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# Carter County Times

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CARTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY

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## Body of Marly Kinney identified

Search for Ashland 19-year-old began last Wednesday

By Jeremy D. Wells  
Carter County Times

The search for an Ashland woman that began last Wednesday, garnering national attention, came to an end on Sunday afternoon when authorities recovered her body from Grayson Lake. Law enforcement with the Kentucky Department of Fish & Wildlife

(KDFW) issued a release Sunday evening stating, "The body of a female recovered at 3:45 p.m. today from Grayson Lake in Carter County has been identified as Marly Kinney."

The 19-year-old had gone missing while on a boat outing with friends. According to multiple online sources Kinney was part of a large group of young adults who were spending the day on a rented pontoon boat on Grayson Lake last Wednesday. Kinney reportedly exited the boat to use the bathroom, though it is unclear if she exited alone or as part of a group, and was inadvertently left behind. When the group realized

See KINNEY on A-4



Boats from first responders wait to be launched on Thursday afternoon. (Photo by Jeremy D. Wells, Carter County Times)

## Accountability and transparency

Grayson mayor addresses police controversy

By Charles Romans  
Carter County Times

"We chose to put body cams on our officers in October of 2025," Mayor Troy Combs of Grayson said. "I don't think they all came in at the same time, but we began rolling them out as soon as we received them. We got them (the body cams) up and running, and gave the officers the

policies on them."

Combs said that the city takes resident complaints very seriously, and that Grayson believes in accountability and transparency. The body cams, he said, were just another way to ensure those standards. The cameras help to protect both the officers and the citizens, he said.

"That's why we chose to put the body cams on our officers," Combs said.

"It wasn't very long ago that we had a very unfortunate situation where a young man was DUI," Combs said. "And he end-

See MAYOR on A-3



Grayson Mayor Troy Combs listens to a constituent's concerns at an outdoor event. (Photo by Jeremy D. Wells, Carter County Times)

## Olive Hill discusses taxes and vendor fees

Council considers alternatives to payroll tax increase

By Charles Romans  
Carter County Times

The City of Olive Hill recently discussed a potential raise to the payroll tax in the city, but although the issue was brought to a motion, the increase did not pass. As an alternative to that, in a special meeting on June 23, the city council discussed other options.

One of those options was raising the insurance tax; this would



Olive Hill Mayor Jerry Callihan (left) consults with city attorney Derrick Willis (right). (Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

cover policies including automobile, fire, homeowners, casualty and liability, inland marine, life insurance, and can include health insurance. Currently an existing

ordinance exempts health and life insurance, and annuity. The council considered raising the insurance tax rate from nine to

See OLIVE HILL on A-4

## Weekly arrests report

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

- David Richards, 64, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, for contempt of court, arrested and booked June 23.
- Sabrina Hall, 57, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked June 23.
- Elijah Littleton, 35, of Vanceburg, arrested by Kentucky State Police, serving a bench warrant for court, arrested and booked June 23.
- Jason Burns, 46, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, for

failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked June 23.

- Jared Viars, 30, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on a charge of criminal abuse of a child 12 or younger, arrested and booked June 24.
- Cameron Conley, 23, of Ashland, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on a charge of operating a watercraft while intoxicated or under the influence, arrested and booked June 24.
- Ryan Blevins, 39, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on a hold for drug court, arrested and booked June 24.
- Kayla Lewis, 37, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County District Court, charges unavailable, arrested and booked June 24.
- Rodney Evans, 61, of Sandy Hook, arrested by Kentucky

State Police, on charges of failure to wear seat belts, reckless driving, communication device violation, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, failure to produce an insurance card, and endangering the welfare of a minor, arrested and booked June 24.

- Rick Hargis, 59, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of contempt of court, and failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked June 25.
- Ethan McDowell, 21, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of disregarding a stop sign, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, and failure to maintain required insurance, arrested and booked June 25.
- Randy Mills, 46, of Crittenden, arrested by Carter County District Court, charges unavailable,

See ARRESTS on A-3

ISSN 2692-420X



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### This Week's Obituaries

Merkie Magdalene Pennington Baugess, 86  
Alma Kaye Buckler Burchett, 87

Catherine Marie Cooper Jarrell, 75

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# LIFESTYLE



## Why dot cakes are the perfect dessert for America's 250th birthday

For America's 250th birthday, I had visions of creating something historically significant. Perhaps a colonial recipe. Maybe a dessert inspired by early American kitchens.

Then reality arrived carrying a deadline.

Instead, I found myself making the internet's latest obsession: The Viral Dot Cake.

The funny thing is that the more I learned about the trend, the more appropriate it seemed. Dot Cakes aren't fancy. They're layers of cake, frosting and colorful sprinkles. They're cheerful, nostalgic and designed to be shared. In a year filled with grand celebrations, perhaps that's exactly the kind of dessert we

need. Sometimes the things that bring people together are surprisingly simple. Here's the funny part: The internet's favorite dessert isn't an elaborate goldleaf freckled showpiece or a complicated bakery creation requiring trips to three stores and a monastery.

It's basically birthday cake. Like the kind of cake that we remember from childhood. Colorful, affordable, nostalgic and easy to share, Dot Cake captures something we often forget: Joy doesn't have to be expensive or complicated.

The original viral Dot Cakes are typically made in small cups or jars with layers of cake and frosting topped with a thick blanket of colorful nonpareils. For Independence Day, I gave mine a patriotic twist by tinting the cake batter red and blue and topping each cake with nonpareils or dots.

The beauty of Dot Cakes is that they're more about fun than perfection. Use a homemade cake or a boxed mix. Make frosting or open a can. The goal is a familiar birthday-cake flavor, plenty of frosting and a festive sprinkle topping that makes people smile.

### PATRIOTIC DOT CAKES

Yield: 4 (9-ounce) cakes

Total Time: 40 minutes plus cooling

- 1 white cake mix, plus ingredients called for on package
- Red and blue gel food coloring
- 1 batch frosting (recipe follows) or 1 container prepared frosting
- 1 cup nonpareil sprinkles, aka dots
- 4 clear jars, cups or ramekins (8- to 10-ounce size)

### QUICK & EASY FROSTING

- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 3 tablespoons butter, softened
- 1 (7-ounce) container marshmallow creme

Preheat oven to 325 F. Prepare a half-sheet pan (13 inch by 18 inch by 1 inch) with non-stick spray and line it with parchment. Alternatively, use a 9 by 13 cake pan.

Prepare cake batter according to package directions. For thin red and blue layers, divide the batter between two bowls. Tint one bowl red and the other blue using gel food coloring.

Spread the colored batters side by side in the sheet pan and bake for 20 minutes.

Alternatively, simply bake the cake according to package directions in a 9-by-13-inch pan. Bake until done and cooled



The Dot Cake gets a red, white and blue makeover just in time for Independence Day. (Photo Credit: www.JasonCoblentz.com)

completely.

To make the frosting, beat cream cheese, butter and marshmallow creme with an electric mixer until smooth and fluffy. Refrigerate. This frosting firms up beautifully when cold.

To Assemble:

Using a round cutter slightly smaller than your serving cups, cut cake rounds. Place one round in the bottom of each cup. Add a layer of frosting. Repeat with additional cake and frosting layers as desired.

Finish with a smooth layer of frosting on top. Use an offset spatula to get a perfectly smooth surface. Pour sprinkles onto a plate and gently turn each cake upside down and press the tops of the cakes into the sprinkles

until completely covered.

Refrigerate for at least 1 hour or up to overnight before serving.

These cakes travel beautifully, making them perfect for potlucks, picnics and Independence Day celebrations.

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

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## Ask Daryl: Your Professional Organizer

# Juggling your time

Have you given thought to how much time you need to devote to getting your home organized? I think we often put this task aside because it feels overwhelming. We have a tendency to overthink what



Daryl Ashley  
Guest Columnist  
Confusion Solution

needs to be done and have difficulty allowing time to make changes.

Here are some tips that may help you in managing your time,

You don't have to do it all at once. That's right. When you make out your to-do list whittle it down

to small tasks that can be done in an hour or two. Any change you make will be a success.

Avoid spending money unnecessarily. Try to make changes that don't require a shopping spree.

There are so many projects that can be accomplished without spending a dime just by making a few small changes.

Schedule time with family to combine efforts toward one goal. Even if it's just putting things in their right places; the most basic form of organizing.

Pick times when it's interruption-free and don't stop until your goal is complete.

Have bags for trash, dust cloths for surface cleaning, and boxes for donations.

Keep in mind that everything you do to put your life in order means allowing some planned time. But, once each project is complete it will be easier to maintain and may even eliminate the need to juggle so much in the future.

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

## University of Kentucky Extension Notes

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

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

## Most Kentucky snakes are harmless. Knowing the difference matters.

Few animals in Kentucky are more misunderstood than snakes.

They turn up in gardens, woodpiles, barns, creeks, ponds and backyards. They startle people. They move quickly. They do not blink. And for many Kentuckians, the first thought is often the same: Is it venomous?

Most of the time, the answer is no. Kentucky is home to 33 snake species, and only four are venomous: the copperhead, timber rattlesnake, pigmy rattlesnake and western cottonmouth. That means most snakes people see across the state are harmless to humans and play an important role in the environment, especially by eating mice, rats and other small animals.

Still, telling snakes apart is not always easy. Many people rely on simple rules they have heard for years: triangular head means venomous, round head means harmless; thick body means dangerous; snake near water means cottonmouth. Those shortcuts can be misleading.

Venomous snakes in Kentucky often have a triangular or spade-shaped head, with the head wider at the back and narrowing at the neck. They also have elliptical, cat-like pupils, while non-venomous snakes in Kentucky have round pupils. But these traits are not always practical

for the average person to use, especially from a safe distance. No one should get close to a snake just to examine its eyes.

Head shape can fool people, too. Many non-venomous snakes, including watersnakes, flatten their heads when threatened. That defensive behavior can make them look more like a venomous snake. Body shape can be just as confusing. Some harmless snakes are heavy-bodied, while some venomous snakes may not look especially large at a quick glance.

This is why range, habitat, pattern and behavior all matter.

The western cottonmouth, often called a water moccasin, is one of Kentucky's most misidentified snakes. It is venomous, but it is not found across the state. In Kentucky, cotton-

mouths are limited to the Jackson Purchase and parts of the Western Coalfields. They are associated with swamps, wetlands, lakes and floodplains, especially in the warmer months. There are no verified cottonmouth records around Lexington, Richmond or throughout Central and Eastern Kentucky.

That matters because many snakes reported as cottonmouths in those areas are actually harmless watersnakes. Watersnakes may be defensive if handled or cornered, but they are not venomous.

The safest approach is also the simplest: Leave snakes alone. Do not try to pick them up. Do not try to kill them. Give them room to move away, keep pets and children at a safe distance and take a photo from several feet away if identification is needed.

Fear of snakes is common. But fear does not have to lead to panic. A little knowledge can help Kentuckians recognize that most snakes they encounter are not a threat, and even venomous snakes are best handled with distance, caution and respect.

In most cases, a snake in the yard is not looking for trouble. It is looking for

See *SNAKES* on A-3

## Joyful Noise

# My soul securing anchor!

By Pastor Naomi Mitchell  
for *Carter County Times*

The phrase "forever settled in Heaven" is found in Psalm 119:89 in the Bible, which states, "Forever, O LORD, thy word is settled in Heaven." This verse emphasizes the eternal nature of God's word, indicating that it is unchanging and firmly established in the heavens. It reflects the faithfulness of God across

generations, affirming that His laws and decrees are everlasting.

Being anchored in the word of God signifies a deep-rooted assurance and stability in faith, allowing us as believers in Christ to withstand life's challenges with hope and confidence.

In the Bible, the concept of being "anchored" is rich with meaning, symbolizing stability, hope, and steadfastness

in one's faith. The term is often associated with the assurance that believers have in God's promises, particularly highlighted in Hebrews 6:19, which states, "We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure." This verse emphasizes that hope in God acts as an anchor, providing strength and security amidst life's storms and uncertainties. The song

See *JOYFUL NOISE* on A-6

## Kentucky Dept of Agriculture Livestock and Grain Market Report

Compared to last week, feeder steers sold steady to 6.00 higher with instances sharply higher. Heifers were steady to 5.00 higher and yearling steers and heifers were steady to firm. Demand was good to very good throughout the week with best interest for weaned packages and groups. Slaughter cows sold steady to 4.00 higher and slaughter bulls were unevenly steady with good demand for slaughter classes.

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

Week ending 6/27/26

|                              | This Week | Prior Week | Last Year |
|------------------------------|-----------|------------|-----------|
| <b>Steers (M&amp;L 1-2)</b>  |           |            |           |
| 350-400 lbs                  | 561.11    | 526.94     | 392.92    |
| 400-450 lbs                  | 503.15    | 498.83     | 390.43    |
| 450-500 lbs                  | 488.72    | 491.17     | 381.10    |
| 500-550 lbs                  | 462.49    | 468.79     | 363.55    |
| 550-600 lbs                  | 450.94    | 441.92     | 353.01    |
| 600-650 lbs                  | 423.07    | 422.73     | 330.52    |
| 650-700 lbs                  | 399.32    | 400.64     | 318.42    |
| 700-750 lbs                  | 376.73    | 372.25     | 307.06    |
| 750-800 lbs                  | 369.80    | 360.91     | 297.19    |
| 800-850 lbs                  | 340.57    | 341.18     | 302.52    |
| 850-900 lbs                  | 340.76    | 321.25     | 281.93    |
| <b>Heifers (M&amp;L 1-2)</b> |           |            |           |
| 300-350 lbs                  | 504.49    | 504.13     | 373.77    |
| 350-400 lbs                  | 483.36    | 486.78     | 374.95    |
| 400-450 lbs                  | 452.57    | 451.03     | 354.66    |
| 450-500 lbs                  | 441.15    | 433.49     | 345.59    |
| 500-550 lbs                  | 417.26    | 416.29     | 328.07    |
| 550-600 lbs                  | 399.09    | 390.81     | 318.26    |
| 600-650 lbs                  | 372.51    | 366.15     | 299.87    |
| 650-700 lbs                  | 360.55    | 349.64     | 287.41    |
| 700-750 lbs                  | 338.34    | 333.04     | 290.08    |
| 750-800 lbs                  | 331.20    | 325.15     | 268.34    |

|                        | Average       | High          | Low           |
|------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| <b>Slaughter Cows</b>  |               |               |               |
| Breakers               | 162.00-189.00 | 170.00-210.00 | 135.00-179.00 |
| Boners                 | 146.00-189.00 | 160.00-239.00 | 141.00-179.00 |
| Lean                   | 130.00-175.00 | 160.00-196.00 | 118.00-166.00 |
| <b>Slaughter Bulls</b> |               |               |               |
| Yield Grade 1&2        | 200.00-231.00 | 215.00-259.00 | 177.00-206.00 |

**Jun 11, 2026 Bowling Green, KY**  
**SLAUGHTER GOATS: 164**  
**Kids-Selection 1** 56 lbs 450.00; 64 lbs 460.00; 125 lbs 305.00. **Selection 1-2** 87 lbs 330.00. **Selection 2** 49 lbs 355.00; 66 lbs 350.00.  
**SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 627**  
**Hair Breeds-Choice & Prime 1-2** 55 lbs 292.50; 61-67 lbs 300.00-312.50; 73-77 lbs 300.00-302.50; 89 lbs 265.00; 90 lbs 280.00; 120 lbs 255.00.  
**Wooled-Choice & Prime 1-2** 50-57 lbs 285.00-410.00; 63 lbs 305.00; 74 lbs 285.00; 95 lbs 245.00.

|                         | This Week   | Prior Week  | Last Year  |
|-------------------------|-------------|-------------|------------|
| <b>GRAINS</b>           |             |             |            |
| <b>Corn</b>             | 3.97-4.48   | 4.00-4.51   | 4.05-4.48  |
| <b>Soybeans</b>         | 10.43-11.79 | 10.43-11.72 | 9.78-10.83 |
| <b>Red Winter Wheat</b> | 5.03-6.06   | 5.15-6.18   | 4.41-5.57  |

**Arrests** from A-1

arrested and booked June 25.

- Chad Wright, 48, of Morehead, arrested by Carter County Detention Center, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked June 26.
- Charles Kouns, 55, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County Circuit

Court, on a hold for drug court, arrested and booked June 26.

- Alexander Cline-Dickerson, 31, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County District Court, charges unavailable, arrested and booked June 26.
- Dusty Tolliver, 32, of Denton, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and

booked June 26.

- David Harlow, 48, of Grayson, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and booked June 26.
- Scott Tempario, 43, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on a probation violation (for a felony offense), arrested and booked June 28.

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.

**Mayor** from A-1

ed up wrecking and (losing his) life.”

Combs said that incident was still fresh in the minds of the city and its residents at the time they voted on the body cameras.

“Driving under the influence, whether it is alcohol or anything else, is something we take very seriously. And the court system also takes it very seriously.”

In the interest of transparency and to give the residents of Grayson a clear idea of what happened, he addressed the events involving an arrest made in the city that has now gone viral on social media. Around the same time in 2025 that the police body cams were implemented, he explained, a police officer who no longer works for the City of Grayson responded to what was called into police dispatch as a hit and run.

“Our officers are accountable for their own actions, and when incidents like this come up, we look into them,” Combs said. “And we invested in accountability and transparency through the body cams. That way there is an objective record and we can review it, then decide what action needs to be taken going forward.”

In the particular case involving former Grayson Police Officer Michael Bell, Combs described it as

a “perfect storm” of things that served to confuse the case.

“It was called in as a hit and run,” Combs explained. “Field sobriety tests are subjective, which is a problem,” he added. “The public sees the footage – which is real – and they come to their conclusions about it. But they (the public) aren’t trained on the field sobriety tests, and they are relying on the footage of this YouTuber.”

A YouTuber, he noted, who wants more clicks. There is a motivation, Combs explained, for folks like that to court controversy to draw viewers. The city, meanwhile, is bound by the restrictions of the legal system. Especially when there is still pending litigation related to a case.

“The online outrage business runs on views,” Combs said. “And lawsuits run on settlements.”

Motivations aside, Combs said it is quite possible that other officers would have handled the situation differently. So, the incident is being treated as an opportunity to improve, he said.

“We always want to do better,” Combs said of every situation where police interact with the public. “We have counseled our sergeant (officer Bell’s supervisor, Justin Hall) on his approach to that situation. And Officer Bell is

no longer with the Grayson Police Department.”

Combs said Bell resigned and left the Grayson Police Department in February of 2026, while the city was still dealing with the incidents he was involved in.

“He resigned and left the department while these matters were being resolved,” Combs said.

Beyond that, he said there were certain things neither he nor anyone on the police department could legally comment on.

“We follow Kentucky law,” he said. “And on personnel records, we take those obligations very seriously.”

Many things such as city meetings and passed resolutions or ordinances are a matter of public record, and any citizen has the right to request a copy of those records. Certain things, however, such as the sensitive personal information contained in personnel files and business discussed in a city meeting’s Executive Session are not open to public scrutiny.

Combs said in the spirit of always trying to do better, Sergeant Hall took advantage of training shortly after the incident in question.

“He was in 40 hours of additional training on Officer Response Strategies,” he said. “That training was

through the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet.”

Hall also took part in Department of Criminal Justice training, and is scheduled for another eight hours of training on leadership and supervision, Combs said.

“We hold our supervisors to that high standard, and by doing this (the training) we are putting the resources behind them to help them reach those standards.”

One other thing Combs said he would like to answer directly to the residents of Grayson was the fact that Hall was not wearing a body cam.

“We dock those cameras when an officer goes off duty,” Combs said. “Sergeant Hall had already clocked out when that call came in, and because 911 called it in as a hit and run, he turned around and came back to see what was going on.”

“When an officer hears hit and run from dispatch, they expect that something bad has happened,” Combs said. “And every officer tries to respond to that emergency.”

Hall’s lack of a camera, he explained, was due to emergency response rather than lack of oversight.

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

# CALENDAR

- **7/1: Olive Hill Farmer's Market @ 8 a.m.** | Save A Lot Paking Lot, Olive Hill
- **7/2: Carter County Library Board @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **7/4: Sit & Sew @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For more info or to RSVP call 474-6686
- **7/4: Olive Hill Farmer's Market @ 8 a.m.** | Save A Lot Paking Lot, Olive Hill
- **7/6: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 474-6686
- **7/6: Open Art Studio @ 10 a.m.** | Grayson Gallery & Art Center
- **7/6: Carter County Tourism @ 5:30 p.m.** | Carter Caves State Resort Park
- **7/7: Building Club @ 4 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library, Olive Hill
- **7/7: Rattlesnake Ridge Water Distict Board meeting @ 4 p.m.** | Rattlesnake Ridge Water District office
- **7/7: Little Sandy Beekeepers Association @ 6:30 p.m.** | Carter County Extension Office | Topic: Hive Inspections
- **7/8: Olive Hill Farmer's Market @ 8 a.m.** | Save A Lot Paking Lot, Olive Hill
- **7/8: Girl Scouts meeting @ 5:30 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **7/9: Grayson City Tourism & Convention Commisio @ 10 a.m.** | Grayson City Building, Meeting Room
- **7/11: Olive Hill Farmer's Market @ 8 a.m.** | Save A Lot Paking Lot, Olive Hill

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

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## Pet of the Week

Sandy is a one-year-old female mixed breed. She’s very friendly, and loves to play! Sandy’s \$100 adoption fee includes rabies vaccination and being spayed. Stop by the Carter County Animal Shelter and meet her or call 475-9771 for more information.

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

# New museum exhibit to open week of July 4

Northeast Kentucky History Museum highlights nation’s history

By Charles Romans  
*Carter County Times*

A new and improved Northeast Kentucky History Museum will be opening their doors on the July 4 weekend at the Olive Hill Center for Arts & Heritage (OHCAH). Curator Jim Plummer said the museum’s updated exhibit will showcase a

lot of regional history for everyone to enjoy, beginning with Native American artifacts and following through to antiques and items from the present day. The museum features guided tours with the museum director, has an art gallery with rotating displays, and features the Matthew B. Sellers Aviation Collection. There is also a gift shop filled with rocks, gems, minerals, fossils, and jewelry.

Plummer said he has been doing a lot of work at the museum lately.

“We want to spruce it up for the Fourth of July festivities,” Plummer said. “The Historical Society has quite a lot going on, and I am setting up dis-



A selection of Native artifacts from Jim Plummer’s collection. (Photo by Jeremy D. Wells, Carter County Times)

See **MUSEUM** on A-4

**Snakes** from A-2

cover, food or a way out. You can learn more about snake identification by visiting <https://kysnakes.mgcafe.uky.edu/>. To learn more about snakes in your area, contact your Carter County Extension agent

for agriculture and natural resources. 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, nation-

al 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:**

- The Olive Hill Farmer’s Market is located in the Save-a-Lot parking lot and is open on Wednesdays & Saturdays at 8:00 AM.
- Little Sandy Beekeepers – July 7th @ 6:30 PM; Topic – Hive Inspections

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**CITY OF GRAYSON**

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

**Olive Hill** from A-1

11 percent, exempting only worker's compensation.

However, given that the city had only been collecting the insurance tax on property, a decision was made to begin collecting the nine percent on other insurance besides property for the time being. There is no accurate projection on how much revenue this will yield for the city, but council believed there was a possibility it could remedy certain issues without a

technical increase in taxes. Insurance taxes of this nature are paid directly by insurance companies and not those they insure. The insurance company does however have the option to raise their rates to offset the added expense, though this is not guaranteed to happen.

Council also voted to continue operating based upon last year's budget until the budget for the upcoming year was recal-

culated and several items were addressed.

In other business, council discussed the multiple day business licenses for individuals selling within the city limits. The current ordinance states that anyone selling goods or services within the city limits is required to purchase a license for \$100. Vendors do have the option of purchasing a daily license, typically at \$15 per day or \$25 with electric, but in

the case of attending multiple events, the daily fees would exceed the overall business license. The city did discuss raising the fee to \$50 per day on spots with electrical outlets.

The new schedule of fees is causing concern with many vendors who set up at events in the city, many of whom do not believe their sales would offset the increased cost. Lisa Messer Conley, who has hosted the popular It's

Fall Yall! Vendor and craft festival in years past, posted on the event's Facebook page that this year's event had been cancelled.

"I will not ask vendors to pay extra money or get a business license," Conley wrote.

Conley wrote that she had created the festival to help nonprofits, churches, school groups, and similar organizations to fundraise and bring people into the City of Olive Hill. It's Fall

Yall! has been cancelled with no plans to reschedule, she said.

There are some differences in fees between a private and a city operated event, and anyone interested in an explanation of the new fees or wishing to purchase a business license should feel free to contact the Olive Hill City Hall.

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

**Museum** from A-3

plays on the Revolutionary War."

Plummer said it will be interesting and filled with reproductions and art.

"And I just got some earth science stuff for the science room," Plummer said. "It's mostly international rock and mineral specimens and fossils."

"We also have some Civil War items," he said. "And items from World War I and World War II. And we are really excited about the Matthew B. Sellers Aviation Collection. That is a lot of nice county history."

Plummer said he had done some shows for the OHCAH where he had set up displays in the gymnasium, but now he is set up on the third floor of the old high school building.

"It's given me some elbow room to spread out a little bit," Plummer said gratefully.

Recently he said he moved the items from the location at Carter Caves Road (where he had been for a long time) to the school.

But even the new location is filling up, Plummer said.

"It looked like a lot of space in the beginning, but it is filling up quickly. There was a lot of stuff to put in there, but it is looking really good. I've got a military display for the veterans," he said. "Especially World War II. But I have a lot of World War I stuff, too. I also have a salute to Korea, to the Vietnam Veterans, and all the way up to current times."

"And I have run the Sellers equipment all the way through since it is so historical to the state

and the county," Plummer said. "It's kind of a national treasure too, so I've continued with aircraft development all the way up to the B2 Bombers."

Plummer said that he has a lot in the museum, but his largest number of items are from the World War II era. Plummer's father was a 22-year veteran, he said, and as a result he always had a pretty good military collection.

The Northeast Kentucky History Museum will be open Tuesday

through Friday the Fourth of July Weekend, Plummer said. But he does take appointments for tours, and interested parties can contact him at 606-286-6012.

Plummer said that he is excited to bring his collection to its current location at 120 Comet Drive in Olive Hill, and hopes the city turns out to see the history he has put on display. The old high school location will lend itself well to group tours and other event groups, he said, adding that he looks forward to

kids coming in for the 45 minute tour and learning about their history.

"It's family friendly," Plummer said of the museum. "A lot of it is geared toward kids, too, and is very hands on. Kids will actually be able to hold Native American artifacts and things like that."

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

**Kinney** from A-1

she was gone, and was unable to locate her, they returned to the marina to report her missing.

This began a multi-day, multi-agency search for the young woman which included the use of boats, dogs, helicopters, drones, divers, sonar, and ATVs/ATVs as well as volunteers and first responders on foot.

At least one individual reportedly with the party was arrested for operating a watercraft while intoxicated. Cameron Conley, 23, of Ashland, was arrested by Kentucky State Police and booked on a charge of operating a watercraft while intoxicated or under the influence on June 24, the same day Kinney was reported missing.

Six other individuals are set to be arraigned today (Wednesday, July 1) on charges of being a person aged 18-20 possessing, purchasing, attempting to purchase, or having another purchase alcohol.

KDFW reported that the Kinney's family had been notified and that, after the

Carter County Coroner's office responded, the body was sent to the State Medical Examiner's Office in Frankfort to determine the cause of death.

While Kentucky State Police and KDFW took lead on the investigation, first responders with Ashland Fire Department, Grayson FD, Carter County Emergency Management, Boyd County EM, Elliott County EM, Elliott County Sheriff, Carter County Sheriff, US Army Corps of Engineers, Kentucky State Parks rangers, Lexington FD, Sandy Hook FD, England Hill FD, and others turned out to help.

The case remains under investigation, and KDFW requests that anyone with any information regarding the investigation contact them at 800-25-ALERT (800-252-5378), or Kentucky State Police Post 14 at 606-928-6421. Information can also be emailed to [info.center@ky.gov](mailto:info.center@ky.gov).

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

**OBITUARY****Alma Kaye Buckler Burchett**

1939 – 2026



Alma Kaye Buckler Burchett, age 87, of Olive Hill, Kentucky, passed away Thursday, June 25, 2026, at Carter Nursing and Rehabilitation in Grayson, Kentucky, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born Thursday, June 8, 1939, in Carter County, Kentucky, the daughter of the late Wayman and Pearl Holbrook Buckler.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by the father of her children, Edgar Eugene Burchett; one son, Kevin Burchett; three brothers, James Buckler, Bill Buckler, John Buckler; one sister, Ruby Faye Jordan; one nephew, Billy Wayne Buckler; and best friend, Bobby Reed.

Alma is survived by one son, Carey (Terri) Burchett

of Denton, Kentucky; six grandchildren, Kyle Burchett, Courtney Burchett, Kelsey (Corey) Bush, Kerrick Burchett, Tyler Burchett, Kayla (Aaron) Wages; seven great-grandchildren, Kylen Burchett, Millie Bush, Alex Eddy, Kyleigh Burchett, Rayland Wages, Erin Wages and Walker Bush, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss her.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m., Thursday, July 2, 2026, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Brother Dewayne Johnson and Brother Jason Johnson officiating. Burial will follow in Garvin Ridge Cemetery in Olive Hill, Kentucky.

Friends may visit from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., Wednesday, July 1, 2026, and after 9 a.m., Thursday, July 2, 2026, until the service hour at the funeral home.

Kyle Burchett, Kerrick Burchett, Tyler Burchett, Corey Bush, Aaron Wages and Kylen Burchett will serve as pallbearers.

Globe Funeral Chapel is honored to serve the family of Alma Kaye Buckler Burchett.

**Merkie Magdalene Pennington Baugess**

1940 – 2026



Merkie Magdalene Pennington Baugess, age 86, of Grayson, Kentucky, went home to be with the Lord at Community Hospice Care Center in Ashland, Kentucky.

She was born Friday, May 3, 1940, in Elliott County, Kentucky, a daughter of the late Ernest and Irene Estep Pennington.

She loved bluegrass music, cooking, working in her flower garden, and spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her loving husband, Carl Baugess; one son, Rhondle Gallion and one grandson, Jesse Gallion.

Merkie is survived by one son, Walter Gallion of Grayson, Kentucky; one daughter, Leisha (Larry)

Salyers of Sandy Hook, Kentucky; four grandchildren, Sammy (Brittany) Gallion, Lakyn (Cody) Prichard, Dustin (Charlee) Gallion, Katrina Gallion; six great-grandchildren, Payton (Nathan) Flannery, Remi Prichard, Charlie Gallion, Waverly Gallion, Letty Gallion, Dean Gallion; one great-great-grandson, Chase Flannery; two brothers, Ernest (Pamela) Pennington Jr. of Webbville, Kentucky, Ronnie (Vicki) Pennington of Olive Hill, Kentucky; two sisters, Ruby (Steve) Burnett of Grayson, Kentucky, Martha McDavid of Hitchens, Kentucky, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss her.

Funeral services will be held at 1 p.m., Wednesday, July 1, 2026, at Grayson Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 49 McCoy Road, Grayson, Kentucky, with Brother David Webb officiating. Burial will follow in Gallion Cemetery in Gallion Branch in Elliott County, Kentucky.

Friends may visit after 11 a.m., Wednesday, July 1, 2026, until the service hour at the funeral home.

Grayson Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Merkie Magdalene Pennington Baugess.

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**Catherine Marie Cooper Jarrell**

1950 – 2026



Catherine Marie Cooper Jarrell, age 75, of Grayson, Kentucky, passed away Sunday, June 28, 2026, at Community Hospice Care Center in Ashland, Kentucky.

She was born Friday, December 30, 1950, in Stanhope, New Jersey, a daughter of the late Vincent Paul Greene and Julia Eleanor Cooper.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in

death by her sister, Diane Reshke.

Catherine is survived by three sons, James (Elana) Jarrell of Highland Lakes, New Jersey, Steve (Caitlan) Jarrell of Olive Hill, Kentucky, Mark (Julie) Jarrell of Sparta, New Jersey; one daughter, Laura (Anthony) Brinton of Succasunna, New Jersey; five grandchildren, Rory Brinton, Claire Brinton, Matilda Jarrell, Remson and Rhowan Jarrell; one sister, Deborah Ketcherick of Landing, New Jersey; along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss her.

At the family's request a memorial service will be conducted at a later date.

Grayson Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Catherine Marie Cooper Jarrell.

**Grayson Optical**

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**Garrett S. Kee, O.D.**  
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FUNERAL HOME  
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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.

## Community Notes

Last week we ran an editorial about the situation that Mayor Troy Combs is in with the former Officer Michael Bell controversy. I knew at the time that I had assigned an interview to our reporter, Charles Romans, but I wasn't aware he and Troy had found the time to sit down already at that point. If I had known, I might have held my opinions, as many of the same issues I discussed in my editorial were addressed by the Grayson mayor in his conversation with Charles.

I'd also like to address the Prichard Sanitation and Prichard Lawncare backlash. For those who (luckily) aren't chronically online, the area businessman caused himself and his business a lot of headaches – and cancelled contracts – this week after making light of the challenges that special needs individuals and their families experience, including harmful language that diminishes and demeans their struggles in pursuit of a cheap laugh. Among the organizations to publicly pull their contract with his lawncare business were the South Point school system, and social media is chock full of individuals looking to replace the company for their garbage collection.

Finally, we'd like to extend our condolences to the family and friends of Marly Kinney. This situation is every parent's worst nightmare, and our thoughts and prayers are with you. We ask those of you who were praying for her safe return to now turn your prayers toward comfort and healing for the family.

– Editor

### Guest Editorial

## Kentucky's most vulnerable need more support, not less care

### Medicaid cuts will irreparably damage a fragile ecosystem of aid

By Doug Hoyt  
*Kentucky Lantern*

In 1947, Wendell and Edith Foster were determined to support their daughter, Louise, and seven other children in Owensboro, all of whom had disabilities. This was not the norm, nor was it popular, but it was their mission. Seventy-nine years later, Wendell Foster remains a nonprofit with that same mission: empower people with disabilities. It is my privilege and honor to witness and participate in that empowerment every day.

At Wendell Foster, we like to refer to that empowerment and successes as YES! Moments. YES! Moments are those times when you achieve something or reach a goal that causes you to celebrate and shout, "YES!" For the people we serve, it is taking their first step, saying "I love you" to their mom for the first time, driving after being told they never would, or living and thriving in the community. I have the privilege of seeing and celebrating these YES! Moments firsthand every day.

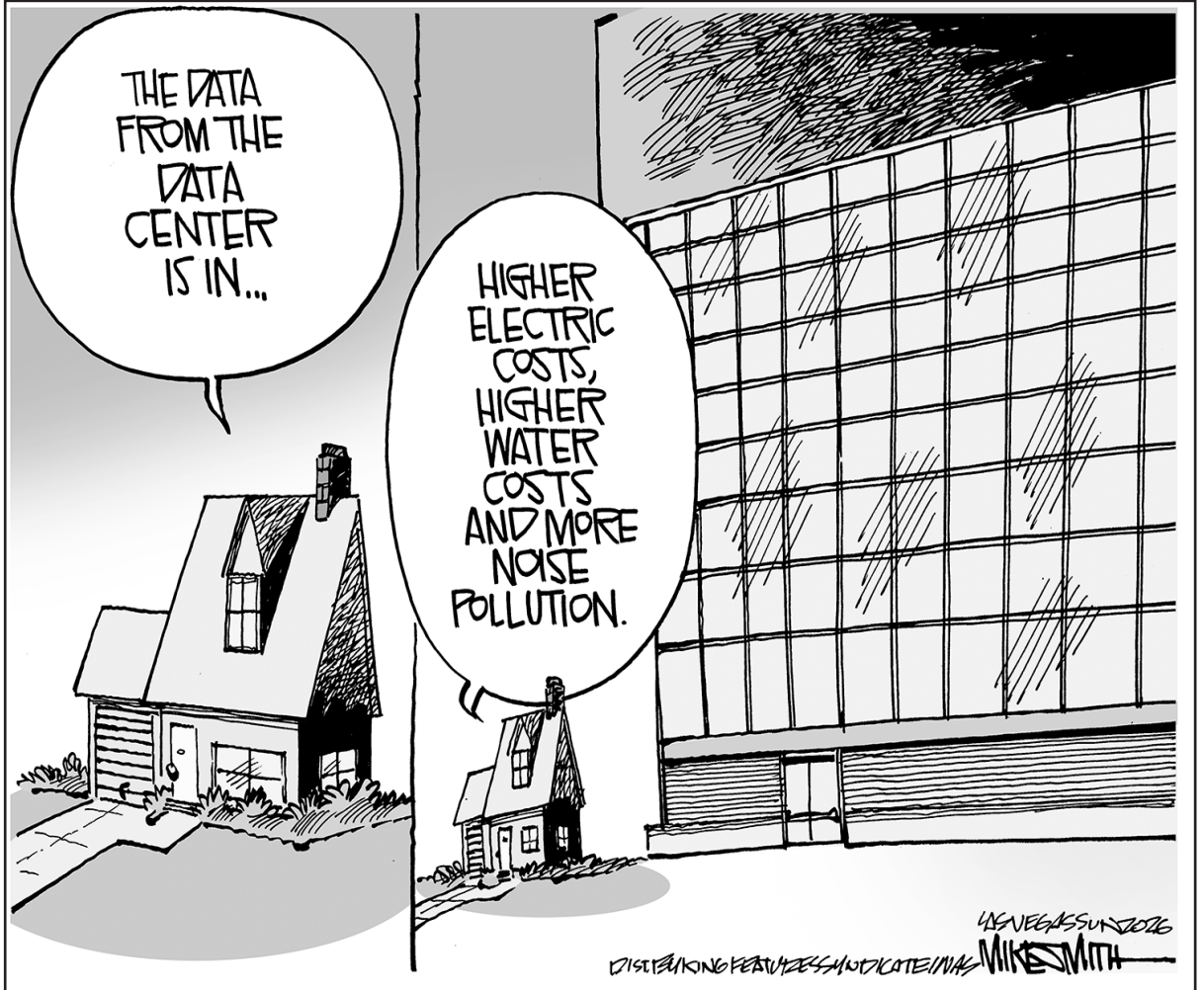
In the early 90's, Wendell Foster recognized the need to serve the community with physical, occupational, and speech therapy, so we opened our outpatient therapy facility. A decade later, we recognized the need to expand again and become a provider of waiver services, offering a different form of support for people with disabilities. Kentucky's waiver programs enable people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) and others who need support to live in their homes and remain connected to their communities and families. Wendell Foster is proud that we provide more than 103,000 services each year to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

Today, Wendell Foster and Kentucky are at a crossroads when it comes to supporting people with disabilities. Much of our funding support comes from Medicaid. Recently, Gov. Andy Beshear announced that many providers, including therapies and waiver programs, will suffer a 4% cut in Medicaid reimbursement beginning Aug. 1. Gov. Beshear stated that he must make cuts to Kentucky Medicaid to ensure the future of the program.

Thankfully, the Governor has discretion over how he approaches funding cuts: he can maintain funding for these programs that support over 20,000 of the Commonwealth's most vulnerable citizens, or he can cut Medicaid reimbursement rates for these lifeline services and put our system in jeopardy.

See *MEDICAID* on A-6

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



## Then again, shouldn't total openness be expected of our elected leaders?

A few weeks ago, I wrote in this space that those five county judge-executives should have been more transparent in their negotiation but, regardless, they had secured the EastPark data center at the right time and in the right place.

Today, I realize that I was wrong by glossing over the moral and legal responsibility that elected officials at all levels of government have to be open and honest with the voters who put them in office.

Frankly, the public outrage that followed the unexpected announcement of secret arrangements came as a surprise to me because of the potential financial benefits to local governments and other taxing jurisdictions, not to mention the temporary and permanent jobs to be created.

I also realized I had practically ignored the negative environmental impacts that could result, especially if all of the well-scripted "no harm" assurances are not honored by the owners of the Muskie Campus and Kentucky Power/AEP.

After many years of cheerleading for economic development as a journalist, a public employee, an elected city official, and a citizen volunteer serving on committees seeking new jobs, I admitted to myself that I had long ago enthusiastically embraced the "more jobs at any cost" mindset.

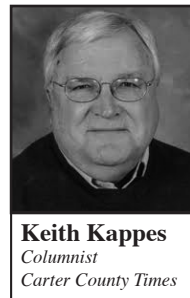
Two pieces of this EastPark project concern me the most: (1) the insatiable demand for more electric power for technology is why the new facility will require enough electricity to light a million homes, and (2) the possibility that another Kentucky area or one in nearby Ohio or West Virginia might hijack this project if we cannot resolve our concerns about quality of life issues tied to the deal with TeraWulf Inc.

As for the transparency questions facing those county judge-executives in the hearts and minds of their voters, I know from personal experience that they had no choice but to sign those non-disclosure agreements (NDA) to even be considered as the site of what might become the largest hyperscale data center in Kentucky.

If the trust issues can be resolved with vocal, unhappy voters and the major corporate players keep their promises, this matter perhaps could have a happier ending.

However, those of us who have worked very long in journalism and/or public relations also believe that it is generally impossible to unring a bell.

Keith Kappes can be reached at [keithkappes@gmail.com](mailto:keithkappes@gmail.com)



**Keith Kappes**  
Columnist  
Carter County Times

## Grin and bear it? Not Nora!

We've all been there. You're in a public restroom and you go to dry your hands under an automatic dryer. The thing roars to life like a jet engine and, in the minute you stand there moving your hands, you wonder if your eardrums are going to survive the experience. You don't know if you're still in a restroom or suddenly in a Maxell tape commercial.

It's annoying, sure. But it's one of those minor irritations we all just accept without question. I've been doing it for decades. Never once did I think to complain or investigate or do anything but grimace and wait for it to be over. That's what we do, right? We accept the world as it is, right or wrong, and move on with our lives.

Unless you're Nora Keegan. Back in 2015, Nora was a fifth grader in Calgary, Canada. Every time she used the hand dryer at her school, her ears would ring afterward. She noticed something else too. Her classmates were covering their ears when the machine kicked on. Even if they had noticed, most kids would have shrugged this off. Nora decided to do something about it.

With the science fair approaching, Nora grabbed a decibel meter and convinced her parents to drive her to public restrooms around Calgary. You can picture this nine-year-old girl in a bathroom holding what looks like a radar gun, measuring the noise at each dryer. She steps up to each dryer like an OSHA in-

spector on a mission, with adults glancing over trying to figure out what she's doing.

She measured the noise at 18 inches, the industry standard distance. Then she measured again at 12 inches, because she wisely knew that, because of shorter arms, kids would have to stand closer to reach the dryer.

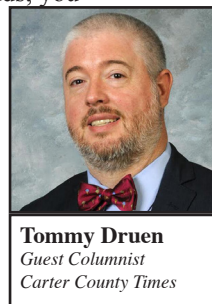
What she found was alarming. Many of these hand dryers registered over 100 decibels. To put that in perspective, that's louder than a lawnmower and almost the same as a leaf blower. Health experts consistently say that adults should wear hearing protection when around anything over 85 decibels to prevent hearing loss. And that's for adults, not children with developing ears.

Nora presented her findings at the science fair. She got third place. Most people would have been disheartened and moved on to some other facet of their life. Not Nora. She buckled down on the topic.

The next year, she presented further findings and won first place at the science fair. By 7th grade, she was experimenting with air filters to create mufflers for the machines. At 13, her research was published in Paediatrics and Child Health, a legitimate scientific journal. Then Dyson came calling. She met with their acoustic engineers to discuss quieter hand dryer designs. All before she even started high school!

Many of us think we can't do anything special or make a difference because we weren't born with the right genetics. Talent is rare, yes. But for some things,

See *GRIN* on A-6



**Tommy Druen**  
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](mailto: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.

## Mansfield author revives little-known Carter County Kentucky history through 99-cent Kindle stories

MANSFIELD, OH — More than six decades after leaving Olive Hill with his family, Mansfield author Willie Davis has released Olive Hill People Stories—Samuel and the Cave Soldier. This story is the first in a series of three connected Kindle short stories inspired by the early settlement of Carter County Kentucky during the War of 1812.

"When my family left Olive Hill for Mansfield in 1959, we became one

of nearly 400,000 Kentuckians who moved north after the war looking for work," Davis said. "Years later I realized many of us had carried our memories with us, but we'd left our history behind. I wanted to bring that history home. Olive Hill has a wonderful creation story that few people realize. I became determined to tell it.

Although Davis previously told this story in his two-volume historical novel Olive Hill, he recog-

nized that the new Kindle stories introduce that same history in shorter, inexpensive editions while preserving the people, places, and events that inspired the original novels.

Drawing from Carter Cave's history and early saltpeter mining during the War of 1812, Samuel and the Cave Soldier follows Samuel Reed and his family who struggled to survive in an unforgiving wilderness while supplying one of the War of 1812's

most precious resources — saltpeter.

The story is rooted in the region's remarkable history while celebrating the ordinary families whose sacrifices helped build both Carter County and the nation. Two companion stories—Victoria and the Twins and Isaac Returns—will be released in the coming weeks, with all three later collected by the fall into a single paperback edition.

"History isn't just about

## CLASSIFIEDS

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Second reading of Ordinance No. 867, will be held on July 13, 2026 at 6pm in the fiscal courtroom. This is an ordinance banning the construction, operation and decommissioning of any data center within the boundaries of Carter County. A full copy may be obtained in the Judge Executives office located at 300 W Main Street, Suite 227, Grayson, KY 41143.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Second reading of Ordinance No. 868, will be held on July 13, 2026 at 6pm in the fiscal courtroom. This is an ordinance imposing a six month moratorium on the construction, development, and operation of data centers of any size and all data storage facilities within the jurisdiction of Carter County Fiscal Court. A full copy may be obtained in the Judge Executives office located at 300 W Main Street, Suite 227, Grayson, KY 41143.

famous people," Davis says. "It's also about the ordinary men and women whose stories deserve to be remembered. It's also the story of many Mansfield families."

Samuel and the Cave Soldier is available now on Amazon Kindle, priced at 99 cents. For further information contact Willie Davis at willied@neo.rr.com.

### Grin from A-5

a lack of talent can be overcome with determination. Determination isn't genetic. You don't have to inherit it. Every single one of us already has it. The only question is whether we're willing to use it. Most of us don't. We're too busy accepting loud

hand dryers and a thousand other irritating things we've decided are just the way the world is and will remain.

Nora had determination, and that's what changed everything. Not some rare gift she was born with. Just the stubborn refusal

to accept that things had to stay the way they are.

There's a quote from Edward Everett Hale that I love. "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something."

That's Nora Keegan. She was one person, and

a young one at that. But she was determined to do something, and she did it.

Look around your community this week. There's probably a Nora Keegan already there, asking questions the rest of are scared or embarrassed to ask. Pay attention to them. Listen

to what they're noticing. Encourage them. Support them. Because that's the person who's going to fix something we've all been accepting for far too long, something that shouldn't be the way it is in the first place.

And if you can't find

that person? If you look around and don't see anyone willing to ask those hard questions or challenge what seems universally accepted? Well, maybe it's supposed to be you.

## New online doctoral program equips advanced nursing professionals for leadership, clinical excellence, and service

GRAYSON — Kentucky Christian University has announced the launch of its new Doctor of Nursing Practice, an innovative online doctoral program offered through KCU Ascend, the university's Christian online education platform.

Designed for working nurses and advanced practice professionals seeking to expand their leadership, clinical expertise, and impact, the Doctor of Nursing Practice provides a flexible pathway for doctoral-level nursing education without requiring students to step away from their current professional responsibilities.

The program reflects Kentucky Christian University's long-standing commitment to preparing healthcare professionals who serve with excellence, compassion, and integrity. Through KCU Ascend, students can pursue advanced nursing education in a format built for working adults, combining academic rigor, practical application, and a Christ-centered learning environment.

"The Doctor of Nursing Practice is an important step forward for KCU and for the nurses we serve," said Dr. Carol Brickey, Dean of the Yancey School of Nursing at Kentucky Christian University. "This program is designed for nursing professionals who want to strengthen their clinical leadership, improve patient outcomes, and expand their ability to serve communities with skill, compassion, and faith."

The Doctor of Nursing Practice is built around the needs of experienced nurses who desire advanced preparation for leadership in clinical practice, healthcare systems, education, and organizational improvement. The program offers students the opportunity to connect evidence-based practice, advanced nursing leadership, quality improvement, and ethical decision-making to the real-world challenges facing healthcare today.

Offered through KCU Ascend, the program provides the flexibility of online learning with

the personal support and mission-driven focus that define Kentucky Christian University. Students will learn from experienced faculty who bring clinical expertise, academic preparation, and a commitment to helping nurses lead with confidence, compassion, and purpose.

"KCU Ascend allows us to extend the mission of Kentucky Christian University far beyond our campus in Grayson," said Dr. Terry Allcorn, President of Kentucky Christian University. "The Doctor of Nursing Practice continues that mission by preparing healthcare leaders who can meet today's needs while serving patients, families, and communities with Christ-centered care."

The launch of the Doctor of Nursing Practice comes at a time when healthcare organizations continue to face growing demands for advanced clinical leadership, improved outcomes, and compassionate, patient-centered care. KCU designed the program to help nurses respond



submitted photo

to those challenges with advanced knowledge, practical leadership skills, and a renewed commitment to service.

For nurses called to higher levels of leadership and professional practice, the program offers a meaningful next step. Whether serving in clinical practice, healthcare administration, nursing education, community health, or organizational leadership, students in the Doctor of Nursing

Practice program will be equipped to grow in expertise, strengthen their leadership, and broaden their impact.

"KCU has a proud tradition of preparing nurses who serve with excellence and compassion," said John Penrose, Vice President for Enrollment and Marketing at Kentucky Christian University. "Through the Doctor of Nursing Practice, we are creating a new pathway for

nursing professionals who want to continue growing, continue leading, and continue making a difference in healthcare."

Enrollment is now open for the Doctor of Nursing Practice through KCU Ascend. Classes begin August 11, 2026.

To learn more, visit <https://www.kcu.edu/doctorate-of-nursing-practice-dnp/>. To apply, visit <https://my.kcu.edu/ICS/Admissions/>.

### Joyful Noise from A-2

says, "I've anchored my soul in the haven of rest."

Job 11:17-18, My future will be brighter than my past. Because my hope is in God, I can rest secure. Job 33:25, God renews my body with freshness and restores strength to me. Job 42:10, The Lord is my restorer. He redeems loss and restores what has been taken.

These aren't just verses. They are anchors. They are

reminders. They are truth when everything else feels shaky. Because when your hope is in God, your future is not defined by your diagnosis, your circumstances or challenges.

We have many covenant promises from God's Word. These aren't opinions, they are covenant. Jeremiah 30:22 says, "I will be your God, and you shall be my people." Jeremiah 30:17 says,

"I will restore health to you." Psalm 91:16 says, "With long life, I will satisfy him." Isaiah 54:17 says, "No weapon formed against you shall prosper." And Hebrews 13:15 says, "I will never leave you nor forsake you." Declare these promises over your life every day. You are in covenant with God. His promises belong to you. You walk in his protection, provision, and peace. Cov-

enant means God doesn't break His Word! Amen!

There is great stability in trials being anchored in God's word. There are guidance and direction in the teachings found in Scripture. There is hope and assurance that comes from being anchored in God's word.

Being anchored in the word of God means having a firm foundation of faith that provides stability,

hope, and assurance. It is a reminder of God's unchanging nature and His covenant promises, which serve as a secure anchor for the soul, enabling believers to face life's storms with confidence and peace. Ask Jesus to be your Lord and Savior today! You won't regret it!

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](mailto:Pastornaomi4god@gmail.com). FB: [JoyfulHoprayer](https://www.facebook.com/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.

### Medicaid from A-5

Currently, Wendell Foster and all providers in Kentucky are operating under Medicaid reimbursement rates below the levels recommended by a multi-year rate study conducted by the Department for Medicaid Services. Simply put, our therapy and waiver programs already operate at a financial loss today. Further reducing

reimbursement rates would irreparably damage our fragile system of support, leaving people with disabilities and their families with limited or no choices.

Unlike other healthcare services, waiver services are solely funded by the Medicaid program. There are no other revenue sources to offset reductions. Reduced reimbursement

rates would force providers to make difficult decisions about retaining staff and services. Any rate reductions will cause providers, including Wendell Foster, to reduce services, decrease the number of direct support professionals, or close programs altogether.

The hard truth is that cutting reimbursement rates for these critical ser-

vices does not save money or decrease the need for support. When rates are cut, people with disabilities are often left with few options and are forced to seek care in far more expensive settings, such as hospitals, institutions, or nursing homes.

I call on Governor Beshear and state leaders to carefully consider

the consequences of any Medicaid reimbursement cuts. Further cuts to rates that are already inadequate will jeopardize services and place Kentucky's most vulnerable citizens at risk.

Now is not the time to place blame. Now is not the time to point fingers.

Now is the time to rally to support those who need

it most.

Now is the time to work together to help create and celebrate more YES! Moments for people with disabilities.

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## Judicial watchdog is wary of Beshear's involvement in Kentucky Court of Appeals election

By McKenna Horsley  
*Kentucky Lantern*

A Kentucky judicial watchdog group says it is concerned about Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear's

involvement in the upcoming Court of Appeals election.

The Kentucky Judicial Campaign Conduct Committee said in a Saturday statement that Beshear

has been fundraising for Court of Appeals Judge Will Moynahan, who is currently facing Fayette Circuit Court Judge Lucy VanMeter.

Beshear appointed

Moynahan to the bench in 2025 to represent the 5th Appellate District after Justice Pamela Goodwine was elected to the Kentucky Supreme Court. The district includes Fayette,

Madison, Franklin, Scott, Jessamine, Woodford, Clark and Bourbon counties

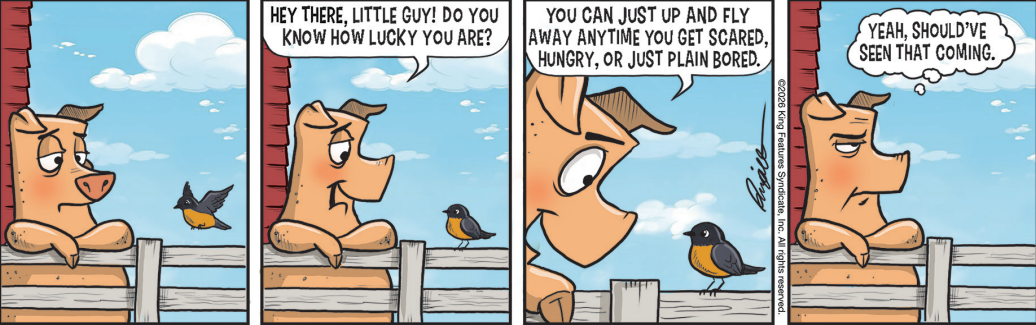
The conduct committee said Beshear had appeared at a fundraising event for

Moynahan. Also, Moynahan's campaign website features a photo of him and Beshear, "which the committee considers to be an implied endorsement."

See *BESHEAR* on A-8

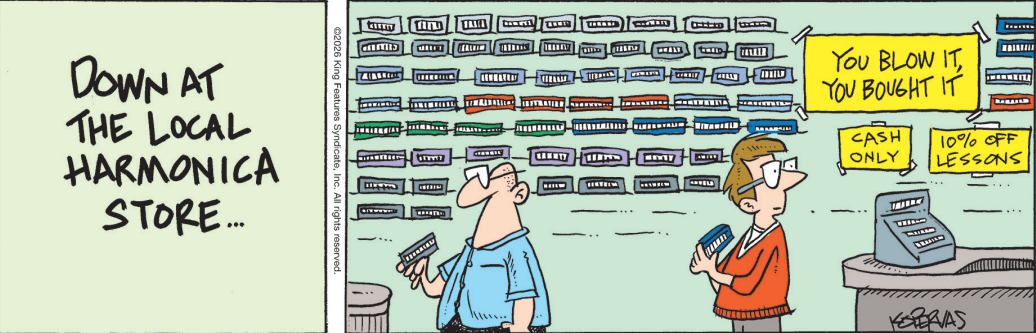
# Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



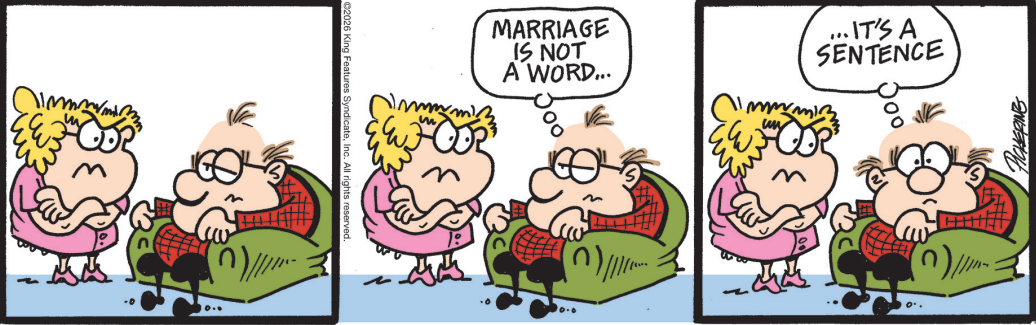
## Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



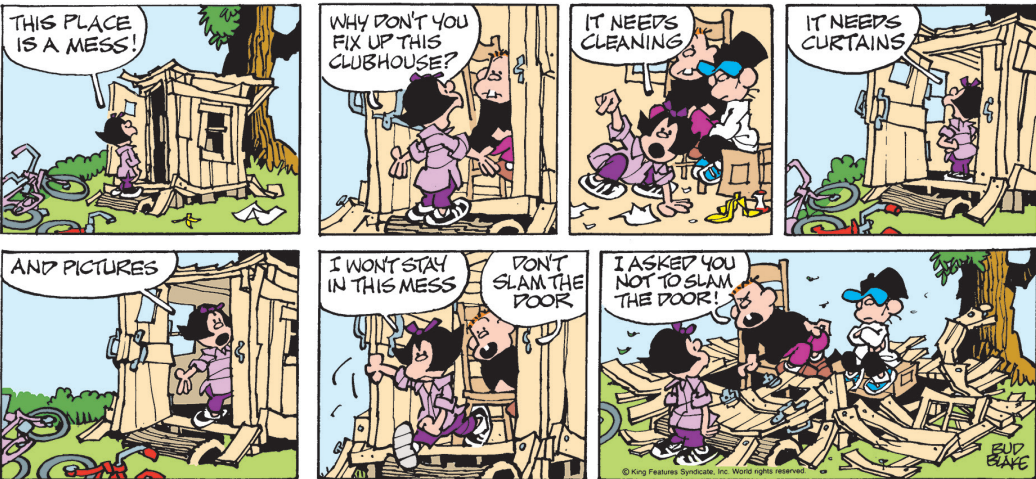
## The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



## TIGER

by BUD BLAKE



## OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland



## HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



## Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps



## CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: U equals V

V ITJWW QRK QUVQR UQAVJXK  
 XMQX QZZJQEW XD IDY VR  
 MJQUJRHDTEY OJ  
 HEQWVVNVJY QW Q OVAY  
 DN ZAQK.

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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!

Shield **MARRO**

Laud **XELOT**

Mug **NITES**

Tower **PIERS**

**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. Leg joint           | ___ K ___ | Viewpoint         | ___ G ___ |
| 2. Agriculturalist     | ___ A ___ | Previous          | ___ O ___ |
| 3. Inconsequential     | ___ I ___ | Estate            | ___ A ___ |
| 4. Face makeup         | ___ E ___ | ___ and ready     | ___ H ___ |
| 5. Financial manager   | ___ A ___ | Edith and Archie  | ___ U ___ |
| 6. Shake from the cold | ___ V ___ | Blackeye          | ___ N ___ |
| 7. Cagney or Bond      | J ___     | Domesticates      | T ___     |
| 8. Fall blossom        | ___ S ___ | Change            | ___ L ___ |
| 9. Tonto's horse       | ___ U ___ | F. ___ Fitzgerald | ___ T ___ |
| 10. Baby toy           | R ___     | Combative clash   | B ___     |

## GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

|    |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|    | + | - | = | 1 |   |   |   |   |
| +  |   | + | - |   |   |   |   |   |
|    | + |   | - | = | 7 |   |   |   |
| ×  |   | - | ÷ | = | 6 |   |   |   |
| =  |   | = | = |   |   |   |   |   |
| 60 | 7 | 2 |   |   |   |   |   |   |
| 1  | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |

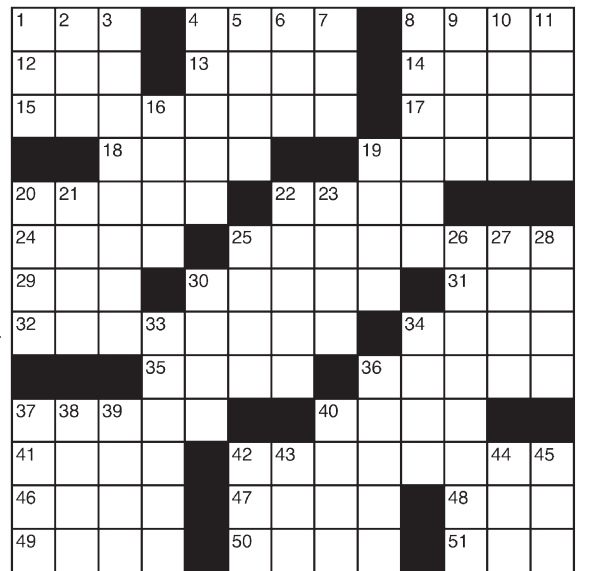
Answers for Even Exchange:

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Arkle, Angle   | 6. Silver, Shiner  |
| 2. Farmer, Farmer | 7. James, James    |
| 3. Minor, Manor   | 8. Aster, Aster    |
| 4. Rouge, Rough   | 9. Scout, Scout    |
| 5. Banker, Bunker | 10. Rattle, Battle |

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 "Chocolat" actor
- 5 Audio giant
- 9 Prune
- 12 Antioxidant berry
- 13 Egg
- 14 - budget
- 15 Plumbing problem
- 16 Firsties
- 17 TiVo precursor
- 18 Foolproof
- 19 Sch. URL ender
- 20 Borscht base
- 21 Sailing hazard
- 23 - Victor
- 25 Daughter of Muhammad
- 28 Lynx
- 32 "West Side Story" role
- 33 Prefix meaning "water"
- 34 Ocean bottoms
- 36 Grapevine talk
- 37 Chow down
- 38 " - was saying ..."
- 39 Scoff
- 42 Half of bi-
- 44 Sod
- 48 Napoleon's title (Abbr.)
- 49 Mideast gulf
- 50 Verifiable
- 51 Brit. record label



- 7 Outlying area
- 8 Ambulance letters
- 9 Zero, in tennis
- 10 Formerly
- 11 Section
- 20 Date night hire
- 22 D-Day beach
- 24 Some Pacific salmon
- 25 Passing craze
- 26 Chemical suffix
- 27 Gratuity
- 29 LP successors
- 30 NPR's Shapiro
- 31 Pinnacle
- 35 Recording site
- 36 Olympic swimmer
- 39 "M\*A\*S\*H" vehicle
- 40 Tennis star
- 41 Grand tale
- 43 Legendary loch
- 45 Language of Pakistan
- 46 Carpets
- 47 Shoe fillers
- 49 Illustrations

### DOWN

- 1 June honorees
- 2 Beige
- 3 Two of a kind
- 4 Specialist in the heating/cooling industry
- 5 Grocery store
- 6 Roman poet

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## Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

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

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## FiveSpot™

Artistic expression

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| P | R | I | N | T |
|   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |
|   |   |   |   |   |

Solve each row by replacing one letter from the answer above or below and scrambling to make a new word. When complete, the top and bottom words will have no letters in common.

FiveSpot is a trademark of Michael McLinden. See more at www.sproutsudoku.com

02646

## Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

- MOVIES: Who was the only actress to appear in the 1961 and 2021 film versions of "West Side Story"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: Which month of the year has the most letters in its name?
- SCIENCE: What protects the Earth from solar winds?
- TELEVISION: What is the name of the bar in "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia"?
- U.S. STATES: Which state is home to the first Ben & Jerry's ice cream shop?
- LITERATURE: What are the names of the two brothers in the "Hardy Boys" novel series?
- LANGUAGE: What is a polyglot?
- FOOD & DRINK: Which herb is most often used in traditional pesto?
- ANATOMY: Membranes called pleurae cover the surface of which human organs?
- GEOGRAPHY: What is the capital of South Korea?

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## ESTIMATES

Today's Word  
 1. Armor, 2. Extol  
 3. Stern, 4. Spire

## SCRAMBLERS

|   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| E | D | A | H | S |
| S | A | D | R | E |
| S | N | S | D | A |
| R | A | D | I | R |
| N | A | I | N | T |
| P | R | I | N | T |

Solution

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

Answer

## Weekly SUDOKU

Cryptoquip  
 I guess any alien variety that appears to God in heaven could be classified as a bird of prey.

## Answers

- Rita Moreno
- September
- The magnetosphere, an invisible magnetic bubble generated inside the Earth
- Paddy's Pub
- Vermont
- Frank and Joe
- A person who speaks several languages
- Basil
- The lungs
- Scout

Answers for Go Figure:

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| 2 + 6 = 8  | 6 - 7 = -1 |
| 8 + 4 = 12 | - 5 = -7   |
| 9 - 3 = 6  | ÷ 1 = 6    |
| 7 = 7      | × 2 = 14   |
| 90 = 90    | 7 = 7      |

Answers for King Crossword:

|                   |                    |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Arkle, Angle   | 6. Silver, Shiner  |
| 2. Farmer, Farmer | 7. James, James    |
| 3. Minor, Manor   | 8. Aster, Aster    |
| 4. Rouge, Rough   | 9. Scout, Scout    |
| 5. Banker, Bunker | 10. Rattle, Battle |

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**Beshear** from A-6

“Partisan politicians shouldn’t raise money for Kentucky judicial candidates, and judicial candidates should not use endorsements by partisan politicians, implied or explicit,” said Committee Chair Charles Boteler, speaking for the unanimous committee.

A spokesperson for Beshear did not immediately return a request for comment Monday afternoon. A spokesperson for Moynahan referred the Lantern to a statement the campaign had shared with the committee.

“I was honored when Gov. Andy Beshear ap-

pointed me to the bench last year, and I am proud to have his support in this campaign along with many others from across the political spectrum,” he said. “In my campaign, I am reaching out to Republicans, Democrats, and independents throughout Central Kentucky, emphasizing my record of fair, impartial, and combat-tested judgment.”

The committee previously criticized Beshear’s involvement in a fundraiser for Goodwine in 2024, saying that may “further blur the line between judicial and partisan elections, and have the effect of eroding

public confidence in the impartiality of the judiciary.”

Since her election, Republicans have criticized Goodwine’s rulings on the bench, particularly being the deciding vote in revisiting and then overturning a Supreme Court decision a 2022 law aimed at shifting power from the board to the superintendent of Jefferson County Public Schools. An impeachment petition was filed against her this year, but a Kentucky House committee did not act on it before the legislative session adjourned.

Kentucky judges have been linked to partisan

politics in recent years. In 2022, the , a former Republican state representative, for running an openly partisan campaign for state Supreme Court. That same year, Republican Senate President Robert Stivers hosted a fundraiser for Joe Bilby who Judge Phillip Shepherd in Franklin County Circuit Court, where issues over state government are often filed.

Boteler said in an email to the Lantern in an email about the Stivers’ fundraiser that he did not recall if the committee had considered the Stivers fundraiser or not, but that “it would have been improper.”

“We should do all we can to preserve nonpartisan judicial races,” Boteler added.

The Kentucky General Assembly approved an omnibus election law this year, House Bill 139, which includes allowing judicial candidates to publicly disclose their political party affiliation. Beshear had vetoed it for a number of reasons, including the changes to judicial elections which could be “setting a dangerous new precedent in the Commonwealth,” he wrote. However, the Republican supermajority easily overrode his veto.

“It is paramount to our judicial system that judges be impartial in all cases that come before them,” Beshear wrote. “As such, judicial candidates should have no role in partisan politics.”

The conduct committee also opposed those election changes.

A spokesperson for VanMeter did not immediately return a request for comment Monday.

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# Kentucky crime report shows homicide decreases, more animal cruelty

By Sarah Ladd  
*Kentucky Lantern*

There were more than 300 hate crimes in Kentucky in 2025, and most of them happened at home or on roadways.

That’s according to the 2025 Crime in Kentucky report, which was released Thursday and shows a majority of those hate crimes were motivated by race.

Most of the race-based hate crimes in Kentucky last year were considered anti-Black, making up 67 incidents. The Hispanic and Latino population were victims in the second highest group to be targeted, in 26 incidents, according to the report.

Other crimes, including homicides and drug-related offenses, decreased in 2025.

Gov. Andy Beshear drew a line between crime decline and fewer fatal overdoses and projects like the reentry campus made possible by this year’s House Bill 5, through which the Kentucky Community and Technical College System will provide specialized job training to inmates.

“We’re also building on our progress on reentry, on reducing recidivism, the idea that when someone is released from prison back into society, we want to make sure they don’t commit another crime, and for every decrease you see in the recidivism rate, it means a crime that would have occurred did not,” Beshear said Thursday during his weekly press conference. “By training people, by getting our trades into our prisons... and by making sure that we can place people in jobs as they leave, we are reducing future crime.”

### Crimes with 2025 decreases

Crimes that saw the largest decreases in the report are gambling offenses (unlawful betting), which decreased by 82% in 2025; prostitution offenses, which decreased by 65%; and blackmail and extortion, which decreased by 61% in 2025. Prostitution offenses refer to a person who “unlawfully (engages) in or (promotes) sexual activities for profit.”

Crimes that saw decreases in 2025 include:  
•Homicides decreased from 582 in 2024 to 491 in 2025.

•Larceny and theft — the most common crime in the report — decreased by more than 7%. There were 51,246 known cases in 2024 and 47,568 in 2025.

•Weapon law violations — dealing with manufacture, sale, purchase, transportation, possession, concealment or use of firearms, cutting instruments, explosives, incendiary devices or other deadly weapons — decreased about 4%. In 2024, there were 3,811 known violations and in 2025 there were 3,667.

•Assaults were down by less than 1% in 2025. In 2024, there were 49,289 assaults and in 2025 there were 49,081 known cases.

### Crimes with 2025 increases

Crimes that saw increases in 2025:

•Sex offenses — which refers to any forcible sexual activity or sexual activity when a victim isn’t capable of giving consent — increased nearly 11%. There were 4,521 known instances of these cases in 2025, up from 4,078 in 2024.

•Animal cruelty was up in 2025, when there were at least 889 instances of “intentionally, knowingly or recklessly” mistreatment or killing of animals, which could include a range of actions from torture to neglect. That was up from 778 in 2024, a roughly 14% increase.

•Kidnapping and abduction cases increased by nearly 12%. In 2024 there were 1,084 known cases, which rose to 1,210 in 2025.

•Human trafficking increased by nearly 3% in 2025. There were 70 known cases in 2025, up from 68 in 2024.

### 2025 hate crime data

According to the report, nearly 61% of all hate crimes in Kentucky last year were race-based, followed by sexual orientation at 18% and anti-religion at 14%.

The data generally follows what was reported in 2024, though there were

more religion-based hate crimes that year than those based on sexual orientation.

Other hate crime take-aways include:

- There were 22 known incidents in 2025 of hate crimes against people for being gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgender.
- There were 11 incidents of hate crimes against people for being Christian. There were six incidents against Jewish people, three against Muslims and three against people of multiple religions.
- Most hate crime offenders — 122 out of 159 — were white.
- Most hate crimes in 2025 were assaults, followed by vandalism and destruction of property.

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