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The Lebanon Enterprise

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Local leader shares lessons on learning

Carrie Truitt
addresses
Taylor County
chamber

BY BEN SHEROAN
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

The Campbellsville-Taylor County Chamber of Commerce welcomed a Marion County resident who plays a lead role in Leadership Kentucky.

Speaking at the chamber's monthly luncheon last Thursday, Carrie Truitt stressed the connection between learning and

leadership.

"In this room full of leaders, we know that learning is just one quality or one ingredient in the leadership formula. There are lots of other values that leaders must possess," she said. "But a willingness to learn is paramount to be sure."

A Lebanon resident and 1996 graduate of Marion County High School, Truitt works as senior director of communications and strategic initiatives for Leadership Kentucky, which was established four decades ago



Carrie Truitt

to equip state leaders with knowledge and information. Leadership Kentucky and similar local leadership programs offer a means for up-and-coming leaders to be informed about services available and challenges facing their state or community.

The programs follow a similar format by opening with a group retreat and scheduling a series on monthly events to explore various aspects of community life including tourism, economic development, law enforcement and health care.

Truitt said the goal is to collectively come together to learn and share in order to advance the community and state and make it better for all.

A key concern of the state Leadership organization, since its founding, has been the rural-urban divide and the need for mutual understanding, Truitt said. Learning to understand and appreciate each other helps identify "common threads" impacting the entire state.

Through her work with Leadership Kentucky, Truitt said she and others strive to identify common issues around the state including affordable housing, workforce

development to address extensive job vacancies and preparing students for their next steps whether its college, trade schools or moving directly into the workforce.

"All of those challenges and opportunities exist in every single community across the state," she said, and bringing leaders together is a means to find solutions.

"Let's learn from each other, let's talk to each other and let's collaborate in fixing problems," she said.

Truitt, who has a master's degree in organizational leadership from Campbellsville University, has invested her entire professional career in the service

of others through nonprofit organizations including positions with the University of Kentucky, Ephraim McDowell Health Care Foundation, Camp Horsin' Around and Hosparus Green River.

She is chair of the Marion County Board of Education, founder and chair of the Marion County Education Foundation and a board member for the Marion County Youth Soccer Association.

Carrie and her husband, Michael, have been married since 2002 and have three children, Jackson, Samuel and Eleanor.

City and county rescue squads to merge

BY JANE REID KLEYN
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When someone is in a precarious situation, an automobile accident, caught in flood waters, whatever the situation what you want is help. You need help as quickly as possible.

A move by the City of Lebanon and Marion County Fiscal Court should help with response times, staffing with well-trained personnel, and better equipment.

The Lebanon City Council approved a merger of the Lebanon Fire Department's Rescue Squad Division with the Marion County Rescue Squad at the council's meeting on Monday, June 9. Marion County Fiscal Court approved the merger on Thursday, June 5.

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JANE REID KLEYN/The Lebanon Enterprise

Mayor Gary Crenshaw (left) honors those involved in achieving Recovery Ready Community certification for Lebanon and Marion County at the city council meeting on Monday, June 9. Marion is the 25th county in the state to receive the certification.

Nelson County chief sheriff's deputy alleges goading by whistleblower

BY PETER W. ZUBATY
PAXTON MEDIA GROUP

In recent court filings in the whistleblower case against the top leadership of the Nelson County Sheriff's Office, Chief Deputy Brandon Bryan is alleging Det. Ian Justice attempted to get Bryan to break the conditions of the court in the case.

Bryan and Sheriff Ramon Pineiroa are accused by Justice and fellow Det. Will Purdom of retaliation against them for filing a whistleblower complaint against Bryan and Pineiroa for taking the detectives off the Greater Hardin County Narcotics Task Force and

reducing their hours. Purdom and Justice swore out a complaint alleging retaliation, as well as alleging that Bryan did not follow proper procedures when selling vehicles out of the impound lot.

Part of the court restrictions against Pineiroa and Bryan is that they have no contact with Justice or Purdom through the course of work, or outside of the office.

The filing earlier this week contains a memo by NCSO Capt. Josh Greenwell, discussing that he and Sgt. Brandon Teater are to serve as go-betweens for communication while the case against Pineiroa and Bryan are pending.

"On April 18, 2025, Detective Justice was standing in the hallway of the Nelson County Sheriff's Office," Greenwell wrote. "He was standing just outside of the evidence room door having a conversation with Evidence Technician Pam Brady. I, Captain Joshua Greenwell, was sitting at my desk in my office directly across the hallway. Detective Justice broke conversation with Brady and said, "Good Afternoon." I then noticed Chief Deputy Brandon Bryan walk past my door and Justice, continuing toward the kitchen area of the office. Bryan did not respond to the

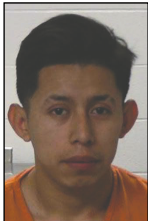
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Caal-Garcia's trial remanded over missing KSP crash report

BY DENIS HOUSE
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The man charged with two counts of vehicular homicide was scheduled to have his trial start on June 30. Still, due to the Kentucky State Police not having completed the accident reconstruction report, Judge Todd Spalding had to remand the trial date.

Franklin Ontoniel Caal-Garcia, 19, of 372 Lake Avenue, appeared in Marion Circuit Court Division 1 on June 12 where he learned that his original trial date had been remanded. In his notes on the case, Judge Spalding wrote, "the accident reconstruction report has not been completed by KSP for reasons that defy logic" and "the court finds the failure to KSP to have completed this report within seven months is a complete neglect of their professional responsibilities and beyond ridiculous."



Franklin Ontoniel Caal-Garcia

On Nov. 2, 2024, KSP Post 15 troopers responded to a two-vehicle collision on US 68 around 6:30 p.m. near the intersection of Jessietown Road. A 2005 Dodge Ram, driven by Garcia, was traveling west on US 68 when he crossed the centerline of the roadway, entered the eastbound lane, and dropped off the roadway. Garcia steered his vehicle back into the eastbound lane and collided head-on with a 2020 Chevrolet Equinox, driven by Roy Wright, 75, of Lebanon.

Wright and his wife, Deborah Wright, 72, who was pronounced dead at the scene, while Roy Wright later died at the University of Kentucky Hospital.

At the time, he gave police his name as Erick Alonzo Garcia and he was charged with vehicular homicide under the influence of alcohol, first-degree assault, driving under the influence of alcohol .08, first offense (aggravated circumstance), first-degree wanton endangerment, careless driving, and failure to produce and insurance card. He was indicted by a Marion County Grand Jury for two counts of vehicular homicide while under the influence of alcohol (Class B felony), theft of identity of another without consent (Class D felony), operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol/substances, first offense-aggravator (Class B misdemeanor), careless driving (violation), and failure to produce an insurance card (violation).

Judge Spalding set the case for review on June 26 at 9:00 a.m. and noted if KSP fails to submit its report by the next review date "this court will have no choice but to modify the bond of the defendant even though there is significant likelihood he will flee the jurisdiction." Caal-Garcia's bond is currently set at \$2 million. Spalding also ordered an interpreter to be present at the next court date.



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