

# The Wolfe County News

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## Uncommon Sense

By Dr. Glenn Mollette



## How Would You Feel If Someone Burned Your Car?

My wife's grandfather Lyle Harlow was a prisoner of war in World War II and survived the Bataan Death March. He had an attitude about the Japanese soldiers and people. My father-in-law also fought in WW II and was hurt in the Battle of the Bulge. He had negative comments to make about the Japanese. When I bought a Toyota Celica back in 1978 my father-in-law was not impressed since he had worked many years for General Motors and always drove a Chevrolet. However, never in either of the two men's wildest imagination did they ever express any desire or interest in burning my Toyota or anyone else's Toyota.

marching in and setting buildings, businesses or cars on fire. The recent reports of Tesla dealerships and charging stations being vandalized and set on fire is outrageous. Not any of the person's doing this would feel good about their car being burned or the place where they fill up with gas being destroyed.

Anyone who has a business is paying the price. It's a miracle to be able to stay in business today. The overhead costs are astronomical and it's often very difficult to really see a profit. Every day restaurants, grocery stores, churches, newspapers and car dealerships close somewhere in America. This could very well be your job or a job of someone you know.

Elon Musk is a billionaire and right now a lot of Americans don't agree with the role he has in America as appointed by our President. Burning his cars and charging stations are only going to hurt fellow Americans who own or run the dealerships and the many other Americans trying to hold down a daily job. Destroying the charging stations only hurts your fellow Americans who bought most of the Teslas on the road before President Trump was even reelected.

Protest verbally, buy whatever car or product you want but don't do to others what you would not want anyone to do to you.

*Dr. Glenn Mollette is the author of Uncommon Sense. Available wherever books are sold.*

## Social Security Matters

By Russell Gloor, National Social Security Advisor at the AMAC Foundation, the non-profit arm of the Association of Mature American Citizens

Ask Rusty - Can My Wife and I get Spouse Benefits from each other?

Dear Rusty: My wife and I are currently collecting Social Security. We both started receiving SS at 62 years old. That said, we get by on a tight budget.

A retired friend told us about an option which allows a spouse to collect half (1/2) of the other spouse's SS monthly income. My question has two parts: 1. Can we both collect on each other's SS? And 2. Are there any pitfalls? Signed: Seeking an Increase

Dear Seeking: Well, I'm afraid spousal benefits aren't quite that simple. One spouse may be eligible for additional benefits from the other, but only if that spouse's personal Social Security retirement benefit at their full retirement age (FRA) is less than half (50%) of the other spouse's FRA entitlement. Note that for spouse benefits, FRA amounts are used regardless of when you actually claim benefits. Full retirement age for both you and your wife is 66, so that means that if you both claimed at 62 your FRA entitlements were higher - about 25% more - than you are both currently receiving.

Since you applied for benefits some time ago at about the same age, one way to estimate if one of you may be entitled to an additional amount as a spouse is to evaluate your current monthly amounts. If either of you are getting a benefit which is less than half of the other's amount, it's possible that the one with the lower benefit may be entitled to more as a spouse. And note, only one spouse is eligible for benefits

- you cannot both get spouse benefits from each other.

Another way to explore this is for the spouse with the lowest monthly Social Security benefit to contact Social Security at 1.800.772.1213 to ask if spouse benefits are available. Noting that contacting SS these days can be a time-consuming process, yet another way is for you to provide us (the AMAC Foundation's SS Advisory Service) with both of your current monthly SS benefit amounts (before any deductions) and the exact ages when each of you claimed. Using that information, we can do the math to see if either of you might be entitled to more as a spouse. But, in the end, only the spouse with the lower benefit may be eligible, and then, only if their FRA entitlement (not their actual current amount) is less than 50% of the other spouse's FRA entitlement.

*This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadvisors@amacfoundation.org.*

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### MINUTES Wolfe County Fiscal Court March 18, 2025 3:45 PM Special Meeting

Court Members Attending:  
Raymond Banks - County Judge Executive  
Arthur Vest- Magistrate District 1  
Gene Booth - Magistrate District 2  
James "Billy" Banks - Magistrate District 3 NOT PRESENT  
Others in attendance: Sandy Vest, Kelli Ratliff

- Agenda**
1. Call meeting to order - Judge Executive Raymond Banks.
  2. Approval of minutes from previous meeting - Approved on motion by Gene Booth, second by Arthur Vest.
  3. Discussion of old business
    - a. None
  4. Discussion of new business
    - a. Tourism Budget - Accepted on motion by Arthur Vest, second by Gene Booth.
    - b. Lease Agreement - Constant - Approved on motion by Arthur Vest, second by Gene Booth.
    - c. LGEDF Authorizing Resolution for KACo Payment - Approved on motion by Gene Booth, second by Arthur Vest.
    - d. Amendment to the Agreement for the Bridge Replacement Project - Cave Branch - Approved on motion by Gene Booth, second by Arthur Vest.
    - e. Budget Amendment - Solid Waste.- Approved on motion by Arthur Vest, second by Gene Booth.
    - f. Line-Item Transfers - Approved on motion by Gene Booth, second by Arthur Vest.
    - g. FY 2024 EMA Program Funds Agreement - Approved on motion by Gene Booth, second by Arthur Vest.
    - h. Monthly Treasurer Settlement - February -
    - i. Accounts Payable - Approved on motion by Gene Booth, second by Arthur Vest.
  5. Adjourn

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## LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Representative Tim Truett

### Key Pieces of Legislation Become Law

March 23 As the veto recess continues and we move closer to the end of the 2025 Regular Session, the General Assembly remains committed to completing the work we began on January 7. So far, we have passed more than 100 bills, which are now moving through the final stages of the legislative process.

As most of you know, our Governor has already vetoed around 170 bills since taking office. While the number is historic, he is not the first governor to use the veto power, just as we are not the first legislature to use our authority to override those vetoes. While the veto period is not over, I want to highlight some of the bills that he has already signed into law.

- House Bill 11 lowers the individual income tax from 4% to 3.5% beginning on January 1, 2026. This tax cut will leave an estimated \$718 million in the paychecks of hardworking Kentuckians during the first full year of implementation.
- Senate Bill 23: SB 23 establishes procedures for the informational review of an administrative regulation by the Administrative Regulation Review Subcommittee or any other legislative committee, gives the subcommittee the authority to put a filed administrative regulation on the agenda for informational review, and requires the agencies that drafted the regulations to be present and cooperate with informational reviews.
- House Bill 19 prohibits the use of an unmanned aircraft system like a drone to record images of privately owned real property or of the owner, tenant, occupant, invitee, or licensee of the property with the intent to conduct surveillance on or publish unauthorized images taken of the individual

or their property. If violated, an individual may take civil action in a court of competent jurisdiction.

- House Bill 131 allows for additional flexibility in firefighters' work schedules. This measure allows for specific fire personnel to have the ability to work 48/96 schedules (48 hours on, 96 hours off) or 1/3/2/3 schedules (24 hours on, 72 hours off, 48 hours on, 72 hours off), unless otherwise provided in a collective bargaining agreement.
- House Bill 164, known as Braylon's Law, allows courts to render adoption judgments to families in the event of a child's death during the adoption process.
- Senate Bill 73 makes sexual extortion a felony, empowers victims by giving them legal remedies to seek justice and recover damages, and prioritizes prevention by requiring schools to educate students and parents about the warning signs and ensuring that resources are visible and accessible.
- Senate Bill 87 allows air boards that operate a commercial airport serving more than one million passengers annually to use federal small purchase procedures, increases penalties for airport rule violations, and directs the Council on Postsecondary Education, in coordination with the Transportation Cabinet, to conduct a study on creating a FAA-recognized air traffic control credential program at a postsecondary education institution.
- House Concurrent Resolution 20 directs the Legislative Research Commission to study access to sexual assault nurse examiners in Kentucky. This measure requires that a report be submitted to the Interim Joint Committee on Health Services and the Interim Joint

Committee on Judiciary by December 1, 2025.

When the veto recess concludes, we will reconvene for the final two days of the 2025 Regular Session, which will give us the opportunity to override any of the governor's vetoes with a constitutional majority in both chambers. This power, granted to us by the Kentucky Constitution reinforces the system of checks and balances and ensures that key legislative priorities are upheld. We will reconvene on March 27 for the final two days of session. The legislature will not convene again until Tuesday, January 6, 2026, unless the governor calls us into special session.

As always, I can be reached anytime through the toll-free message line in Frankfort at 1-800-372-7181. You can also contact me via email at Richard.White@kylegislature.gov and keep track through the Kentucky legislature's website at legislature.ky.gov.

### Year of the locust?

While the anticipated arrival of the 17-year locusts (cicadas) did not materialize last year, Kentucky is among the states expected to get a sizeable (and noisy) infestation this year. According to biologists and ecologists, Kentucky and Tennessee are expected to get the biggest infestations. The cicadas, which are initially burrowed underground, emerge in cycles (usually every 17 years) and when soil temperatures reach 64 to 65 degrees,

Identified by ecologists as Brood XIV, they probably will begin to emerge in the third week of April or when areas get a "good rain," the experts say.

We're studying problems... and thinking about inventions. Kids: color stuff in!

# Newspaper Fun!

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Have you ever invented anything? Inventors notice a problem, then figure out a way to fix it. Sometimes inventors have a brand new idea and sometimes they combine other people's ideas with their own. Please excuse me now. It's time to practice my "Ollie."

- Read the clues to fill in the puzzle:**
1. Thomas Edison developed over 1,000 inventions. He is most famous for the light bulb, but he also invented the \_\_\_\_\_, which has become popular again.
  2. A team of inventors working for the U.S. Department of Defense created the Global \_\_\_\_\_ System, a tool to find your way using satellites!
  3. Marie Curie was the first woman to receive the Nobel Prize. Her work helped us to understand \_\_\_\_\_ and the effects of X-rays. She has an element named after her - Curium.
  4. Louis Braille, blinded in an accident at three years old, created a system of \_\_\_\_\_ and writing by using raised dots that people could feel with their fingers.
  5. Orville and Wilbur Wright owned a bicycle shop. They experimented with flying machines. Their plane (trial flights at Kitty Hawk, N.C.) was the basis for the \_\_\_\_\_ we have today.
  6. Francis Robbins Upton helped to keep us safe from fire by inventing the smoke \_\_\_\_\_.
  7. Alec Jeffreys changed the court system when he invented DNA \_\_\_\_\_. With this invention, guilt or innocence were much easier to prove!
  8. Leonardo da Vinci, the artist who painted the Mona Lisa, was also talented at sculpting, engineering and inventing. He had ideas for a helicopter, a \_\_\_\_\_ and a diving suit.
  9. Martin Cooper improved on the invention of Alexander Graham Bell with the \_\_\_\_\_, widely used to communicate today.
  10. George Washington Carver was born into slavery, but he became a botanist who developed over 300 uses for \_\_\_\_\_ and many ideas for sweet potatoes and pecans.
  11. Ben Franklin was known for experimenting and inventing many things.

### Inventors Change Our Lives!

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
5. \_\_\_\_\_  
6. \_\_\_\_\_  
7. \_\_\_\_\_  
8. \_\_\_\_\_  
9. \_\_\_\_\_  
10. \_\_\_\_\_  
11. \_\_\_\_\_  
12. \_\_\_\_\_

### Inventions We Love! Find and circle these words in the puzzle:

- Match each clue about an inventor to the invention we love:**
1. Samuel Born invented a machine that inserted the sticks into \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Rose Totino invented a dough product for frozen \_\_\_\_\_
  3. Pedro Flores mass produced a toy on a string called a \_\_\_\_\_
  4. Robert Patch, at 6 years old, designed a toy \_\_\_\_\_
  5. Ralph Baer invented the first home video game console and \_\_\_\_\_
  6. George Ferris designed this giant fun ride called the Ferris \_\_\_\_\_
  7. Frank Epperson, who at age 11 found a fruit soda and stirring stick he left outside to be frozen, invented the \_\_\_\_\_
  8. Alan Ollie Gelfand developed the "Ollie," a leap into the air on a \_\_\_\_\_
  9. Ruth Wakefield put chocolate bits into her cookie dough, creating \_\_\_\_\_
  10. Curt Jones invented a snack by flash freezing beads of \_\_\_\_\_

A. yo-yo  
B. pizza  
C. wheel  
D. game  
E. truck  
F. chocolate chip cookies  
G. Popsicle®  
H. lollipops  
I. ice cream  
J. skateboard

The lightbulb is so important to us that we even use a picture of a lightbulb to show a thought is a "great idea."

Who invented balloons? Who invented the Mylar® ones?  
® A small "R" inside a circle shows that this item is a "registered" product. This mark protects the inventor.

### Six Steps to Invention



- Wow! My jaw aches from trying to eat so much tough junk. I need a machine to chew everything into little pieces and drop them into a bowl for me. Maybe I could add a little milk...
- Peak is dreaming and scheming, but isn't doing anything about his problem. Help Peak learn the steps to solving his problem. **Read the six steps in the boxes and put them in the order Peak should follow to make an invention that would help him out. Two are done for you:**

Show and share your first model with others.	Think of a way to fix the problem.
Finish your invention and have fun using it!	Create a model of your idea. <b>3</b>
Notice a problem. <b>1</b>	Listen to what others tell you. Make your invention better.