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cartercountytimes.com

Vol. 7, No. 32 NEWS/ADVERTISING 606-225-1258 CARTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12, 2026 $1.00 PER COPY

Not someone else's problem

Grayson leaders tackle human trafficking

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

Grayson community leaders met in town last Thursday (August 6) to discuss a growing problem in communities all across the country; human trafficking. It's a problem that is on the rise in smaller towns and can no longer be considered exclusively a "Big City" problem. The reality is much more grim, and in fact the problem was never contained or limited to larger population centers. It's always preyed on those from small towns.

The Grayson event, which was attended by members of community churches, local government officials, and area medical providers, was hosted by The Penny Bolin Foundation and held at the Carter County Health Department. Those in attendance might have had a general awareness of the issue, along with a few who may have had previous knowledge of a specific instance of human trafficking, but the theme of the Community Leadership Briefing was holding up a magnifying glass to common misunderstandings and

See PROBLEM on A-3

Grayson Emergency Management Director Roger Dunfee (standing) introduces Penny Bolin of the Penny Bolin Foundation. (Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

Teacher's aid

Huntington Mall hosts Tools for Teachers event

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

Area educators are more than invested in in their profession. Each year educators reach into their own pockets to help fill the needs of their individual and collective classrooms due to limited funding. According to NEA Today, (https://www.nea.org/), "On average, educators spend somewhere between $500 and $750 of their own money every year on things students need."

When taken collectively, that is a staggering sum. In fact, some estimates place the amount spent by educators in Kentucky alone – that is never reimbursed – at around 33 million dollars. It is a burden that educators shoulder willingly to make sure their students have the supplies to support their education. They help become part of the solution to a problem they personally did not cause; in spite of the fact that many teachers are paying off student loans while paying out of pocket to help their students.

On Saturday, August

See TEACHERS on A-8

A long line of area teachers waits for the Tools for Teachers event to begin (Submitted photos)

Wrestling in Olive Hill might get hairy

Bigfoot Festival adds brawls to the bill

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

Tabatha Steagall put on the first Carter County Bigfoot Festival last year in September, and is quickly building a bigger and better event for 2026. As part of the activities leading up to this year's event, Steagall has partnered with local wrestlers to put on a wrestling exhibition in Olive Hill on September 4.

"We have the Aftermath Pro Wrestling people to have Friday Night Fights," Steagall said. "It's going to be at the Olive Hill Arts and Heritage Center, and they will be selling tickets for the event."

Aftermath Pro Wrestling is a local wrestling promotion and training facility located in nearby Coal Grove, Ohio.

Steagall said it should be a great night of entertainment, and hinted that everyone's favorite cryptid might be showing up for his own time in the ring. Steagall said the event will be exciting and energetic just like wrestling fans have come to expect of their favorite sport, with their own unique blend of heroes and villains. The event will be family friendly though, she said, and people shouldn't hesitate to bring their kids out to enjoy a good evening of entertainment.

"One of the reasons we are doing this is that people in this area really enjoy wrestling," she said. "And of course we want to hype up the Bigfoot Festival, too."

Depending upon the response to events leading up to the main festival event, Steagall said next year she might schedule a car show one weekend leading up to the festival, and other events on other weekends as well.

"I think it will be pretty good because people seem to be really excited about it," Steagall said of the wrestling event. "And people seem to be really excited about the Bigfoot Festival itself, too."

Steagall said that her mother helped out, as always, selling Bigfoot Festival t-shirts and handling out flyers for the wrestling event this year at the Route 60 Yard Sale. She said her mother not only made some t-shirt sales, but had two new people share Bigfoot sightings as well. The re-

See BIGFOOT on A-8

Weekly arrests report

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

- Timothy Foley, 37, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on two counts of non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked August 3.
- Nicholas Bray, 34, of Russell Springs, arresting agency unavailable , on charges of illegal possession of a prescription drug, controlled substance prescription not in original container, possession of drug paraphernalia, speeding 25 MPH over limit, and two counts of first degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), arrested and booked August 3.
- Charles Hodgson, 59, of Ashland, arrested by Grayson PD, on a probation violation (for a felony offense), first degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), and possession of a drug paraphernalia, arrested and booked August 4.
- Kimberly Owens, 63, of Ashland, arrested by Grayson PD, on two counts of failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked August 4.
- Ricky Carroll, 43, of Martin, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on a charge of contempt of court, arrested and booked August 4.
- Jessica George, 44, of Grayson, arrested by Boyd County Detention Center, on a warrant as a fugitive from another state, arrested and booked August 5.
- Darshea Hord, 42, of Ashland, arrested by Carter County Detention Center, charges unavailable (state charge), arrested and booked August 5.
- Dondrea Carter, 29, of Ashland, arrested by Carter County Detention Center, on a parole violation for a technical violation, arrested and booked August 5.
- James Menefee, 50, of Ashland, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on a charge of violating a Kentucky emergency protection order/domestic violence order, arrested and booked August 5.
- William Galbreath, 39, of Winchester, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of intimidating a participant in the legal process, tampering with a witness, menacing, and being a persistent felony offender, arrested and booked August 6.

See ARRESTS on A-3

ISSN 2692-420X
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This Week's Obituaries

James Phillip Ray, 68

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LIFESTYLE

Too hot to cook? Meet gazpacho.

Some recipes ask you to preheat the oven. August politely declines.

This chilled tomato and vegetable soup is my shortcut adaptation of the classic Spanish soup gazpacho.

Traditionally, gazpacho is made with fresh, ripe, raw tomatoes, blended with vegetables, olive oil and vinegar, then chilled until the flavors mingle. Any Spanish purist will tell you that's the only proper way to make it, and they're right. Please tell your Abuelita I said that before she chases me with a wooden spoon. But as costs rise and budgets lower, let's adapt and have some perfectly refreshing soup on a hot summer day. I'm happy to bend tradition a bit in the name of good food and common sense.

There are as many recipes for gazpacho as there are people who make it. I focused on inexpensive and easy, two of my favorite things. Canned fire-roasted tomatoes provide rich tomato flavor year-round, so you can enjoy a refreshing bowl of gazpacho even when fresh tomatoes are expensive or disappointingly bland.

That said, promise me you'll make it the traditional way at least once during peak tomato season. A ripe, sun-warmed tomato from the garden or farmers market has a sweetness and depth of flavor that's almost impossible to find in most grocery stores. When tomatoes are at their best, substitute about 2 pounds (5 to 6 medium) ripe tomatoes for each 28-ounce can in this recipe. Simply core, roughly chop, then blend the tomatoes with the remaining ingredients. No need to peel or seed them. Chill the soup for at least four hours, though overnight is even better, allowing the flavors to marry into something truly special.

SHORTCUT GAZPACHO
Yield: 9 cups (6 main-dish or 8 appetizer servings)
Total Time: 4 hrs. 15 mins.

1/2 small purple onion, minced (about 1/2 cup)
1 teaspoon garlic, finely minced (one clove)
2 tablespoons red (or white) wine vinegar
2 tablespoons lemon juice
2 tablespoons olive oil
1 teaspoon sugar
2 (28 ounce) cans diced tomatoes, divided
1 large cucumber peeled, seeded and finely chopped
2 bell peppers, finely chopped, one red and one green
1/4 cup finely chopped fresh parsley
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, or to taste
1/4 teaspoon fresh ground pepper, or to taste
Tabasco or other hot sauce to taste, optional

In a small bowl, combine the onion, garlic, vinegar, lemon juice, olive oil and sugar and set it aside. Using a blender, puree one can of tomatoes until quite smooth. Add a tablespoon of each of the other veggies to the blender and puree, to infuse the flavors. In a large non-metal bowl (use glass if you can) combine all the ingredients together, including the onion-vinegar mixture, and combine thoroughly. Add salt and pepper to taste and Tabasco if desired. Let this sit in the refrigerator for at least 4 hours or preferably overnight for the flavors to blend. Taste again for seasoning. Serve in bowls. You may wish to serve this with toasted croutons and a little dollop of sour cream.

Fresh vegetables, olive oil and a splash of vinegar transform into Spain's famous chilled soup, gazpacho. (Photo Credit: www.JasonCoblentz.com)

Whether you make the fresh or shortcut version, prepare it a day ahead if possible. Gazpacho improves as it rests, making it an ideal make-ahead meal. It makes a bright, zippy lunch or light supper and is equally at home as a first course instead of a salad for a Spanish-inspired dinner. I also love serving it as the opening course for brunch, followed by deviled eggs and a hearty ham frittata.

***

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

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Joyful Noise

Receiving and giving true fellowship

By Pastor Naomi Mitchell for *Carter County Times*

Fellowship is more than sharing coffee after a Sunday meeting or gathering in a midweek group. It is partnering in the very life of Christ with other believers, because while faith must be personal, it can never be private. When we come to Christ, we also come to others who have come to Him, and so we are called to experience our salvation, not just individually, but together in fellowship.

The Greek word for "fellowship" means a partnership of any kind, whether a business partnership, some other common enterprise, or even marriage. It means having something in common with someone. Both a person and a thing are involved. This is what Biblical Christianity is about; not just believing the same things as others but joining with them to invest everything we are and have in the great project to which God has called us in Christ.

Sometimes the word "fellowship" is used in the New Testament as a substitute for church (1 Corinthians 5:2), but generally, when the New Testament talks about fellowship, it is thinking about what Christians have a share in. In the following references, the Greek word for "fellowship" (or a word based on its root) is sometimes translated differently in English. So we find that Christians have fellowship 1) with the Father (1 John 1:3); 2) with Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:9; 1 John 1:3); 3) with the Holy Spirit (2 Corinthians13:14; Philippians 2:1); 4) with one another (Acts 2:42; Romans 15:24; 1 John 1:7); 5) in the blood and body of Christ in communion (1 Corinthians 10:16-18); 6) in Christ's sufferings and death (2 Corinthians 1:7; Philippians 3:10).

What we cannot have fellowship in, however, is anything to do with darkness, that is, Satan's realm, however that might be culturally expressed (2 Corinthians 6:14-18, 1 John1:6).

See JOYFUL NOISE on A-4

Ask Daryl: Your Professional Organizer

School days

It's time, once again, to hit the books. Whether your kids are starting school for the first time or you are retired and decided to go back and take more classes, there are a lot of things to consider when preparing for that first day. There are clothes to buy, lunches to think about, school supplies to gather, and books to order. Plus, if you are getting ready to live in a dorm, storage is necessary to plan for since small spaces require special considerations. There is also arranging transportation. Who picks up who and when, requires coordinating schedules.

Daryl Ashley
Guest Columnist
Confusion Solution

Include in your prep time for researching regulations and documentation, because schools vary in their requirements for registration. Then once you have everything purchased and signed, the year will begin at a startling pace. It can be exciting getting to know your way around and it's fun to fill that new backpack, grab your bagged lunch, put covers on your text books, and find your seat in your first class.

There is so much to look forward to. So, enjoy this very special time of year. You will be making new friends, discovering the world you live in, and coming home each day with a new experience to share.

It's as simple as that!

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

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

Extension Notes

carter.ca.uky.edu

AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Trees already preparing for winter

When temperatures outdoors remain near 90 degrees, it's hard to believe that trees already are starting to prepare for winter. During August, many trees begin to shut down by gradually reducing active growth and preparing to go dormant during the winter.

Rebecca Konopka
Carter County Extension Agent

As trees prepare to shut down, they begin to produce less chlorophyll, a green pigment that combines with sunlight to make food for growth. Since trees begin using chlorophyll more rapidly than it is produced, its green mask slowly disappears to reveal the brilliant show of fall colors. Kentucky's diverse climate makes it home to many tree species common to northern and southern states, providing a variety of fall colors for us to enjoy.

Trees in the shut-down mode frequently are more susceptible to insect and disease attacks.

Brown leaves on black locust and other trees is a common indication of an insect problem. This discoloration is caused by immature locust leafminers eating leaves on black locust as well as birch, apple, beech, cherry, elm and oak. Larvae "mine" the inner parts of leaves, removing the chlorophyll and leaving a brown-colored skeleton.

Leafminer attacks usually will not cause death unless trees were in a stressful situation early in the growing season, such as extremely wet or dry conditions.

Another indication of winter preparation is that trees drop leaves to reduce evaporation and enable trees to better cope with dry conditions. The yellow-poplar, one of the first trees to leaf out in the spring, is among the first trees to begin loosing leaves in the fall.

As trees begin preparing for winter, they do more than put on a spectacular show of colors; trees also make an important contribution to an on-going ecological system. Minerals previously taken into trees are recycled as leaves drop to the ground to announce winter's approach. The leaves decompose and return nutrients to growing trees and plants and add organic materials to the soil.

Even as these leaves fall, next spring's leaves are tightly wrapped in buds. When these buds unfurl, they will replenish the air by giving off oxygen and absorbing carbon dioxide.

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

Upcoming Events:

- 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.
- The Extension Office is currently offering free hay testing through the East KY Hay Contest. If you are interested, please call 474-6686 to schedule your appointment. Participants will receive a free nutrient analysis of their hay.

Kentucky Dept of Agriculture Livestock and Grain Market Report

Compared to last week feeder steers sold 4.00 to 6.00 higher with instances up to sharply higher. Feeder heifers were steady to 5.00 higher with instances to sharply higher.Yearling steers and heifers sold 8.00 to 12.00 higher with limited head to head comparisons. There was good demand for all feeder and yearling classes with active buyer participation showing best interest for weaned preconditioned calves and groups. Slaughter cows sold steady to 5.00 higher and slaughter bulls were steady to 3.00 higher with good demand for all slaughter classes.

Week ending 8/8/26

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

Steers (M&L 1-2)	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
350-400 lbs	504.26	514.89	438.65
400-450 lbs	480.15	465.49	424.50
450-500 lbs	454.34	457.11	402.34
500-550 lbs	434.16	415.12	380.07
550-600 lbs	422.53	397.00	375.07
600-650 lbs	398.97	386.07	360.42
650-700 lbs	377.71	366.21	350.11
700-750 lbs	362.70	360.62	333.92
750-800 lbs	345.03	340.01	324.57
800-850 lbs	330.42	319.79	308.47
850-900 lbs	332.71	309.74	311.36
Heifers (M&L 1-2)			
300-350 lbs	445.14	428.84	401.06
350-400 lbs	441.53	420.68	392.74
400-450 lbs	414.72	405.79	379.10
450-500 lbs	402.89	391.54	363.76
500-550 lbs	382.60	371.73	347.73
550-600 lbs	359.16	352.14	340.99
600-650 lbs	341.12	341.10	322.53
650-700 lbs	333.23	328.90	314.75
700-750 lbs	307.08	320.64	296.35
750-800 lbs	310.49	310.02	300.09

Slaughter Cows	Average	High	Low
Breakers	157.00-195.00	175.00-216.00	130.00-179.00
Boners	148.00-196.00	172.00-219.00	134.00-179.00
Lean	130.00-175.00	162.50-197.00	100.00-162.00
Slaughter Bulls	**Average**	**High**	**Low**
Yield Grade 1&2	200.00-231.00	224.00-259.00	170.00-218.00

Jul 23, 2026 **Bowling Green, KY**

SLAUGHTER GOATS: 250

Kids-Selection 1 54 lbs 352.50; 66 lbs 340.00; 93 lbs 340.00.
Selection 2 53 lbs 320.00; 66 lbs 290.00; 83 lbs 275.00; 105 lbs 360.00.

SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 617

Hair Breeds-Choice & Prime 1-2 53-55 lbs 325.00-335.00; 67-68 lbs 300.00-310.00; 75-77 lbs 295.00-300.00; 89 lbs 270.00; 90 lbs 275.00; 107 lbs 205.00.
Choice 2 50-57 lbs 315.00-325.00; 66 lbs 300.00; 76 lbs 270.00; 85 lbs 235.00.
Wooled-Choice & Prime 1-2 54 lbs 280.00; 71-77 lbs 277.50-280.00; 96 lbs 220.00

GRAINS	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
Corn	4.08-4.82	4.12-4.90	3.77-4.08
Soybeans	10.65-12.15	10.97-12.51	9.18-9.88
Red Winter Wheat	5.36-6.75	5.54-6.47	4.11-4.95

Arrests from A-1

- Corey Kouns, 26, of Argillite, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a substance, license not in possession, no or expired registration receipt, failure to produce an insurance card, and reckless driving, arrested and booked August 6.
- Lindsey Shallis, 29, of Huntington, WV, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of speeding 15 MPH over limit, failure to notify department of transportation of an address change, improper equipment, and operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a substance, arrested and booked August 7.
- Candice Stokes, 37, of Ten Mille, TN, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of disregarding a traffic control device or traffic light, second degree wanton endangerment (police officer), first degree fleeing or evading police (motor vehicle), reckless driving, operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a substance, resisting arrest, failure to maintain required insurance, no or expired registration receipt, and disregarding signals from officers directing traffic, arrested and booked August 7.
- Lisa Thompson, 48, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked August 7.
- David Harlow, 48, of Grayson, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and booked August 7.
- Clint Caudill, 35, of Hitchins, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and booked August 7.
- Joshua Gandolfo, 35, of Gallipolis Ferry, WV, arrested by Carter County Detention Center, charges unavailable, arrested and booked August 7.
- Crystal Hill, 43, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on four counts of non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked August 8.
- Adam Young, 45, of Germantown, arrested by KY Department of Fish and Wildlife, on charges of failing to operate a boat at idle speed in a harbor or congested area, no approved fire extinguisher, and operating a boat or watercraft while intoxicated or under the influence, arrested and booked August 8.
- Matthew Sublett, 39, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked August 9.
- Joshua Garvin, 34, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on a charge of second degree assault, arrested and booked August 9.
- Patrick Talley, 47, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of second degree terroristic threatening, first degree fleeing or evading police (on foot), second degree disorderly conduct, and alcohol intoxication in a public place, arrested and booked August 9.

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.

Problem from A-1

misinformation.

Human trafficking, after all, is not someone else's problem; it can and does happen in every community.

The reality is that human trafficking is rarely the Hollywood version of a woman or child being forced into a vehicle and driven away into the night. Abductions do happen, but as Penny Bolin herself shared, in all of the cases in which she was involved, very few were a result of an abduction.

Human trafficking can occur wherever there are vulnerabilities which can be exploited; and this includes rural communities where poverty spreads and exacerbates those issues of isolation and vulnerability. Traffickers exploit children, teens, college students, adults, and both United States citizens and foreign nationals. These human predators are "equal opportunity" in those they exploit because, sadly, they are able to find a market for anyone they are able to dominate.

The tools of the traffickers' trade include coercion, threats, addiction, fraud, or force to manipulate others into the commercial sex trade or forced labor. And, sadly, a major tool the traffickers are able to use to achieve their goals is the broader community's ignorance of how they operate. The Community Leadership Briefing hoped to remove at least that weapon from the trafficker's arsenal.

"We have to fight this awful thing we call human trafficking," Penny Bolin told those gathered for the event.

Bolin, the Founder and CEO of the Penny Bolin Foundation, shared her years of experience and the need to look the growing problem directly in the eye and see it for what it is.

"It's not just in big cities," Bolin said. "And it isn't like what you see on television."

In fact, she shared, it's not even mostly in the cities.

"Human trafficking is not primarily a big city crime," she said. "But what does it look like in the rural areas we are in?"

She isn't asking as an outsider. Bolin has an intimate connection with rural areas, because she was born and raised in Kentucky, and is from Morgan County. She became very active in the fight against Human Trafficking in 2019 when she moved to Houston, Texas.

"I was very drawn to it," she said. "I wanted to know everything I could about it. So, I started going to events like this to learn. What is human trafficking? What does it look like?"

"I always had the impression that it was always about someone kidnapping someone," she said of her early exposure to the problem. "But it's really not."

Her early exposure to information led Bolin to quickly become involved in the rescue of those being trafficked.

"I have done several active rescues with victims and brought them to safety," she told the community leaders gathered at the event.

Bolin shared stories about those instances, but also information on how to recognize when human trafficking is happening as well as the best way to react to help those suffering.

There are immediate red flags people need to be able to recognize, Bolin said. One red flag is when someone always insists on speaking for another individual and possibly discourages them from speaking on their own behalf. Another is if an individual appears fearful, anxious, submissive, or avoids any sort of eye contact. Yet another red flag is if the individual has no identification or if another individual has possession of that identification.

In the case of children and youth, some indicators include multiple runaway episodes, significant change in behavior or attitude, or having an older, controlling boyfriend or girlfriend. Other red flags are if the child or youth has frequent travel with unrelated adults or sudden access to expensive clothing or jewelry.

Bolin said that rural communities are especially at risk for human trafficking because of their unique challenges, such as distance from resources, limited employment opportunities, poverty, and addiction, among others.

"It takes all of us," Bolin said. "And we all have a part to play in this fight. Rural communities often have addiction, poverty, unstable housing, children in foster care, runaways, isolated labor, and we definitely see a lot of online recruitment. Those are all trafficking risk factors."

"But it isn't because this community is unsafe," she added. "It is because traffickers seek vulnerable people."

Bolin encouraged those in attendance to be vigilant and learn the signs that might point out an instance of human trafficking.

"We can do something about this right here and right now," she said. "And every effort helps."

Anyone suspecting they have encountered an instance of human trafficking should call 911 if there is an emergency situation. Other numbers to contact are the Kentucky Child Abuse Hotline at 877-KYSAFE1 (877-597-2331 and the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1-888-373-7888. You can also text "help" or "info" to 233733 (BEFREE).

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Olive Hill selects goose as official town mascot following community-wide effort

OLIVE HILL — The City of Olive Hill has officially chosen a new symbol to represent its community, and it's one that residents are already rallying behind—the goose.

The initiative, led by the Olive Hill Chamber of Commerce, was designed to be more than just selecting a mascot. It became a community-driven project that brought together residents, local businesses, and students to create something meaningful and lasting.

"The idea came from wanting to create something unique that people could immediately associate with Olive Hill," said Crystal Branham, President of the Olive Hill Chamber of Commerce. "We wanted it to be more than just choosing a mascot. We wanted it to be a community-wide project that everyone could take ownership of."

The concept began earlier this year as the Chamber explored new ways to build engagement and establish a tradition unique to Olive Hill.

A key component of the effort was involving students from the West Carter Middle School Chamber Chapter, giving them an opportunity to help shape a symbol that will represent their hometown for years to come.

"One of our biggest goals was to engage our middle school students because they are the future of our community," Branham said. "We wanted to give them an opportunity to help shape something lasting, and they truly embraced the project and ran with it."

According to Emaley Russell, the WCMS Chamber Chapter teacher leader, students were involved from the very beginning of the process.

She says they brain-

See MASCOT on A-4

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CALENDAR

- **8/12: Olive Hill Farmer's Market** @ 8 a.m. | Save A Lot Paking Lot, Olive Hill
- **8/12: Girl Scouts meeting** @ 5:30 p.m. | Carter County Public Library - Grayson
- **8/13: Grayson Tourism and Convention Commision** @ 6 p.m. | Grayson City Building Meeting Room
- **8/15: Olive Hill Farmer's Market** @ 8 a.m. | Save A Lot Paking Lot, Olive Hill
- **8/15: Grayson Farmer's Market** @ 9 a.m. | Carter County Extension Office Market Shed
- **8/15: Friends of the Library** @ 5 p.m. | Carter County Public Library - Grayson Branch
- **8/17: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days** @ 9 a.m. | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 474-6686
- **8/17: Open Art Studio** @ 10 a.m. | Grayson Gallery & Art Center
- **8/17: Carter County EMS Board** @ 4 p.m. | Carter County EMS Station
- **8/17: Carter County Board of Education** @ 6 p.m. | Carter County Board of Education office
- **8/18 Grayson Farmer's Market** @ 2 p.m. | Carter County Extension Office Market Shed
- **8/18: Building Club** @ 4 p.m. | Carter County Public Library, Olive Hill
- **8/18: Olive Hill City Council** @ 6 p.m. | Olive Hill Senior/Community Center
- **8/19: Olive Hill Farmer's Market** @ 8 a.m. | Save A Lot Paking Lot, Olive Hill
- **8/20: Grayson Book Club** @ 6 p.m. | Carter County Public Library - Grayson

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

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606-286-8788

Pet of the Week

Nova is a female mixed breed, around four years old. This good girl walks on a leash, knows her basic commands, and gets along well with other dogs. Nova is also up to date on all her shots, spayed, and has a free adoption to an approved home. 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.

Joyful Noise from A-2

However, fellowship isn't just about what we receive; it is also about what we give. Fellowship in the New Testament means active, personal engagement in the church's life. In fact, the early church was born in fellowship. An immediate consequence of the outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost was that "all the believers devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship" (Acts 2:42). That fellowship wasn't just about going to meetings together. It found expression in the believers sharing their resources and their lives in ways that made a great impact on the surrounding community (vv. 43-47; 4:32-37). That is what real fellowship does. Both receiving fellowship and giving fellowship are fundamental to being a Christian!

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: 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.

Mascot from A-3

stormed a list of animals that could represent Olive Hill, researched the history, symbolism, and local significance of each option, and discussed how each animal reflected the character of our community.

Additionally, she said her students helped develop the public survey used to gather community input, ensuring that residents had a voice in selecting the mascot.

"Their ideas and research laid the foundation for a community-driven decision," Russell said. "This project provided students with an authentic learning experience that extended far beyond the classroom. They developed skills in research, critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and civic engagement while seeing firsthand how ideas move from discussion to implementation."

Community members were invited to vote on the mascot, and the response exceeded expectations. Since the goose was announced as the winner, excitement has continued to grow across the city.

"The response has been overwhelmingly positive," Branham said. "We've seen so much excitement from residents, businesses, and especially the students who helped make this happen."

The goose stood out as a natural choice for many voters, not only for its personality but also for its connection to the local landscape.

"The goose just seemed like a natural fit for Olive Hill," Branham said. "Not only is it fun and full of personality, but geese are also a familiar sight around Tygart Creek, making them something many residents already associate with our community."

Beyond its local ties, the goose carries deeper meaning for the town.

"The goose represents community, loyalty, resilience, and togetherness… qualities that reflect the people of Olive Hill," Branham said.

Branham hopes the mascot will become a unifying symbol that continues to bring people together for years to come, while also creating new opportunities for community events, local business engagement, and creative expression.

Both she and Russell say the project highlights the importance of investing in younger generations and giving them a voice in shaping their community's future.

"Giving them a voice in shaping an element of Olive Hill's identity instilled a sense of pride, ownership, and responsibility," said Russell. "It also showed students that their voices matter and that they have the ability to positively influence the future of the place they call home."

"We hope they'll look back years from now with pride, knowing they helped create a tradition that continues to grow," Branham added.

As excitement builds around the new mascot, the Chamber is also preparing to release details about a unique opportunity for residents to own a piece of Olive Hill history. Custom goose carvings, created by chainsaw artists during the city's July 4th celebration, will soon be made available for purchase.

Chamber President Crystal Branham and Vice President Jennifer Madden purchased the town's first goose from Mrs. Opal Harr of Harr Pottery, which has been in business for more than 75 years.

With strong community support and growing enthusiasm, the Olive Hill goose is already taking flight as a lasting symbol of pride, creativity, and connection.

For updates and more information, follow the Olive Hill Chamber of Commerce on Facebook.

TeraWulf tells investors it could double the size of one of its KY data center projects

By Curtis Tate
Kentucky Lantern

A data center developer looking to build a campus in Eastern Kentucky told investors Wednesday it could double the size of the project.

In May, Maryland-based TeraWulf said it purchased an industrial site on the border of Greenup and Boyd counties to build a data center powered by as much as 1 gigawatt of electricity.

Wednesday, Chairman and CEO Paul Prager told investors TeraWulf was looking to double the power of what it calls the Muskie Data Campus.

"Given its near-term power availability, we are increasingly optimistic about the potential to expand the Muskie campus to as much as 2 gigawatts and accelerate portions of the current development timeline," Prager said.

TeraWulf is also building a roughly 500-megawatt data center in Hancock County in Western Kentucky. If it expands the Muskie campus to 2 gigawatts, the company will have the largest footprint of any data center developer statewide.

Nazar Khan, the company's chief technology officer, says TeraWulf has the support of officials in Boyd and Greenup counties, and for the data campus in Hancock County.

"Fortunately for us in Kentucky, whether it's in Hawesville west of Louisville or in Muskie on the eastern side of the state, we have very strong local support in both of those communities with respect to bringing those projects forward."

Both projects require a lot of electricity, and will need state regulators to approve their contracts with regional utilities. Many residents are concerned about how the data centers could affect their electricity bills, which have already risen.

TeraWulf has promoted the project's benefits, including permanent jobs and millions of dollars in tax revenues for local governments and schools.

For the Muskie campus, TeraWulf is negotiating with Kentucky Power to provide the electricity it needs. In its quarterly report to the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, Kentucky Power parent American Electric Power said it would buy a 710-megawatt power plant in West Virginia.

That plant, Longview Power, operates on coal and is one of the newest coal generators on the grid nationwide, completed in 2011 in Monongalia County, near the border with Pennsylvania.

Tammy Ridout, an AEP spokeswoman, would not disclose the purchase price of the Longview plant, nor whether the acquisition was related to data center construction in AEP's territory.

Still, Ridout said customers of Kentucky, Power, Appalachian Power and Wheeling Power will not be affected by the Longview acquisition.

Longview has the permitting in place for a future combined-cycle natural gas plant. The transaction requires the approval of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

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McConnell says he's leaving rehabilitation center to continue recovery at home

By KEVIN FREKING
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell of Kentucky says he's been discharged from a rehabilitation center and will continue his recovery from home.

The former Senate leader was first admitted to the hospital on June 14. He disclosed weeks later that his hospitalization was the result of a fall and said he was undergoing physical therapy.

McConnell, 84, gave no specific date for his return to the Capitol, but senators are expected to soon leave Washington for the traditional August recess. Votes are unlikely for the next five weeks once they adjourn.

"On the advice of my doctors, I'll maintain an intensive regimen of physical therapy from home during the state work period, and I'll continue to engage with my staff and colleagues on important Senate business," McConnell said in a statement released by his office.

McConnell had polio in his early childhood and has long acknowledged some difficulty walking and climbing stairs as an adult. The Office of the Attending Physician has said McConnell was undergoing a strenuous course of physical therapy and rehabilitation since he left the hospital, which includes multiple sessions a day designed to rebuild strength and reduce the risk of future falls.

The senator is determined to finish out his seventh term, which concludes in January.

McConnell's absence is being felt in the Senate as Republicans were unable to advance a farm bill out of committee Thursday. The committee's chairman, Sen. John Boozman of Arkansas, said he spoke with McConnell this week about the bill.

"I know how much he would have wanted to be here to advocate for Kentucky's farmers and rural communities," Boozman said in kicking off the committee's meeting Thursday.

But there has also been criticism that McConnell has not been transparent enough about his health. The state's Democratic governor, Andy Beshear, recently called on the senator to either prove that he is fit to continue serving after his lengthy hospital stay or resign from office.

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Carter County Times
www.cartercountytimes.com
Published every Wednesday by the EK Newsgroup, LLC
Office of Publication:
109 E. Main St, Grayson, KY 41143
News/Advertising: 606.225.1258;
editor@cartercountytimes.com
ISSN: 2692-420X | USPS Publication #23470
POSTMASTER: Please send Change of Address Form 3579 to:
Carter County Times,
PO Box 803, Olive Hill, KY 41164
Periodicals Postage Paid at: Post Office, Olive Hill, KY 41164
Single issue price: $1.00 plus tax
Annual in-county subscription price: $26.00 plus tax
Annual out-of-county subscription price: $52.00 plus tax

OBITUARY

James Phillip Ray
1957 – 2026

James Phillip Ray, age 68, of Grayson, Kentucky, passed away Monday, August 3, 2026, at Carter Nursing and Rehabilitation in Grayson, Kentucky.

He was born Saturday, November 9, 1957, a son of the late James and Barbara Clark Ray.

James is survived by three sons, Shawn (Tina) Ray, Johnny Ray, Jerry Ray all of Olive Hill, Kentucky; three grandchildren, Devin Ray, Austin Ray, J.T. Ray; one sister, Pam (Doyle) Webb of Mansfield, Ohio, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss him.

A Celebration of Life was held, 4 p.m., Sunday, August 9, 2026. At Kibbey Chapel, 2456 McGlone Creek Road, Olive Hill, Kentucky, with Brother Mark Blankenship and Brother Todd Antrobus officiating.

Globe Funeral Chapel in Olive Hill, Kentucky is honored to serve the family of James Phillip Ray.

MALONE FUNERAL HOME
325 Malone Ln.
Grayson, KY 41143
(606) 474-5126

OPINION

EDITORIALS | LETTERS | COLUMNS | COMMENTARY

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

Guest Editorial

The data center fight in Kentucky is about democracy

By Jason Bailey
Kentucky Lantern

In a state short of jobs, outsiders promising big investments typically receive a red-carpet welcome from Kentucky public officials. That was no doubt the expectation when Big Tech companies began scouting data center locations in the commonwealth. But when the trickle of interest became a flood, and when the proposals swelled from small data centers to massive hyperscale complexes, concerned residents began speaking out.

Now, at least 30 Kentucky counties have put in place ordinances or moratoria on new data centers. Local officials may have lost their seats over supporting data centers in the May primary elections. And Governor Beshear recently withheld praise for a $100 billion data center in Paducah, with his office citing concerns about energy costs, environmental impacts and fair taxation.

Americans rarely agree on much, but there is sudden, shared anger about data centers across the political spectrum. What's this shift about?

One source is widespread frustration with the impacts of Big Tech on society. Many rightly believe that the largest corporations in the world are stealing our data, surveilling our lives and addicting our children. Tech CEOs proudly predict that artificial intelligence will eliminate many jobs while also admitting AI has a chance of ending humanity.

And people understandably seethe at the lack of accountability and transparency when it comes to data centers, whose developers use backroom lobbying and non-disclosure agreements with local officials to keep the public in the dark.

The anger is also about affordability. Frustration with the cost of living makes Americans concerned about anything that can make utility bills rise further. Kentuckians are already paying more for electricity because our utilities buy energy from the regional supplier PJM whose charges are billions of dollars higher because of data centers.

And when it comes to potential harms to air, water and quality of life, Kentuckians have ample experience with powerful corporations damaging human health and the land with impunity.

Kentuckians have also been burned by companies like Braidy Industries and AppHarvest that made big promises and received public money before they flopped. The state doesn't need to lure data centers with tax breaks. Cheap land, plentiful water, low electricity prices, central grid access and favorable climate make Kentucky a prime location already. Nevertheless, in the waning hours of the 2025 legislative session, state lawmakers gave data centers a massively lucrative sales tax exemption on the purchase of equipment. And then in 2026, lawmakers failed to pass legislation that could keep data center utility costs from being shifted to residents.

The 2025 tax break will last 50 years and could easily cost billions of dollars if given to just a few hyperscale centers in Kentucky. And at the same time data centers are promising local tax benefits for communities, their lawyers are seeking to get those taxes reduced or eliminated as well.

While AI will no doubt play a significant role in society, some question the transformative vision touted by tech billionaires. The build-out of data centers is fueled by debt and rivals the size of the interstate highway system and the Space Race. But the profitability of AI at that enormous scale is unproven. A bubble in AI stock prices could leave communities with stranded energy systems to pay for and a repeat of the dot-com bust of 2001.

As always, Kentuckians want and need jobs. Data centers offer significant short-term employment in construction even while their long-term jobs are few and of lower quality.

But Kentuckians may finally be fed up with the promises of faraway developers and their backers in the Bluegrass. We've been told to accept whatever comes and assured that the benefits will trickle down. We've been told that creating a good "business climate" is all that matters — even if it means profits on the backs of workers, communities and the places people hold dear.

Maybe what Kentuckians are asking for is economic development on their terms. Sounds like a true democracy, and what a fine idea that could be.

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Carter County Times
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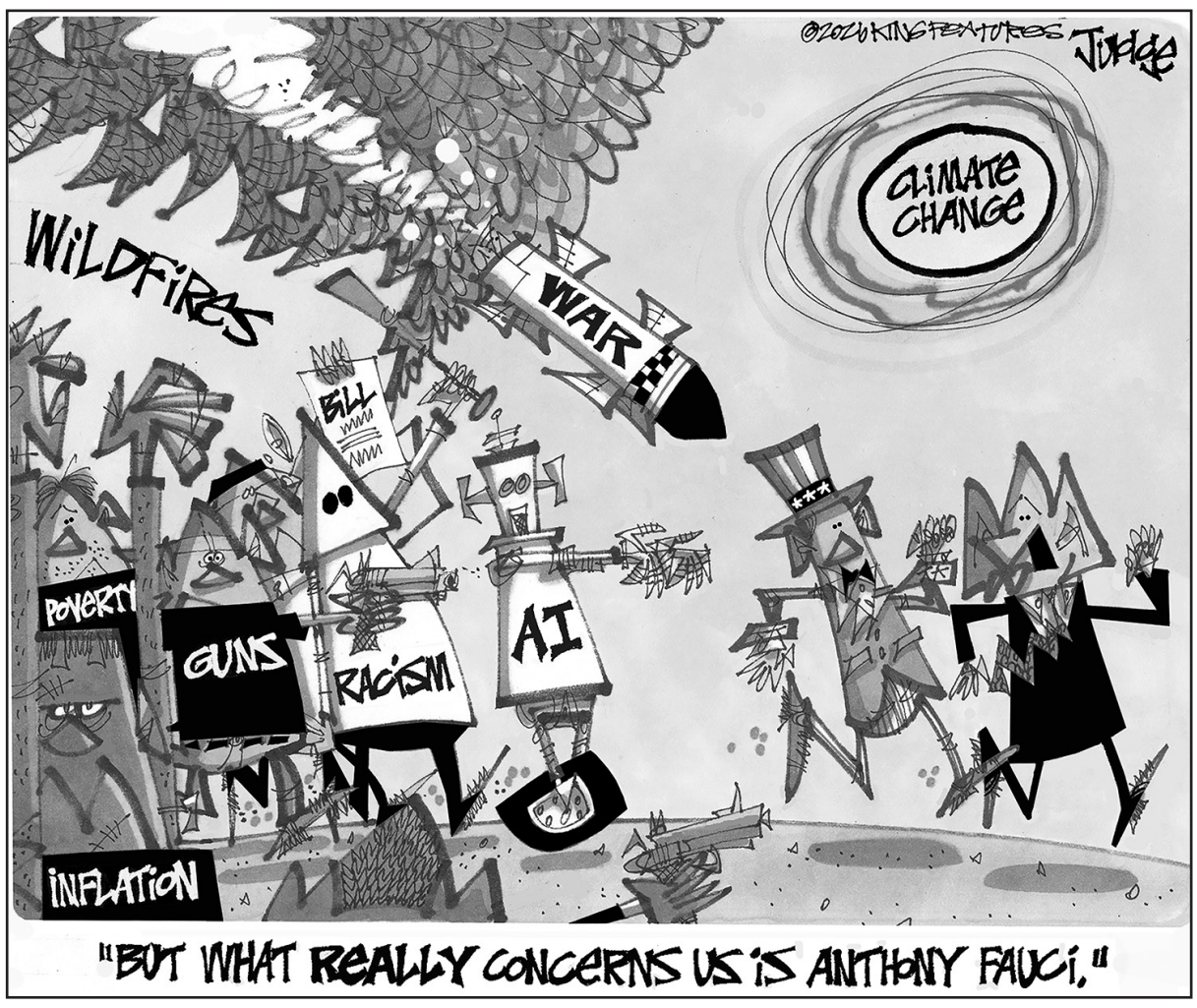
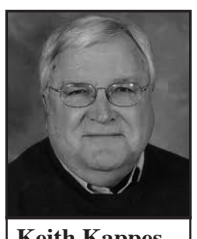


Could it be true that loneliness has become the silent killer of men?

I was shocked Sunday morning during a men's bible class when a man told us that he created a fake name when he had to identify an emergency contact person for his employer in case he was injured or became ill at work.



Keith Kappes
Columnist
Carter County Times

He said he was single and had no living relatives or even casual friends or acquaintances that he could ask to look after his interests if he were to become incapacitated for any reason.

I estimated his age at about 60 and he appeared to be in good health. I'm ashamed to admit that I've seen him in that class several times but still do not know his name, where he lives or anything else about him.

By the time the class ended, I had decided that I would offer my services as his emergency contact. However, I saw him exchanging contact information with two other men who apparently reacted sooner than me.

But I thought of another person who is retired and now serving as full-time caregiver for his disabled wife. I am reaching out to him before this week is over.

Today's class discussion about sharing our Christian values by helping others included my first exposure to a social problem called "male loneliness epidemic."

Google's Gemini AI showed that men and women report being lonely at basically the same rates of 15 to 20 percent. But that men commit 80 percent of the suicides in the U.S., attributed primarily to social disconnect and untreated distress.

According to data from the Survey Center on American Life, the proportion of men reporting having no close friends quadrupled from three percent in 1990 to 15 percent in recent years.

Men rely far more heavily on a romantic partner or spouse for emotional support than women do. Pew Research findings indicate that roughly three-quarters of men turn to a partner first when facing emotional difficulty, whereas women maintain wider, active networks of friends and family.

The Pew folks noted that single, divorced, or widowed men are therefore at a much higher risk of total isolation. As a widower since 2022, I will stop challenging my children's concerns about me spending too much time alone in an empty house.

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

Hats off to the last of the makers

I keep thinking about Batsakes Hat Shop.

Batsakes will lock its doors in September, ending nearly 120 years downtown and the working life of Gus Miller, one of the last traditional hatmakers in the country. Miller's uncles Pete and George founded it in 1907; he arrived from a Greek village at 17 in 1951 and swept floors and shined shoes before learning to block felt by hand. He's 93 — he says 94 — still gets up at four, doesn't drive, and his wife Rita brings him in every morning.

Robert Dean
Guest Columnist
Carter County Times

Guys don't wear a hat like they used to, and that's like many things in this world: we don't call repairmen to fix the television; we throw it out. And the people capable of fixing something are getting fewer and further between, because companies don't want someone from the outside to learn what's inside, just like our cars.

I don't have to explain this to you, but the economy is not good. Last week, the Labor Department reported that employment unexpectedly shrank by 23,000 positions last month — compared with the 83,000 gain that economists had forecast. They also revised reports from May and June down by a combined 103,000 jobs.

The Labor Department also reported that hourly earnings for nonsupervisory and production workers fell by a tenth of a percent over the last year when adjusted for inflation. Inflation-adjusted weekly earnings had moved up in the year ending in June, but those gains came with a similar increase in the average number of hours worked — a signal that plenty of folks are barely getting by.

Back in the Spring, the White House fought analysts on the presumption that the only real job gains were coming from one specific sector: AI data centers. Politicos want to say that the construction economy is booming – sure, because they're building stuff no one wants.

We've been thrust into a world that is always trying to extract more blood from more stones, even when the rock patch ain't got much left in terms of give.

Sooner rather than later, Gus Miller will turn the key at Batsakes for the last time. The display cases will go. The hats will go. Someone will take the sign to hang in their new tacky faux "culture" observant bar. And Cincinnati will still have plenty of places to buy something to put on your head. That isn't the point. What disappears is a place where a man could spend his entire adult life learning how to make one thing well and where doing that could sustain a business for more than a century.

Contact us at or send submissions to news@cartercountytimes.com

Policies

General

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

Circulation

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

Letters & Opinion

The Times welcomes all letters to the editor.

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

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

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

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

Deadlines

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

UK King's Daughters welcomes interventional cardiologist

ASHLAND, Ky. – UK King's Daughters welcomes interventional cardiologist Emmanuel Akuna, M.D., to its medical staff, joining the team at UK King's Daughters Cardiology.

Dr. Akuna earned his medical degree at Windsor University School of Medicine in Cayon, St. Kitts & Nevis in 2019 and completed an internal medicine residency at John H. Stroger Jr. Hospital of Cook County, Chicago in 2022. His cardiovascular medicine (2025) and interventional cardiology (2026) fellowships were completed at Jefferson Health Einstein Philadelphia Hospital in Pennsylvania.

He is board certified by the American Board of Internal Medicine.

Interventional cardiologists specialize in the minimally invasive diagnosis and treatment of coronary artery disease, including cardiac catheterization, angioplasty and stenting. Dr. Akuna also provides care for patients with angina, valve disease, heart failure and cardiac arrhythmias.

New patients are welcome. For more information or to schedule an appointment, please call 606-324-4745. Dr. Akuna sees patients in Suite 230, Medical Plaza B, 613 23rd St., Ashland.

Emmanuel Akuna, MD (submitted photo)

Federal government to turn a Kentucky uranium plant into an AI data center and gas power complex

By MARC LEVY
Associated Press

The U.S. Department of Energy is harnessing the artificial intelligence boom in its bid to convert another Cold War-era uranium enrichment site, tapping private equity to fund a $100 billion data center complex that will include its own new natural gas and battery storage power plant in Kentucky.

The department selected investment firm Brookfield Asset Management to develop and operate the data center at the government-owned Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant. In March, the department announced a similar project at its Portsmouth Gaseous Diffusion Plant in Ohio.

Both are undergoing extensive cleanup, decontamination and decommissioning after decades of fueling the nation's nuclear weapons and power plants. The project is in line with the Trump administration's efforts to make artificial intelligence superiority over China a top national security and economic priority.

The federal government is transforming former DOE sites into "engines of innovation and economic growth" to "ensure the United States wins the A.I. race," Energy Secretary Chris Wright said in a statement Wednesday.

"There will be a lot of new natural gas power plants, a large data center, thousands of jobs and tens of billions of dollars of investment in rural western Kentucky," Wright said on the Fox News show "Fox & Friends."

Earlier in July, the Department of Energy said it had picked engineering contractor Amentum to negotiate a lease to develop an AI data center and on-site power plant at South Carolina's Savannah River Site, a massive complex where the federal government once produced materials used in nuclear weapons, primarily tritium and plutonium-239.

Real estate, energy and data center services are cornerstones in the investment portfolio of New York-headquartered Brookfield, which reports that it has more than $1 trillion in assets under management.

A Brookfield spokesperson estimated that 30% of the $100 billion in spending would go toward construction of the data center and power components, with the rest of the money being spent on the equipment in the data centers, including servers, routers and semiconductor chips.

Discussions were ongoing with commercial partners to use the data center space, Brookfield spokesperson Simon Maine said.

Other partners in the Paducah project are power generation and transmission giant NextEra Energy and local utilities.

Florida-based NextEra Energy will build and own the power generation components, which are to include 2 gigawatts of natural gas-fired generation, upgrades to transmission networks and 2.6 gigawatts of battery energy storage to support a new 1.8 gigawatt AI data center campus, the department said.

The plant would be the largest gas-fired power plant in Kentucky. A single gigawatt, according to a general industry standard for utilities, can power about 750,000 homes.

A power service agreement must be approved by state utility regulators, and excess electricity would be delivered to the regional grid. Construction was expected to be complete in 2031, the department said.

Cleanup is continuing at the roughly 3,550-acre Paducah plant site, which was on a list of 16 federal sites released last year as locations where the department could invite technology companies to build data management and storage capacity.

It shut down in 2013 and the gaseous diffusion process to enrich uranium is considered obsolete.

The department has projected that cleanup at the Paducah site would be completed in 2065 at a cost of about $17 billion, including demolishing buildings, disassembling uranium converters, removing refrigerant and treating a large plume of groundwater contamination.

In the meantime, the department is working on plans to provide some of the uranium waste being stored for decades at the Paducah site to a pair of companies seeking to use newer technologies to re-enrich it for use in power plants.

Group raises questions about projects

A newly formed group called Protect McCracken County has raised questions about the uranium enrichment and data center projects, saying that the work is being carried out beside a river that 5 million people downstream drink from without an independent study of the impact.

Byron Gary, a senior attorney for the environmental and public health advocacy group Kentucky Resources Council, said any plans to develop the contaminated Paducah site or to withdraw water from the water table underneath it must be carefully executed.

He said the construction of a such a large gas-fired power plant — which emits planet-warming greenhouse gases — would have implications for climate change and that his organization would want to be certain that regular ratepayers are not forced to subsidize the power plants and transmission upgrades there.

Gary also said his organization will want to make sure that the Department of Energy does not circumvent permitting processes as a way to get around environmental protection laws.

"There shouldn't be a justification to get around that and end up potentially dumping a lot more burden on a rural community that can't afford it," Gary said.

Follow Marc Levy at http://twitter.com/timely-writer.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Kentucky Department for Local Government (DLG) is accepting application materials under the 2026 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program. The city of Grayson intends to apply for CDBG funding assistance for the construction of the Pathways Autism Center, a facility that will provide vital therapeutic and support services for individuals with autism spectrum disorders and their families.

A public hearing will be held prior to the submission of the required application. The public hearing will take place on Monday, August 24, 2026, at 2:00 P.M. EST/ 1:00 P.M. CST, at the Grayson Municipal Building, 302 E. Main Street, Grayson, KY 41143. The purpose of this hearing is to obtain citizens' views on community development and housing needs, to review proposed activities, and to solicit public comments on the proposed project and application.

Technical assistance is available to help groups representing low- and moderate-income persons in developing proposals for funding under the CDBG program.

The following information concerning the CDBG program will be available for public inspection at the Grayson Municipal Building during regular business hours:

A. Amount of funds available and the range of activities that may be undertaken.

B. Estimated amount of funds proposed to be used for activities benefiting persons of low and moderate income.

C. Records regarding the past use of CDBG funds by the City of Grayson, if applicable.

D. A summary of other important program requirements.

Comments on Application
A copy of the CDBG application material will be on file for public review and comment at the Grayson Municipal Building during regular business hours (Monday–Friday, 8:00 A.M.–4:00 P.M. EST/ 7:00 A.M.-3:00 P.M. CST) from Monday, August 17th through Monday, August 24, 2026, at 10:00 A.M EST/ 9:00 A.M CST. Comments on the proposed application may be submitted to the attention of Mayor Troy Combs until the close of business on Friday, August 21, 2026.

Non-Discrimination Clause
The city of Grayson does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, religion, or disability. Upon request, the City will provide reasonable accommodation, including auxiliary aids and services, to afford individuals with disabilities an equal opportunity to participate in all programs, services, and activities.

Any persons requiring special needs assistance or services for non-English-speaking residents should contact Mayor Troy Combs at 606-474-6651 at least five days prior to the meeting. The TDD number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-648-6057.

ADA Resources

- Department for the Blind: 1-877-KYBLIND
- American Printing House for the Blind: 1-800-233-1839
- Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (Interpreter Directory): 1-800-372-2907
- State Relay TDDD Number: 1-800-648-6057

NOTICE

The Carter County Board of Education is proposing a general fund tax rate levy of 46.9 cents on real and personal property.

The general fund tax levied in fiscal year 2026 was 47 cents on real and personal property and produced $5,266,145.79. The proposed general fund tax rate of 46.9 on real and personal property is expected to produce $6,148,544.15. Of this amount, $984,397.35 is from new and personal property. The compensating rate for 2027 is 44.9 on real and personal property and is expected to generate $5,886,346.10.

The proposed rate is expected to generate more revenue than received in the preceding year. The general areas to which revenue of $882,398 above 2026 revenue is to be allocated are as follows: cost of collections, $34,590; building fund, $74,210; instruction, $603,408, transportation, $85,095; maintenance, $85,095.

This information is published pursuant to KRS 160.470. The proposed tax rate is not subject to recall under KRS 132.017. The general assembly has required publication of this advertisement and information contained herein.

Looking to buy, sell or trade?

Having a yard sale?

Looking to hire or trying to find work?

Post it in the CLASSIFIEDS!

Contact advertise@cartercountytimes.com

NOTICE

The Carter County Detention Center is accepting bids for a roof replacement. We are seeking quotes to:

1. Clean and prep the existing roof membrane for roof replacement.
2. Remove the existing roof membrane from all roof walls, curbs, and roof penetrations.
3. Install a fully adhered rubber system, or comparable metal gauge standing seam roof system, in accordance with standard specification details.
4. Installation bids should include flashing of all roof penetrations in a watertight manner, fabrication and installation of gravel stop and drip edges at all required locations, and removal of project debris from site.

Bids may be sent to Carter County Detention Center, 13 Cross Bar Road, Grayson, KY 41143, or contact the office by phone at (606)475-1646, ext. 123.

US moves to shut a Kentucky organ donation group, citing safety failures

By Lauran Neergaard
AP Medical Writer

The Trump administration said Wednesday it will shut down a Kentucky organ donation group accused of continuing plans for organ retrieval from some patients who unexpectedly showed signs of life.

While those surgeries were canceled, the cases made headlines several years ago, prompting a spike in people around the country revoking their organ donor registrations.

Health Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. called the nonprofit Network for Hope "a bad apple" and accused it of "persistent safety failures" in announcing the government was starting the process to decertify it.

Network for Hope is one of about 55 organ procurement organizations, or OPOs, that coordinate the recovery of organs from deceased donors and help match them to patients on the nation's transplant list. In a statement, Network for Hope said it "strongly disagrees" with Kennedy's decision and will appeal.

Among the allegations is that in 2021, Network for Hope's predecessor organization pressured a local hospital to proceed with plans to withdraw life support and retrieve organs from a man despite signs that he was waking up from a drug overdose. The man survived and his sister joined Kennedy at a press briefing Wednesday, thanking him.

OPOs cannot declare if someone is dead — only a doctor at the hospital treating the person can do that. Only after that declaration can a donor agency assume responsibility for the deceased, looking for potential recipients and scheduling surgeons to come in to retrieve the organs. Most donations come from people declared brain-dead. But sometimes doctors say a patient has a nonsurvivable injury and the family decides to withdraw life support — and in certain circumstances, that also can allow for donation.

In its statement, Network for Hope said it complies with all federal organ policies. It said that over a year ago it implemented a "first-of-its-kind" new safeguard allowing anyone — including health professionals or family members — to call a pause in donation planning if there's any concern the patient won't be appropriate.

Kentucky recently passed a law mandating that pause and the federal Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network is working on new rules that also would require all the nation's OPOs to implement it.

More than 100,000 people are on the U.S. transplant list, the vast majority seeking a kidney, and thousands will die waiting for a new organ. There were more than 49,000 transplants last year, a record despite a small drop in donations from the deceased — the first such dip in a decade.

—-

The Associated Press Health and Science Department receives support from the Howard Hughes Medical Institute's Department of Science Education and the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. The AP is solely responsible for all content.

Americans rewire their grocery shopping routines while digesting the biggest price jump in 50 years

By Dee-Ann Durbin, Terry Tang, Maggie Scales, Sandy Guatibonza And Hikari Mae Hida
Associated Press and The Lexington Observer, La Esquina and Honolulu Civil Beat

What's for dinner? Lately, at Apral Jack's house, it's whatever is on sale.

Jack, 50, scouts an app for deals at her local supermarket before she buys groceries. When she reaches the store, she looks in the weekly circular for coupons she might have missed. If shelf prices look too high, she tries to find lower prices someplace else.

"The apples went up here, the ones I eat, so now I'm not going to get them here," Jack said as she pushed a cart into a Stop & Shop near her home in Lexington, Massachusetts.

Couponing, comparison shopping and cutting back on favorite foods are new habits for her and millions

See GROCERIES on A-8

Amber Waves

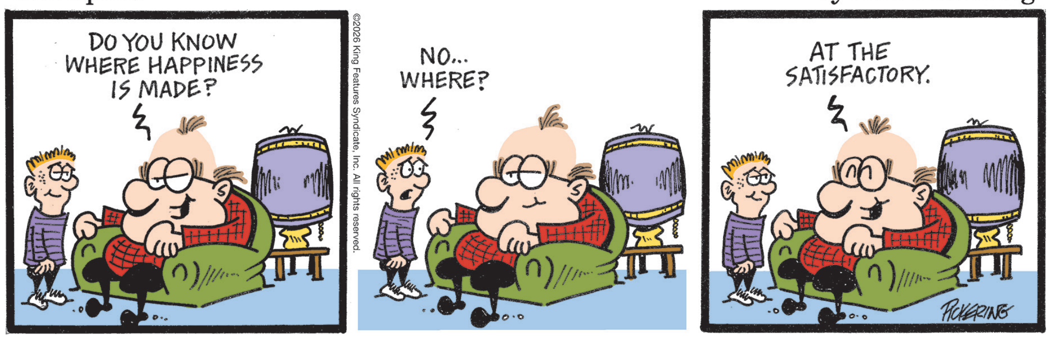
by Dave T. Phipps

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

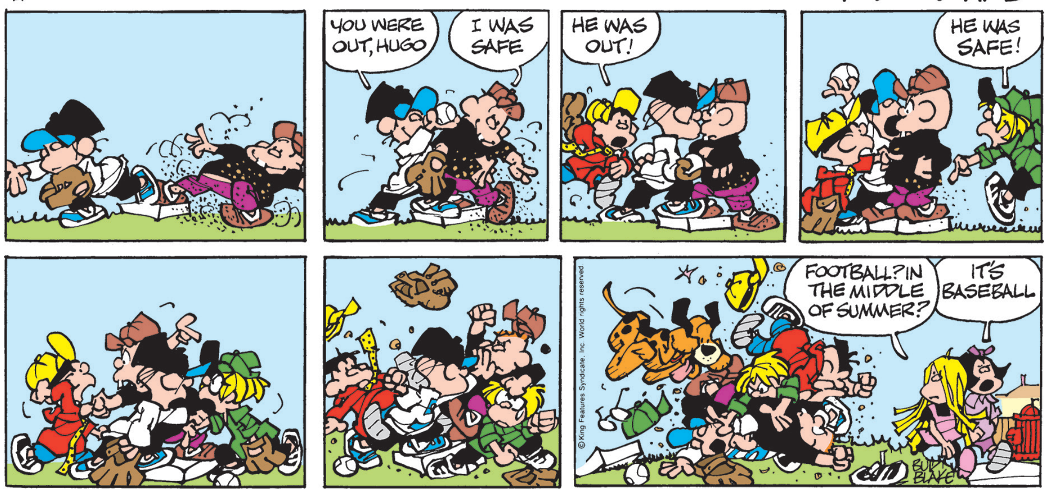
The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

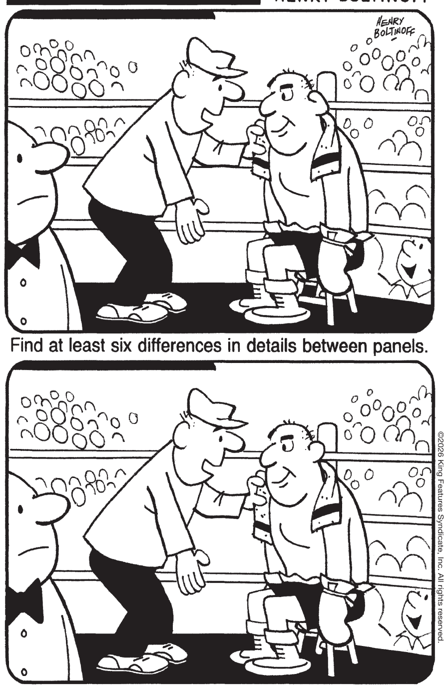


OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Towel is longer. 2. Tie is larger. 3. Rung on stool is missing. 4. Ear is different. 5. Rope is missing. 6. Man is moved.

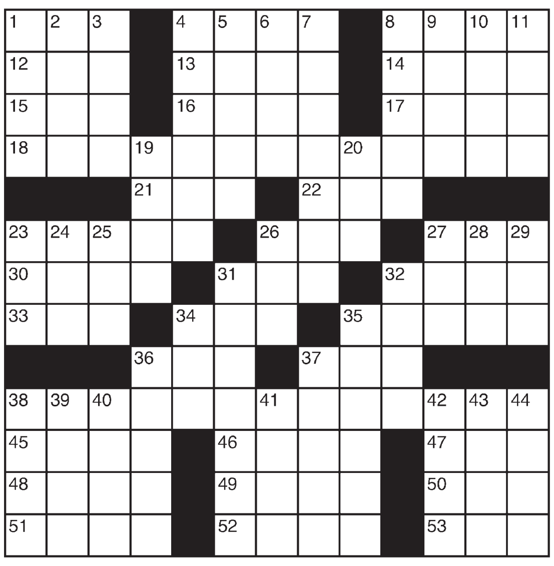
Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Sheepish "Hello!"
4 Out of control
8 Regretted
12 U.S. Navy vessel
13 — Crunch (breakfast cereal)
14 Singer Guthrie
15 Mel of baseball
16 Manitoba tribe
17 The same
18 Cold-hardy salad veggie
21 Whatever amount
22 Green shade
23 Kick out
26 Send electronically
27 Extinct bird
30 Sunrise direction
31 Future flower
32 Border on
33 Tipsy
34 A Bobbsey twin
35 Dish
36 Cat's coat
37 Three, in Rome
38 Young person, metaphorically
45 Mideast airline
46 Bern's river
47 Actress Longoria
48 Lighten
49 Wall St. debuts
50 Profit
51 Times Sq. force
52 Salamander
53 Hosp. areas



DOWN

1 Gust
2 Wine region
3 Envelope abbr.
4 Emphasize
5 Tie the knot
6 Autobahn auto
7 Skateboarder's protection
8 Indian yogurt dish
9 Language of Pakistan
10 Power co. supply
11 Stadium top
19 Diplomacy
20 — -Mex cuisine
23 Long, skinny fish
24 — alai
25 Proposal fig.
26 Gaiety
27 CEO's degree, often
28 Chic no more
29 Chowed down
31 Shopper's quest
32 Novelist Waugh
34 Mother Teresa, for one
35 Mass celebrant
36 Mailed a tax return
37 Toss
38 Beheld
39 Stage show
40 Grate
41 Superhero's garment
42 Vegas game
43 Always
44 D.C. baseball team

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Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. U.S. STATES: Which two states do not observe Daylight Saving Time?
2. ANATOMY: How many valves does the human heart have?
3. MATH: What comes after a trillion?
4. GEOGRAPHY: What is the longest river in Europe?
5. TELEVISION: What is the name of the hospital in the sitcom "Scrubs"?
6. HISTORY: Which empire did Genghis Khan rule?
7. LITERATURE: Which children's book features a character called Augustus Gloop?
8. ART: Who painted the famous work titled "Guernica"?
9. MOVIES: In which film does Sidney Poitier's character say, "They call me Mr. Tibbs"?
10. ASTRONOMY: What is the smallest planet in our solar system?

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Five Spot™

Investment terms

J	O	I	N	T	Knee or knuckle
					Part before the singing starts
					A bridge position
					Unable to raise sufficient funds
					Speak badly about
					Offer to others

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

FiveSpot is a trademark of Michael McLinden
See more at www.sproutspuzzle.com 02652

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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: **W** equals **P**

RXSO B WBIYDHFABI

HMODZSIMFQ YISS ZSAY B

ZISBNV WIDHNAV QSOQBYDMO,

YXBY RBQ WDOS-YDOCADOC.

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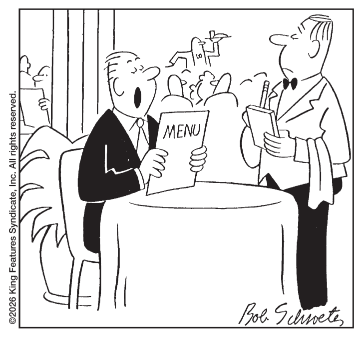
SCRAMBLERS

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!



"I'll have the chef's special and no need to hurry — unless you want a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _!"

Student
RENTIN _ _ [_] _ [_] _

Rural
SIRCUT _ _ _ [_] [_] _

Slime
GLUDES _ _ [_] _ [_] _

Anarchy
HAMMEY _ [_] [_] _ _ _

TODAY'S WORD
_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. Heavenly _ _ _ _ V _ Divvy up _ _ _ _ D _
2. Certain quartet _ T _ _ _ _ Planting season _ P _ _ _ _
3. Express gratitude _ _ A _ _ Mull over _ _ I _ _
4. Coronet _ _ _ _ N Multitude _ _ _ _ D
5. Pendant _ _ _ _ _ T Student's closet _ _ _ _ _ R
6. Beehive _ P _ _ _ _ Bird sanctuary _ V _ _ _ _
7. Lombard or Burnett _ _ _ _ L Chocolate alternate _ _ _ _ B
8. Arrogance P _ _ _ _ Groom's mate B _ _ _ _
9. Stockholm native _ W _ _ _ Velvety leather _ U _ _ _
10. Rowling's character _ _ T _ _ _ Composer Cole _ _ R _ _ _

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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.

	+		÷		= 13
+		+		+	
	+		÷		= 3
+		÷		-	
	-		×		= 6
= 23		= 2		= 3	

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

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King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

Trivia Answers

1. Arizona and Hawaii.
2. Four.
3. Quadrillion.
4. The Volga River.
5. Sacred Heart Hospital.
6. The Mongol Empire.
7. "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory."
8. Pablo Picasso.
9. "In the Heat of the Night."
10. Mercury.

CryptoQuip answer

When a particular coniferous tree felt a freaky prickly sensation, that was pine-tingling.

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

Five Spot™ Solution

J	O	I	N	T
I	N	T	R	O
N	O	R	T	H
S	H	O	R	T
T	R	A	S	H
S	H	A	R	E

SCRAMBLERS Solution

1. Intern; 2. Rustic
3. Sludge; 4. Mayhem

Today's Word
GRATUITY

Go Figure! answers

6	+	7	÷	1	= 13
+		+		+	
9	+	3	÷	4	= 3
+		÷		-	
8	-	5	×	2	= 6
= 23		= 2		= 3	

Even Exchange answers

1. Divine, Divide 6. Apiary, Aviary
2. String, Spring 7. Carol, Carob
3. Thank, Think 8. Pride, Bride
4. Crown, Crowd 9. Swede, Suede
5. Locket, Locker 10. Potter, Porter

Bigfoot from A-1

ported sightings happened on Rattlesnake Ridge and near the Mushroom Mines, she said.

The Olive Hill Bigfoot Festival will be happening the weekend following the Friday Night Fights wrestling event. It is scheduled for September 12 at the historic Depot on Railroad Street. Admission is free and the festival begins at 10 am, and ends at 8 pm. There will be meet and greets with celebrities like Turtle Man and Swamp Man, not to mention themed foods like the Bigfoot Burger.

Festival goers can look forward to enjoying local bigfoot lore with guest speakers and hearing eyewitness reports. There will also be a costume contest and a Bigfoot Calling Contest, food trucks, and live music. Vendors will be set up with cryptid themed merchandise all through the festival, and the family friendly event is sure to have something to appeal to everyone who attends.

"We just want to have a good time and talk about Bigfoot," Steagall said. "And we want everyone in the area to come see us."

Contact the writer at charles@cartercounty-times.com

Teachers from A-1

8, however, several organizations banded together to take some of the burden off of area educators. The United Way of the River Cities partnered with other organizations including iHeart Media, Armstrong Media, and the Huntington Mall to put on an event designed to take some of the pressure off area educators, not to mention the strain on their wallets.

The Annual Tools for Teachers event was held on Saturday at the Huntington Mall in Barboursville, West Virginia, but was open to any area teacher. Initially the event was intended to help the first 250 teachers who registered, but that number was quickly increased to 300 due to the overwhelming response. There was also an overflow line for latecomers who were able to receive supplies while supplies lasted.

"Teachers invest so much of their own time, energy, and resources into creating positive learning environments," said Margi Valdez, of the Huntington Mall. "Through Tools for Teachers, we want to show our appreciation and help ensure every student has access to the tools they need to learn and thrive."

Executive Director of the United Way of the River Cities Jedd Flowers said the event was designed with both teachers and students in mind.

"We want to provide back to school supplies to the teachers so they can distribute them to their students," Flowers said. "It's the beginning of the school year, and unfortunately many families are forced to choose between buying groceries or buying school supplies."

Flowers said the goal is to take that pressure off of families with the help of the entire community.

"When you look at the six counties we directly serve, 49 percent of our families are at or below the poverty level" Flowers said. "And 80 percent of those families work."

Flowers said there is a United Way in every community, and though the event took place in West Virginia, any teacher in the region could qualify for the Tools for Teacher's giveaway.

"Many teachers in our region end up buying school supplies for their classrooms," United Way's Director of Marketing and Communications Michelle Goodman said. "Every year its inevitable, so we have this event in partnership with the Huntington Mall and KEE 100 FM so teachers can come in and register through a line of supplies and get those things they need for their classrooms." Goodman said the list of available supplies included necessary things like tissues, disinfectant wipes, glue sticks, paper, markers, and other associated supplies.

Goodman said the United Way tries to interact with teachers throughout the year with other events like Read Across the River Cities (in October) and Super Saturday (in February or March). They also help with kindergarten registration which Goodman says is a good resource for parents.

"We try to stay connected with the schools," Goodman said. "Because ultimately they are in charge of our children's success."

Both Flowers and Goodman said that community support is crucial to helping both teachers and students succeed in the classroom.

"We have been blessed with good community support," Flowers said. "And without that, we wouldn't be able to continue doing what we do."

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Groceries from A-6

of other Americans as they absorb the biggest jump in grocery prices in a half-century. Buying food to eat at home has gotten 33% more expensive since the beginning of 2019, according to government figures.

With a conflict in the Middle East creating more price pressures, the cost of filling refrigerators, freezers and pantries has made affordability a central issue in the fall midterm elections.

Residents of four urban areas where food inflation has exceeded the national average shared how steadily rising prices are changing the way they shop. They described hunting for discounts, switching to store brands and feeling grateful for food banks. Some are buying less meat and skipping nonessentials like cookies. Others are buying less food overall.

Meat becomes a luxury for a family in Texas, the nation's top beef producer

Beef epitomizes out-of-control grocery prices for many Americans. The price of a pound of ground beef reached $6.82 in June, which is 79% more than at the beginning of 2019, according to Bureau of Labor Statistics data.

Ada Torres, 60, who lives 45 miles northeast of Houston in Cleveland, Texas, is one of the people no longer buying it. She does the grocery shopping and cooking for the home she shares with her daughter and three grandchildren.

"Prices are sky-high. One hundred dollars' worth of groceries these days is nothing," Torres said.

Chicken and cold cuts are the family's main source of animal protein now that fresh meat is a luxury, she said. Her grandchildren, ages 12, 15 and 16, miss eating lasagna with ground beef, beef fajitas and steak with plantain chips.

Torres' daughter is the family's main provider. Her work for a mobile car-washing service dwindles during the rainy season; the family only can afford one full meal a day, Torres said.

Shopping outside Boston takes research and multiple stores

Apral Jack, a care provider and part-time Amazon worker, has fewer mouths to feed now that her three daughters are adults. But she spends more cautiously than she once did.

Instead of shopping at Whole Foods, she builds her weekly menu around discounts and digital coupons.

"Typically, I'll try to pick the meals based on that. So like chicken fajitas: there was a three-day sale on chicken" Jack said.

Nabisco Ginger Snaps and Nilla Wafers are off her shopping list. Jack won't buy store brand replacements. To her, they don't taste the same.

Three generations share food pantry eggs and produce to get by in San Francisco

San Francisco has a reputation as foodie city. Food preoccupies 33-year-old Jack Chang for other reasons. The self-employed barber has three young children and a partner who is unemployed.

"Since I have five mouths I have to feed, basically — and then sometimes my mom, too — it's a lot on me financially," Chang said.

Their family is not one that goes out for boba milk teas or artisanal ice cream. They visit a Japanese entertainment center with $1 ice cream cones. Milk is the only organic product they consume.

"I look at my credit card every month and I'm like, 'Wow, how am I going to pay this?' So I'm a little behind on bills, honestly," Chang said.

When their 4-year-old daughter's preschool has leftover meat or bread, Chang's partner, Tina Chhous, offers to take it. Chhous also receives monthly food assistance through the federal Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP.

"Without that, I don't know what I would do," Chang said.

Chang's 77-year-old mother, Lien, receives SNAP aid, too, and visits two food banks each week. She shares the canned food, eggs and produce she gets with the rest of the family.

Prices in the Honolulu area keep a pastry chef from shopping and eating local

High grocery bills come with living in Hawaii. The state gets nearly all its food from cargo ships that have traveled thousands of miles, making prices vulnerable to oil market spikes.

Local products also got costlier this year. The cost of shipping goods between the Hawaiian Islands skyrocketed amid rising fuel prices tied to the Iran conflict.

Amanda Tabadero, 28, a pastry chef on the Hawaiian island of Oahu, remembers buying Maui-grown strawberries and blueberries for $7.99 per pound in 2024. Now that they cost $11, she buys berries from California or Mexico at Costco for $5 when she bakes.

Tabadero also doubts she will buy lychee again anytime soon. Kaimana lychee, the variety grown in Hawaii, mostly comes from the Big Island. Tabadero said an iced coffee and a bag of fruit she recently purchased in Honolulu's Chinatown came to $30.

"It makes me sad," Tabadero said. "I want to use local stuff."

___

This report is a collaboration between The Associated Press and The Lexington Observer in Massachusetts, La Esquina in Texas and Honolulu Civil Beat in Hawaii. AP Video Journalist Terry Chea contributed from San Francisco.

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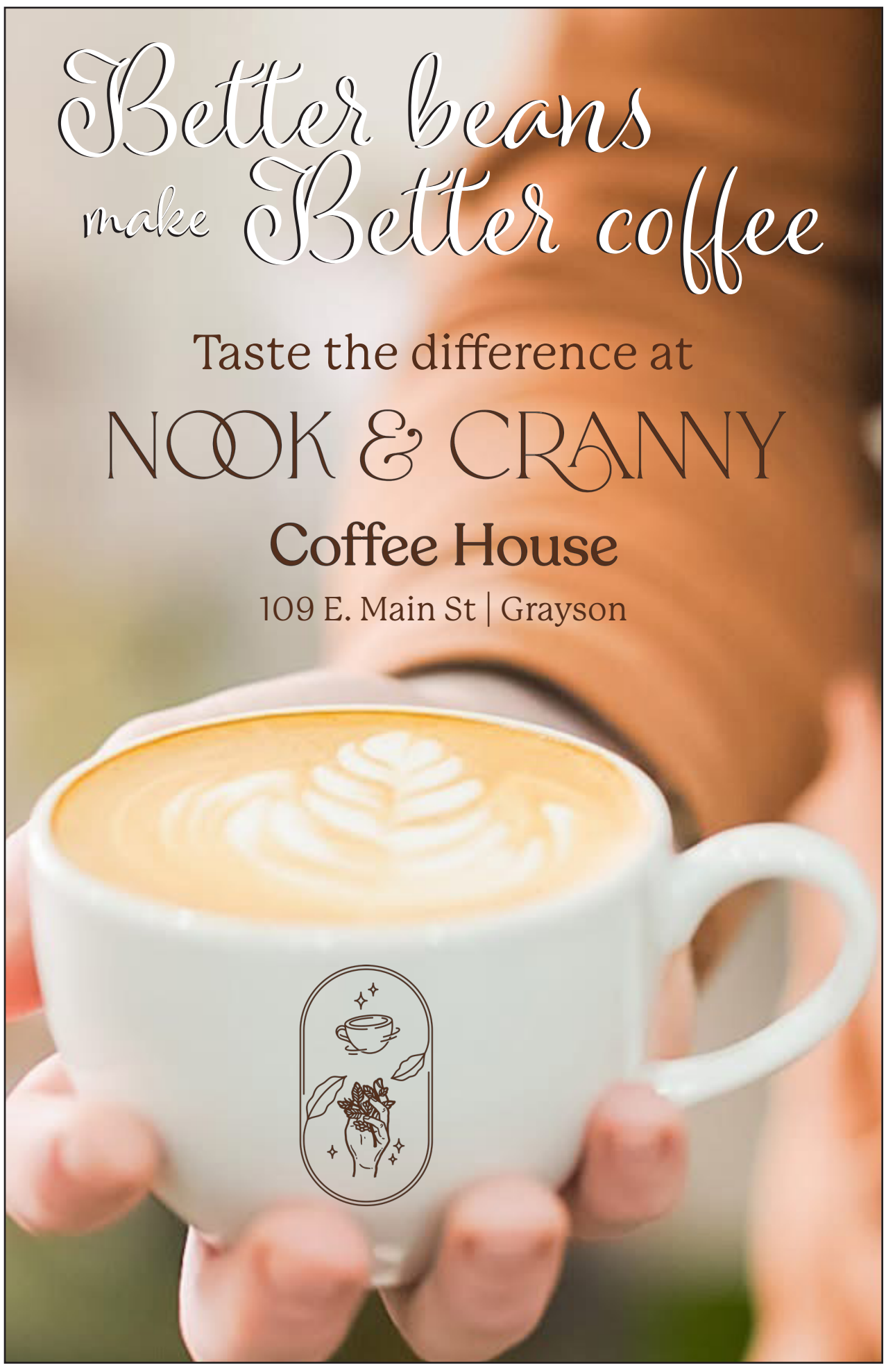
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