

■ Webb from A-4

retirement benefits can be directed to a special needs trust without jeopardizing eligibility for those vital services.

I have spoken with many families across Kentucky who constantly worry about the future care of their loved ones. This bill provides peace of mind by giving them greater flexibility and security in their financial planning. During the committee discussion, I emphasized that this proposal is both compassionate and practical. The response from my colleagues was encouraging, and I will continue working to build momentum for its passage as the session moves forward.

Recently, I had the privilege of honoring former state Rep. Danny Bentley for his many years of dedicated service to our commonwealth. Friends, family, and colleagues from across the state gathered to celebrate Danny’s achievements and contributions. Danny, a pharmacist and educator by trade, has long been a champion for health care access, education reform,

and rural development. In the General Assembly, he worked tirelessly to expand access to prescription medications, improve opioid addiction treatment, and enhance pharmacy services in underserved areas. His expertise in health care policy has had a lasting impact, particularly in rural Kentucky, where access to quality care remains a challenge.

Several leaders shared heartfelt reflections on Danny’s legacy, including House Floor Leader Steven Rudy, Rep. Scott Sharp, and former Rep. Brandon Reed. Aaron Thompson, president of the Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, also spoke about Danny’s influence on education policy. One of the most memorable moments came when Mayor Tony Wilson paid tribute through a musical performance, adding a deeply personal touch to the event.

Danny Bentley has left an enduring legacy in the General Assembly, and although his presence in Frankfort will be missed, his work has advanced

health care and education for countless Kentuckians. I’m grateful to have served alongside him and with him to strengthen our region.

The agriculture community in northeast Kentucky recently suffered a profound loss with the passing of Ray Sammons, a lifelong farmer, veteran, and advocate who dedicated his life to supporting agriculture and rural development. Ray served honorably in the United States Marine Corps during the Vietnam War before returning home to build a thriving career centered around farming and community service. Over the years, he became a cornerstone of agricultural leadership by serving on the Boyd County Farm Bureau Board of Directors for 34 years and actively participating in programs like 4-H and the Master Cattleman’s Program. His work left a lasting impact on me and these programs still very much matter to me to this day.

Ray’s presence could light up any gathering—his friends and neighbors often

remarked on his warm smile and generous spirit. I was fortunate to have known Ray both personally and professionally, growing up around him at events that celebrated and supported our agricultural heritage. He was a true friend to my family and a strong ally of Kentucky farmers. His contributions helped strengthen the fabric of our rural communities, and his absence will be deeply felt. I extend my heartfelt condolences to his family, and may his legacy of service and dedication not be forgotten.

As we prepare to reconvene on February 4, I want to remind you that staying engaged with the legislative process is essential. The Kentucky General Assembly’s website makes it easy to follow our work and gives you a front row seat to our legislative activities. The Legislative Calendar outlines committee meetings and floor sessions, while the Legislative Record provides bill texts, summaries, and vote histories. Want updates on specific legislation? Bill Watch lets you follow

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Carter County Fiscal Court will be accepting sealed bids for the purchase of a used grader. Sealed bids are to be turned in to the Judge Executive’s Office located at 300 West Main Street, Room 227, Grayson KY 41143 no later than February 10, 2025 at 3pm. Requirements are as follows; \$60,000 or less purchase price and less than 5,000 hours. Please call the road foreman Jason Carroll at 606-316-8096 for further information. Bids will be opened and awarded February 10, 2025, at 6pm at the Regular Fiscal Court meeting.

■ Food Bank from A-1

serve the community, she said. God’s Food Pantry in Morehead, supplies Wilburn’s group with the food they dispense to those in need, and Wilburn said that they had approached her nearly a year ago to open a store. Though her group was not ready at that time to tackle the project, they are now moving forward with it. Even now Wilburn and volunteers are painting and preparing to open.

“God just gave me a peace about doing this store,” Wilburn said, and all her reservations melted away. “I thought it would help so many of our families if we had a store they could come to where they wouldn’t have to stand in line. Especially

since a lot of our people are elderly.”

Another consideration, which Wilburn said she saw as a sign that the time was right, was learning about a grant that might help fund the project. What she was currently doing wouldn’t qualify, because according to the language of the grant it had to be a new work, and not an existing endeavor.

“And that fell right in line with what we wanted to do,” she noted.

“So, you could just see God moving,” Wilburn said. “Here was this idea, and then this grant comes along. So, it all just fell together.”

Wilburn said the store will be open two days each week, two hours at a time.

“It will be for 65 years and older, or it will be by referral from the (School) Resource Centers from Carter County Schools who can refer a family. And for that age isn’t a factor.”

Wilburn said the Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) can also refer a family.

Patrons of the store will be allowed to shop twice per month, Wilburn said, but if they shop at the store they won’t be able to take advantage of the monthly food giveaway. That being said, there is no plan to stop the monthly service, and both will continue to operate.

“We could never quit our once-a-month

giveaway,” she said. “Because too many people depend on it. But we did think that would eliminate some of the waiting on that give away day.”

People who take advantage of the services shouldn’t be put off by the word ‘store,’ because all items are free to those in need.

“But it is set up just like a store with shelves and everything,” Wilburn said. “And we had a donation of shelving. And people from Genesis Rehab will be coming to set them up and paint for us. And people can come in and ‘shop’ just like at a grocery store.”

Her church, Grayson Free Will Baptist, is a small church, Wilburn said, and they wouldn’t

be able to do what they do each month without the support of other churches in the area such as Kilgore Methodist, England Hill Freewill Baptist in Catlettsburg, Wolf Creek Baptist, Heritage Free Will Baptist, and the Church of Latter-Day Saints.

“We are so excited to get this up and moving,” Wilburn said.

Though the grant might be a future help, they are opening the store as soon as the paint dries.

“It (the grant) will sure help us if we get it, but we are going ahead anyway. God has always supplied what was needed. When we started all of this, I told everyone that if all we had to pass out was peanut butter and crackers, then

we would pass that out with joy.”

Fortunately for a community in need, that scenario never played out. In fact, Wilburn said they recently received a grant of \$1,000 from the Tri State Foundation and used that money to purchase wagons to help with loading groceries.

“And thank God, they were heaped up as people loaded up their vehicles. And we are going to do the same thing with our store.”

The store, she said, will be called Daily Bread Food Pantry.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com.

Cave Run Symphony Orchestra to be storytelling at Feb. 23 concert

An orchestral salute to great stories and a “Meet The Instruments” event for young children will be the featured attractions in Morehead on Sunday, Feb. 23, when the Cave Run Symphony Orchestra continues its 11th full season with a concert entitled “Symphonic Stories” at 3 p.m. in the Morehead Conference Center.

It will be the CRSO’s

third performance of the 2024-25 season and will be preceded by a special event at 1:30 p.m. to introduce elementary school students to the instruments of the orchestra. Students and accompanying adults from local schools have been invited to be CRSO guests for the concert.

“We are pleased to present another great concert and to introduce

a new generation of local citizens to the instruments that create the beauty of orchestral music,” said Dr. Craig Burrows, CRSO board chair.

The instrument event goes from 1:30 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. in the front lobby of the MCC. Hosting will be Dr. Michele Paise, professor of music, and music education students from Morehead State

University.

The 60-piece orchestra is operated by the Cave Run Symphony Orchestra Society, Inc., a non-profit, tax-exempt organization under Section 501 ©(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Gifts to the CRSO are tax deductible to the extent permitted by law.

Gifts are received at PO Box 441, Morehead, or at the door of each concert.

“The orchestra is underwritten by gifts, sponsorships, program book advertising, and ticket sales and we welcome support at any time of the year,” Burrows added.

Adult tickets are \$15 and are available for the Feb. 23 and April 6 concerts at the Morehead Visitor Center or online at crsomusic.org. Cash or checks will be accepted

for payment at the Visitor Center.

Concert tickets can be purchased at the MCC with cash, checks, credit or debit cards. Children and students of all ages are admitted free of charge.

Morehead is proud to be the smallest city in Kentucky with a community-supported symphony orchestra.

How a bill becomes a law

How does a bill become law? This is a seemingly simple question that requires a rather detailed, lengthy response. Creating laws is not an easy or simple process, which is no accident. As a matter of fact, this is the way the Founding Fathers intended it. Our Founding Fathers wanted to ensure that bills face much scrutiny and deliberation before becoming law. Hence, they established the framework for a robust, stringent process that a bill must undergo to become law, safeguarding against the passage of impulsive or ill-conceived legislation. Throughout the 2025 Regular Session, you will observe the process outlined below as pieces of legislation filed by members of the General Assembly move forward.

Step 1: Introduction and Committee Referral: A bill may be introduced in

either the House or Senate. Each bill is assigned a number, read by title and sponsor, and referred by the Committee on Committees, a group of legislative leaders tasked with assigning a bill to a committee, to the appropriate standing committee.

Step 2: Committee Consideration: The committee assigned a bill by the Committee on Committees will either choose to act or fail to act on it, resulting in the bill’s death. If the committee chooses to act, a public hearing is held, which is also broadcast live on KET.org and the legislature’s YouTube page, @KYLRC-CommitteeMeetings. The bill is presented, debated, and open to questioning from committee members. A bill may be reported out of committee with one of the following reports: favorable, favorable with amendments, favorable

with committee substitutes, unfavorable, or without opinion.

Step 3: First Reading: When a committee reports a bill favorably, the bill is given its first reading on either the House or Senate floor and is placed in the Calendar for the following day for its second reading.

Step 4: Second Reading and then to Rules: The bill is read for a second time and sent to the Rules Committee, a group of legislative leaders and other members who prepare the Orders of the Day. The Rules Committee then decides to either recommit the bill, sending it back to committee, or to place it in the Orders of the Day, a list of bills and resolutions ready to be debated and/or adopted within each chamber that day.

Step 5: Third Reading and Passage: Typically, the Majority Floor Leader, the spokesperson for the majority party on the floor, makes the motion to read the bill for a third time. Earlier this month, HB 1, a

measure that would lower the individual income tax from 4% to 3.5%, was read for the third time on the House floor. The motion went as follows: “I move that House Bill 1 be taken from the Orders of the Day, read for the third time by title and sponsor only, and placed upon its passage.” The motion is adopted by voice vote, and the floor is open for debate. After debate on the bill and any amendments, a final vote is taken. To pass, the bill must be approved by at least two-fifths of members in each chamber, equivalent to 40 representatives or 16 senators, with a majority of members present and voting, unless the bill contains an appropriation of funds or an emergency clause. In that case, the bill must be approved by a majority of members in each chamber, equivalent to 51 representatives and 20 senators.

Next Steps: If a bill is defeated, it will likely not have another vote unless two members who voted against it request its reconsideration, and the majority approves. If a bill

passes in one chamber, it will move to the other chamber for consideration, where it goes through the same first five steps again. In the end, both the House and Senate must agree on the final form of the bill. If either chamber fails to concur on amendments, the differences may be reconciled by a conference committee of both representatives and senators. Changes agreed to by the conference committee are subject to approval by both chambers.

Step 6: Enrollment: Once a bill is passed by both the House and Senate, it is carefully read to ensure the final wording is correct. The bill is then signed by the presiding officer of each chamber, the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate, and sent to the Governor.

Step 7: Governor’s Action: Once received, the Governor has 10 days, excluding Sundays, to act on the bill. The Governor may sign it, permit it to become law without a signature, or veto it. If the Governor vetoes the bill, the legislature may override the veto

if a majority of members in both the House and Senate vote to do so.

As you can see, the process of passing legislation is not a simple one, and we, as legislators, do not take this responsibility lightly. As legislators, we are looking to advance policies that will make Kentucky a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

As the second part of the 2025 Regular Session commences, I encourage you to watch committee meetings and floor proceedings live on KET.org and follow @KYHouse-GOP on social media to keep track of things happening in Frankfort. To learn more about how a bill becomes law and how you can get involved, please click here to view a resource courtesy of the Legislative Research Commission (LRC), the administrative office of the General Assembly.

I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line at 1-800-372-7181 or via email at Patrick.Flannery@kylegislature.gov.