good Shepherd all the way!

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: WJNS 97.3 FM & WEKG 81.0 AM Sundays 1-2pm.

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OPINION

EDITORIALS | LETTERS | COLUMNS | COMMENTARY

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

Guest Editorial

President Trump says he wants to save coal. He can't forget about coal miners.

By William McCool
Kentucky Lantern

I started in the mines in 1973, and worked underground for 40 years doing nearly every job there is to do in coal mining. You'll meet some of the greatest people in the world as a miner. I was lucky to work with my father for 17 of those years alongside some of the best colleagues you could ever have.

Most miners love their jobs, and I miss it to this day. But I have also seen first hand what that time in the mines can do to a person's health. Black lung disease killed my grandfather. It killed my father. And in 2000, doctors told me I had it too. They said I could work a few more years. I worked 12 more, 12-14 hours a day, weekends included. I finally left the mines in 2012.

Last month, I attended the funeral of a 48-year-old miner who had black lung. Black lung is getting younger miners sicker than I have ever seen. Thousands in my community have it. A lot of them are already gone, and their families are left behind, struggling, unable to pay the bills.

The disease takes everything. But I have now watched too many of my friends and neighbors die without anyone in power doing anything about it.

I'm very disappointed in the coal operators and in the government because they have not tried to do more. In fact, they're now going in the opposite direction. Just last week, the Trump Administration announced it was indefinitely pausing a new safeguard that would have curbed the silica dust that is causing black lung. It's a rule coal miners fought for decades to secure. We finally got it in 2024. But, since then, the Trump Administration negotiated with mining companies to weaken it before they hit pause on implementation all together.

This is happening while miners constantly hear promises from politicians about bringing back coal. Those words don't mean much to us when we see those same politicians are shelving the rules that can save our lives. They aren't talking about black lung that's killing miners. Instead, they're giving tax dollars to the coal companies. They're not interested in the law we fought for decades to get that would cut down on the silica dust exposure that has caused so much black lung in recent years. Instead, they're telling the Defense Department to buy more coal. They're not doing anything about the fact that the small stipends given to miners with black lung aren't enough to live on. Instead, they're acting like the coal companies are a treasure worth protecting.

But the greatest asset isn't coal – it's the miners. Without us, there is no coal mining. So why are things getting harder for us when they say they're here to save coal?

For years, I watched both MSHA and the companies cut corners on protecting us. You never saw an inspector when we were cutting the hardest rock and kicking up the most dust. When they did come around, we'd usually be above ground and the air samples always seemed to come back clean.

As mining changed, we weren't just cutting coal — we were cutting a lot more rock, and rock means silica dust. Silica is more dangerous than coal dust when it comes to black lung, but for decades we couldn't get a federal rule in place to protect us from it. We fought for decades for a meaningful silica law and we finally got one in 2024. But, now this administration has put it on the shelf, endlessly delaying it at the very moment miners need it most.

What miners need are real laws and real enforcement. Miners today are cutting more rock than ever before. There is more silica in those mines than there has ever been. But there is no law that does anything to keep that dust out of their lungs. They are in trouble.

For most miners who are already sick, the first thing you hear when you apply for black lung benefits is “denied, denied, denied.” It seems like the system wears you down by design. I have never once had a prescription that wasn't denied initially. I once had to tell a doctor: if you don't get me this medicine, I'll have to go to the emergency room right now.

A three-day hospital stay cost me nine thousand dollars.

And even for miners who do get approved, the benefits haven't kept pace with reality. Last month I paid a \$575 energy bill. We all know how out of control these bills are getting, and that's especially true on a fixed black lung stipend.

The cost of living goes up. Energy costs go up. Benefits

See COAL on A-6

Carter County Times

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Nicole Wells, publisher

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Have you ever wondered how we all became today's clickbait?

Nothing is more frustrating to me than to watch a brief, exciting video on YouTube and then have it end just when the bad guy who mistreated someone is about to get his butt kicked.

That's the exact moment we become “clickbait” when the computer screen tells us to see the rest of the story in the first comment or some other hard to find link. That may or may not show us the end of the video or story but we usually get a series of ads that never end.

That also happens with other online content like a misleading headline or a provocative photograph or social media post, each designed to encourage users to click on a link, often hyped by sensationalism or by withholding information or other gimmicks.

Unethical political marketers have developed effective means of leading us to half-truths about opposing candidates by baiting us to click on a video, hence the name clickbait.

The simple goal of clickbaiters is to create a “curiosity gap” wherein you receive just enough information to grab your attention but don't get the solution, thereby forcing you click to find the answer.

Clickbait, the word, was coined in the late 1990s as the Internet exploded but the tactic it describes is nearly 200 years old, starting with the “yellow journalism” as big city newspapers battled for circulation (sales) with huge, shocking headlines about minor events or sensationalized stories of crime or scandal.

The next culprits were those shrewd publishers of “supermarket tabloids” who entertained us with provocative articles while we stood in the checkout line. The National Enquirer focused on celebrities and paranormal happenings like those pesky UFOs.

Clickbait exploits a psychological phenomenon called the “Information Gap Theory.” When we realize there is a gap between what we know and what we want to know, it creates a feeling of deprivation. Clicking the link is the only way to “resolve” that mental itch.

In my opinion, clickbait exploits the fundamental human desire for a good story, even a fake one. My advice is to be careful what you click for.

Keith Kappes can be reached at
keithkappes@gmail.com



Keith Kappes
Columnist
Carter County Times

Big box housing

I live near a shopping mall. I go there when I need things because I hate Amazon. If I can avoid giving Jeff Bezos another dime, I do. So, I buy my Doc Martens, my Vans, my socks, even a funeral suit coat in person. Whenever I go, the clerks look at me like I'm some kind of foreign object, like they don't get many folks around these parts. Watching stores hang on for dear life, one customer at a time, it's clear we could be using this space for better things.

I'm well aware the mall is on its way out. People love the ease of a box dropped at their door. As the mall goes the way of the diplodocus, the question becomes: what do we do with these big, hulking plots of land?

Turn them into housing.

Not high-dollar condos for guys in \$465 loafers, but real mixed-use space. Those two-floor anchor stores like Macy's or JCPenney could be converted into countless units. The average cost of housing in the U.S. is around \$420,000, with the median closer to \$310,000 depending on the source. Median rent for a one-bedroom sits around \$1,500 nationally. We need affordable housing, and these spaces are sitting right in front of us. There's parking, existing infrastructure, even things like theaters that could be repurposed.

So, what's holding us back? Red tape. And money.

Turning malls into housing sounds simple, but two big obstacles get in the way. First, the buildings are expensive to convert. Adaptive reuse projects often run 20-30% more per unit than new construction

because malls weren't designed for people to live in. They have deep floor layouts, limited natural light, aging systems, and infrastructure that has to be rebuilt almost entirely. Second, even when conversion makes sense, it's often not allowed. An estimated 70-80% of U.S. malls are zoned strictly for commercial use, meaning developers face long, uncertain rezoning processes before they can even begin. Together, those costs and restrictions make a straightforward idea much harder to pull off.

Still, cities are starting to test it. In Culver City, plans for the Westfield mall include adding hundreds of housing units alongside retail. Santa Clara is replacing the failed Vallco Mall with a large mixed-use project

that includes thousands of homes. And in Austin, Highland Mall has been repurposed into a college campus, with housing growing around it, now a small ecosystem with shops, a 24-hour coffee spot, and green space. These projects show the concept works, but also how slow and complicated the process can be.

Incentives exist, but they're limited. In some cities, property tax abatements can reduce operating costs by 10-30% over the first decade, often making the difference between a project happening or not. The federal Historic Tax Credit covers 20% of rehab costs, but only for designated historic buildings. Most malls don't qualify. Expanding incentives like these could help push more projects forward.

As affordability slips further out of reach, we need to think seriously about how we provide housing not

See HOUSING on A-8



Robert Dean
Guest Columnist
Carter County Times

Policies

General

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

Circulation

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

Letters & Opinion

The Times welcomes all letters to the editor.

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

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

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

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

Deadlines

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

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

ADVERTISEMENT

Sealed bids for **RRWD – Booster Station Equipment Upgrades**, project for Rattlesnake Ridge Water District will be received at the Rattlesnake Ridge Water District office located at 5302 South State Highway 7, Grayson, Kentucky 41143 until **2 p.m.**, Local Time, **Wednesday, May 13, 2026** and then publicly opened and read aloud.

The program of work for **Booster Station Equipment Upgrades** which bids are to be submitted consists of the purchase of various equipment such as VFD's, pumps, motors, valves, fittings for Rattlesnake Ridge, Smokey Valley, and KY 486 Booster Pump Stations.

Copies of the Bid Form may be obtained from Bluegrass Engineering, 222 E Main Street, Ste. 1, Georgetown, KY 40324. **All qualified bidders must obtain the bid form and must be listed as a plan holder by the distributor, Bluegrass Engineering.**

The Bid Form also may be examined at Rattlesnake Ridge Water District, 5302 South State Highway 7, Grayson, Kentucky on Mondays through Thursdays between the office hours of 9 am to 4 pm.

All bids must be made on the required Bid Form and must be fully completed and executed with original signatures and corporate seals.

Booster Station Equipment Upgrades is being funded by Appalachian Regional Commission Grant

Prevailing Wage Rates Apply

Hearing impaired individuals may call 1-800-247-2510 for information.

No Bidder may withdraw his Bid within ninety (90) days after the actual date of bid opening.

Bidders on this work will be required to comply with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Anti-Kickback Act, and the Contract Work Hours Standard Act. Bidders must comply with the President's Executive Orders No. 11246 and No. 11375 and any amendments or supplements to those Executive Orders.

Attention of bidders is particularly called to the requirements as to conditions of employment to be observed under the contract, Section 3, Segregated Facility, Section 109 and E.O. 11246.

Bidders must certify they do not and will not maintain or provide for their employees any facilities that are segregated or based on race, color, creed, or national origin.

Minorities and small businesses are encouraged to submit bids on this project.

The Contract will be awarded on the basis of the low evaluated responsive, responsible, best and qualified bidder unless all bids are rejected.

Rattlesnake Ridge Water District. reserves the right to waive any bidding informalities and to reject any or all bids, for any reason deemed advisable by Rattlesnake Ridge Water District, Grayson, Kentucky. The right is reserved by the Owner, in the exercise of its sole judgment to reject any or all Bids, and to re-advertise and award the Contract in the regular manner or to waive any informalities, irregularities, mistakes, errors, or omissions in any Bid received and to accept any Bid deemed to be responsive to this invitation and favorable to interests of the Owner.

Section 746 of Title VII of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 (Division A-Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, Appropriations Act, 2017) and subsequent statutes mandating domestic preference applies to American Iron and Steel requirement to this project. All listed iron and steel products used in this project must be produced in the United States. The term "iron and steel products" means the following products made primarily of iron and steel: lines or unlined pipes and fittings, manhole covers and other municipal castings, hydrants, tanks, flanges, pipe clamps and restraints, valves, structural steel, reinforced precast concrete, and construction materials. The de minimis and minor components waiver (all project specific waivers as applicable) apply to this contract.

The sealed bid for this project shall be clearly marked on the outside of the envelope: "Sealed Bid for **RRWD – Booster Station Equipment Upgrades** for the Rattlesnake Ridge Water District., 5302 South State Highway 7, Grayson, Kentucky 41143. If Bids are to be mailed, they should be mailed to: Rattlesnake Ridge Water District, PO Box 475, Grayson, Kentucky 41143.

RATTLESNAKE RIDGE WATER DISTRICT
Steve Ison, Chairman
Advertisement Date: May 6, 2026

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administration exempted cork from tariffs, a huge relief to Portugal, the leading supplier of the material used to cap wine bottles. Chris Swonger, president and CEO of the Distilled Spirits Council in the U.S., also interpreted Trump's post as a removal of the 10% tariff on whisky from the United Kingdom. "We applaud President Trump for working to restore a proven zero-for-zero model of fair, reciprocal

trade between our two nations," Swonger said in a statement. "This action strengthens transatlantic ties, brings much-needed certainty to our industry and allows spirits producers on both sides of the Atlantic to grow, invest and support jobs at a critical time." *AP correspondent Jill Lawless contributed from London.*

last year he would not seek reelection. Before endorsing Barr, Trump said on Truth Social he would make Morris an ambassador and said that he would "be announcing Nate's new role soon." Following the news of the endorsement, Morris dropped out of the race. He posted on X he was endorsing Barr — after the two have traded jabs on the campaign trail. "I'm incredibly proud to join President Trump in endorsing @BarrForSenate," Morris said. "Like President Trump said, Andy knows what it takes to get things done and deliver BIG for the America First agenda." While he was in the race, Morris had support of Trump allies. Tech billionaire Elon Musk donated \$10 million to a pro-Morris PAC earlier this year. Plus, Morris announced his candidacy on Donald Trump Jr.'s "Triggered" podcast last year.

Barr thanked Morris in a statement, calling him an "an accomplished business leader and patriot who loves our commonwealth and our country" and said he looks "forward to continuing to work with him to do everything we can to make Kentucky, and America, even greater." PACs backing Barr and Morris have attacked the other candidate for months before Trump's endorsement on Kentucky airwaves. The candidates also didn't shy away from criticisms in public appearances either. In a March debate in Louisville, Barr and Morris clashed a few times, talking over each other while rebutting the other's attacks. At last summer's Fancy Farm Picnic, an event known for fiery political speeches, Barr called Morris' campaign a "dumpster fire" while Morris said Barr and Cameron were "McConnell boys," referring to their ties to the state's senior senator.

Trump's endorsement comes after the Wall Street Journal reported earlier this week that Trump was considering endorsing Barr. The top three GOP candidates had spent most of their campaign so far trying to tie themselves closer to the president and his policies, hoping Kentucky Republican voters would rally behind them and ultimately elect them in the primary, which is on May 19. Cameron's political consultant, Brandon Moody, said in a statement responding to Trump's endorsement: "Congrats to Mitch McConnell for getting his guy." Cameron told the Lexington Herald-Leader earlier this year it was the "worst-kept secret in town" that McConnell's team was backing Barr. In the 2023 governor's race, Cameron won the Republican nomination with Trump's endorsement.

However, he lost to Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear that fall. Cameron has his own connection to McConnell, as he once served as his general counsel. Trump also endorsed a candidate for Barr's congressional seat in the state's central 6th district — Alvarado, a former commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Health and a former Kentucky state senator. Alvarado is currently facing a Republican primary there against state Rep. Ryan Dotson and retired pharmaceutical executive Greg Plucinski. Calling Alvarado a "true friend to MAGA," Trump said on Truth Social that Alvarado had "BEEN WITH US FROM THE VERY BEGINNING!" *Originally published online by Kentucky Lantern. Reprinted courtesy of Creative Commons license.*

Coal from A-5
barely move. Miners are people who spent their lives underground so this country could keep its lights on. They should not have to choose between groceries and medicine. My health has deteriorated sharply. In two

years, my disabilities have doubled. I go to respiratory therapy two or three days a week just to maintain what I have. I know what is coming. But that is not going to stop me from speaking out. We are human beings. We consider our lives as

valuable as anyone else's. It is past time to get us a strong silica dust rule to stop black lung and stronger benefits to support the miners who are already sick. If this President or any politician truly wants to talk about the coal industry, they need to start

by protecting the people who make it possible: the miners. *Originally published online by Kentucky Lantern. Reprinted courtesy of Creative Commons license.*

Trump says he's lifting certain tariffs on Scotch whisky after royal visit

By Josh Boak
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump said Thursday he is removing certain tariffs on Scotch whisky after this week's White House visit by King Charles III and Queen Camilla of the United Kingdom. "The King and Queen got me to do something that nobody else was able to do, without hardly even asking!" Trump posted on social media. Trump said people had wanted this change, especially with regard to the wooden barrels in which the spirits of Scotch and bourbon can be aged. His post left it unclear if the tariffs were being lifted on bottles of Scotch or on the materials used to produce

alcohol in both countries. "I will be removing the Tariffs and Restrictions on Whiskey having to do with Scotland's ability to work with the Commonwealth of Kentucky on Whiskey and Bourbon," Trump said. The White House did not respond to emails seeking clarification about the details of what Trump announced, though the post was interpreted in Scotland and by industry lobbyists as removing the tariffs on Scotch. U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer later said in a Thursday statement that the U.S. would give "preferential duty access for whiskey produced in the United Kingdom." The administration did not immediately respond to questions about whether that meant eliminating the

tariffs or lowering them. The Trump administration in 2025 reached a trade framework that put a 10% tax on most goods imported from Britain. The Scotch Whisky Association said its export volume to the U.S. fell 15% after the tariffs were announced in April of last year. The president, answering questions from reporters in the Oval Office, said the tariffs were lifted to specifically enhance the trade of barrels between Scotland and Kentucky, which produces almost all of the world's bourbon. The barrels are used to age the alcohol. "I just took all the restrictions off so Scotland and Kentucky can start dealing again," said Trump, who added that he's "not a big drinker."

Still, John Swinney, Scotland's first minister, interpreted the president's statement as a removal of tariffs on Scotch itself, calling it a "tremendous success" for his country. "People's jobs were at stake. Millions of pounds were being lost every month from the Scottish economy," said Swinney, expressing gratitude to both Trump and King Charles III. Trump has used alcohol as a pressure point in his tariff threats. Last year, he threatened a 200% tariff on European wine — a major potential blow to French and Italian vineyards that never came to fruition. Foreign countries have responded in turn with threats on bourbon and other American products. In the end, the Trump

The US fights to reopen the Strait of Hormuz as the UAE comes under attack in a test of Iran truce

By Adam Schreck, Ben Finley and Sam Metz
Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The U.S. military said it fired on Iranian forces and sank six small boats targeting civilian ships as it moved to reopen the Strait of Hormuz on Monday. The United Arab Emirates, a key American ally, said it had come under attack from Iran for the first time since a fragile ceasefire took hold in early April. The U.S. military said two American-flagged merchant ships had successfully transited the strait on Monday as part of a new initiative. The UAE Defense Ministry said its air defenses had engaged 15 missiles and four drones fired by Iran. Authorities in the eastern emirate of Fujairah said one drone sparked a fire at a key oil facility, wounding three Indian nationals. The Brit-

ish military reported two cargo vessels ablaze off the UAE. Tehran did not outright confirm or deny the attacks but early on Tuesday, Iran's Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on X that both the U.S. and the UAE "should be wary of being dragged back into quagmire." In similarly vague terms, Iranian state television earlier quoted an anonymous military official as saying Tehran had had "no plan" to target the UAE or one of its oil fields. "The incident resulted from U.S. military adventurism to create an illegal passage," the official said about the oil facility attack, apparently referring to U.S. President Donald Trump's latest efforts to reopen the Strait of Hormuz, a critical waterway for global energy. Breaking Iran's chokehold on the strait would ease global economic

concerns and deny Iran a major source of leverage. But such efforts also risk reigniting the full-scale fighting that erupted when the U.S. and Israel first attacked Iran on Feb. 28, prompting it to close the strait. Shipping companies, and their insurers, are unlikely to take such a risk, given that Iran has fired on ships in the waterway and vowed to keep doing so. Iran has said the new U.S. effort is a violation of the fragile ceasefire that has held for more than three weeks. US says it has reopened a lane through the strait Iran's effective closure of the strait, which runs between Iran and Oman, has caused a spike in worldwide fuel prices and rattled the global economy. The U.S.-led Joint Maritime Information Center had advised ships Monday to cross the strait in Oman's waters, saying it had set up an "enhanced security

area." Adm. Brad Cooper, commander of U.S. Central Command, told reporters that American forces have successfully opened a passage through the strait that is free of Iranian mines. He said Iran launched multiple cruise missiles, drones and small boats at civilian ships under the U.S. military's protection. U.S. military helicopters sank six of the small boats, Cooper said, adding that "each and every" threat had been defeated. "The U.S. commanders who are on the scene have all the authority necessary to defend their unit and to defend commercial shipping -- as we saw and demonstrated earlier today," Cooper said. Trump had warned Sunday that Iranian efforts to halt passage through the strait "will, unfortunately, have to be dealt with forcefully." He described "Project Freedom" in humanitar-

ian terms, designed to aid stranded seafarers on hundreds of ships that have

been stuck in the Persian *See IRAN on A-8*

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Iran from A-6

Gulf since the war began.

Missile alerts in the UAE for the first time since ceasefire

The UAE condemned what it called "renewed treacherous Iranian aggression" and called for an immediate halt to the attacks.

Four missile alerts were issued Monday urging UAE residents to find shelter — the first such alerts since the ceasefire began nearly a month ago. Commercial planes bound for the UAE — home to the global travel hubs of Dubai and Abu Dhabi — turned around midair.

The extent of the attack on Fujairah was unclear, but it is the terminus of a pipeline the UAE has used to avoid shipping some of its oil through the strait. The emirate on the Gulf of Oman is home to extensive oil storage facilities and is the UAE's main sea access outside the strait.

"These attacks represent a dangerous escalation and an unacceptable violation," the UAE's Foreign Ministry said in a statement on X.

In Oman, authorities said a residential building near the strait "was targeted," resulting in two foreign workers wounded,

four vehicles damaged and nearby windows shattered. The report carried by state-run media did not provide further details.

Iran seeks to maintain its grip on the strait

Iran's military command has warned that ships passing through the strait must coordinate with them.

"We warn that any foreign military force — especially the aggressive U.S. military — that intends to approach or enter the Strait of Hormuz will be targeted," Maj. Gen. Ali Abdollahi told state broadcaster IRIB.

The South Korean government said an explosion and fire had broken out aboard a South Korean-operated ship anchored in the strait off the UAE. No injuries were reported. It was not immediately known if the vessel was one of the burning ships reported by the British military's United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations center.

Trump said in a social media post that Iran had "taken some shot" at a South Korean cargo ship, without elaborating.

The UAE accused Iran of targeting a tanker linked to its main oil company with two drones as it navigated the strait. It did

not say when the attack occurred. No injuries were reported.

The disruption of the waterway has squeezed countries in Europe and Asia that depend on Persian Gulf oil and gas, raising prices far beyond the region.

The U.S. has warned shipping companies they could face sanctions for paying Iran for transit of the strait.

The U.S. has meanwhile enforced a naval blockade on Iranian ports since April 13, telling at least 49 commercial ships to turn back, according to Central Command.

The blockade has deprived Tehran of oil revenue it needs to shore up its ailing economy. U.S. officials have expressed hope that the blockade will force Iran to make concessions in talks on its disputed nuclear program and other longstanding issues.

Little progress seen in negotiations

Iran's latest proposal for ending the war calls for the U.S. lifting sanctions, ending the blockade, withdrawing forces from the region and ceasing all hostilities, including Israel's operations in Lebanon, according to the semioffi-

cial Nour News and Tasnim agencies, which have close ties to Iran's security apparatus.

Iranian officials said they were reviewing the U.S. response, though Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baghaei told reporters Monday that changing demands made diplomacy difficult. He did not give details.

Iran has claimed its proposal does not include issues related to its nuclear

program and enriched uranium — long a driving force in tensions with the U.S. and Israel.

Iran wants other issues resolved within 30 days and aims to end the war rather than extend the ceasefire. Trump expressed doubt over the weekend that the proposal would lead to a deal.

Finley reported from Washington and Metz from Ramallah, West

Bank. Associated Press journalists Jon Gambrell in Dubai, United Arab Emirates; Fatma Khaled in Cairo; Mike Catalini in Morrisville, Pennsylvania; Melanie Lidman in Tel Aviv, Israel; Tonghyung Kim in Seoul, South Korea; Farnoush Amiri at the United Nations and Russ Bynum in Savannah, Georgia, contributed to this report.

Housing from A-5

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