

■ Legislative

from A-4

without a license in the same locations as those with valid licenses. It also authorizes the Kentucky State Police to issue and renew concealed carry licenses for qualified applicants aged 18 and above. It passed 26-11.

- House Bill 45, which updates Kentucky’s campaign finance laws by clarifying definitions, strengthening reporting requirements, and prohibiting foreign contributions related to ballot measures. Senate amendments refined the bill’s language to specify that financial restrictions apply only to funds used for influencing Kentucky elections and ensure transparency in political advertising. It passed 30-6.

While I was pleased to support these measures, I opposed others that I believe undermine worker protections, public health, and responsible governance.

- House Bill 694 redirects employer contributions from retiree health benefits to the pension fund once the retiree health fund is fully funded. If the fund falls below 95%, employer contributions would return to it, and employee contribution rates would increase by 0.5% annually until full funding is restored. This shift could jeopardize long-term healthcare funding for retired teachers by diverting resources away from retiree health benefits, creating financial uncertainty for educators planning their retirement. Despite my "NO" vote, it

passed 28-9.

- House Bill 196 reduces the number of required emergency medical or mine emergency technicians on duty at active coal mines. If 10 or fewer employees are working a shift, only one technician would be required instead of two. Coal mining is an inherently dangerous profession, and reducing the number of trained emergency responders on-site could compromise worker safety. Quick medical response times in life-threatening situations such as cave-ins, gas leaks, or explosions are critical, and this bill increases the risks miners face. The bill passed 30-7.
- House Bill 398 prohibits Kentucky from enforcing workplace safety standards that exceed federal OSHA regulations, limits third-party safety complaints, imposes financial penalties on the state for employer legal costs, and reduces the timeframe for filing workplace safety violations. By prioritizing corporate interests over worker safety, this legislation strips the state of its ability to enforce stronger protections and makes it harder for employees to report unsafe conditions. Kentucky already experiences higher-than-average workplace injuries and fatalities, and this bill would further endanger workers by reducing oversight and accountability. I opposed the measure, but it passed 28-9.
- House Bill 399 creates two new criminal offenses for interfering

with legislative proceedings—making disruptive conduct inside legislative buildings a Class A misdemeanor and repeated offenses a Class D felony. It also prohibits unauthorized entry into restricted areas of the Capitol. I voted against this bill because existing laws already address trespassing, disorderly conduct, and obstruction of government operations, making HB 399 unnecessary and excessive. Additionally, the bill lacks clear definitions of "disruptive conduct," which could lead to inconsistent enforcement and potential overreach by law enforcement. Despite my objections, the bill passed 30-7.

- House Bill 695 overhauls Medicaid policy, limiting the Department for Medicaid Services' ability to make necessary program adjustments without legislative approval. It eliminates expanded access to psychoeducational services, replacing it with a weak monitoring system that only flags behavioral health programs when spending spikes rather than when services are denied. It also forces Medicaid recipients into a mandatory work requirement program, which has been shown to cause coverage losses. Meanwhile, managed care organizations that failed previous reporting requirements will continue receiving contracts. A rushed amendment at the last minute prioritizes political control over patient care, putting thousands

of Kentuckians at risk. I opposed HB 695, but it passed 29-7.

In addition to the bills mentioned, all bills that were passed, enrolled, and delivered to the Governor can be found at 25RS Enrollment/Executive Actions by Date on the Legislative Record. There you can also find other information, such as bill summaries and full bill text, or find the status of specific legislation. For more, visit legislature.ky.gov.

As we move into the final stretch of the 2025 Regular Session when we return on March 27 and 28, I remain committed to advocating for policies that support Kentucky’s working families, protect our agricultural industries, and ensure public safety. The coming days will be critical as we prepare to consider any potential veto overrides and finalize outstanding legislative business before the session adjourns.

I encourage you to stay engaged in the legislative process—your voice matters. Whether you’re advocating for your community, your profession, or an issue close to your heart, your input helps shape the decisions that impact us all. Please reach out to share your thoughts and perspectives. I can be contacted by email at SD18@cm.kylegislature.gov or through the General Assembly Message Line at 1-800-372-7181. Kentuckians with hearing loss can use Kentucky Relay by dialing 711.

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

INVITATION FOR BIDS FOR  
RATTLESNAKE RIDGE WATER DISTRICT  
  
GENERATOR PURCHASE AND  
INSTALLATION  
  
Rattlesnake Ridge Water District Board of Supervisors is seeking sealed bids for the supply, delivery, and installation of a four (4) 36kW, 3-phase, 277/480 Volt, diesel powered standby generator, three (3) 24 kW single-phase, 120/240 Volt, diesel-powered, standby generators, and seven (7) 200 Amp, Service Entrance Rated, 3-phase Automatic Transfer Switch with NEMA3R enclosures at seven (7) pump stations, as well as annual generator maintenance services to be quoted as an optional and separate line item. This project will be partially funded through FEMA's 404 Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. Companies desiring to provide services can access the Request through the DFS Procurement Portal ("Portal") at dfs.bonfirehub.com or at www.erassist.com/work/. Bid submissions are due no later than 12:00 PM on March 31, 2025 through the online Portal. Bids will be opened publicly at the Rattlesnake Ridge Water District Board of Supervisors Meeting on April 1, 2025 at 3:00 p.m. at Rattlesnake Ridge Water District Office, 5302 KY-7, Grayson, KY 41143. All addenda will be posted in the Portal and all questions regarding the IFB are to be submitted within the Portal. For questions regarding Portal registration or navigation, please email: procurement@erassist.com. Rattlesnake Ridge Water District is an equal opportunity employer.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Carter County Fiscal Court will be accepting sealed bids for the purchase of a new or used Ford F550 Dump Truck. 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 April 14, 2025 at 3pm. Please call the road foreman Jason Carroll at 606-316-8096 for further information. Bids will be opened and awarded April 14, 2025, at 6pm at the Regular Fiscal Court meeting.

Legal Notice Advertisement for Alcohol License

Legal Notice Advertisement for Alcohol License Smokestack Discount Tobacco Inc. d/b/a: Smoker Friendly Express Mart #6 hereby declares its intention(s) to apply for a (Quota Retail Package) license no later than August 31, 2025. The licensed premises will be located at 253 West Tom T Hall BLVD Olive Hill KY 41164. The owner and president is: Chris Patrick and Dannie Patrick 21977 West US Highway 60 Olive Hill KY 41164. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of the license(s) by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero Street 2NE33, Frankfort, Kentucky, 40601, within thirty (30) days of the date of legal publication.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to KRS 178.050 there will be a Public Hearing **APRIL 14, 2025, at 6:00 pm** in the Fiscal Court-room to add **Mockingbird Lane** to County Road Maintenance.

WANTED

**Local Surveyor. Wanting** old plats, maps and drawings to scan. Looking for plats, maps and drawings of the Town of Grayson Kentucky, Shivel Addition and Eastern Kentucky Railroad. Please contact Donald L. Cooke P.E., L.S. at 606-474-9285 or e-mail me at donaldpels@windstream.net.

Looking to buy, sell or trade?  
Looking to hire or find work?  
**Post it in the CLASSIFIEDS!**  
Contact advertise@cartercountytimes.com

Legal Notice Advertisement for Alcohol License

AM PM Olive Hill, Inc., Mailing address 914 13th Street, Ashland, KY 41101, Hereby declares intention to apply for a Quota Retail Package, NQ Retail Malt Beverage Package, Sampling License licenses no later than April 30, 2025. The business to be licensed will be located at 131 Jessica Lane, Suite E, Olive Hill, Kentucky 41164 doing business as AMPM Spirits, Wine and Tobacco 6. The Principal Officers and Directors are as follows: Pratik Patel of 1095 Woodtrace Dr., Russell, KY 41169; Vice-President, Miteshkumar Patel of 279 Bellefonte Rd., Flatwoods, KY 41139. Any person may protest the approval of the license by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control within thirty (30) days of the date of legal publication.

■ School

from A-1

uninterruptable power supplies (UPS), in essence backup battery power to ensure continued operation of networks in the event of power brown outs, surges, or outages. This would add an additional uninterruptable power supply to each of Carter County’s schools, with a total of 27 such UPSs. The board voted to accept the bid from CDW.

The board also discussed the possibility of

subsidizing mileage for extracurricular activities.

“I would like try this,” board member Chris Perry told the board.

Perry said he believed the board was at a point where they could consider this, so that students would not be required to fundraise to pay for transportation to sporting events and other school extracurricular functions. Perry also said that it bothered

him that most of a student group’s fundraising is dedicated to this, or that the students might be forced to drive their own personal vehicle to represent Carter County Schools.

“Let’s try this for a year and see how it works out,” Perry urged the board.

The board discussed the issue at length to determine a means of helping students to attend not only sporting events but academic events as well. The issues with the expense included more than the fuel required for the vehicles, and the major expense was paying the wages of the bus drivers, which could be up to three times that of the fuel. Perry made a motion, to take effect in the 2025-2026 school year, that mileage is not charged for extracurricular trips for competitions (within the state), which include

both clubs and sports. The board voted unanimously to approve the motion.

The board also discussed the 2025-2026 school calendar, and which model to utilize. The discussion centered around recommendations from the calendar committee. The variable calendar is based upon school hours and would begin the school year on the Monday closest to August 26. This model

would give more flexibility to scheduling, but might necessitate an adjustment to staff contracts. The board voted to adopt the variable calendar for the coming school year.

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

Women in the Arts

Staff Report  
*Carter County Times*

The Grayson Gallery will present their 12th annual "Women in the Arts" event with a free opening reception for artists and the public on March 28 from 6 – 9 p.m. As a local opportunity for the celebration of Women's history Month across the U.S., the GGAC will host an evening of visual art, food and music; all by female creatives for their monthly Final Fridays Art Walk in Grayson. The dozens of pieces submitted will be on exhibit through mid-April and include a variety of

mediums and subjects from a woman's unique perspective. Live music, provided by Karen Combs and the Appalachian Ladies Revue will include three acts – \$5 Red, the Sugarbeats and Catrina Vargo – and will be performing throughout the evening. Catering by Laura, whose culinary treats always delight the crowd, is providing refreshments. In addition, four \$50 (or equivalent purchase) awards will be chosen: People's Choice (by popular vote); GGAC Board Choice, the Pen Lady's Prize and the Brandon Click Memorial. The GGAC is currently expanding their Artist Market with a revamp of the retail space as well as more showcasing of the works available for purchase in-house. Hanging systems, flip racks, new shelving and display cases filled with affordable artwork will be highlighted this month and beyond. Many pieces are discounted with some up to 50% off. Funds from sales help the gallery, a 501c3 non-profit organization, with ongoing operations expenses.

Coming up in April is "Celebrate the Earth" with art focused on that theme; the Grayson area band Raised on Radio will take



Pauline Zornes, Acrylic (submitted photo)



Amy Rice, Acrylic (submitted photo)

the GGAC stage for the first time as the entertainment. May will bring back the East Carter High School art students' work for display and June will be the annual Pride in the

Arts show. For more information, call the gallery Info Line (outgoing announcements only) at 606-474-7651, email Dan Click, director at grayson-gallery@gmail.com, or

look for the gallery’s various Facebook pages and Instagram.

**Frontier Housing Seeking Bids for Pressure Washing Services**

Frontier Housing is accepting sealed bids for pressure washing services, including cleaning homes, offices, decks, hard-surface areas, and guttering in the spring and fall. Bidders must follow all safety and environmental regulations, carry appropriate insurance, and have experience providing similar services. Reliability and professionalism are essential.

All bids are due by **Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at noon** and can be submitted in person at **5445 Flemingsburg Road, Morehead**, or via email to [m.hamm@frontierky.org](mailto:m.hamm@frontierky.org).

For plats, directions, and bid packets, contact **Melette Hamm at 606-748-6428** or via email.

**Frontier Housing Seeking Bids for Mowing & Lawn Care**

Frontier Housing is accepting sealed bids for mowing, trimming, general lawn care, and bush hogging at rental properties and construction lots from April 1, 2025, to November 1, 2025. Bidders must follow all safety and environmental regulations, carry appropriate insurance, and have experience providing similar services. Reliability and professionalism are essential.

All bids are due by **Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at noon** and can be submitted in person at **5445 Flemingsburg Road, Morehead**, or via email to [m.hamm@frontierky.org](mailto:m.hamm@frontierky.org).

For plats, directions, and bid packets, contact **Melette Hamm at 606-748-6428** or via email.

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