

# Tourism director tenders resignation

Commission has not yet filled roles vacated by White and Miller

By Charles Romans  
*Carter County Times*

The Grayson Tourism Commission addressed a number of issues in their regular meeting last week, including finalizing the budget for the next fiscal year and accepting the resignation of Tourism Director Lana Axtell. The commission began their meeting with discussion and approval of the treasurer's report, and was informed by the treasurer that all the

commission's financials were ready for the next scheduled audit. The report included financials for the month of June, a comparison of previous months, and a snapshot of the same period for the previous year and a year-to-date report. The commission did not fill the positions left open by the resignation of Daniel White and the decision of Deana Miller not to seek reappointment for her expiring term. Grayson Mayor Troy Combs informed the commission that the positions would be appointed soon, and also that the Grayson City Council discussed changing an ordinance and appointing Combs himself to the tourism commission. Combs told the

*See TOURISM on A-3*



Tourism Director Lana Axtell works with Grayson Mayor Troy Combs. (Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

# Analysis shows evidence of 'asphalt monopoly' in Fayette County, think tank argues

By Liam Niemeyer  
*Kentucky Lantern*

A new analysis of state road paving contracts by a free market think tank shows that some asphalt companies receive a large share of single-bid contracts from the state, a practice the think tank argues raises costs for taxpayers because of the lack of competition for road projects. The analysis released Tuesday by the Kentucky Forum for Rights, Economics and Education shows the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet awarded

more than \$1.3 billion in single-bid asphalt projects from the beginning of 2023 through the end of 2025. Of that total, the Fayette County-based asphalt company L-M Asphalt Partners received contracts worth more than \$424 million. About one-third of that company's contracts were for work in Fayette County, home to Kentucky's second largest city of Lexington. Andrew McNeill, president of the think tank and longtime critic of single-bid contracts, said

*See ASPHALT on A-4*



(File photo by Jeremy D. Wells, Carter County Times)

# McConnell moves to a rehabilitation center after hospital stay

By McKenna Horsley  
*Kentucky Lantern*

Kentucky U.S. Sen. Mitch McConnell said in a Sunday statement he fell before he was hospitalized last month and he has moved from being a hospital patient to "a rehabilitation center where I'll keep regaining my strength." "My doctors have confirmed that I didn't break any bones or suffer a concussion. I didn't have a heart attack or a stroke," the Republican said. "I don't have any tumors or hemorrhages. But I was briefly unconscious and was taken to the hospital. While receiving excellent care over the past several weeks, I've also had to deal with a mild case of

pneumonia." The statement was the longest shared by McConnell's team since he was hospitalized on June 14. The press release included a photo of the 84-year-old senator and his wife, former Secretary of Labor and Secretary of Transportation Elaine Chao. McConnell, who is a survivor of childhood polio, said that he has submitted to various tests to "help figure out what caused this incident." "And I'm continuing to do everything they ask to speed my recovery. In fact, with signs of continued progress, I've been able to move from hospital care to a rehabilitation center where I'll keep regaining my strength," he said.

At the advice of his doctors, McConnell will not return to voting on the Senate floor soon. The chamber is set to reconvene Monday. "But rest assured that, in the meantime, I'm not taking a break from the Senate business that matters to you," McConnell said. "I've been working closely with my legislative staff on current issues, and with my Kentucky team who help me provide timely constituent services across our Commonwealth. I've also been keeping in touch with my Senate colleagues on the appropriations process, midterm politics, and everything in between." McConnell previously said he planned to not seek reelection

*See MCCONNELL on A-6*

# 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.

- Zachary Manley, 27, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, for non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked July 6.
- Dakota Kouns, 32, of Rush, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of third degree assault of a police or probation officer, resisting arrest, menacing, criminal mischief in the first degree, and as a fugitive – warrant not required, arrested and booked July 8.
- Sabrina Hall, 57, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County

Detention Center, charges unavailable, arrested and booked July 8.

- Kayla Lewis, 37, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County District Court, charges unavailable, arrested and booked July 8.
- Larry Boggs, 71, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked July 9.
- Sabrina Hall, 57, of Grayson, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and booked July 10.
- David Harlow, 48, of Grayson, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and booked July 10.
- Dusty Tolliver, 32, of Denton, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and booked July 10.
- Hunter Jones, 22, of Hazard, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of careless

driving, no or expired Kentucky registration receipt, and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, arrested and booked July 11.

- Sherman Henderson, 43, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked July 11.
- Rebecca Holbrook, 54, address unavailable, arrested by Kentucky State Police, charges unavailable, arrested and booked July 11.
- Randall Holley, 46, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on two counts of failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked July 11.
- Matthew Pipkin, 40, of Rocky Mount, NC, on charges of speeding 18 MPH over the limit, no tail lamps, no or expired registration receipt, no or ex-

*See ARRESTS on A-3*

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This Week's Obituaries

Donald Owen Barker, 97

Franklin Edward "Frank" Evans, 84

Robert Lee "Bob" Wells, 71

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# LIFESTYLE



## The most underrated bargain in the grocery store

Every grocery store has an aisle filled with ingredients people buy without thinking. Flour. Rice. Pasta. Oats. Then there's the one ingredient many shoppers pass week after week because they're not quite sure what to do with it. That's polenta. And it might be one of the best bargains in the store.

Polenta isn't fancy. In fact, it's one of the oldest comfort foods around. It's simply coarse cornmeal slowly cooked until creamy, but don't let its humble beginnings fool you.

You see, polenta has a marketing problem. It sounds fancy pants, so shoppers assume it's difficult or expensive. In reality, it's just cornmeal wearing its Italian name tag.

If you're wondering whether polenta is just fancy grits, the answer is ... sort of. They're close cousins. Polenta is usually made from yellow corn and has a heartier texture, while grits are made from white corn and cook up a bit smoother.

A single bag costs just a few dollars yet makes many generous servings. Because its flavor is mild, it happily soaks up whatever you pair it with. A spoonful of butter and Parmesan turns it into comfort food. Top it with hearty meat sauce, roasted vegetables, braised meats, mushrooms or today's Italian sausage and peppers, and suddenly an inexpensive pantry staple becomes dinner worthy of a cozy Italian restaurant.

The leftovers are where polenta really shines. Once chilled, it's firm enough to slice. Pan-fry the slices until golden, grill them alongside burgers or chicken, or tuck them beneath a fried egg for breakfast.

If you're pressed for time, fully cooked tube polenta is a handy shortcut. Just don't let convenience empty your wallet. Making it from scratch takes only about 20 minutes and costs a fraction of the price.

**CREAMY POLENTA**  
Yield: 4-6 servings

Total Time: 25 mins.

2 cups water  
2 cups whole milk  
1/2 teaspoon salt  
1 1/3 cups cornmeal  
1 tablespoon butter  
4 ounces cream cheese, cubed  
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese

In a large saucepan, bring the water, milk and salt to a boil, then reduce heat to low. Add the cornmeal in a steady stream, whisking to avoid lumps. Keep stirring on low heat until thickened, about 15 minutes. Switch to a wooden spoon and add the butter, cream cheese and Parmesan. Keep stirring. You can tell it's done when it pulls away from the sides of the pot. Serve immediately.

**ITALIAN SAUSAGE & PEPPERS WITH POLENTA**  
Yield: 4-6 servings  
Total Time: 30 mins.

1 1/2 tablespoons olive oil, divided  
1 pound Italian sausage links  
1 large yellow onion, chopped  
1 red bell pepper, chopped  
2 medium zucchinis, sliced  
1 teaspoon fresh garlic, minced  
1 (15 oz.) can fire-roasted



reamy polenta provides the perfect bed for savory Italian sausage, peppers and onions. (Photo Credit: www.JasonCoblentz.com)

crushed tomatoes  
1 teaspoon Italian seasoning

In a large skillet, heat 1/2 tablespoon olive oil and brown the sausages. They will cook more later, so they don't need to cook completely now. Set aside and keep warm.

In the same skillet, add remaining oil and saute the onion until softened. Add the bell pepper and zucchini, continuing to cook until both are mostly cooked through. Add the garlic and stir to combine, followed by the tomatoes and Italian seasoning. Let this come to a simmer and return the sausage links to the skillet and let this cook for 10 minutes to marry the flavors and

finish the sausages. Serve over polenta.

Sometimes the smartest grocery bargains are the humble, old-fashioned ingredients patiently waiting on the shelf for someone new to discover them

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

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Ask Daryl: Your Professional Organizer

## Reuse and reorganize

When you are looking to buy things to help you get organized, stop and think before your shop; because you may just already have what you need right in your own home.

That's right! This is a great way to save some dollars and take advantage of items that could be used in another capacity. Thrift store shopping also offers pre-owned items that cost less and that, with some little fixes, can become special additions to any home.

Here are some cost saving ideas.



Daryl Ashley  
Guest Columnist  
Confusion Solution

1. Old dressers can easily be converted to storage as a buffet or toy storage.
2. Turned on its side, bookshelves are great for plants or as an entertainment center.
3. Ladders that are painted to match a room's decor are perfect for books or whatever items you want to display.
4. I turned an unused wire paper sorter into a divider for my plastic lids.
5. If you don't want plastic storage and are looking for more decorative options, baskets, boxes, or bowls are perfect for counter tops, throws, toys, or just about any-

- thing.
6. Decorative totes are another way to store plastic bags.
  7. Turn plastic storage containers into table tops by using mirrors or glass over decorative throws to hide those utilitarian pieces.
- There are so many things that can be reused for storage. Just look around for objects that could have multiple uses. Save a with a little ingenuity and see what you can come up with.
- It's as simple as that! Send your questions and comments to me at [info@confusionsolution.com](mailto:info@confusionsolution.com)

Joyful Noise

## How to prosper (Part 1)

By Pastor Naomi Mitchell for Carter County Times

Some of George Washington's favorite scriptures were found in Psalm 1. And he said, "if we don't have this Psalm activated, there will never be a successful America."

When he was inaugurated president, he asked the preacher to preach from Psalm 1 because he said, "I want this Psalm to be the measure of my life."

If you go to Mt. Vernon today, this Psalm is printed in three different places. If you go to Washington it is printed in two places.

This is a Psalm every believer needs to know. In Psalm 1 God says, if you will do these three things, whatever you do will prosper. Then he gives a warning; if you don't do these things, you will be hyper unstable. You will be so unstable it will take next to nothing in life to

literally blow you away.

Psalm 1 says that blessed is the man – it means happy, it means blessable. Blessed is the man: The Hebrew word esher is here translated blessed, which has the idea of happiness or contentment. Es her is a form of the Hebrew word ashar, which in its root means "to be straight" or "to be right." Blessed is the man speaks of the happiness, the blessedness,

See JOYFUL NOISE on A-4

Strength for Life

## Time for training

July is considered the off-season for many youth sports, and while that can feel like down-time, it's actually one of the most important training windows of the year. The off-season provides a critical opportunity to recover, rebuild, and prepare young athletes for long-term success, both on and off the field or court. As a certified sports conditioning and nutrition coach, I work closely with youth athletes, with a strong focus on girls' sports, where injury prevention is a top priority.



Tracy Deborde, ACSM-CPR, Deborde Fitness and Sports Conditioning, LLC

**Why the offseason is so important:**

During competitive seasons, athletes are focused on performance. Practices, games, travel teams, and club sports often leave little time for recovery or proper physical development. The off-season allows athletes to recover from repetitive stress and overuse, address movement imbalances, build foundational strength, improve coordination and body awareness, and reduce injury risk before the next season begins. Even a focused 6-8 week off-season can make a meaningful difference.

**Injury prevention comes first**

One of the most concerning trends in youth sports today is the rise in serious injuries at younger ages, particularly ACL tears in female athletes. These injuries often occur

due to a combination of rapid growth, inadequate strength, poor movement mechanics, and fatigue. A well-designed conditioning program emphasizes proprioception training to improve body awareness and balance, progressive strength training to support joints and control movement, and agility and deceleration training to teach safe change-of-direction mechanics. The goal is not to train harder, it's to train smarter.

**The pressure on today's young athletes**

Youth athletes today are often asked to perform at higher intensities and volumes than ever before. Travel teams, club sports, year-round seasons, and early specialization leave little room for rest. Without adequate recovery, the risk of overuse injuries increases, some severe enough to require surgical intervention at very young ages. Building in intentional off-season time isn't falling behind, it's protecting an athlete's future.

**Strength builds confidence, too**

Strength and conditioning programs don't just improve performance – they build confidence. When young athletes feel strong, stable, and capable, it shows in how they move, compete, and carry themselves. Training during the off-season also allows athletes to learn proper technique without pres-

sure, develop confidence in the weight room, and build habits that support lifelong health and fitness. Instilling a positive relationship with movement early carries over far beyond sports.

**Training together builds teams**

In my experience, off-season training with teammates is not only effective, it's powerful. Training together builds trust, accountability, team culture, and stronger on-field/court chemistry. It creates a shared foundation that benefits both individual athletes and the team as a whole.

**The takeaway**

Youth sports should build athletes up, not break them down. Prioritizing recovery, structured strength training, and injury prevention during the off-season helps young athletes stay healthy, confident, and competitive for years to come. This July, view the off-season as an opportunity; one that protects young bodies, strengthens teams, and builds a lifelong love of health and fitness.

**About the Author**

Tracy Deborde is an ACSM-Certified Personal Trainer with a bachelor's degree in health science. She is a certified sports conditioning and nutrition coach who specializes in women's fitness and youth athletic development. Tracy works with young athletes to improve performance, reduce injury risk, and build confidence through smart, progressive training.



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

### Extension Notes

[carter.ca.uky.edu](http://carter.ca.uky.edu)

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

## University of Kentucky researcher is helping AI learn a bird's individual song

LEXINGTON — Darin McNeil, an assistant professor of wildlife management in the University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, is partnering with the University of Pittsburgh and others to help build an artificial intelligence tool that could give bird researchers a new way to follow one of Appalachia's most vulnerable songbirds.

The research does not center on a specific bird

species but on a specific bird. The project focuses on the cerulean warbler, a small blue bird whose numbers have fallen over time. While there are already apps available to locate a specific species, this project aims to enhance that capability.

"Scientists already have programs, and apps exist that can tell the phone user when they are hearing a cerulean warbler," McNeil said. "We want to know which cerulean warbler is sing-

ing. We don't just want to identify whether it is a cerulean warbler; we want to know which cerulean warbler it is."

That distinction could open a new path for conservation research.

For years, scientists who wanted to keep track of individual birds had to catch them, band them with colored leg bands, then return again and again to see which birds came back. That work can be slow, difficult and intrusive, especially for a species like the cerulean warbler, which often stays high in the forest canopy.

See BIRDS on A-3



Rebecca Konopka  
Carter County  
Extension Agent



The Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is assisting in creating a program that could identify a specific bird and, in the long run, help research of other endangered species. The cerulean warblers' numbers are shrinking. UK and University of Pittsburgh are creating software which could open a new path for conservation research. Photo by Terria Clay.

Arrests from A-1

pired registration plates, and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, arrested and booked July 12.

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.

# Two more people confirmed dead after recent Kentucky floods, governor says

By McKenna Horsley  
*Kentucky Lantern*

Gov. Andy Beshear has announced two more people died from severe flooding that swept through Kentucky last week.

Beshear said in a Tuesday morning social media post that one death was in Hardin County and another was in Jefferson County, making the total number of deaths from the floods six. Beshear spokesperson Scottie Ellis said later that afternoon the Jeffer-

son County death was a 25-year-old male and the Hardin County death was a boy.

Previously, the Madison County coroner announced John Powell, Patricia Beck and Garnett Isbell died in Madison County in flood-related deaths. A fourth person, a 60-year-old man, also died in Jackson County.

“Please join Britainy and me as we pray for their families during this difficult time,” Beshear said in his post.

Funeral services for the six people who have died from the floods will be paid for out of the Team Kentucky Emergency Relief Fund, Ellis said.

“Gov. Beshear created the Team Kentucky Emergency Relief Fund to help Kentuckians recover and rebuild during their moments of need, starting with coverage for the funeral expenses of those lost,” Ellis said.

The governor has said the state plans to make a request for both public and

individual assistance from the federal government.

Kentuckians affected by the storm can report issues to Kentucky Emergency Management via an online unmet needs survey and damage reporting tool.

*Originally published online by Kentucky Lantern. Reprinted courtesy of Creative Commons license.*

Tourism from A-1

commission they could expect him to be on the commission once that ordinance was established.

The July commission meeting was also the group’s annual meeting, and as per the commission’s bylaws they were required to elect officers for the upcoming fiscal year. In light of the upcoming change to the city ordinance, however, the commission voted to postpone said election of officers until the August 2026 regular meeting.

The main agenda item for the July commission meeting, though, was the budget for the 2026-2027 fiscal year. The commission was made aware of a large amount of historical research that went into making the budget. Budget items included capital projects and capital expenditures at \$1.657 million, leaving a \$32,000 surplus.

Tourism outreach budget revenue was projected at \$72,960, an

amount which is almost completely made up from the Transient Hotel Tax, which was less city collection fees and cabin rental. Expenses were reported as totaling \$105,000, including advertising, marketing, and sponsorships, as well as fairs and events. The commission voted to approve the proposed budget and submit it to the City of Grayson for approval.

Mayor Combs congratulated the commission on all of their hard work, especially in the area of listing the commission’s current debt ratio versus proposed spending. Combs said the Grayson City Council appreciated the clear information and transparency.

In other business, the commission was informed that the Anne’s Corner project had moved forward to the stage where they had begun the process of requesting bids

from contractors for the proposed construction. The request will be advertised as soon as the commission’s requirements and expectations are clearly defined.

Grayson Sports Park Manager Bert Bayes gave a report to the commission concerning activities at the park.

“We had one tournament this past week and ended up getting rained out on Sunday,” Bayes told the commission. “We did get to play Saturday, but the whole previous week we had the Little League District. We had enormous crowds. Everything seemed to go really well. They ended up playing the previous Sunday through Thursday, and we got a lot of compliments on the sports park.”

Bayes told the commission that the July 4 fireworks event was well attended, and went really well until the storm came in.

“It was almost at the time to set it off,” Bayes said. “But all in all, it went really well and was only about 45 minutes late.”

Bayes also said that only about eight percent of the show was lost due to the weather.

The tourism commission went into executive session before the meeting concluded, but when they returned to regular session stated that no action had been taken.

Once back in regular session, the commission did vote to accept the resignation of Grayson Tourism Director Lana Axtell. Axtell had submitted the resignation in June of 2026, with the intent for the resignation to be effective on November 1 of 2026.

*Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com*

Birds from A-2

McNeil said the new system could allow researchers to identify birds through the songs they already sing, without having to catch them at all.

The idea rests on something most people never notice. To the human ear, one cerulean warbler may sound much like another. A computer, though, can sift through tiny differences in pitch, timing and pattern.

McNeil said the process is not all that different from how people recognize familiar voices.

“This new method would allow us to tell one individual from another based on their song,” McNeil said. “You could identify these individual birds by their voices as well.”

That could give researchers a better sense of what is happening to the birds from year to year. If the same singers return to the same places, scientists can begin to measure survival and site fidelity without relying as heavily on traditional marking methods. They may be

able to tell who stayed, who moved and who did not make it back. For a declining species, that kind of information matters, according to McNeil.

Furthermore, it can help researchers piece together why numbers are dropping and where protection efforts may count most.

The project, led by PhD student Lauren Chronister at the University of Pittsburgh, is still in its early stages. Currently, the team is focused on showing that the concept works.

McNeil said researchers are using parabolic microphones and other specialized equipment rather than ordinary smartphones. Although such technology could be incorporated into a phone app later, for now, the likely users are scientists in the field, not casual birders.

"The cerulean is where we're starting, but it isn't where this ends," McNeil said. "If we can learn to recognize individual birds by voice, there's no reason the same approach couldn't work for other species that

are just as hard to track."

The collaboration includes UK, the University of Pittsburgh, Indiana University of Pennsylvania, Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation and Arkansas State University.

*Written by Jordan Strickler, jstrickler@uky.edu, and originally published on June 12, 2026 at https://news.mgcafe.uky.edu. The Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is an Equal Opportunity Organization with respect to education and employment and authorization to provide research, education information and other services to individuals and institutions that provide equal opportunities for qualified persons in all aspects of institutional operations and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, ethnic origin, religion, creed, age, physical or mental disability, veteran status, uniformed service, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender*

*identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information or social or economic status.*

**Upcoming Events:**

- The Olive Hill Farmer’s Market is located in the Save-a-Lot parking lot and is open on Wednesdays & Saturdays from 8:00 AM until sell out. The Grayson Farmer’s Market is open on Saturdays at 9:00 AM and Tuesdays at 2:00 PM until sell out and is located in the shed behind the Extension Office.
- Ag Advancement Council Meeting – July 20 @ 6:00 PM
- Ag Development Board Meeting – July 20 @ 7:00 PM
- Healthier Streams for a Healthier Kentucky – July 21 @ 5:00 – Explore Big Caney Creek and learn about water quality, erosion control, and how you can make a difference. Meet at Concord Ent Baptist Church in Sandy Hook and transportation will be provided to the creek.

# CALENDAR

- **7/15: Olive Hill Farmer's Market @** 8 a.m. | Save A Lot Paking Lot, Olive Hill
- **7/16: Grayson Book Club @** 6 p.m. | Carter County Public Library - Grayson Branch
- **7/16: Olive Hill Area Chamber of Commerce @** 6 p.m. | Commercial Bank of Grayson - Olive Hill
- **7/17: Sit & Sew @** 9 a.m. | Carter County Extension Education Center | For more info or to RSVP call 474-6686
- **7/18: Olive Hill Farmer's Market @** 8 a.m. | Save A Lot Paking Lot, Olive Hill
- **7/18: Grayson Farmer's Market @** 9 a.m. | Carter County Extension Office Market Shed
- **7/18: Friends of the Library @** 5 p.m. | Carter County Public Library - Grayson Branch
- **7/20: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @** 9 a.m. | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 474-6686
- **7/20: Open Art Studio @** 10 a.m. | Grayson Gallery & Art Center
- **7/20: Carter County EMS Board @** 4 p.m. | Carter County EMS Station
- **7/20: Carter County Board of Education @** 6 p.m. | Carter County Board of Education office
- **7/20: Ag Advancement Council @** 6 p.m. | Carter County Extension Office
- **7/20: Ag Development Board @** 7 p.m. | Carter County Extension Office
- **7/21: Grayson Farmer's Market @** 2 p.m. | Carter County Extension Office Market Shed
- **7/21: Building Club @** 4 p.m. | Carter County Public Library, Olive Hill
- **7/21: Healthier Streams for a Healthier Kentucky @** 5 p.m. | Concord ENT Baptist Church
- **7/21: Olive Hill City Council @** 6 p.m. | Olive Hill Senior/Community Center

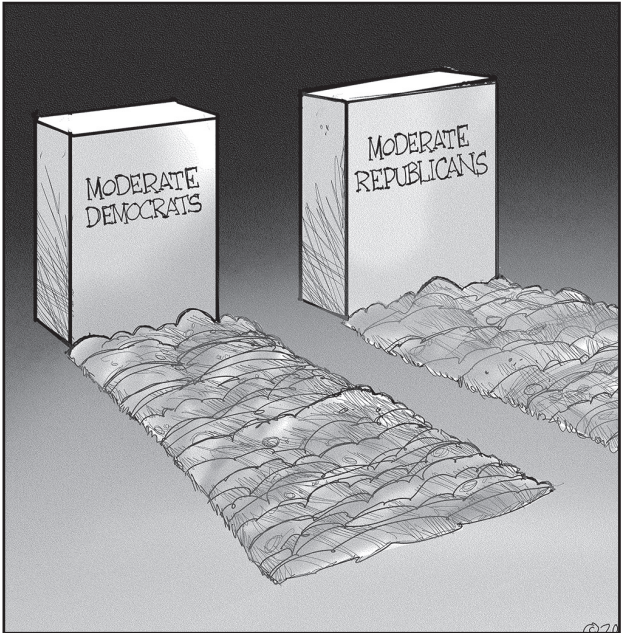
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# Pet of the Week

Sky is a one-year-old female Doodle mix. She’s a very friendly girl, who walks well on a leash and knows basic commands, like sit and shake. Sky’s \$100 adoption fee includes rabies vaccination and being spayed. Stop by the Carter County Animal Shelter and meet her or call 475-9771 for more information.

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



## CITY OF GRAYSON

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



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Joyful Noise from A-2

the contentment in the life of the man or woman who is right or “straight” with God. The righteous man will be a blessed man, a happy man. Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of the scornful. But his delight is in the law of the Lord and in His law he meditates day and night. And he shall be like a tree planted by rivers of water that bringeth forth his fruit in his season. His leaf also

shall not wither. Whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. If you are saved, this promise is for you and me. God says do these three things. The next verse says. The ungodly are not so. In these scriptures “godly” means “God’s way” of doing stuff. Ungodly means we are going to do stuff not God’s way. Ungodly, not Gods way. The ungodly are not so but are like the chaff which the wind drives away. God says you are going to be super unstable. Chaff is the

dust that is on the kernels of corn. The slightest breeze and it can get into everything. It takes next to nothing to blow the chaff away. It is unstable. God says you do these three things, and I promise whatever you do will prosper. If you don’t do these three things it will take next to nothing to blow you away. So, the first one is to not walk in the counsel of the ungodly: Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly.

You oversee what counsel you let in your life. Counsel means influence. It is the influence you decide to let in. Are you being influenced by your eyes; look at this or watch this? Are you being influenced by your ears; hey listen to this or that? Who or what did you give your eyes and ears to this week? Kids often sing this little song in Sunday School, “Oh be careful little eyes what you see, little ears what you hear, etc. Do not give in to the influence – the counsel

– of the “not God’s way” stuff. When you give in to the ungodly you will be super unstable. We watch things on TV and say I wish they wouldn’t do that or say that, etc. Know what you are doing! We have given them our eyes and ears. Then we wonder why Psalm 1 is not activated! We watch TV that exalts everything our Bible stands against. We put our eyes and ears where they don’t belong. Do not walk in the influence, the counsel of the un-god-ly, “Not

God’s way” stuff. Amen! So be it! *JOYFUL House of Prayer, 2519 Quicksand Road, (P.O. Box 856), Jackson, Kentucky 41339. Send Comments/Prayer Requests: Pastornaomi-4god@gmail.com. FB: JoyfulHopprayer. Services: 10am Sunday and Joyful Kids Class at 10:30am, 6:30pm Thursdays. Radio Broadcast: WJSN 97.3 FM & WEKG 81.0 AM Sundays 1-2pm.*

Asphalt from A-1

the analysis shows “further evidence” of L-M Asphalt Partners having an “asphalt monopoly” in Fayette County, with other asphalt companies refraining from bidding on projects in the county. “These companies refrain from crossing county lines to bid against one another, and that repeated pattern is the definition of tacit collusion,” McNeill told the Lantern. “It’s essentially an unspoken and unformalized agreement between would-be competitors to not bid against one another, allowing each competitor to have a monopoly in that county.” The result of “inflated” single-bid contracts, McNeill said, is higher costs for road projects and

fewer resources available for the state to allocate to other needed projects such as road guardrails. A past analysis by the think tank stated single-bid contracts had driven up costs for road projects by millions of dollars over a six-month period in 2025. Chad LaRue, executive director of the Kentucky Association of Highway Contractors, in an email said he was unavailable to provide commentary on the analysis because of an out-of-town business trip. Repeated phone calls to reach a representative of L-M Asphalt Partners were not successful Tuesday. Naitore Djigbenou, a Transportation Cabinet spokesperson, in an emailed statement said the

cabinet “prioritizes competition and works to ensure the state gets the best value during each bidding process.” “While we cannot control the location of asphalt businesses in Kentucky or who bids on projects, we remain committed to enhancing competition in the bidding process and delivering on our ultimate goal, which is to provide safe, reliable roads and bridges for families and businesses across our commonwealth,” Djigbenou said. Djigbenou said cabinet engineers, who have a code of ethics, develop internal cost estimates for projects and compare which bids are closest to those internal estimates. Djigbenou said

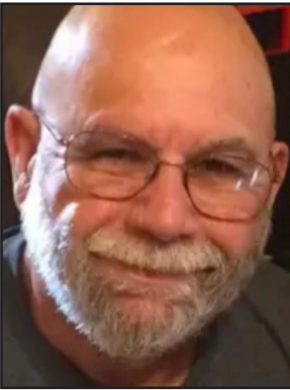
it’s also common for the cabinet to readvertise a project to encourage multiple bids. According to the cabinet, the state awarded 3,487 contracts between 2020 and 2025, with 1,292 of those contracts coming from a single bid. The cabinet rejected 535 “single bid proposals” over that same timeframe. The analysis also found that the Transportation Cabinet awarded more than \$214 million in single-bid contracts for road work across several Western Kentucky counties to Bowling Green-based Scotty’s Contracting. Another company, Mountain Enterprises, also received more than \$182 million in single-bid contracts for work, mainly in Eastern

Kentucky. McNeill’s think tank has scrutinized such single-bid contracts by the cabinet for years, a problem he said reaches back decades in the state. He worked with a GOP state representative to introduce a bill this year requiring the state auditor to examine road paving contracts for anti-competitive practices; the bill did not receive a committee hearing. A 2023 study by the Legislative Research Commission, the research and support agency for the state legislature, found that Kentucky was an outlier for awarding large numbers of single-bid contracts. McNeill told the Lan-

tern he believes there is “sufficient evidence” for state authorities to “ask the difficult question of whether or not the state’s consumer protection laws are being violated.” “It’s really a question of waste and abuse,” McNeill said. “We could be doing so much more with the money that is coming into the state to build and maintain our roads if Frankfort would get serious about how we ensure that we’re getting the most competition.” *Originally published online by Kentucky Lantern. Reprinted courtesy of Creative Commons license.*

OBITUARY

Robert Lee "Bob" Wells  
1954 – 2026



Robert Lee “Bob” Wells, 71, of South Shore, KY, went to be with his Lord on Thursday, July 9, 2026, at Southern Ohio Medical Center in Portsmouth, OH. He was born in Portsmouth, OH, on October 14, 1954, a son of the late Robert Grant and Helen Roberta (Bailey) Wells. Along with his parents, he is preceded in death by his wife, Judy Bailey Wells, and one brother, David Ray Wells. Left behind to cherish

his memory are one son, Jeremy (Nicole) Wells of Sandy Hook, KY; three daughters, Jessica (David) Bradford of Lucasville, OH, Bethany (Allison Frasure) Wells of Lexington, KY, and Morgan (Joey Adams) Wells of South Shore, KY; one sister, Betty (Roger) Eichenlaub of South Shore, KY; six grandchildren, Zackery Messer, Zander Messer, Rowan Callihan, Allan Bailey, Julia Morris and Harrison Wells; along with several other nieces, nephews, family and friends who will sadly miss him. Funeral services were at 1 P.M. on Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at Roberson Funeral Home in South Shore, KY, with Kenny Potter officiating. Burial followed at Mt. Zion Cemetery in South Shore, KY. Visitation for family and friends was Tuesday at the funeral home from 11 A.M. until the funeral hour.

Franklin Edward "Frank" Evans  
1941 – 2026



Franklin Edward “Frank” Evans, age 84, of Grayson, Kentucky, passed away Sunday, July 5, 2026, at Harbor Healthcare of Ironton in Ironton, Ohio, surrounded by his loving family. He was born Wednesday, September 24, 1941, in Carter County, Kentucky, a son of the late William Vernon and Nora Henderson Evans. Frank was a member of the United Baptist Church. He enjoyed spending time with his family, hunting, fishing and working in his garden, that he was always so proud of. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by five brothers, Emerson Evans, Othar “Gene” Evans, Theodore Evans, Bob Evans, Paul Evans; four sisters, Barb Fannin, Betty Oakland, Joy Haywood and Cressie Campbell. Franklin is survived by

his loving wife of 60 years, Irene Rayburn Evans; four sons, Jeffery (Angie) Evans of Grayson, Kentucky, Vernon (Anita) Evans of Louisa, Kentucky, Paul (Wilma) Evans of Louisa, Kentucky, Mark (Jennifer) Evans of Olive Hill, Kentucky; 10 grandchildren, Casey, Sydney, Harrison, Braden, Josh, Daniel, Madison, Andrew, MaKayla, Emily; 9 great-grandchildren, Sophia, Isaac, Skylar, Lucas, Oliver, Freddy, Truman, Hattie, Hollis; two brothers, Walter Evans of Richmond, Indiana, Donnie Evans of Texas, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss him. Funeral services were held at 12 noon, Saturday, July 11, 2026, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Brother Harrison Evans officiating. Burial followed in Rayburn Cemetery. Friends visited after 10 a.m., Saturday, July 11, 2026, until the service hour at the funeral home. Jeff Evans, Vernon Evans, Paul Evans, Mark Evans, Braden Evans and Andrew Evans served as pallbearers. Globe Funeral Chapel is honored to serve the family of Franklin Edward “Frank” Evans.

Donald Owen Barker  
1929 – 2026



Donald Owen Barker, age 97, of Grahns, Kentucky, went home to be with Lord, Wednesday, July 8, 2026, at his residence, surrounded by his loving family. He was born Monday, April 8, 1929, in Carter County, Kentucky, a son of the late Willis and Sarah Knipp Barker. Donald proudly served his country in the United States Army during the Korean War. He was a member of the United Baptist Church for 33 years and served as a Deacon for 32 years. He enjoyed going to church, working in his garden, telling stories and spending time with his family, especially his grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by six brothers; four sisters and one son-in-law, Clinton Johnson. Donald is survived by his loving wife of 74 years,

Ella Katherine Carroll Barker; one son, Rick (Janice) Barker of Olive Hill, Kentucky; two daughters, Connie Sue Johnson of Olive Hill, Kentucky, Leashia (Steve) Duncan of Grahns, Kentucky; 6 grandchildren, Allison; Jason, Jessica, Melissa, Cassie, Adam; 4 great-grandchildren, Marli, Brooklyn, Maci, Jacob; one brother George Barker of Grahns, Kentucky, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss him. Funeral services were held 11 a.m. Tuesday, July 14, 2026, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 West US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Brother Joe Ruley and Brother James Owens officiating. Burial followed in Kentucky Veterans’ Cemetery in Grayson, Kentucky. Friends visited from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m., Monday, July 13, 2026, and after 9 a.m., Tuesday, July 14, 2026, until the service hour at Globe Funeral Chapel. Tim Jones, Mark Brown, Allison Brown, Jessica Jones, Melissa Barker and Cassie Wilburn served as pallbearers. Ed Eldridge, Joe Ruley, Raymond (Pug) Huntsman and George Barker served as honorary pallbearers. Globe Funeral Chapel in Olive Hill, Kentucky is honored to serve the family of Donald Owen Barker.

Grayson Optical

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Garrett S. Kee, O.D.  
Optometrist

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# OPINION

EDITORIALS | LETTERS | COLUMNS | COMMENTARY

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

## AS WE SEE IT

### The paper that almost wasn't

You’ve probably noticed that this week’s edition is thin. There is a reason for that – though whether it’s a good reason or not is up to you.

As we were preparing to put this issue together, I lost my father. We had a complicated relationship, as fathers and sons sometimes do, but I loved him.

He was the man who taught me to drive a car. To change a tire. To shoot a gun. To field dress a deer.

Once, as a very young child, he caught me shooting at songbirds with my BB gun, and – when he saw I’d hit one – made me go pick it up and pluck it, and though we didn’t finish preparing it, the lesson was clear; you don’t collect an animal unless you plan to eat it.

Another time, early in my hunting journey, he set me out under a hickory tree with just six shells for my .410 shotgun. When I asked for more he told me six was the bag limit on squirrel, and asked why I thought I needed more.

The shotgun shells. The deer he let pass.

These were lessons too.

You don’t take an animal if you don’t plan to eat it, and you don’t take a shot unless you know where it’s going.

These weren’t lessons he always applied to his personal life. His temper was explosive, and the aim non-existent, less shotgun than dynamite, leaving regret and collateral damage in its wake. And sometimes, oftentimes, the person caught in the blast was me.

It made it hard, as I grew older, to maintain the kind of relationship with him I would have liked. We disagreed on much. We were both hopelessly stubborn. But I loved him. And he loved me.

He was my daddy. And my heart just wasn’t in putting together a big paper this week.

I hope you all can understand, and forgive me.

## Letter to the Editor

Having family near Olive Hill, I read The Carter County Times article: "Shriners Bluegrass Festival returns for 35th year" (July 8 issue). I am happy that this is such a popular event. I am a fifth-generation Freemason myself (and a second-generation Shriner).

I'm writing this Opinion-letter because I feel that much of the public are unaware that all Shriners are members of the Masonic Lodge, first.

The Masonic Fraternity exhibits core-values of friendship and morality illustrated by symbols, as well as the goal of promoting brotherly love, relief to the distressed and downtrodden, and inculcating a spirit of truth bound by the solemn promises of the Mystic Tie of Honorable Obligations made before Almighty God and a member's fellow fraternal Brothers in the Lodge.

However, not all Masons choose to advance to become a Shriner. I did, following in my late Dad's footsteps. I also joined both the York Rite and Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, as well as the Royal Order of Scotland, the Red Cross of Constantine, Masonic Rosicrucians, the Grotto, the National Sojourners and The Heroes of '76. The latter group is a patriotic Honor-Guard of sorts, mainly composed of military Masons proudly displaying the Colors and the Flag of our beloved Nation at civic events. I became a life member of the Heroes of '76 in Fort Knox, Kentucky. I'm thrilled that I am.

I congratulate the Shrine Club on making the Bluegrass Festival a grand success and thank them for their service and dedication to Freemasonry, to Shrinedom, and to the special kids in the Shrine Hospitals.

And, if there is any young man aged 18 or above, of good moral character, who believes in Almighty God and who would like to associate with other fine gentlemen of quality, I'd encourage any gentleman who feels he fits this scenario, to seriously consider asking for an application for possible membership. It can't hurt to ask; and it might just turn out to be a blessing. I joined at age 18 and am now age 62. I'm grateful I asked to be part of this wonderful fraternal order who emulates the high standard of ethics of the craftsmen who worked for King Solomon as recorded in the Holy Bible. It was an enjoyable and enlightening experience to become a Master Mason, and later a member of both of the Masonic Rites, and later, the Mystic Shriners.

Sincerely,  
James A. Marples  
Longview, TX

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



## Who will inspire Americans in the next 250 years?

Much is being said and written about the United States of America as we continue the America/250 celebration through the end of this calendar year.

I salute all of those folks who are working so diligently to make sure we honor our heroes of the past as we anticipate those whose heroism and patriotism will lead our homeland to even greater heights.

As partisan politics gets nastier on all levels, we should recall the advice of Roman orator and author Marcus Tullius Cicero who wrote: “Promises are not to be kept, if the keeping of them is to prove harmful to those to whom you have made them.”

From one of America’s Cold War enemies -- Nikita Krushchev --came this wry observation about politics: “Politicians are the same all over. They promise to build bridges even when there are no rivers.”

In terms of the risks of public indifference to politics, no one said it better than the smartest American, Albert Einstein: “The world will not be destroyed by those who do evil, but by those who watch them without doing anything.”

The warmongers who wanted us to attack Iran didn’t know what movie producer Steven Spielberg already understood about a revolution: “War is when the government tells you who the bad guy is. Revolution is when you decide that for yourself.”

Critics of the detention tactics of ICE agents must have read this quote from Benjamin Franklin: The practice of arbitrary imprisonments have been, in all ages, the favorite and most formidable instruments of tyranny.

The beloved religious leader who wrote this understood public opinion: “We can do no great things, only small things with great love.” -- Mother Theresa.

Oscar-winner Ingrid Bergman helped define ambition with these words: “Success is getting what you want; happiness is wanting what you get.”

Perhaps the bravest American woman of the first 250 gave this challenge to greatness: “Women must try to do as men have tried. When they fail, their failure must be but a challenge to others.” – Amelia Earhart.

Rosa Parks, a courageous civil rights pioneer, helped us overcome doubts with: “I have learned over the years that when one’s mind is made up, this diminishes fear.”

My favorite came from singer Dolly Parton: “Find out who you are and do it on purpose.”

Keith Kappes can be reached at  
keithkappes@gmail.com.

## Pay no attention to the men behind the curtain

Here’s some news the talking heads aren’t letting you in on. This isn’t the latest culture-war distraction of the week; instead, it affects working-class people. Sure, we’re hearing a lot about the Trump FIFA thing along with his usual blunders of the week, but this one is some real ghoulish stuff that you should probably keep top of mind when someone talks about how lawyers and bankers are evil.

Some of the nation’s largest banks—including JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Wells Fargo and PNC Financial Services Group—are exploring the acquisition of a debit card network owned by Fiserv in a move that could flip the economics of debit card payments upside down. According to The Wall Street Journal, the discussions remain preliminary and may not lead to a deal, with some banks already deciding not to participate. (Smart for their public safety.)

The interest follows Capital One’s acquisition of Discover, which gave the bank ownership of its own payment network and greater control over transaction processing. By owning a debit network, banks could sidestep the interchange fee caps imposed by the 2010 Durbin Amendment, which limits the fees large banks can collect when debit transactions run over third-party networks.

Fiserv’s STAR and Accel networks have become the newest heart-eyed assets, particularly after the company’s declining share price. But any acquisition would likely face major political scrutiny; you’d like

to think, anyhow. Merchants have long supported interchange fee limits, arguing they reduce costs and help keep consumer prices lower, while banks say the caps have lowered revenue used to fund services such as free checking and debit rewards. The talks highlight how aggressively major banks are seeking new ways to squeeze more money out of every transaction in an increasingly competitive payments landscape shaped by cryptocurrency.

If you’re reading this and going, “Give it to me straight,” here’s a metaphor: banks want to buy the roads your debit card travels on and put up more toll booths. Right now, they’re limited in what they can collect. If they own the road, they may be able to take a bigger cut every time someone swipes a debit card.

So yes, you read that correctly: the banks want another way to make money every time you use your debit card. They want more pie. The banks exploring this deal collectively earned nearly \$116 billion in profit last year. Their push to own a debit card net-

See CURTAIN on A-6

## 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

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### 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.

**Curtain** from A-5

work ain't about keeping the lights on—it's about taking another cut, even if it's only pennies every time you lay down the debit card. And really, in 2026, who still carries cash? I hardly ever do. Those pennies add up.

I'm exhausted from financing somebody else's

bonus. I'm tired of supporting another board of directors that already made more money last year than I'll see in ten lifetimes. Every week there's a new horror that I have to foot the bill for, another way to give some suit more of my money because they sat in a New York boardroom

and decided they're still not a big enough profit center.

The banks say this will fund free checking and credit card perks. Then what's the point of my signing up with you? We have options. Isn't that the whole thing with capitalism? An abundance of

choices? If \$116 billion in profits isn't enough, if they need to suck every extra penny from us, maybe it's time to start raising the guillotines.

*Contact us at news@cartercountytimes.com*

**McConnell** from A-1

this year to the Senate seat he has held since 1984. Republican U.S. Rep. Andy Barr and Democratic former state Rep. Charles Booker will face off in the November election.

McConnell's attending physician said in a statement that he has "experienced several falls throughout the year that have been attributed to his post-polio condition" and the senator was admitted to the hospital four weeks ago "after falling at home and sustaining minor injuries."

"A comprehensive evaluation by a multidis-

ciplinary team determined that he had no fractures, cardiac abnormalities, stroke, tumor, or hemorrhage. Early in his hospitalization, he developed pneumonia, which responded rapidly to antibiotic treatment," the physician said. "The remainder of his hospital stay focused on physical therapy and strategies to reduce his risk of future falls. He has been medically cleared to continue fully participating in his intensive physical therapy program."

McConnell and his staff have faced much public

pressure into disclosing more about his condition after his hospitalization last month. Last week, Democratic Gov. Andy Beshear sent McConnell's office a letter "requesting an update on his health and well-being amid growing concerns around the Senator's ability to serve," a press release said.

On the national scene, rumors swirled about McConnell's health, particularly as right-wing influencer Laura Loomer, who has a history of spreading conspiracy theories, posted on X last week a White

House source told her the longtime senator is "brain dead." After that McConnell allies, including Kentuckian and CNN commentator Scott Jennings, said they had 20-minute conversations with McConnell in recent days.

Questions about McConnell's condition increased Sunday after U.S. Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina, died at the age of 71 from "a brief and sudden illness," according to his office. Republicans control the Senate with 53 seats.

*Originally published*

# CLASSIFIEDS

NOTICE TO  
CARTER COUNTY  
TAXPAYERS

Debbie Johnston, Carter County Clerk pursuant to KRS 424.130, announces that the 2025 delinquent real property tax bills (certificates of delinquency) will be published in the Carter County Times on Wednesday, July 22, 2026. The list of certificates of delinquency is also available for public inspection during the hours of 8:30 am – 4:00 pm at the County Clerk's office located at 300 West Main Street, Room 232, Grayson, Kentucky 41143. This list may also be inspected on the Carter County Clerk website. The Uniform Resource Locator (URL) of the website is https://carter.countyclerk.us/delinquent-taxes/. The tax sale will be held on Friday, August 28th, 2026 beginning at 10:00 am. All interested participants must register with the County Clerk's office by close of business day on Tuesday, August 18th, 2026. Please contact the County Clerk's office if you need additional information about the tax sale registration process, the required registration fee or the deposit amounts that will be needed. Taxpayers can continue to pay their delinquent tax bills to the County Clerk's office anytime prior to the tax sale. **Please Note: All payments must be received in the County Clerk's office prior to the tax sale date listed in this advertisement. Payments received after the tax sale has been conducted will be returned without exception.** Some delinquencies – although they have been advertised – will be excluded from the tax sale in accordance with the provisions of KRS 1134.504(10)(b). If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the County Clerk's office at (606) 474-5188 extension 238.

NOTICE PROVIDED BY: DEBBIE JOHNSTON, CARTER COUNTY CLERK

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY  
SECRETARY

The Olive Hill Housing Authority is accepting applications and resumes for a full-time Secretary. Applications may be picked up and returned to the Olive Hill Housing Authority Office, 501 Tygart Street, Olive Hill, KY 41164.

FOR RENT

**For rent: Available** August 1, 2026, 128 Grahm Road (Pleasant Valley), Olive Hill, KY 41164, 3/2 Mobile Home (Interior Renovation) Central Air & Heat, 675.00 per month + \$675.00 security deposit. Tenant is responsible for utilities and lawn maintenance. No HUD Accepted. Lease Term: Initially 1 year.. References Required. For more information call 407-330-3774.

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## From staunch critic to fierce ally: Graham's long, strange and consequential friendship with Trump

By Will Weissert  
*Associated Press*

WASHINGTON (AP) — After the Capitol riot on Jan. 6, 2021, Sen. Lindsey Graham said he had finally had enough of the man who was championed by the mob that stormed the pillar of American democracy: President Donald Trump.

"Trump and I, we've had a hell of a journey. I hate it to end this way. Oh my God, I hate it. From my point of view, he's been a consequential president," an emotional Graham said once authorities cleared the rioters and allowed senators to reclaim their chamber. "All I can say is count me out. Enough is enough."

It wasn't, of course.

Graham, the South Carolina Republican who died unexpectedly on Saturday night at age 71, realized that his party's future was inextricably tied to Trump and quickly reverted back to being a staunch defender. The shift made what had once seemed like a final rupture into just another twist in the topsy-turvy relationship between the powerful senator and the president who came to dominate their party.

"Can we move forward without President Trump? The answer is no," Graham said in May 2021, just four months after the Jan. 6 attack. "I've determined we can't grow without him."

Trump, who called Graham a "true American Patriot" in a social media post Sunday, appeared shocked by the lawmaker's

sudden passing.

"I just can't believe it," the president told NBC's "Meet the Press." "He was like a member of the family."

Graham often advised Trump on foreign affairs, particularly on matters pertaining to Israel, Ukraine and Iran.

"At the end of a particularly thrilling and rollicking meeting in the Oval Office, Lindsey Graham turned to the room and said: 'I've never had this much fun in my life,'" deputy White House chief of staff Stephen Miller wrote, adding such gatherings "were filled with camaraderie, kinship and uproarious laughter."

Trump recalled that during his last conversation with Graham, he told his friend, "We'll see you soon, come over anytime you want."

The senator and Trump first clashed while competing for the 2016 presidential nomination.

Graham described Trump as "unfit for office," and was angered when Trump denigrated the military service of Graham's friend, Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. Trump said, "I like people that weren't captured" when talking about McCain's years as a prisoner of war.

Trump got mad enough at Graham to release the senator's personal cellphone number. That prompted a viral video in which the senator dramatically destroyed a series of flip phones.

Graham eventually likened Trump's winning

the nomination to "being shot in the head" and said he refused to vote for Trump that November. But the pair later bonded over golf and what Graham described as a mutual and irreverent sense of humor.

Trump and Graham began hitting the links together so often that the senator started seeing it as something of a career builder, leaning heavily into the kind of over-the-top flattery Trump relishes. In 2017, Graham joked that Trump had beaten him "like a drum" on the course — even worse than in the presidential primary.

"Their true friendship could only be seen behind the curtain," Sen. Tim Scott, R-S.C., told ABC's "This Week." Scott said that relationship was forged as political adversaries but also strengthened by spending 100-plus hours golfing together.

During Trump's first term, Graham helped advance Trump's nominees to the Supreme Court, lent credibility to the White House's legislative agenda and even became part of the president's inner circle. He frequently said Trump was maturing in politics and growing on the job.

Graham's political divergence with McCain, who died in 2018, was never more clear than in 2017, when McCain voted against a Trump-backed plan to overturn Democratic President Barack Obama's signature health care law. The effort had been co-sponsored by Graham.

In his floor speech after

the Capitol attack, Graham said "he'd never been so humiliated and embarrassed for the country." But the break with Trump ended quickly.

Weeks later, Trump invited Graham for golf and dinner at the president's Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, reigniting their alliance. During Trump's 2024 campaign, Graham was a frequent Trump surrogate on television.

Graham never shed his more traditional Republican foreign policy views, including outspoken support for Ukraine during the Russian invasion. He was also a leading voice pushing the White House to

take a harder line against Iran.

After the U.S. and Israel attacked Iran in February, Graham remained hawkish, staunchly defending the action and working to counter many in Trump's "Make America Great Again" base who thought "America First" meant avoiding such conflicts.

"To those who say Iran is stronger now than before, that is an insult to the American military and it is delusional thinking because the Iranian economy is in shambles," Graham posted on June 19.

But Graham's admiration for Trump went far beyond Iran. When Graham

clinched the South Carolina Republican primary last month, he suggested the president was just short of a deity.

"I want to start with a bunch of thank yous. I want to thank the big guy, God. Trump comes later," Graham laughed. "Mr. President, you're not far behind God, but we're gonna start with him."

| Kentucky Dept of Agriculture<br>Livestock and Grain Market Report                                                                                                                                                                  |                  |                     |                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| There are no comparisons available as most markets were closed last week for the 4th of July holiday.                                                                                                                              |                  |                     |                  |
| Courtesy of <a href="https://www.kyagr.com/">https://www.kyagr.com/</a>                                                                                                                                                            |                  | Week ending 7/11/26 |                  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                  | L                   |                  |
| Steers (M&L 1-2)                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <u>This Week</u> | <u>Prior Week</u>   | <u>Last Year</u> |
| 350-400 lbs                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 534.52           | 485.00              | 413.72           |
| 400-450 lbs                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 502.24           | 480.80              | 396.79           |
| 450-500 lbs                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 505.10           | 476.76              | 378.68           |
| 500-550 lbs                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 453.42           | 435.05              | 364.10           |
| 550-600 lbs                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 433.69           | 441.78              | 352.47           |
| 600-650 lbs                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 426.85           | 387.96              | 341.21           |
| 650-700 lbs                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 409.16           | 394.73              | 334.77           |
| 700-750 lbs                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 376.72           | 379.67              | 314.06           |
| 750-800 lbs                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 365.45           | 379.00              | 319.32           |
| 800-850 lbs                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 353.35           | 314.88              | 306.96           |
| 850-900 lbs                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 345.01           | 310.00              | 287.74           |
| Heifers (M&L 1-2)                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                  |                     |                  |
| 300-350 lbs                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 496.40           | 486.88              | 381.47           |
| 350-400 lbs                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 490.71           | 447.64              | 373.20           |
| 400-450 lbs                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 452.85           | 446.13              | 360.14           |
| 450-500 lbs                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 442.44           | 427.37              | 350.28           |
| 500-550 lbs                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 414.55           | 376.08              | 335.72           |
| 550-600 lbs                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 395.57           | 366.47              | 331.03           |
| 600-650 lbs                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 363.90           | 349.39              | 309.81           |
| 650-700 lbs                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 360.05           | 331.38              | 299.33           |
| 700-750 lbs                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 329.46           | 317.03              | 276.92           |
| 750-800 lbs                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 323.78           | 303.00              | 278.66           |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                  |                     |                  |
| Slaughter Cows                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <u>Average</u>   | <u>High</u>         | <u>Low</u>       |
| Breakers                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 152.00-206.00    | 172.00-217.00       | 158.00-183.00    |
| Boners                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 140.00-195.00    | 173.00-216.00       | 137.50-184.00    |
| Lean                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 131.00-186.00    | 160.00-220.00       | 100.00-170.00    |
| Slaughter Bulls                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | <u>Average</u>   | <u>High</u>         | <u>Low</u>       |
| Yield Grade 1&2                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 200.00-236.00    | 220.00-250.00       | 171.00-229.00    |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                  |                     |                  |
| Jul 09, 2026                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                  | Bowling Green, KY   |                  |
| SLAUGHTER GOATS: 134                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                  |                     |                  |
| Kids-Selection 1 49 lbs 355.00; 54 lbs 350.00; 65 lbs 367.50. Selection 1-2 83 lbs 380.00; 125 lbs 260.00. Selection 2 51 lbs 355.00; 76 lbs 305.50.                                                                               |                  |                     |                  |
| SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 302                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                  |                     |                  |
| Hair Breeds-Choice & Prime 1-2 56 lbs 312.50; 69 lbs 282.50; 70-77 lbs 280.00-295.00; 85-89 lbs 230.00-262.50; 115 lbs 115.00. Choice 2 48 lbs 345.00; 59 lbs 302.50; 65 lbs 285.00; 74 lbs 265.00; 84 lbs 245.00; 108 lbs 257.50. |                  |                     |                  |
| Wooled-Choice 2 82 lbs 267.50; 135 lbs 225.00.                                                                                                                                                                                     |                  |                     |                  |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                  |                     |                  |
| GRAINS                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <u>This Week</u> | <u>Prior Week</u>   | <u>Last Year</u> |
| Corn                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 4.17-4.80        | 4.12-4.63           | 4.00-4.59        |
| Soybeans                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 10.90-12.39      | 10.56-11.73         | 9.45-10.63       |
| Red Winter Wheat                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 5.40-6.40        | 5.31-6.03           | 4.57-5.24        |

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