

OPINION

The opinion page does not reflect to the views of the KyNewsGroup.

Editor
cont. from pg. 7

We knew he did big things here on his own dime, and we were thrilled to support his election efforts. Someone else who is also newer to Carlisle wrote in The Mercury this week, accusing Rudy of “not being a numbers guy,” but that person has no understanding of Rudy’s voluminous contributions to this community or the amount of work he has done over the years in organizational management and government, which prepared him even more to run the county’s government. And while longstanding local elected officials try to dismiss and silence him, Rudy will continue to question Fiscal Court processes, expenditures, decisions,

and conflicts of interest, insisting on transparency on behalf of Nicholas Countians and the need for us to trust our leaders. What I appreciate most about Rudy has nothing to do with political office. It is his willingness to stop what he’s doing and help someone else. He’s the kind of person who will roll up his sleeves, figure out what needs to be done, and stay until the job is finished. We’ve all seen that from Rudy. In a small community like ours, that matters. We know one another. We see who shows up when there’s a problem, who keeps their word, and who is willing to help without being asked twice. Rudy has built his life around his family, his work, and his com-

munity. Whatever title he holds, those are the qualities that define him. Most people know he has no personal gain from winning this election, and many wonder why he’d even want to serve in this way. But it is abundantly clear: Rudy is a servant leader who is compelled to lead because leadership is so incredibly needed. You can learn a lot about a person by listening to what they promise or say they’ve done. But you learn even more by watching what they’ve done when nobody was watching. That’s the Rudy Randolph I know.

Sincerely,
Dr. Krista Hudson
Nicholas County, Kentucky

Letter to the Editor

Editor:
This is the first letter to the editor I have ever submitted, and hopefully the last, but after reading the October 21, 2026 edition of The Carlisle Mercury I could not remain silent. I was disappointed to read one such letter which praised one local candidate and was critical of another. I was naïve to think our little corner of paradise was above attacking our friends and neighbors. Guess not. Everyone has a right to their opinion, that is what makes this country great, but you can endorse a political candidate without tearing down another. Some may point out when you run for political office you open yourself up to criticism. But it doesn’t have to be that way. This is why so many Americans, especially young people, have become disillusioned with politics. Again, I thought we were better than that. That letter was one person’s opinion, not fact. So here is my opinion which I know is rooted in truth: Jeff “Rudy” Randolph and I have been friends since the fifth grade, the year the county elementary schools merged. We have also been family for 37 years. So admittedly, I have a biased opinion. However, this connection also gives me a unique insight to Rudy which the author of the prior letter does not possess. Rudy and I do not agree on much relating to national politics, and we argue about it often. But

we remain friends who respect each other. I wish we could all be like that. Rudy has two mantras I hear him say often – “adapt and overcome” and “if it breaks we’ll fix it”. That’s not only his mind set, it’s how he approaches all aspects of his life. I could not count the number of problems I have seen him tackle, and I cannot recall a single time in which he failed. Overseeing a large infrastructure project and working on a smaller construction job are two different things, but the thought process and approach are the same. The October 21 letter described Rudy as impatient, and that may be true. But that is because, as the author himself said, Rudy wants to get things done. He gets things done. I have seen this over and over again. The author noted how Rudy would be quick to vote in fiscal court meetings during his 24 years of service. Perhaps this is because Rudy had already done his homework on the issue, discussed it with others, and had a plan of action. Managing county government is not a one person show. Moving the county forward with major projects requires assistance from both the state and federal government. I am constantly amazed at Rudy’s connections with both. Countless times I have overheard him make calls to, and receive calls from well-known public officials and private business leaders. The kind of rela-

tionships that are needed to get things done. No one has a bigger heart than Rudy. How many people do each of us have in our lives that we could call at 2:00 a.m. and say “I need help” to which they would reply that they are on their way with no questions asked? Rudy is that for me. But not because we are nearly lifelong friends or family, but because that is who he is. He would do that for anyone. I know this to be true. When Rudy told me he was planning to run for this office I advised against it. He doesn’t need this job so why invite the associated stress? Fun for me is hanging out with my wife, fishing or watching football. Enjoyment for Rudy is helping others. This is what he lives for. And this is why he is a candidate for Nicholas County Judge Executive. The author described Rudy as “a great guy”. That we agree on.

Greg Wills
October 26, 2026

COMMUNITY

Bailey
cont. from pg. 6

animal activity. The book was about a young girl who felt that she had to wear a hat to be an artist, and when she lost her hat, she couldn’t be an artist anymore. “I wore the balloon hat in the classroom and came in there, made a puppy dog out of a balloon and told the kids, ‘I can only do this if I have my hat on, right?’” he explained. “I read the book to them and then said, ‘Well, maybe I can do it without.’ And all the kids said, ‘You just have to believe in yourself.’”

Bailey said he was drawn to Robertson County because of its uniqueness, the close-knit community and family atmosphere. “Robinson County is so unique; there’s no other school district like it in the state,” he said. “Our teachers, our staff, from instructional assistants to bus drivers to custodians to grandmas down the road, everyone wants the best for this school district because this is how the community goes. And if the school isn’t doing well, we know the entire county will suffer.” Bailey came to Robertson County after spending his entire educational career in Bath County. Throughout several schools in the district, he worked as a business, technology and career teacher, an assistant principal, principal, then moved to the district level as chief academic officer. He has a bachelor’s degree in business and information technology education, a master’s in school administration and principalship, and a doctorate in educational leadership and technology, all from Morehead State University. Bailey has also been a pastor for 20 years at Owensville Christian Church, which he said allows him to develop even closer relationships with people in the community. “It’s been great because those outside relationships really, really helped with both teaching and administration,” he said. “Being able to bridge the community with Robertson County here with the school system, especially the faith community, has been something that I’ve been focused on.”

Bailey said one of his big-

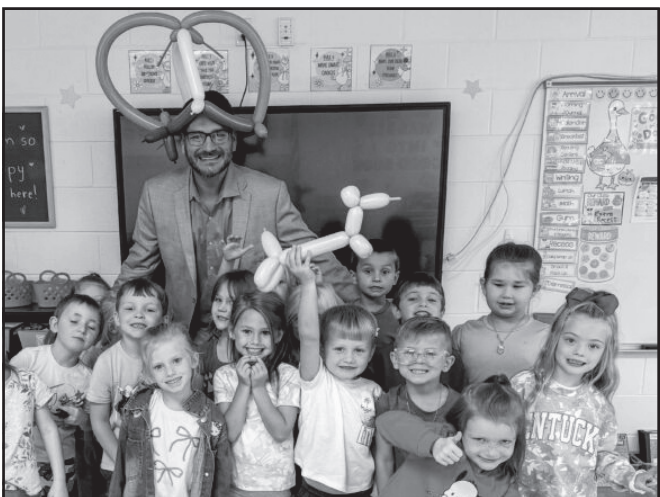


Photo courtesy Robertson County Schools
Robertson County Superintendent Sean Bailey recently visited a kindergarten classroom where he read a book to students and did a balloon animal activity.

gest priorities in his role is to listen to what those in the district want improved. He said he wants to ask people questions and use their feedback directly to solve problems and drive improvements. “One thing I’ve learned in education is that you can have great people working really hard, but you can still have a system without producing the results that you want,” he said. “I think it’s true where you can be really busy in education without it actually getting better. That’s why I want us to become very intentional about focusing on improvement. We’re going to identify our greatest needs and we’re going to develop a plan and make sure people know their role in that plan.” One of his other biggest priorities is making sure teachers are given the support they need. When he was at Bath County, Bailey led new teacher mentoring and said he loved training teachers. “That’s what I want to do here is to go alongside the teachers and see them grow,” he said. “I believe strongly that if we want

to transform student outcomes, we have to start with the experience that students are having every day, and that starts with the teacher and that great instruction.” He said he wants to challenge students to think more critically and doesn’t shy away from the idea that struggle can be productive. “I want them reading hard texts that are on grade level, I want them writing and solving problems that are difficult, I want them to have to struggle to figure things out and have high expectations,” he said. “But somewhere along the way, education has created this idea that if kids are enjoying themselves, the learning must not be hard enough. I totally go against that. I reject that because students shouldn’t have to choose between being challenged and loving school. ... It should be a perfect marriage of both.” He said sometimes students don’t realize the difficulty of what they learn when they have consistently enjoyable experiences in the classroom.

ELECT

★★Shania Mitchell★★

SEXTON

Nicholas County Board of Education District 3

Paid for by candidate, Shania Sexton

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that Enos Eicher of Carlisle has filed an application with Energy and Environment Cabinet to construct a Low Bridge Crossing for access to his property on 665 Gravel Rd. The property is located .08 miles SW off Moorefield Rd., .05 miles NorthEast of Whetstone Rd. located in Somers Creek. Any comments or objections shall be submitted via email to: DOWfloodplain@ky.gov. Kentucky Division of Water, Floodplain Management Section, 300 Sower Blvd., Frankfort, KY 40601. Call 502-564-3410 with questions.

Published in the Carlisle Mercury on 10.28 & 11.04 of 2026

ROBERTSON COUNTY SCHOOLS SEEKS BUSINESS/ COMMUNITY LEADER FOR FACILITIES PLANNING COMMITTEE

Robertson County Schools is seeking a local business/community leader to serve on its Local Planning Committee (LPC). This committee is part of the Kentucky Department of Education's required facilities planning process. Under 702 KAR 4:180 and the Kentucky School Facilities Planning Manual, districts must develop a four-year District Facilities Plan that identifies and prioritizes school construction and renovation needs. The committee has a specific responsibility: review building conditions, enrollment, and financial information, then recommend a facilities plan to the Robertson County Board of Education. A business/community representative brings a local perspective to decisions about our school facilities and the responsible use of public resources. Interested Robertson County business/community leaders should submit a letter of interest with their name, contact information, and a brief description of their connection to the community. Please submit letters to Tracy Teegarden by email at tracy.teegarden@robertson.kyschools.us by Friday, November 9.

Published in the Carlisle Mercury on 10.28.26

NOTICE

The Nicholas County Convenience Center will close at noon on Tuesday, November 3rd for Election Day and will re-open on Wednesday, November 4th at 7:30am.

NEED HELP WITH YOUR RETIREMENT PLAN?

If you have questions about your pension, 401(k) or profit sharing plan, call the Mid America Pension Project at (866) 783-5021 to get free legal advice. Funded by the U.S. Administration for Community Living, MAPPP staff provides free legal assistance to anyone with a question about their retirement plan.

CALL US TODAY 1.866.783.5021

NOTICE

The Nicholas County Judge Executive Office will close at noon on Tuesday, November 3rd for Election Day and will re-open on Wednesday, November 4th at 8:00am.

ADVERTISEMENT FOR REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

The City of Mount Olivet will retain a qualified engineering firm to provide planning, design, construction, and other required services for the Drying Beds Project. Funding sources for this project may include, but are not limited to, the Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) Program, the Government Resources Accelerating Needed Transformation (GRANT) Program, and other applicable state and federal funding opportunities.

The City will accept Statements of Qualifications from engineering firms interested in providing services for this project until 4:30 p.m. E.T. / 3:30 p.m. C.T. on November 17, 2026. An RFQ packet containing project information and the criteria that will be used to select the engineering firm may be obtained at www.btadd.com or by contacting Mallory Bane, Infrastructure Planner, Buffalo Trace Area Development District, via email at mbane@btadd.com.

Statements of Qualifications must be submitted to:

Buffalo Trace Area Development District
Attn: Mallory Bane – City of Mount Olivet Drying Beds Project
P.O. Box 460
Maysville, KY 41056

Statements of Qualifications will be ranked based on the written materials submitted, in accordance with the criteria outlined in the RFQ packet. The City of Mount Olivet reserves the right to reject any and all submissions.

This solicitation for Statements of Qualifications is being conducted to fulfill state and federal funding agency procurement requirements. Respondents are advised that the following requirements may apply: (1) Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968; (2) Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974; (3) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; (4) Executive Order 11246; and (5) Certification of Non-Segregated Facilities. All of these requirements may be incorporated into any contract issued pursuant to this solicitation.

The City of Mount Olivet is an Equal Opportunity Employer and encourages responses from all qualified firms.

Jennifer Whalen, Mayor
City of Mount Olivet

Published in the Carlisle Mercury on 10.28 & 11.04 of 2026

THANK YOU

Dear Carlisle and Nicholas County Constituents,

I would like to thank everyone for opening their doors to me during my campaign for Nicholas County Coroner. I enjoyed talking with each one of you, hearing your thoughts and concerns regarding the coroner's office. I have tried my very best to see everyone in the City/ County, however if I missed you, it was not intentional, and I am truly sorry. If I haven't seen you, and you would like to see me, call my cell (859) 749- 8788 and I would be more than glad to come to see you.

Thank You,
Jeremy Hughes
Candidate for Nicholas County Coroner

Paid for by candidate, Jeremy Hughes

Re-Elect DOUG GARRETT for CITY COUNCIL

Your vote & support is appreciated!

Paid for by candidate, Doug Garrett