

Damage

from A-5

stand up at meetings. Who pull others together. Who would have stood beside me and many others when our community needed defending.

We don't just lose individuals to drugs.

We lose community infrastructure.

I'm grateful to law enforcement for doing their job. Taking dangerous substances off the street matters. But this crisis isn't fixed by arrests alone, and it isn't fixed by treating ad-

diction as a private failure that only requires private recovery.

We talk a lot about rehab for people, and we should. But we rarely talk about rehab for towns.

If we're serious about healing, we should be asking bigger questions. What does it look like to restore the places where people gathered? Where families ate together. Where kids played. Where neighbors argued, laughed, and stayed connected. Where

belonging was built instead of assumed.

Recovery shouldn't end at the clinic door. It should extend back into the communities that were hollowed out.

Imagine spaces designed to bring people back together; community centers with picnic tables and food trucks, places for games and music, rooms for church groups, recovery groups, family gatherings, and town meetings. Places that replace what

was lost instead of just naming it.

We owe that much to the people we buried.

And to the kids growing up now who deserve more than silence and memory.

If we don't take this seriously – not as a headline or a talking point, but as a long-term responsibility – the cost won't show up on a balance sheet.

It will show up as absence.

Again.

Health

from A-3

•Oral health: Appalachian counties experience some of the lowest dental visit rates and highest rates of complete tooth loss among seniors.

•Emergency response: Nearly half of Kentucky's paramedics are concentrated in the state's five largest counties, limiting access in rural communities.

To address these challenges, Kentucky's plan advances five integrated care innovation models:

1. Rural Community Hubs for Chronic Care Innovation: Local hub-and-spoke models focused initially on obesity and diabetes prevention and management, integrating nutrition, physical activity and digital self-management tools.

2. PoWERing Maternal and Infant Health: Telehealth-enabled, community-based maternal care teams expanding prenatal and postpartum services in maternity care deserts and high-risk regions.

3. Rapid Response to Recovery (EmPATH Model): Mobile crisis response, telepsychiatry and stabilization services connecting individuals to community-based behavioral health and recovery supports.

4. Rooted in Health: Rural Dental Access: Expanded dental hygiene training, externships and portable or tele-dental clinics to improve preventive oral health services.

5. Crisis to Care: Integrated EMS Response: Enhanced pre-hospital care and trauma coordination through treat-in-place protocols, workforce training and improved data connectivity.

“Team Kentucky’s rural communities are the heart of our commonwealth,” said Kentucky Department for Public Health Commissioner Dr. John Langefeld. “This is about strengthening local health systems, creating jobs and ensuring every family has the opportunity to live healthy and thrive.”

The application process for the Rural Health Transformation Plan was guided by input from more than 100 stakeholders across the commonwealth. Team Kentucky collaborated with key partners, including the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, the Kentucky Primary Care Association, the Kentucky Hospital Association, the Kentucky Office of Rural Health and others.

“We’ve worked for

years to tackle some of Kentucky’s toughest health challenges, and we are inspired and energized to see a unified, statewide plan to bring innovation, investment and hope to our rural communities,” said Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky President and CEO Allison Adams. “This effort reflects the best of Kentucky: partnership, practicality and a deep belief that healthier communities mean a stronger commonwealth.”

“Kentucky’s Rural Health Transformation initiative reflects a simple truth community health centers have always embraced: Lasting change begins locally,” said Molly Lewis, CEO of the Kentucky Primary Care Association. “Through investments in prevention, primary care and community collaboration, this effort is creating a stronger, healthier future for rural Kentucky.”

“The Kentucky Hospital Association has been pleased to work with the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to help produce Kentucky’s application for the Rural Health Transformation Program,” said Nancy Galvagni, president and CEO of the Kentucky Hospital Association.

“Health care access improves health care outcomes. It improves lives and saves lives,” said Dr. Jason Smith, CEO of University of Louisville (UofL) Health. “UofL Health supports Kentucky’s focus on improving access in our rural communities to address chronic illness, maternity care, mental health, oral health and emergency care.”

“We were pleased to learn of Kentucky's notice of award from CMS related to the Rural Health Transformation Program,” said Mark D. Birdwhistell, senior vice president for health and public policy at the University of Kentucky. “The University of Kentucky looks forward to partnering with the state and other stakeholders to help transform health in rural Kentucky.”

The Rural Health Transformation application process began in September 2025, with awards announced on Dec. 29. In total, the Rural Health Transformation Plan provides \$50 billion nationwide over five fiscal years between 2026 and 2030. More information about Kentucky’s Rural Health Transformation Plan will be available at Rural-HealthPlan.ky.gov.

PSC approves Kentucky Power’s continued investment in West Virginia plant beyond 2028

FRANKFORT – The Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) issued an Order in Case No. 2025-00175, approving a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) for continued capital investments in Kentucky Power’s 50 percent share of the Mitchell Generating Station (Mitchell Plant or Mitchell) located in West Virginia.

The PSC, with support of the Kentucky Attorney General’s office, in a previous case had rejected Kentucky Power’s request to extend this joint ownership arrangement beyond 2028, ruling then that a new power plant would be less expensive than adding environmental compliance upgrades necessary to keep the plant operating after 2028.

West Virginia’s Public Service Commission, at that time, ruled that Wheeling Power, which owns the other 50 percent of the Mitchell Plant, would bear the entire cost of the upgrades.

This order approves a

settlement between Kentucky Power and Kentucky Industrial Utility Customers, Inc. (KIUC) and to which the Attorney General of the Commonwealth of Kentucky’s Office of Rate Intervention (Attorney General) did not object. The Sierra Club also a party to this proceeding, rejected the settlement.

The Order, however, expresses the PSC’s reluctance in granting the CPCN, stating that the “current request is due to the failure of Kentucky Power to correctly plan for and actually acquire alternative resources.”

The Order also reflects the PSC’s concern that there are flaws in Kentucky Power’s methodology and that “Kentucky Power’s analysis was not conducted with the level of rigor that the Commission would expect to see for a decision of this magnitude.”

Chair of the PSC, Angie Hatton, expressed her reluctance to sign the Order by saying, “In the three years since the PSC denied the request to

continue investing in this plant, Kentucky Power has failed to propose a feasible plan for new generation or firm capacity contracts to meet its capacity requirements. We are now forced to either permit continued investment in a 54-year-old plant in another state or allow Kentucky Power customers to be at the mercy of a volatile market. Neither option is good for customers and we are forced to choose the least bad.”

Kentucky Power filed this case on June 30, 2025, requesting a CPCN for capital investments necessary to continue taking 50 percent of the generating capacity from the Mitchell Plant after December 31, 2028. Mitchell Plant, located on the Ohio River, includes two coal-fired baseload generating units, and is co-owned in equal parts by Wheeling Power and Kentucky Power, both subsidiaries of American Electric Power.

In approving the settlement, the PSC has ruled that Kentucky Power will

now be permitted to recover the cost of the plant upgrades from its electricity customers, raising the average customer’s bill by \$2.33. The original application would have raised the average residential customer’s bill by \$3.68 per month.

The PSC, in its Order, found that continued access to the plant is the most cost-effective choice at this time and will limit potentially significant market exposure in the short-term. The Order noted that the CPCN is limited to those investments specifically identified in the case and requires Kentucky Power to file annual reports each year until 2031 to track the spending.

As a reminder, Kentucky Power customers will see a refund on their bills for the first four months of 2026 amounting to \$6.40 per month for the average residential customer as a result of the refund ordered in Case number 2023-0008 related to prior fuel adjustment clause charges. Today’s order, a

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE

The Commercial Bank of Grayson will offer at Public Sale the following vehicles to satisfy the indebtedness due under the terms of a security agreement.

2010 CADILLAC ESCALADE, NOT ACTUAL MILEAGE 168,201, DON'T RUN, VIN #1GYUKJEFIAR123585.

2011 GMC TERRAIN, MILEAGE 135,034, MOTOR BLOWN, VIN #2CTFLREC9B6332705.

2019 BUICK ENCORE AWD, MILEAGE 106,312, VIN #KL-4CJESB5KB893323.

2018 CHEVY SILVERADO 4 WHEEL DRIVE, MILEAGE 143,744, VIN #3GCUKREC4JG428685.

2000 FORD F650 SUPER DUTY, NOT ACTUAL MILEAGE 236,000, VIN #3FDWF65HXMYMA05348.

Public Auction will be held on *Friday January 9, 2026 at 3:00 PM, weather permitting if cancelled (follow our Facebook for update) it will be on Friday January 16, 2026 at 3:00 PM, at COMMERCIAL BANK, OLIVE HILL BRANCH, 155 TOM T. HALL BLVD., OLIVE HILL KY.*

Seller reserves the right to reject any or all bids.

Announcements made the day of the sale will take precedence over any printed material.

Terms will be cash.

For more information, please contact Tina Knipp at (606)475-4150.

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
CARTER CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 24-CI-00074

ANP TAX LIEN COMPANY, LLC PLAINTIFF

VS. NOTICE OF SALE

JASON O. RAMEY; LATRICIA RAMEY; AND COUNTY DEFENDANTS
OF CARTER, KENTUCKY

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Carter Circuit Court, entered on July 31, 2025, I shall offer for sale the property described herein at public auction on the Courthouse steps of the old Carter County Courthouse, 300 West Main Street in Grayson, Kentucky, on the **9th day of January, 2026** at or near the hour of 10:05 a.m., to the highest bidder on the following terms:

The aforementioned real estate shall be sold as a whole. The real estate shall be sold on a credit of thirty (30) days, with the privilege of the purchaser to pay for bid in cash in full, and if not paid in full then the purchaser shall make a cash down payment of at least ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to cover the costs of the judicial sale; and the purchaser shall execute a bond for the remainder of the purchase price, with good surety thereon, to be approved by the Master Commissioner of this Court, and bearing interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of the sale, until paid; additionally, a lien shall be retained upon the real estate to be sold herein, to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days of the date of sale upon which execution may be levied by the Master Commissioner of this Court.

Description of the Property: 81 Dry Fork Road, Olive Hill, KY 41164. (For Legal Description see LSOT: Deed Book 304, Page 296, Carter County Clerk's Office.)

Map/Parcel ID Number: 065-00-00-015.02.

NOTE: Only delinquent ad valorem taxes shall be paid from the sale proceeds. The Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of the taxes for the current year and thereafter.

Honorable John P. Thompson
Master Commissioner
Carter County, Kentucky

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
CARTER CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 23-CI-00270

U.S. BANK TRUST COMPANY, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, AS SUCCESSOR-IN-INTEREST TO U.S.BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR RESIDENTIAL ASSET SECURITIES CORPORATION, HOME EQUITY MORTGAGE ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-KS4 PLAINTIFF

VS. NOTICE OF SALE

JACK LESLIE; CAROL LESLIE; COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY, CARTER COUNTY; CURD, NEWTON & ASSOCIATES, INC.; KENTUCKY FARM BUREAU MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY A/S/O ZEBEDEE ENIX DEFENDANTS

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Carter Circuit Court, entered on November 19, 2024, I shall offer for sale the property described herein at public auction on the Courthouse steps of the old Carter County Courthouse, 300 West Main Street in Grayson, Kentucky, on the **9th day of January, 2026 at or near the hour of 10:00 a.m.**, to the highest bidder on the following terms:

The aforementioned real estate shall be sold as a whole. The real estate shall be sold on a credit of thirty (30) days, with the privilege of the purchaser to pay for bid in cash in full, and if not paid in full then the purchaser shall make a cash down payment of at least ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to cover the costs of the judicial sale; and the purchaser shall execute a bond for the remainder of the purchase price, with good surety thereon, to be approved by the Master Commissioner of this Court, and bearing interest at the rate of 3.6876% per annum from the date of the sale, until paid; additionally, a lien shall be retained upon the real estate to be sold herein, to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days of the date of sale upon which execution may be levied by the Master Commissioner of this Court.

Description of the Property: 2207 Hwy. 1662, Olive Hill, KY 41164. (For Legal Description see LSOT: Deed Book 235, Page 395, Carter County Clerk's Office.)

Map/Parcel ID Number: 005-00-00-013.01.

NOTE: Only delinquent ad valorem taxes shall be paid from the sale proceeds. The Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of the taxes for the current year and thereafter.

Honorable John P. Thompson
Master Commissioner
Carter County, Kentucky

video of the hearing, and other records in the case are available on the PSC website, psc.ky.gov. The case number is 2025-00175.

Kentucky Power is a public utility principally engaged in the provision of electricity to Kentucky retail consumers. Kentucky Power serves approximately 163,000 retail customers located in Boyd, Breathitt, Carter, Clay, Elliott, Floyd, Greenup, Johnson, Knott, Lawrence, Leslie, Letcher, Lewis, Magoffin, Martin, Morgan, Owsley, Perry, Pike, and Rowan counties. Kentucky Power stated that in 2024 its peak winter

demand was 1,288 megawatts (MW) and that its peak summer demand was 980 MW. Kentucky Power is a Fixed Resource Requirement (FRR) member of PJM Interconnection, LLC (PJM).

The PSC is an independent agency attached for administrative purposes to the Energy and Environment Cabinet. It regulates more than 1,100 gas, water, sewer, electric and telecommunication utilities operating in Kentucky and has approximately 90 employees.

Eastern Kentucky woman charged with fetal homicide after taking abortion medication, KSP says

By Melissa Patrick
Kentucky Health News

Kentucky State Police have charged a Campton woman with first-degree fetal homicide after authorities say she told them she took medication “to complete an abortion” and then buried a “developed

male infant” in a “shallow grave” on her property.

Melinda S. Spencer, 35, was also charged with abuse of a corpse and tampering with physical evidence, according to a KSP news release.

Kentucky has only narrow exceptions to its abortion ban. Health care

providers can perform an abortion only to prevent death or serious injury to the mother, with no exceptions for rape or incest.

According to the release, a medical clinic in Campton contacted state police on Dec. 31 around 2:30 p.m. and reported that “there was a lady in the

clinic (who) disclosed that she had aborted her pregnancy at her residence.”

After police arrived at United Clinic, they said the woman “stated to detectives that she had ordered medication online to complete an abortion” and “took the medication, which resulted in the

death of a developed male infant.”

Then, the release says, she “buried the infant on the backside of her property in a shallow grave.” Police “located the infant in a shallow grave” at the residence.

Angela Cooper, a spokesperson with the

Kentucky ACLU (American Civil Liberties Union), said this situation is one example of women being punished for making their own personal medical decisions, D’Quan Lee reports for Spectrum News.

“Pregnancy is an incredibly complicated state