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# Carter County Times

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CARTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY

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## Candidates discuss economy and healthcare

By Charles Romans  
Carter County Times

Political candidates for both local and state offices spoke to the public in Carter County on Saturday, May 2, at an event in Willard. The open-air event allowed each speaker to present their platform and answer questions from their current or potential constituents on topics important to local voters, such as the struggling economy and not only the rising cost of healthcare but also the lack of necessary coverage for county voters. Many of the candidates present voiced opposition to what Republican President Donald Trump has named his "Big Beautiful Bill."

"It will absolutely decimate

our rural poverty communities," candidate Ned Pillersdorf said of the bill.

Pillersdorf, a Democrat, is running against incumbent Hal Rogers for Kentucky's 5th Congressional District.

"The Medicaid cuts will be catastrophic," he noted. "We are projected to lose more hospitals than any other congressional district in the nation."

Pillersdorf lives in Floyd County, and told those present that he has been a poverty lawyer for 45 years.

"I'm running because, unlike the Republicans, I actually care about the less fortunate."

Pillersdorf said the fact that Rogers cast the deciding vote for

See CANDIDATES on A-4



Amy McGrath (Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

## Welcoming Comer

Congressman receives key to city

By Charles Romans  
Carter County Times

Congressman James Comer visited Grayson, last Thursday, May 7, and spoke with a large group at the Carter County Courthouse.

"He's making the District 18 tour today," Senator Robin Webb said, introducing Comer to a group of his constituents.

Those in attendance included other government figures such as State Senator Greg Elkins, County Attorney for Boyd County Curtis Dodson, and of course Webb herself.

"I just want to introduce my

good friend," she said, acknowledging their friendship went back to the year 2000 when he joined the General Assembly.

Comer currently represents Kentucky's First congressional district in the United States House of Representatives and has served in Congress since 2016. This is in addition to previously serving in the Kentucky House of Representatives and as Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner.

"I want to thank everyone for coming out," Comer said. "I have been traveling around the state, and I don't think it's any secret what we have on our minds. There is a governor's race coming up in 2027."

Comer said that in 2026 there is a senate race and a lot of local races, but the governor's race

See COMER on A-7



Grayson Mayor Troy Combs presents a Key to the City of Grayson to Congressman James Comer. (Photo by Charles Romans, Carter County Times)

## Utilities commission discusses future projects

Accepts bids on sludge basin

By Charles Romans  
Carter County Times

Grayson Utilities Commission Director Gerald Haney reported at the commission's April meeting that the project near East Carter High School had been completed; at least the utility part of it.

"Steve Opell of Opell Excavating said they were completely done with the high school utility relocation project," Haney told the commission.

Haney also reported that the project had been completed under budget by \$10,460. The savings were due, Haney said, to a combination of the plans for the work being very thorough

and Steve Opell and his subcontractors for the gas portion of that project. The project was also completed a month ahead of schedule.

"Overall, it was a very successful project," Haney said.

Haney referenced the March meeting where the commission discussed future projects and the need for a qualification list from some contractors on certain projects. One of the projects in question was the lead service pipe GIS work (in order for the commission to secure the lead service line grant).

"That's where we inventory what we have on the service line," Haney explained. "And what the customer has beyond the meter. As part of that funding requirement, we have to put that out for an open bid."

"We only had one request for

qualifications on that. It's from Terra Graphics," Haney told the commission. "They have been helping us for years."

Haney said the commission is looking for a specific service and firms that are capable of doing the work to map the features and the service line, Haney said.

"There is a submittal process to the Division of Water that lists what was looked at, and how it was disqualified or qualified for possibly having lead."

At the October Grayson City Council meeting Haney had presented information to the city council on where the city stood, Haney said.

"We had already started well beyond having him (the contractor) procured because I didn't realize that was going to be required."

See UTILITIES on A-3

## Weekly arrests report

The following individuals were arrested and booked into the Carter County Detention Center over the past week. This list includes local arrests only. It does not include federal inmates being housed at or transported through the detention center.

- Deron Flaughner, 34, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on a charge of first degree criminal abuse of a child 12 or under, arrested and booked May 4.
- Jesse Glover, 35, of Flatwoods, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on a charge of third degree burglary, arrested and booked May 4.
- Austin Hensley, 24, of Louisa, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance,

inadequate silencer (muffler), operating a motor vehicle on a suspended or revoked operator's license, first degree trafficking in narcotics (four or more grams of cocaine), possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of marijuana, arrested and booked May 4.

- Bryson Crider, 18, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, and contempt of court, arrested and booked May 4.
- Steven Keeton, 65, of Grayson, arresting agency redacted, for non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked May 5.
- Charles Oppenheimer, 69, of Olive Hill, arresting agency unavailable, for non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines,

- arrested and booked May 5.
- Chris Ratliff, 18, of Grayson, arresting agency unavailable, on a charge on public intoxication on a controlled substance (excludes alcohol), arrested and booked May 5.
- Andrew Porter, 41, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of second degree fleeing or evading police (on foot), possession of marijuana, first degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) second offense, first degree possession of a controlled substance (fentanyl), possession of drug paraphernalia, tampering with physical evidence, menacing, being a first degree persistent felony offender, failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, and two counts of probation violation (for a felony offense), arrested and booked May 5.

See ARRESTS on A-3

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### This Week's Obituaries

Charles "Charlie Pap" Bailey, 86

Debra LeAnn Parker, 57

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