



Team members include, from left, front row: Kaden Taylor, Landon Feltner, Brennan Hill, Braxton Baker, Tristen Johnson, Braxton Washington and Peyton Baker; middle row: Coach Casey Patrick, coach Richard Sapcut, Hayden Lawson, Jaxon Helton, Ben Matthews, head coach Arthur Carter, Hunter Elliott, Ethan Jackson, Collin Bays, Cameron Turner, coach Griffen Willard and coach Landon Couch; back row: David Barton, Tate Slone, Landon Robbins, Landon Abner, Trevor West, Gage Lowe, Gabriel Kells and Lucas Green. (Photo submitted)

Carter wants more action, less talk, as Lions seek a turnaround season

BY JOHN HENSON
Sports Writer

“Talk is cheap” is an idiom that goes back to the 1700s. First-year Pineville coach Arthur Carter has borrowed the famous line to describe where his Mountain Lions stand heading into the 2025 season after last year’s 1-9 campaign.

“We just have to get to work,” Carter said. “We have to develop a reputation of getting after it and being aggressive. We don’t have time to get in a talking match with anybody. When you’re 1-9, you have to keep your mouth shut and get to work.”

Carter, who was a starting lineman and kicker as a sophomore on Bell County’s 1991 state championship team, says the Lions’ all-senior offensive line will be their strength this season. Tristan Johnson will start at center, with Kaden Taylor and

Jaxon Helton at the guards. Ben Matthews starts at right tackle with Braxton Washington and Hayden Lawson sharing time at left tackle.

“That will be our strength,” Carter said. “I will go out on a limb and say that will be the best offensive line in the district. It is a real strong and experienced group.”

Senior tailback Landon Robbins could benefit most from the Lions’ strong offensive front. He rushed for 474 yards and six touchdowns last season.

“Landon has a good reputation as he should. We have six kids who bench 300 or more and he’s one of them,” Carter said.

Tate Slone, a junior, appears to have the edge at quarterback as he competes with David Bargo, a transfer from Lynn Camp.

“Tate and David are in a pretty stiff competition for that starting job,” Carter said. “I need one to lead by example and clean up their mistakes. They have to take

care of the ball.”

Landon Abner, a junior, will start at fullback, with junior Trevor West playing halfback in the Lions’ wishbone offense.

“Landon is one of our leaders, especially on defense. I’ve been impressed with him. We will put the ball in his belly,” Carter said. “Trevor is another kid who is very strong at 315 or 320 on the bench. His best football is still in front of him. I think it’s his time to step out and be an impact player.”

Collin Bays is the probable starter at tight end, with Braxton Baker at wide receiver. Ethan Jackson, a senior, will also see action at receiver.

“The sky is the limit for Collin. He will be as good as he wants to be. He catches the ball well and will be a big part of our offense. He has some work to do though,” Carter said. “Braxton is a freshman who has a lot of skill. He still has some work to do also. He needs more confidence.”

Abner is expected to be a leader on the Lions’ “44” defense at inside linebacker where he will be joined by sophomore Brennan Hill or senior Lucas Green. Bays and West are the starters on the outside.

“Abner is a vocal guy and will get in there and hit people,” Carter said.

The Lions’ defensive front will include Washington and Tristan Johnson on the ends with Helton, Taylor, Lawson and Matthews alternating at the two tackle spots.

“We’ll have to be in shape, and we’ll slow the game down some and try to rotate people in there,” Carter said.

Bargo and Baker are expected to start on the corners, with Slone at safety.

“We have some work to do. We’re not where we want to be yet,” Carter said of the secondary and team in general.

“They haven’t had any luck

the last few years,” Carter said. “When your culture and football team has been through what mine’s been through the last few years, you just have to work and get better at every position and play one play at a time and compete. We have to be alignment and assignment sound. If we’re not, things won’t work out well. We don’t have that dominant one guy who can take over a game defensively. Collectively, we all have to do our jobs and take care of our responsibilities.”

Carter, who coached the past three years at Marion County, likes the progress the Lions have made since the spring.

“I’m excited about their attitudes,” he said. “I really do think people will see a different squad on the field. We have a senior-led team with eight seniors at a 1A school. We have to go out there and develop an attitude. You can’t be passive and run the football.”

Public Notices

Tim Kelley
Codes Enforcement Office
(606)-248-5670 Ext 110
City of Middlesboro
P.O. Box 756/
Middlesboro, KY 40965

Middlesboro News:
Aug. 20, 2025
HEARING

PUBLIC NOTICE

VARIANCE BOARD PUBLIC HEARING FOR CONDITIONAL USE PERMIT

A request has been made to the Variance Board of the City of Middlesboro, for the approval of a conditional use permit on property owned by Redmond Real Estate LLC, at 149 N 28th Street, most recently functioning as, VFW Post 11139 Bell County, at the same location. The purpose of this conditional use is to establish a full service fitness center at this location, serving the health and wellness needs of both men and women in our community.

A Public Hearing will be scheduled for August 26, 2025 at 1:00 PM, in Council Chambers, at City Hall, conducted by the Variance Board. This property is located in R-2 Residential District.

The public is invited to attend and make comments regarding the proposal.

Any questions, or written comments, regarding this proposal, may be directed to:

Tim Kelley
Codes Enforcement Office
(606)-248-5670 Ext 110
City of Middlesboro
P.O. Box 756/
Middlesboro, KY 40965

Middlesboro News:
Aug. 20, 2025
HEARING 08.26.25

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

U-Stor & Lock, 432 N. 15th Street Middlesboro, KY 40965, will conduct a public sale for cash to satisfy a lien placed against the units listed below on **September 4th, @ 11:00 a.m.**

Rebecca Cardwell Unit 517
Rebecca Cardwell Unit 412
Rebecca Cardwell Unit 1007
Mckenzie Docen Unit 2141
Daniel Crawford Unit 225
Eli welch Unit A20
Jawanjeah Barton Unit 3005
Joann Griffith Unit 402
Ben Nichols Unit C03
Dorothy Philpot Unit 4005
Angelica Reid Unit B07
Alisha Witherspoon Unit 330
Nike Witherspoon Unit 423

Middlesboro News:
Aug. 20, 27 and Sept. 3, 2025
STORAGE AUCTION

Put your ad here
call 601.990.2106.

Public Notices

PUBLIC NOTICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Engineering Consulting Firms
FROM: Boone Bowling Mayor
City of Middlesboro
DATE: August 20, 2025
SUBJECT: Request for Statement of Qualifications

The City of Middlesboro is accepting Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) from engineering firms for the Middlesboro Pedestrian Bridge project. A single firm will be selected to provide engineering services.

DESCRIPTION OF WORK
The project will include all engineering services including, but not limited to, planning, design, and construction related to the project.

DETERMINATION
A selection committee appointed by the Owner will consider "Statements of Qualifications". In order to be considered, SOQs must be received prior to 2 p.m. Thursday, August 28, 2025, at Middlesboro City Hall at 221 North 21st Street, Middlesboro, KY, 40965. Submittals should be sealed and labeled "Statement of Qualifications for the MIDDLESBORO PROJECT. Four (4) copies of the "Statement of Qualifications" are to be submitted. Determination will be made following deadline. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all "Statements of Qualifications". "Statements of Qualifications" will be evaluated and ranked on the basis of the following considerations:

- 1) Overall qualifications of the firm.
- 2) Experience on similar projects.
- 3) Experience and availability of qualified personnel.
- 4) A list of references that may be contacted concerning previous performance on similar projects and familiarity with local factors.

All Statements of Qualifications will be evaluated and awarded points on the basis of the following criteria:

- 1) Qualifications of the Firm 0-25
 - 2) Experience on Similar Project 0-25
 - 3) Key Personnel Experience 0-25
 - 4) References/Familiarity 0-25
- TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE 100

Statements of Qualifications should include the following minimum information:

- 1) Identification of specific personnel to be assigned to this project, including resumes of those persons indicating their experience on previous projects of this nature.
- 2) Identification of the firm's experience in similar projects and

Public Notices

overall experience in bridge/roadway design and experience in ARC funding requirements. 3) A list of references of prior clients of similar projects, and familiarity with local factors, and the ability to work with local officials.

Questions concerning the RFQ should be addressed to Boone Bowling at PO Box 756, Middlesboro, KY, 40965, or at phone number 606-248-5670.

Statements of Qualifications will be evaluated on the afternoon of August 26, 2025 on the basis of submitted written materials only; therefore, it is not necessary that a representative of the firm attend the evaluation meeting. After the close of evaluations, the Owner will contact the highest-ranking firm and enter into negotiations with that firm. If the Owner is unable to negotiate satisfactory agreements, the second-ranked firm will be contacted. Once a firm has been selected, all unsuccessful firms will be promptly notified. The City of Middlesboro reserves the right to reject any and all responses and negotiate with any firm of their choice and are not responsible or liable for any costs incurred. The Owner and consulting firm selected will adhere to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Section 3 of Section 109 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 and other federal and state laws and regulations. No persons shall be excluded from participation in, denied benefits of, or subjected to discrimination in the implementation of this project on the grounds of race, color, national origin, sex, or handicapped status. The City of Middlesboro is an Equal Opportunity Employer. All Statements of Qualifications should be addressed to: City of Middlesboro, Att'n: Boone Bowling - Mayor, 221 North 21st Street, Middlesboro, KY, 40965.

Middlesboro Daily News:
Aug. 20, 2025
SOQ/ENGINEERING

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AUCTION

US25E Mini Storage, 25 Happy Hollow Road Middlesboro, KY 40965, will conduct a public sale for cash to satisfy a lien placed against the units listed below on **September 4th 2025 @ 12:15 P.M.** **Sale will follow immediately after sale at 432 N 15th Street**

David Combs Unit 25E18
William Tigue Unit 25E93
Charles Brock Unit 25E20
Donna Patterson Unit 25E89

Middlesboro News:
Aug. 20, 27 and Sept. 3, 2025
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2. **Free standard installation** applies to new Lease subscribers only. Not valid with Purchase option. Limited-time offer. Restrictions may apply.
3. Per the "5th, 6th, 7th and 8th FCC Measuring Broadband American Reports" Go to: <https://www.hughes.com/who-we-are/resources/press-releases/>
- Minimum term required. Monthly service and early termination fees apply. Visit legal.hughesnet.com for details.
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