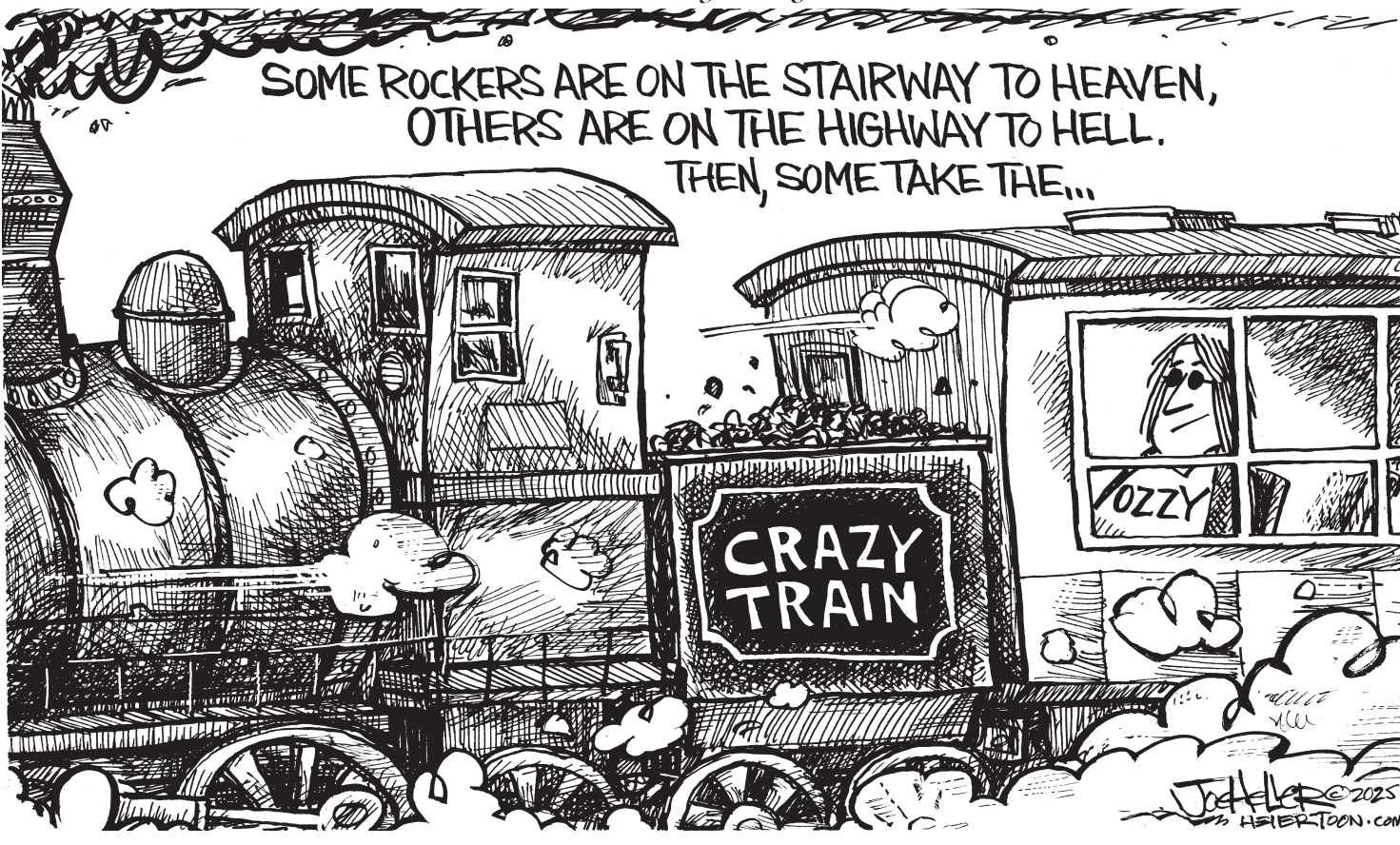


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The Citizen-Times

OPINION

JULY 31, 2025



I hope you have taken the opportunity to listen to one or more of the Scottsville Mayor’s podcasts to hear some good information about the goals and on-going projects of the city offices, what individual citizens are up to, as well as the perspectives of elected officials at the state and federal level.

July featured Police Chief Darren Tabor and two members of our GIS team, GIS Manager Scott Dobler and GIS Analyst Jada Barnett. Broadcasts run from 30 to 65 minutes and are full of news and data in a conversational format.

In this week’s City Barn report, crews assessed and repaired lighting issues at the Roadside Park, repaired two lamps on the Scottsville Square, assembled and installed a bus bench at the United Methodist Church, painted the newly installed grates on N. Court and E. Locust, installed two new water taps, one new sewer tap and two new gas taps and repaired two water leaks. In addition, they pilot-tested fire hydrants, installed a new gas line at the Scottsville Athletic Club, installed a new gas line for the CORE expansion, changed out a gas meter at Deer Creek Campground & RV Park and picked up four loads of brush. They are continuing to mow rights of way and weed around street signs.

The City Council passed Ordinance 896-25 on a second reading in our last meeting. It allows for ATVs, UTVs and other special-purpose vehicles to be on city streets. The Fiscal Court passed the same for county roads.



In order to be in compliance, drivers must have a valid driver’s license, pass a vehicle inspection, including working head lamps, tail lamps and brake lights, register through the clerk’s office and provide proof of insurance. It is basically identical to what is required for any vehicle on the road.

Our first EV charging stations are nearing completion. They are located next to the Meet Up Spot at 115 S. First Street, behind the Extension Office. Part of TVA’s Fast Charge Network, Tri-County will be reimbursed for their installation by the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation, and the rest of their cost is provided by a grant secured by Dr. Chen of Tennessee Tech University.

In this week’s City Transit report, there have been 680 riders through July 24, with 6,133 riders for the calendar year to date. Service One will be advertising on the buses soon, replacing The Medical Center at Scottsville. We are grateful for our advertising partners.

I am very impressed with the wonderful full handicapped accessible playground at the new county park. Wheelchairs can go anywhere on the surface and can even be secured in the merry-go-round. What a great addition to our youth recreation areas.

I would love to see more people participate in a few things offered through our office. Firstly, please take the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan survey. We want to know your thoughts on good places to bike and walk in our city and where improvements need to be made. Secondly, please sign up for Water Smart to be aware of your water usage on a daily basis, and thirdly, please join the Mayor’s Circle, a newsletter with up-to-date information about what your city government is doing, including reports from individual city offices. Links to all of these can be found on the City website.

I am happy to receive your comments at david.burch@cityofscottsville.org. Keep up with Scottsville 24/7 on EarthCam and the Scottsville Advisory App.

Planning Commission Considers Elderly Housing Proposal

By Chris Cole
Staff Writer

On Monday, July 21, the Scottsville-Allen County Planning Commission held a public hearing for what they labeled 2025-13. This is a proposal for 60 apartment units sitting on approximately 7.3 acres of land and would require rezoning and map amendments.

The full PVA parcel of land that is currently owned by Mackie and Joyce Shelton is 60 plus acres and is zoned for agricultural use and covers the areas from Holland Road to Southeast Fourth Street, abutting the rear properties of Old Hartsville Road.

The proposal would seek to rezone approximately 7.3 acres of that to mutli-family use. All utilities are within an accessible proximity with the connections to the sewer and water will be from the intersection of Southeast Fourth and Orange streets.

PLANNING, Continued on page A9

Med Center Health Rural Hospitals Awarded for Efforts to Improve Heart Attack and Stroke Care

Four rural hospitals with Med Center Health have been awarded by the American Heart Association for their efforts in improving the care for heart attack and stroke patients in rural areas.

The Medical Centers at Caverna (Barren County) and Scottsville (Allen County) as well as Franklin and Albany hospitals received a total of 11 awards including the Get With The Guidelines®-Rural Coronary Artery Disease NSTE-ACS, Get With The Guidelines®-Coronary Artery Disease STEMI Referring Center, and Get With The Guidelines®- Rural Stroke Award.

These Med Center Health’s rural hospitals are celebrating the hospitals’ focus on improving rural health care, especially during emergent situations like heart attacks and strokes.

“Achieving the American Heart Association’s ‘Get With The Guidelines’ award for heart attack and stroke care is a reflection of the exceptional commitment and clinical excellence found in rural hospitals across the country,” said Eric Hagan, Vice President of Rural Hospitals at Med Center Health. “These awards are not simply given—they are earned through commitment to excellent care, continual training, and rigorous adherence to evidence-based care practices. We want our communities to know that when

AWARDED, Continued on page A10



Dear Dave,
My husband and I recently began trying to get out of debt and live on a budget. I love your plan, but he’s having a hard time getting adjusted to keeping track of things. He loves to eat out during the week. I don’t mind this once in a while, but it has gotten to the point where it’s disrupting our budget and our finances.

The truth is, it’s getting tough to keep our heads above water financially. I think a lot of this behavior may be stress-related. He recently was forced to take a pay cut at his company, and I’ve been working part-time since then to help us get by. I know he’s hurting and angry about things at his job, but how do I approach him about this?

Emily

Dear Emily,
It’s a tough situation, isn’t it? I’m no psychologist, but I do know people can do all kinds of things when they’re stressed out because of money problems or difficult situations they can’t control. I’m sure taking a salary cut was a blow to his self-esteem. Lot of times guys, in particular, can come to associate their sense of self-worth with their jobs or how much money they make. That’s not a healthy thing. But when behaviors begin having negative impacts on your family or finances, it’s time for a wake-up call.

Your husband is probably a great guy. And everyone deserves a little bit of grace when they’re going through a tough time. But honestly, I think you’ve maybe been a little too nice in your reactions to the situation. You’re kind of acting like an indulgent mother dealing with a little kid, and that’s not a good way for a wife to relate to her husband.

No one should have to get a job just so their spouse can go to restaurants all the time. Plus, if you’re seriously trying to get control of your money, the only time either of you should see the inside of a restaurant is if you’re working there to earn extra cash.

A married man has several responsibilities in life. And one of the most important ones is taking care of his family. Your husband is down right now. He’s feeling bad about himself as a man and a provider. But that doesn’t mean he gets to have a pity party for months on end. Especially when the cost of that party is putting you both in financial jeopardy.

What your husband needs right now is a change of heart and lots of encouragement. He also needs his eyes opened to what his behavior is doing to your finances and your relationship. You said you love my plan, right? Sit down with this guy, and have a caring, loving conversation about what you’re seeing and what’s going on. Let him know, first and foremost, that you love him and you’re worried about him. Let him know you want to help. But you’ve also got to show him the numbers. Let him see, in black and white, the results of his actions.

You two can work through this, Emily. Just hold his hand and be there for him. Hug on him a lot, and let him know you’re proud of him. And let him know that together, you guys will get through this and make things better.

— Dave