

Juul from A-4

Juul fund proposal is “a pretty small ask in terms of the big picture.”

“I think the momentum is good. I think the feedback is positive,” Richardson said. “It’s just: Things are very busy up here, and we’ve got to be aggressive in getting it moved early.”

A ‘vital step’
Doug Hogan, the government relations director in Kentucky for the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, said one of the most effective prevention approaches involves peer-to-peer advocacy.

“Many times, a youngster starts using these products because he or she thinks that it’s cool and it’s the ‘in’ thing to do,” Hogan said. “If we can get to those kids and give them the facts and the truth, and they hear it from someone who looks like them, is about the same age as them, then they’re much more likely to say, ‘Oh, okay, I hadn’t thought of that. I didn’t know there were negative health consequences.’”

With the funds from Juul going toward programs that offer such peer-to-peer education, Hogan said, Kentucky could reach “tens of thousands of additional Kentucky students each year.”

“The Juul settlement was reached because Juul intentionally preyed upon the youth,” Hogan said. “And this legislation really is an important and vital step in ensuring that those settlement dollars are actually used for their intended purpose, which is youth prevention.”

National report gives Kentucky failing grades
Kentucky is failing to adequately prevent smok-

ing and protect people from secondhand smoke, according to a national report released Wednesday.

The 2026 State of Tobacco Control report, released Wednesday from the American Lung Association, gives Kentucky mostly failing grades when it comes to funding prevention programs, the strength of the state’s smokefree workplace laws and more.

“From this report, you can take away that our policy initiatives in Kentucky are desperately in need of some improvement and update,” said Shannon Baker, the director of advocacy at the American Lung Association in Kentucky.

Kentucky received the following grades in the annual report:

Funding for State Tobacco Prevention Programs — F. Kentucky spends about \$2 million on tobacco prevention, which the Lung Association reports is about 10% less than what it should, based on Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendations. Baker said the General Assembly needs to double this investment.

Level of State Tobacco Taxes — F. Kentucky’s tax rate for a 20-pack of cigarettes is \$1.10, which Baker would like to see increase by \$1-2. In doing so, she said the state could deter youth from ever starting to smoke. “There is evidence that suggests that particularly youths are price sensitive,” she said. In 2011, when the tax rate was 60 cents a pack, about 30% of Kentucky adults smoked. The Kentucky legislature increased the tax to \$1.10 in 2018 and smoking rates fell to around 17% in 2022.

Strength of Smokefree Workplace Laws — F. Kentucky does not have a statewide law prohibiting smoking in public places and workplaces, Baker said. Her organization wants to see such a law that would also ensure “there is no indoor smoking allowed and no exposure to secondhand smoke.” Even when one cannot smell smoke, she said, they may still be breathing toxins and carcinogens, which can cause cancer and other health problems.

Coverage and Access to Services to Quit Tobacco — C. Kentucky’s best grade in this report reflects the fact that the state’s Medicaid program provides access to all quit medications approved by the Food and Drug Administration for people who choose to quit tobacco products. The report cites “minimal barriers” to accessing that help.

Ending the Sale of All Flavored Tobacco Products — F. Baker said “fruity and candy flavors” in some vaping products are “not intended for adults.” Youth, she said, are “lured” and “enticed” by these products.

The Quit Line
In April 2025, the federal government eliminated the Office on Smoking and Health, which “put Kentucky in direct jeopardy of losing \$1.6 million of federal funds to support tobacco prevention and cessation,” Baker said. The money was reinstated, but the office remains effectively shuttered, she said.

During a rollercoaster of cuts and reinstated funds last year, Kentucky’s cessation efforts faced an “unpredictable” future,

she said, adding that “on-again, off-again” funding makes effective planning difficult. It “has jeopardized the state’s ability to consistently do the work that needs to be done to keep kids from ever initiating use and to help support both kids and adults who are prepared to quit.”

At most risk is the state’s Quit Line, which, a Cabinet for Health and Family Services spokeswoman said, received 1,783 enrollees in 2025.

Because of federal uncertainty, Baker said, the Kentucky General Assembly should up its state-level investments in prevention. “Even a modest increase of \$2 million in each year of the biennial budget is so important to sustaining the work of the program in a state where ... our smoking rate is among the very worst in the nation, and our youth use of these nicotine products has outpaced the national rate,” she said.

In 2022, 17% of adult Kentuckians smoked, significantly higher than the national rate of 11%. The rate of new lung cancer cases, too, is higher than the national average — 84.1 per 100,000 people in Kentucky compared with nearly 52.8 per 100,000 nationally.

For free resources on quitting tobacco, visit Quit Now Kentucky, call 1-800-QUIT-NOW, or visit the American Cancer Society’s cessation program, Empowered to Quit.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Love’s Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc., with a mailing address of 10601 N. Pennsylvania Avenue, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73120, hereby declares its intention to apply for an NQ Malt Beverage Package license no later than February 6, 2026. The business to be licensed will be located at 750 Carol Malone Blvd., Grayson, Kentucky 41143. Love’s Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc. is an Oklahoma corporation authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The primary owner of Love’s Travel Stops & Country Stores, Inc. is LOVE FAMILY HOLDING, LLC, 10601 N. Pennsylvania Avenue, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73120. The primary officers of the applicant and its owner are Shane Wharton, President of Applicant and Manager of LOVE FAMILY HOLDING, LLC, 10601 N. Pennsylvania Avenue, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73120, and Spencer Haines, EVP/CFO of Applicant and Manager of LOVE FAMILY HOLDING, LLC, 10601 N. Pennsylvania Avenue, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73120. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the approval of the license by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero Street 2NE33, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601, within (30) days of the date of legal publication.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
The FIVCO Area Development District is accepting proposals for a Boardroom Audio/Visual Renovation at its office in Grayson, Kentucky. Proposals must be received by 10:00 a.m. EST on Friday, March 6, 2026. The full Request for Proposals is available at <https://fivco.org/about-fivco/request-for-proposal/> or by contacting Lance Hanshaw at lance@fivco.org.

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Enough from A-5

Right wanted transparency, got it, and now refuses to believe their leader is culpable. These files came from his appointed government. They’re real. He believes you’re spineless for challenging him about his behavior. All of it is tiring. It’s ok to say you’ve had enough. I don’t care if you vote Republican, despite my

distaste for either party, but you’ve gotta have a long look in the mirror and realize this dude is bad for us and is only making things worse. Look, just walk away. The coalition of exhausted and annoyed won’t judge you. We’ll celebrate you.
Contact us at news@cartercountytimes.com

Trees from A-5

I wish the author hadn’t “buried the lede” this way. And I have to take responsibility for running it without at least prefacing it with an editor’s note – something that, given the limited content that posts to social media with a share, could have avoided some of the knee-jerk reactions from folks who didn’t bother to read the full article. Or those who, like the author, couldn’t set their biases aside long enough to

make a point that wouldn’t immediately alienate folks who might otherwise agree with what’s a really simple premise – that we shouldn’t pass a law before we’ve taken the time to understand it. And that’s something that, despite all the controversy and headache, I still believe.
Contact the writer at editor@cartercountytimes.com

Weather from A-3

and the best course of action if you suspect that you or someone you know might have hypothermia is to seek medical attention. Immediate steps that can be taken are to move

to a warm and dry shelter, remove any wet clothing and cover in warm blankets, and drink warm non-alcoholic liquids. The use of heating pads or hot baths are not recommend-

ed because the warming should be slow.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Path from A-1

odons made the path. It was used by the Paleo-Americans, the first people in what we now call North America. It was used as a hunting path,” Hammond continued. “But it was also used as a path of commerce that tied all the diverse people and tribes together.”

It was once believed that Kentucky was unpopulated when settlers found it, but evidence found along the Warrior’s Path disproves that notion, Hammond said.

“Kentucky was heavily populated about 1,000 years ago,” he said. “The population declined when diseases entered the area, but as recent as 1758 there was a large (native) village at South Portsmouth. It consisted of Shawnee, Mingo, Delaware, Lenape, and other tribes that traded first with the Spanish, then the French, and then with the English.”

Hammond said that as many as 1,500 Native Americans lived at the settlement in what would later become South Portsmouth.

“We know they lived there because we know the names of the people,” Hammond said. “It was a large trading hub right there on the banks of the Ohio River.”

At that point you could walk across the river into Ohio and up the Scioto River Valley to the Great Lakes, Hammond said.

“There was a large riffle there that wasn’t any more than knee high at that time. And there was even a large village around Grayson at that time,” he pointed out,

tying the region together along the ancient route.

Hammond has been involved and has researched the history of the Warrior’s Path for years, and currently he is the Executive of the Warrior’s Path of Kentucky.

“We cross over 20 counties in Kentucky,” Hammond said. “We tie a lot of Kentucky’s original Trail Towns together, and we hope to obtain the designation as a National Historic Trail, and a National Historic Bike Route.”

“When we do that, the Warrior’s Path will once again become a path of commerce,” Hammond said. “And it will tie many of these isolated mountain towns together that are currently suffering from economic depression.”

Hammond said that appreciation of the past can be used to improve the future by stimulating the economies of the towns along the Warrior’s Path.

Travel along the Warrior’s Path is no longer a rustic path, Hammond said, because much of the ancient path has been paved over during the passage of time.

“Modern engineers can be a lot like the woolly mammoth and take the path of least resistance,” Hammond explained. “The National Bike Trail will be a paved trail, and the National Historic Trail will be paved for the most part. So, everyone will be able to enjoy this trail, and the concept is that by tying these towns together they will be able to drive from town to town and see what

treasures each town has to offer,” Hammond said. “And the towns can build up their own infrastructures to reach the Path.”

Trail Town Olive Hill, for instance, will have horseback riding, hiking, and bicycle trails, Hammond pointed out. And these things will be able to take advantage of the city’s proximity to the Warrior’s Path. From there people would be able to drive to Jackson County, for instance, and take advantage of what is available there.

By tying all the small communities together, Hammond said that there will always be new adventures for visitors to experience every day.

Points of interest such as restaurants and other local businesses will be highlighted on the warriorspath.org website, Hammond said. This will allow travelers to plan their days to fullest effect.

“We are designating Warrior’s Path Communities along the Path,” Hammond said. “Those communities will display a sign stating that they have been selected and approved as a Warrior’s Path Community.”

“It really is an economic driver that also celebrates the true Appalachian history,” Hammond added. “12,500 years of history; perhaps more. And it’s made for everyone to enjoy whether you are rich or poor.”

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

Kentucky Dept of Agriculture Livestock and Grain Market Report

Market trends are not available as most stockyards were closed this week due to inclement weather.

Week ending 1/31/26

Courtesy of <https://www.kyagr.com/>

	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
Steers (M&L 1-2)			
350-400 lbs	560.00	512.10	362.16
400-450 lbs	500.00	492.61	359.52
450-500 lbs	470.00	461.16	346.91
500-550 lbs		437.72	327.62
550-600 lbs	425.00	417.19	310.92
600-650 lbs		390.67	295.23
650-700 lbs		376.55	280.98
700-750 lbs		354.93	268.57
750-800 lbs		344.83	262.81
800-850 lbs		333.16	251.37
850-900 lbs	237.50	326.65	252.85
Heifers (M&L 1-2)			
300-350 lbs	346.83	444.53	324.80
350-400 lbs	450.00	442.26	324.19
400-450 lbs	429.77	428.74	313.12
450-500 lbs	385.00	402.88	300.93
500-550 lbs	400.00	381.01	280.06
550-600 lbs		368.94	274.89
600-650 lbs		340.23	261.21
650-700 lbs		331.76	254.71
700-750 lbs		315.17	232.05
750-800 lbs		304.61	230.72

	Average	High	Low
Slaughter Cows			
Breakers	159.00-169.00	175.00-194.00	159.00
Boners	154.00-170.00	170.00-212.00	140.00-154.00
Lean	127.00-155.00	140.00-183.00	110.00-139.00
Slaughter Bulls			
Yield Grade 1&2	175.00-195.00	196.00-210.00	155.00-174.00

Jan 22, 2026 Bowling Green, KY
SLAUGHTER GOATS: 65
Kids-Selection 1 54 lbs 390.00; . **Selection 2** 45 lbs 325.00; 52 lbs 365.00; 69 lbs 292.50; 75 lbs 312.50. **Selection 2-3** 54 lbs 355.00; 65 lbs 300.00.
SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 484
Hair Breeds-Choice & Prime 1-2 55 lbs 380.00; 67-68 lbs 367.50-370.00; 73-76 lbs 362.50-365.00; 86-88 lbs 325.00-355.00; 110.00. **Choice 2** 52-57 lbs 355.00-365.00; 66 lbs 357.50; 73 lbs 340.00; 88 lbs 292.50.
Wooled-Choice and Prime 1-2 120 lbs 232.50; 148 lbs 212.50.

	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
GRAINS			
Corn	4.09-4.64	4.07-4.57	4.67-5.12
Soybeans	10.03-11.15	9.94-11.06	9.57-10.68
Red Winter Wheat	4.58-5.56	4.53-5.46	4.61-5.79