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Carter County Times

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Arrest made in Stallard disappearance

Morehead man charged with murder and abuse of a corpse

By Charles Romans and Jeremy D. Wells
Carter County Times

An arrest has been made in connection with the disappearance of a Carter County man who had been missing since early August. Kentucky State Police Trooper Sparks, with Post 14 in Ashland, confirmed on Monday that the body of David Stallard had been recovered in

the Olive Hill area, and that 37 year old Christopher Webb, of Morehead, had been arrested in connection with Stallard's death.

Webb has been charged with murder, abuse of a corpse, and tampering with physical evidence, and was booked into the Carter County Detention Center following an arrest on Saturday, September 12. Murder (KRS 507.020) is a capital offense in Kentucky, punishable by life imprisonment or death by lethal injection, while abuse of a corpse (KRS 525.120) and tampering with physical evidence (KRS 524.100) are Class D Felonies, punishable by up to five years in prison each.

No further information on

See STALLARD on A-3



Faire fight

Vandalia brings medieval combat to Carter County

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

The Vandalia Renaissance & Fantasy Faire will be coming to Olive Hill, October 9 – 11 of this year. There will be an artisan market, historic trade demonstrations, and themed acts and activities. For those who prefer participating over being a spectator, you can join the

Medieval Village as a performer, musician, merchant, or food vendor. The faire offers complete immersion into all things historic and fantastical as everyone becomes part of the Realm of Vandalia.

But what would a medieval faire be without medieval combat? The faire offers that as well, with trained combatants who recreate rather than reenact. Weapon and Combat Master Doug Messer described what people can expect to see as “full contact MMA with weapons.”

“None of our fights are choreographed,” Messer said

See FAIRE on A-6



Vandalia combatants spar during Grayson's Memory Days parade (Photo by Jeremy D. Wells, Carter County Times)

Bringing Mothman to the masses

Mothman Prophecies screenwriter to speak in Point Pleasant

By Jeremy D. Wells
Carter County Times



It's been 60 years since the first sightings of a strange, winged cryptid shook Point Pleasant, West Virginia, and nearly 25 years since Richard Hatem's screenplay for The Mothman Prophecies took the famed cryptid out of the realm of local history and fringe paranormal researchers and into the Hollywood mainstream. At the time, Hatem wasn't sure

what impact, if any, the film would have. What he did know was that he had a love for the source material – John Keel's 1975 classic of the same name – and that he couldn't write a

See MOTHMAN on A-6

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.

- James Dixon, 29, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on a charge of alcohol intoxication in a public place, arrested and booked September 8.
- Ricky Johnson, 34, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence of alcohol, failure to wear seat belts, communication device violation, no or expired registration receipt, and no operator's license, arrested and booked September 8.

- Raymond Bailey, 47, of Olive Hill, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, for non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, and failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked September 8.
- Luther Smith, 59, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky Department of Corrections, on a probation violation for a felony offense, arrested and booked September 9.
- Jasmine Jacobson, 25, of Frankfort, arrested by Kentucky Department of Corrections, on a parole violation, arrested and booked September 9.
- Hallie Barker, 30, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of public intoxication on a controlled substance (excludes alcohol), and first degree possession of a controlled

substance (methamphetamine), arrested and booked September 9.

- Heather Suarez, 43, of Grayson, arrested by Carter County Circuit Court, on a hold for drug court, arrested and booked September 10.
- John McKinney, 29, of Grayson, arrested by Grayson PD, for non-payment of court costs, fees, or fines, arrested and booked September 11.
- Jeremy Stewart, 51, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked September 11.
- David Harlow, 48, of Grayson, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and booked September 11.
- Danny Withrow, 39, of Olive Hill, self-surrender, weekender, arrested and booked September 11.

See ARRESTS on A-3

ISSN 2692-420X



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This Week's Obituaries

Grace Irene Newland, 45

Doris Jean Hoskins McCormick Patrick 87

Wanda Louise Stevens Smith, 81

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LIFESTYLE



Flavor bases that run the world and rescue dinner

Nearly every cuisine relies on a traditional combination of aromatic vegetables to create its distinctive foundation of flavor. The French have mirepoix. Many Latin and Caribbean kitchens have sofrito. Across several East Asian cuisines, ginger, garlic and scallions provide the opening notes.

These aromatics may not be the stars of the show, but they are indispensable supporting players. Cooked together, they give meals the distinctive flavors we associate with cuisines around the world.

The only drawback is that they require chopping precisely when we are hungry, tired and considering cereal for dinner.

Why not prepare several batches now and freeze them

in meal-size portions? You will create your own homemade convenience foods: little cubes of concentrated flavor ready to jump-start dinner.

Make one batch for tonight and one for the freezer. Cool cooked bases promptly, spoon into silicone muffin cups or ice-cube trays and freeze until solid. Transfer to labeled freezer bags, press out excess air and use within three months for optimal quality.

There is no need to thaw. Drop a portion directly into a hot pan, soup pot or slow cooker and proceed as though you had just chopped the ingredients. Look at you, starting dinner before you even knew what it was.

First, mirepoix traditionally contains approximately two parts onion to one part each carrot and celery. Use it to begin soups, stews, sauces, potpies, casseroles or braised dishes.

CLASSIC MIREPOIX
Yield: 6 cups or 12 (1/2-cup) portions
Total time: 30 mins., plus cooling

2 *tablespoons oil or butter*
4 *cups diced onion*
2 *cups diced carrots*
2 *cups diced celery*

Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add vegetables and cook, stirring occasionally,

for 10 to 15 minutes, until softened but not browned. Cool and freeze in 1/2-cup portions.

Sofrito varies wonderfully by country, region and family. This versatile version lends rich flavor to beans, rice, soups, stews, ground meat and tomato sauces.

TOMATO-PEPPER SOFRITO
Yield: 2 1/2 cups or 10 (1/4-cup) portions
Total time: 30 mins., plus cooling

2 *tablespoons olive oil*
1 *large onion, chopped*
1 *red or green bell pepper, chopped*
4 *garlic cloves, minced*
1 *teaspoon dried thyme*
1 *teaspoon dried oregano*
1 *teaspoon paprika*
1 *can (14.5 ounces) diced tomatoes, drained*
1 *bay leaf*
Large pinch of salt

Heat oil over medium heat. Add onion and pepper; cook until tender, about 8 minutes. Add garlic, thyme, oregano and paprika; cook 1 minute. Stir in tomatoes, add the bay leaf and cook until the mixture is thick and most of the liquid has evaporated, 10 to 15 minutes. Cool and freeze in 1/4-cup portions.

This Asian inspired blend is not intended to represent all Asian cooking, but it is a handy



Chop once, freeze in portions and give future dinners a flavorful head start. (Photo Credit: www.JasonCoblentz.com)

beginning for stir-fries, brothy soups, fried rice, noodles and marinades.

GINGER-GARLIC-SCALLION STARTER
Yield: 1 1/2 cups or 24 (1-tablespoon) portions
Total time: 5 mins.

1/2 *cup peeled, chopped fresh ginger*
1/2 *cup peeled garlic cloves*
1 *cup chopped green onion*
2 *tablespoons neutral cooking oil*

Pulse everything in a food processor until finely chopped but not liquefied. Freeze uncooked in 1-tablespoon portions.

With a few fragrant cubes tucked into the freezer, you're

never starting dinner from scratch. You are starting with an advantage, and on a busy evening, that is worth its weight in onions.

Lifestyle expert Patti Diamond is the penny-pinching, party-planning, recipe developer and content creator of the website Divas On A Dime -- Where Frugal, Meets Fabulous! Visit Patti at www.divasonadime.com and join the conversation on Facebook at DivasOnADimeDotCom. Email Patti at divapatti@divasonadime.com

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Ask Daryl: Your Professional Organizer Be kind

Helping others is something that adds value to our lives and gives those we help hope. However, sometimes we forget that their opinions matter and that even though we are offering to fix things or help declutter we need to be careful not to take charge.

Listening is just as important as providing aid. We need to be conscientious of feelings and surroundings. Even if it's helping a friend or family

member, if we don't listen to what they need it can end up in an uncomfortable situation. We may think we know what they need, but do we really understand all that's involved? There may be certain things we can't move, or cook, or clean. There may be other people in the home, and our help may interrupt their way of living. If we just take some time to ask before we help, it will reduce stress on the part of



Daryl Ashley
Guest Columnist
Confusion Solution

those we are helping.

If we are going to be working with others that are also there to help, keep in mind that there needs to be consensus in the way things are done. Communication with a team is essential to get the most beneficial results. This type of project could consist of helping with caregiving, or cleaning where details matter.

Lack of communication can result in stress. So, if we are kind and listen, it becomes a welcome experience for everyone.

It's as simple as that!

Send your questions and comments to me at info@confusionsolution.com

Joyful Noise Keep trusting

By Pastor Naomi Mitchell for *Carter County Times*

Keep trusting, even when you don't understand. Keep trusting, even when things don't make sense. Keep trusting, even when the answer is delayed. Keep trusting, even when the road feels uncertain. Keep trusting because God know what He is doing.

Sometimes God closes doors to protect you. Sometimes He redirects you to something better. Sometimes He makes you wait to prepare you. Sometimes what you think is a setback is actually a setup for a greater blessing. Keep trusting because His plan is

always good.

You may not see the full picture now, but God sees the bigger picture. You may not know how it will happen, but God knows the right time. You may feel tired, but God gives you strength. You may feel alone, but God is always with you. Keep trusting because you are never alone.

So, keep praying. Keep believing. Keep going. Keep doing what is right. Keep holding on to hope. Because the best is yet to come and God is still working behind the scenes. Keep trusting. It will all be worth it.

Some things to say each morning to God to start your day; 1) Thank you

for this day. 2) Guide my thoughts and my words. 3) Teach me to love others. 4) Protect my family and my home. 5) Give me peace today. 6) Remind me that you are in control. 7) I surrender this day to you.

Some affirmations to declare; I have peace for today and hope for tomorrow. Today, I choose to rest in God's peace and leave tomorrow in His hands. I may not know what tomorrow will bring, but I know God is already there.

Pray this simple prayer, "Dear God, today I choose to trust you. Guide my steps. Fill me with Your peace and help me walk in obedience to your Word. I surrender my worries to you, knowing that you are my refuge and my strength. Calm every

See JOYFUL NOISE on A-4

University of Kentucky

College of Agriculture, Food and Environment

Cooperative Extension Service

Extension Notes

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AGRICULTURE & NATURAL RESOURCES

Fall is a Good Time to Add Fruit to the Landscape

September is a good time to start thinking about fruit trees and plants, not just because cooler weather is around the corner, but because fall can be an ideal season to get new perennial fruit plantings settled into the landscape.

prune, harvest and manage. Before buying plants, think about the site. Fruit plants generally need full sun, good air movement and well-drained soil. Avoid low spots where cold air settles, because late spring frosts can damage blooms and reduce fruit



Rebecca Konopka
Carter County
Extension Agent

Many gardeners get most excited about planting in the spring, when garden centers are full and the days are getting warmer. But in Kentucky, October and November often offer an excellent planting window for fruit trees, shrubs and other hardy plants. Once plants are dormant, they can focus on establishing roots before new growth begins in spring. Cooler temperatures also reduce stress from heat, dry weather and weed pressure.

Home fruit plantings can be both productive and attractive. Apples, pears, peaches, cherries and pawpaws can fit into a larger landscape, while blueberries, blackberries, raspberries and strawberries may work well in garden edges, raised beds or edible landscape areas. Dwarf and semi-dwarf fruit trees are often good choices for home plantings because they are easier to

set. Also consider mature size, spacing and how much time you realistically have for pruning, watering and pest management. A small, well-tended planting usually brings more satisfaction than a large planting that becomes hard to manage.

Choose varieties that are adapted to Kentucky and look for disease resistance when possible. Pollination matters, too. Peaches are generally self-fruitful, but apples, pears, sweet cherries and many plums need another compatible variety nearby to produce well.

Blueberries can produce on their own, but planting more than one variety often improves berry size and yield.

In an ideal situation, soil preparation begins a year before planting. A soil test can show whether pH or available nutrients need adjustment, and fall is a practical time to test

because amendments have more time to adjust the soil to the desired conditions before plants begin growing. If you did not test a year ahead, do not let that stop you from planning; contact the Carter County Cooperative Extension office for soil testing information and recommendations before making major changes. Your Extension office can also provide planting, pruning and pest maintenance tips.

Fall planting is not about rushing to fill empty space. It is about giving fruit trees and plants a strong start. With the right site, thoughtful variety selection and a little preparation, your landscape can become more beautiful — and more delicious — for years to come.

Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability

Upcoming Events:

- The Olive Hill Farmer's

Strength for Life Suicide prevention

September is National Suicide Prevention Month — a time to talk openly about mental health, look out for one another, and remember that asking for help is a sign of strength, not weakness.

As a fitness coach, I spend a lot of time talking about what exercise can do for the body: build strength, improve cardiovascular health, support healthy aging and help us maintain independence as we get older. But one of the most important benefits of movement may be something we cannot see in the mirror; that's what it can do for our mental well-being.

The American College of Sports Medicine (ACSM) recognizes strong evidence connecting regular physical activity with improved mental health. Research shows that physical activity can reduce symptoms of depression and anxiety, improve mood, reduce stress and build resilience. Both aerobic exercise and resistance training can be beneficial.

And here is the encouraging part: you don't have to be an athlete to benefit.

ACSM notes that even short bouts of activity can provide immediate benefits

to mood, energy and focus. For someone struggling to get started, a 15-minute walk can be a meaningful first step.

The goal isn't perfection. It's connection.

Connect with your body. Connect with nature. Connect with other people. Connect with a routine that gives your day structure and purpose.

Start small:

- Take a walk. Ten to 20 minutes counts, especially on difficult days.
- Strength train twice a week. You don't have to lift heavy; focus on moving well and building confidence.
- Get outside. Walking, gardening, hiking or playing with your kids can combine movement with time in nature.
- Choose something you enjoy. The best exercise is often the kind you will actually continue doing.
- Move with someone. A walking partner, workout buddy or group class can add accountability and meaningful social connection.
- Don't use exercise as punishment. Movement should support your life, not become another source of guilt or pressure.

For substantial overall health benefits, ACSM and



Tracy Deborde, ACSM-CPR, Deborde Fitness and Sports Conditioning, LLC

federal guidelines recommend adults work toward 150–300 minutes of moderate-intensity aerobic activity each week, along with muscle-strengthening activity at least two days per week. But if you're currently inactive, don't let that number discourage you. Some movement is better than none.

Most importantly, exercise is one piece of the mental-health puzzle, not the whole solution. If you or someone you love is struggling with depression, hopelessness, or thoughts of suicide, reach out to a qualified mental-health professional. You don't have to handle it alone.

This September, let's make strength mean more than how much we can lift. Let's make it the courage to speak up. The courage to ask for help. The courage to check on a friend. And the courage to take one small step toward taking care of ourselves. Because strength isn't just about living longer. It's about building a life worth living, and having the physical, mental, and emotional strength to be present for it.

About the Author

Tracy Deborde is an ACSM-Certified Personal Trainer with a bachelor's degree in health science. She specializes in sports conditioning, nutrition, women's fitness, and strength training for long-term health. Tracy helps individuals build sustainable habits that work in every season of life.

Arrests from A-1

11.

- Scott Saunders, 55, of Garrison, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on charges of failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, third degree fleeing or evading police, resisting arrest, careless driving, no or expired registration receipt, failure to maintain required insurance, and no operator’s license, arrested and booked September 11.
- Jessica Peterman, 35, of Catlettsburg, arrested by Grayson PD, on charges of operating a motor vehicle under the influence, driving on a DUI suspended license, failure to wear seat belts, failure to produce an insurance card, possession of an open alcoholic beverage container in a motor vehicle, and second degree burglary, arrested and booked September 11.
- Kendra Burton, 35, of Olive Hill, arrested by Kentucky State Police, for failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked September 12.
- Christopher Webb, 37, of Morehead, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on charges of murder, abuse of a corpse, and tampering with physical evidence, arrested and booked September 12.
- Richard Allan, 58, of Olive Hill, arrested by Olive Hill PD, on a charge of fourth degree assault – domestic violence with minor injury, arrested and booked September 12.
- Joseph McDavid, 42, of Grayson, arrested by Kentucky State Police, on a charge of first degree sexual abuse of a victim under 12 years of age, arrested and booked September 12.
- Thomas Ward, 36, of Louisville, arrested by Carter County Sheriff, on two counts of failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked September 12.
- Dalton Tolliver, 21, of

Stallard from A-1

the arrest or the details surrounding the discovery of Stallard were available at press time. However, Trooper Sparks said the case is active and ongoing, with information and evidence still being gathered, and more of that information would be made available as details emerge.

Stallard, age 49, first went missing on August 2, according to family members. The last images

of him were captured on home security camera footage near his Olive Hill area home. A pond on Stallard’s property was also reportedly drained during the search, though whether police located any evidence during that search has not been verified.

Lifelong friend of Stallard, Angela Ramey, said on Monday that it was a terrible ending to the long search for Stallard.

“We found him,”

Ramey explained.

She and Stallard’s sister had discovered the body, she said, on a neighbor’s property. That neighbor was the man arrested, Christopher Webb. Ramey said Stallard and Webb had lived next to one another for over a year and had been present together at cookouts, so she couldn’t grasp how everything could have gone so wrong.

“I just feel so sorry for his babies,” Ramey said.

plates, improper registration plate, no or expired registration plates, failure to register transfer of a motor vehicle, failure to produce an insurance card, driving on a DUI suspended license, improper equipment, no or expired registration receipt, failure to wear seat belts, convicted felon in possession of a firearm, possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia, and three counts of failure to appear on a citation for a misdemeanor, arrested and booked September 13.

All of the charges listed are arrest charges only, and do not indicate an indictment or a conviction for the charges in question. All subjects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Information is compiled from publicly available sources, but may not be comprehensive.

Barker's Construction honored with Small Business Philanthropy Award

OLIVE HILL, Ky. — Barker’s Construction was recognized for its commitment to giving back to the community when it received the 2026 NEKY Small Business Philanthropy Award during the Northeast Kentucky Small Business Awards hosted by the Kentucky Small Business Development Center on Tuesday, Sept. 1.

The award recognizes small businesses that go beyond their day-to-day operations to support their communities, neighbors and the people around them.

Barker’s Construction was selected from a field that also included Olive Hill business The Paws Inn Keeper.

For Jason Barker, co-owner of Barker’s Construction, giving back is rooted in his own upbringing and the lessons he learned along the way.

“At times in my life growing up we had very little and I remember what it was like to go without,” he said. “Through hard



Photo by Kentucky Small Business Development Center

work and God’s grace we are now blessed to not have those same hardships. It’s important to never forget where you came from and always use your talents to help others. It’s just something that you do.”

That philosophy has become part of the foundation of Barker’s Construction, a business built not only on craftsmanship, but also on faith and family.

Barker began working as a sole proprietor part time in 2004 while continuing to maintain a

full-time job. What started as a way to supplement the family’s income gradually grew into something much larger.

Jason and his wife, Bonnie, got their first real taste of construction after purchasing a fixer-upper early in their marriage. Barker said they completed the work themselves, sold the home and used the proceeds to build their next house. They continued the process, eventually building the home where they planned to grow old.

“We loved doing it together and was good at it so we started doing it for other people until it just naturally became a business,” Barker said.

The business initially focused on finish carpentry, including trim and cabinets, as well as decks.

Over time, the work expanded to additions and smaller construction projects, eventually reaching a point where Barker was building about one house a

See BARKER on A-4

Fruit from A-2

Market is located in the Save-a-Lot parking lot and is open on Wednesdays & Saturdays from 8:00 AM until sell out. The Grayson Farmer’s Market is open on Saturdays at 9:00 AM and Tuesdays at 2:00 PM until sell out and is located

in the shed behind the Extension Office. The Grayson market accepts SNAP EBT now. A pop-up market will be held at Carter Caves State Resort Park on Thursday, September 17th at 4:00 PM.

- The Extension Office is currently offering free

hay testing through the East KY Hay Contest. If you are interested, please call 474-6686 to schedule your appointment. Participants will receive a free nutrient analysis of their hay.

- Hike & Learn – September 28th @ 1:00 –

Grayson Lake State Park Lick Falls Trail

- Northeast Area Livestock Association – September 29th @ 6:00 PM; Topic - The Basics of Beef Carcass Grading; Speaker - Jeff Oldfield

CALENDAR

- **9/16: Olive Hill Farmer's Market @ 8 a.m.** | Save A Lot Paking Lot, Olive Hill
- **9/17: Pop up Farmer's Market @ 4 p.m.** | Carter Caves State Resort Park
- **9/17: Grayson Book Club @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson Branch
- **9/17: Olive Hill Area Chamber of Commerce @ 6 p.m.** | Commercial Bank of Grayson - Olive Hill
- **9/18: Sit & Sew @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For more info or to RSVP call 474-6686
- **9/19: Olive Hill Farmer's Market @ 8 a.m.** | Save A Lot Paking Lot, Olive Hill
- **9/19: Grayson Farmer's Market @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Office Market Shed
- **9/19: Friends of the Library @ 5 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library - Grayson Branch
- **9/21: Quilts for Veterans Sew Days @ 9 a.m.** | Carter County Extension Education Center | For questions call 474-6686
- **9/21: Open Art Studio @ 10 a.m.** | Grayson Gallery & Art Center
- **9/21: Carter County EMS Board @ 4 p.m.** | Carter County EMS Station
- **9/21: Carter County Board of Education @ 6 p.m.** | Carter County Board of Education office
- **9/22: Grayson Farmer's Market @ 2 p.m.** | Carter County Extension Office Market Shed
- **9/22: Building Club @ 4 p.m.** | Carter County Public Library, Olive Hill
- **9/23: Olive Hill Farmer's Market @ 8 a.m.** | Save A Lot Paking Lot, Olive Hill

Have an event to add to the calendar?
Email info to advertise@cartercountytimes.com

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Pet of the Week

Ivy is a female Lab mix, around six months old, and very friendly. She’s good with other dogs, and is learning to walk on a leash. Ivy’s \$100 adoption fee includes rabies vaccination and being spayed. Stop by the Carter County Animal Shelter and meet her or call 475-9771 for more information.

Shelter hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. and Saturday by appointment.

Don't be a dummy

Don't risk it.

DUIs are expensive and may cost you your license or your life. Never drink and drive. Always buckle up.

A message from the City of Grayson and the Alcoholic Beverage Control Office

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Innovative online banking and Interactive Video Teller ATMs with 24/7 Deposit

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Commercial Bank of Grayson

cbgrayson.com

Joyful Noise from A-2

worry, strengthen my tired heart and fill each new day with hope. Amen.”

Life should be simple and not complicated at every moment of the day. If it is, make the choice to truly surrender it all to God!

No fear for today. No worry for tomorrow. Just faith for the journey. God’s peace for today. God’s hope for tomorrow. God’s grace for every day. Enjoy the journey!

Barker from A-3

year while still working his full-time job.

By 2019, the business had grown enough that Barker made the decision to become a full-time contractor.

But Barker’s Construction had been a family business long before that decision.

Jason’s sons, Robbie and Ryan, began following their dad to jobs when they were young.

Barker said their first real project was a swing set in the family’s backyard, complete with a clubhouse.

As they grew older, they began helping on side jobs, starting with simple tasks such as filling nail holes before progressing to screw guns, nail guns and more advanced carpentry work.

After graduating high school, both sons followed their father into the carpenter’s union and put those skills to work. When COVID-19 interrupted their union work, it created an opportunity for Robbie and Ryan to join their father in making Barker’s Construction a full-time operation.

Today, Robbie and Ryan are integral parts of the company, serving alongside their father as co-owners. They also have a couple additional employees who help the family continue to grow the business.

“Family is everything,” Barker said. “We may not always see eye-to-eye on everything and there are times when being together too much is “too much of a good thing,” but you never have to worry about whether you can trust the man working next to you. Robbie and Ryan are just as much a part of this company as I am. It takes all of us and a couple of really great employees to be successful.”

The next generation is already getting a glimpse of that family tradition. Jason’s grandchildren now follow their fathers around much like Robbie and

Amen! So be it!

JOYFUL House of Prayer, 2519 Quicksand Road, (P.O. Box 856), Jackson, Kentucky 41339. Send Comments/Prayer Requests: Pastornaomi-4god@gmail.com. FB: JoyfulHoprayr. Services: 10am Sunday and Joyful Kids Class at 10:30am, 6:30pm Thursdays. Radio Broadcast: WJSN 97.3 FM & WEKG 81.0 AM Sundays 1-2pm.

Ryan once followed Jason, continuing a tradition that began years ago in the family’s backyard.

For Barker, that connection between family, work and community is central to what the company represents.

“It’s simply the way you should live your life,” he said.

When asked what values the company has been built on, he said, “This one is simple...Christian values.”

The individual who nominated Barker Construction shared similar sentiments about the company, saying, “What makes this company especially deserving is that they give without seeking recognition. Guided by their faith and commitment to serving others, their motto, ‘Carpenters You Can Count On,’ reflects not only their craftsmanship, but the kind of neighbors and community leaders they strive to be. For Barker’s Construction, philanthropy is truly a way of life.”

While Barker’s Construction has become an established business, Barker is quick to point out that its success is part of a larger community of small businesses that share the same commitment to helping others.

“We have a lot of good companies in our area. I’d be afraid to list them by name because there are so many good guys and I’m sure they are out there doing the same things we are doing. That’s the thing about Eastern Kentucky, we are all pretty good about giving back.”

Barker added that being recognized for something he considers simply part of living out his values is humbling.

“Honestly, it’s weird to be given an award for simply doing what’s right and you don’t realize the impact of your actions until you’re sitting at a table listening to what others have said about you. It means a lot to feel so much love from the community.”

OBITUARY

Grace Irene Newland 1980 – 2026



Grace Irene “Penny” McQueen Newland, age 45, of Grayson, Kentucky, passed away Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at her residence, surrounded by her loving family.

Penny was born December 12, 1980, in Portsmouth, Ohio, a daughter of the late Jimmy O’Neal and Carol Hammonds McQueen.

She loved serving the Lord and spending time with her family and friends.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded by one sister, Rebecca Winn and one brother-in-law, Patrick Newland.

She is survived by her loving husband of 17 years, James Newland; one son, Jimmy (Carlea) McQueen of Grayson, Kentucky; one daughter, Grace (R.J.) Willoughby of Westwood, Kentucky; three sisters, Teresa Howard of Portsmouth, Ohio, Aurora (Loren) Cremeans of Louisiana, Amanda Weatherford of Olive Hill, Kentucky, along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss her.

Funeral services were held 12, noon, Saturday, September 12, 2026, at Crane Creek Baptist Church, with Brother Dave Price and Brother Andy Holt officiating. Burial followed in Smith-Claxton Cemetery on Crane Creek.

Friends visited after 11 a.m., Saturday, September 12, 2026, until the service hour at Smith-Claxton Cemetery.

Grayson Funeral Home is honored to serve the family of Grace Irene “Penny” McQueen Newland.

Doris Jean Hoskins McCormick Patrick 1939 – 2026



Doris Jean Hoskins McCormick Patrick, age 87, of Morehead, Kentucky, passed away Saturday, September 12, 2026, at her daughter’s residence in Grove City, Ohio, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born Tuesday, September 5, 1939, in Magoffin County, Kentucky, a daughter of the late Morris and Eula Arnett Hoskins.

Doris was a wonderful mother, grandmother and great grandmother that loved her family dearly, but loved her Lord Jesus Christ most of all!!! She loved going to Church, especially when her daughter and family were singing, going shopping, going out to eat, and spending time with her family.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her first husband of 33 years, Tommy McCormick, and her second husband of 30 years, Bill Patrick; one brother John Hoskins.

Doris is survived by one son Kevin (Nicole) McCormick of Paintsville, Kentucky; one daughter, Teresa (Mike) Blanton, of Grove City, Ohio; three grandchildren, Justin (Omega) Blanton, Grace (Hunter) McCloud, Gavin McCormick; three great-grandchildren, Selby Blanton, Jaxon Blanton, Hutson McCloud; three sisters, Joyce LeMaster of Salyersville, Kentucky, Lois Gullett of Corydon, Indiana, Dixie Hunley of Catlettsburg, Kentucky along with many other family and friends who will sadly miss her.

A funeral service will be held at 2 p.m. Wednesday, September 16, 2026, at Globe Funeral Chapel, 17277 W US Hwy 60, Olive Hill, Kentucky 41164, with Brother Mike Blanton and Brother Keith Sturgill officiating. A graveside service and burial will follow at Hoskins Family Cemetery, 1662 Lakeville Road, Salyersville, Kentucky 41465 at 4:30 p.m.

Friends may visit from 12 Noon to the service hour, Wednesday September 16, 2026, at Globe Funeral Chapel.

Family and friends will serve as pallbearers.

Globe Funeral Chapel in Olive Hill, Kentucky is honored to serve the family of Doris Jean Hoskins McCormick Patrick.

Wanda Louise Stevens Smith 1944 – 2026



Wanda Louise Stevens Smith (Tootie) passed away peacefully on September 5, 2026, at home, surrounded by her loved ones, after a life defined by love, family, faith, and unwavering devotion to the people she held closest to her heart.

Wanda was a member of First Baptist Church of Grayson, where her faith was an integral part of her life. She found comfort in her relationship with God and in the promise of being reunited with the loved ones who had gone before her.

At 5:00 AM on Saturday morning, Wanda smiled the biggest, best smile, not once, but three different times. Her daughter, Shannon, and granddaughter, Rhiannon, were with her, and they have no doubt those smiles came as she saw the loved ones who had gone before her: her husband, her son, and her daughter. In those final moments, there was comfort in believing that she was not leaving alone, but going home to the people she had loved and missed for so long.

To her family, Wanda was so much more than a mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She was the heart of the family and Matriarch to not only her immediate family, but devoted and loved friends. She was there for every first, every milestone, every celebration, and every hard day. She took care of the people she loved and made sure they always knew they were loved in return.

Wanda’s love spanned generations. She loved her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren with fierce devotion. She was a constant presence throughout their lives. Always there to celebrate the big moments, to love them through the hard ones, and to be there for all the little moments in between. She was the kind of mother whose presence became part of the fabric of her family, and her absence will be felt for generations to come.

And while Wanda was deeply loving, she was also completely herself. She was funny and brutally honest, never one to sugar-coat what she was thinking. She had a way of saying exactly what needed to be said, whether you were ready to hear it or not. But beneath that humor and honesty was a woman full

of poise and grace. She carried herself with a quiet strength and dignity that was uniquely her own. Her family will remember her for all of it. The laughter, the stories, the honesty, the strength, and the unmistakable personality that made her who she was.

Those left to cherish her memory include:

Daughter, Dr. Shannon L. Smith-Stephens (Recole), Granddaughter, Rhiannon Hope Greer (Shadow), Great grandchildren, Adley Hope and Emmett Allen Greer, and too many beloved family and friends to name. She will especially be missed by her life-long best friend, Darlene Evans, Fur-baby, Duchess Grace, and “Golden Girls”, Shelvey Greene and Elizabeth “Susie” Smith.

Wanda was preceded in death by:

Her husband of 60 years (just shy of three months), Clyde John Smith, infant daughter, Kimberly Renee Smith, son, Johnnie Allen Smith, and Furbaby, Oscar P De-la Hot Dog. She was the daughter of the late Roy and Mabel (Binion) Stevens and sister of the late Billy Gene Stevens, Christine Greene Barker, and Pauline Williams Colegrove.

Wanda’s greatest joy was her family, and the love she poured into them will continue long after her passing. Though her family finds comfort in knowing she is once again surrounded by the people she loved and missed, there is no denying that the world here will never be the same without her. There will forever be an emptiness where Wanda has always been, but there will also forever be pieces of her in the people she loved so deeply, in the lessons she taught, the memories she created, the laughter she shared, and the love she gave so freely.

Her family takes comfort in knowing that September 5th was not simply a goodbye. It was a homecoming. A reunion with the people she had been missing, and a reminder that love does not end when life does.

Until we meet again.

A Celebration of Life was held at 3 p.m. Friday, September 11, 2026, at Northcutt and Son Home for Funerals Memorial Chapel with Brother Eddie Wiler officiating. Entombment followed in the Smith-Stephens Family Cemetery in Grahn, Kentucky.

Friends visited from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Thursday, September 10, 2026, and after 9 a.m. on Friday at Northcutt and Son Home for Funerals, 400 Fraley Drive, Morehead, Kentucky. 40351.

View video tribute or sign guestbook at www.northcuttandson.com

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Garrett S. Kee, O.D.

Optometrist

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OPINION

EDITORIALS | LETTERS | COLUMNS | COMMENTARY

First Amendment: Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Guest Editorial

A.I. no replacement for a good reporter

By Mike Scogin
*Georgetown News-Graphic President/Publisher
President, Kentucky Press Association*

The news Thursday that 13 skilled journalists in Lexington were laid off was heart-breaking but also frightening.

The suggestion that AI can replace reporters who are trained to observe, interpret, and ask the tough questions is unrealistic. AI is a tool and a resource, but it cannot replace a human reporter.

The real danger here is the declining number of journalists in the field. It is not just newspapers. We have witnessed veteran broadcast journalists who have been sidelined as TV goes through its own shakeout.

So, what are we losing? What is the real value of journalism?

- Journalism gives citizens the facts they need to make informed decisions. This information is about our schools, taxes, governments, businesses, medicine, and it is information that shapes our lives. A skilled journalist gathers the information, verifies and presents it in a way that can be understood.
- Journalists hold government entities accountable. The most important responsibility of a journalist and media company is to ask the tough question — the question an elected official may not want to answer. This skill takes courage and patience as it has become common for officials to deflect attention by insulting or criticizing the reporter rather than answering the question.
- Journalism is a historical record. Births, deaths, milestones, new businesses and tragedies are all part of a community's record. Much of the history we know of our past is because of the journalists who have gone before us.
- Local journalists tell stories that would otherwise be untold. Find any local media, be it a newspaper or a TV station, and you'll find stories the national media are not covering.
- Journalism and local media connect communities in a way no other entity can do.
- We have more information at our fingertips than ever before. In the age of social media, blogs, rumors and artificial intelligence, the ability to separate misinformation has gotten more and more difficult. Local journalists are the filter who report the stories through verification, attribution and with accountability.
- Journalism gives people a voice. Their stories are not just about those holding elected office or the powerful. Stories of teachers, farmers, small-business owners, young people and veterans fill the pages of good community newspapers.
- Journalism is part of the bedrock of democracy. People participate in their communities when they understand the issues. Coverage of public meetings, local debates and elections provides the information people find necessary for participation.
- Journalists serve as witnesses. Major events are documented by journalists who provide information about what happened and how the community responded. This role is especially important during emergencies and disasters.
- Journalists create accountability. Good journalists acknowledge mistakes, correct the record and explain how they obtain information. This transparency builds trust.
- The value of a journalist is in their presence. Whether it is at a city council meeting, a sporting event, or community event, the actual presence of a journalist cannot be reproduced. Each time they build relationships and knowledge of the community they serve.

A good journalist is a good journalist because they know the community.



In reality, isn't the promised 'Trump Dividend' an election day bribe?

No. 47 surely is closer to a panic attack about the midterm elections than we realized because he offered last week to reward American voters with \$5,000 checks if the Republicans keep control of the House and Senate.

First, buying votes is a serious criminal offense in all 50 states but the rule of law clearly doesn't carry much weight in this White House. But we must give the 80-year-old ringmaster credit for coming up with more wild and crazy schemes to distract voters from gasoline prices north of four dollars a gallon and climbing.

And I can't imagine where all of the 18-wheelers will be parked with diesel fuel zooming past six dollars a gallon and the shelves start clearing in grocery stores and pharmacies.

But if the goods we need for living aren't available in sufficient quantities, that will simplify decision-making for old folks and poor folks. They won't have to continue making those hard choices between food and medicine or between living on the street or finding a cheaper place to live, such as an abandoned bus.

However, some of the MAGA faithful can take comfort in seeing his grinning face on our coins and currency or on the giant banners hanging on government buildings in Washington or on Mount Rushmore or on those national park passes for senior citizens.

Hold the phone!!! Many, if not most, of the national parks probably won't be available because several of their staff members have lost their jobs in the downsizing of the federal payroll.

By the way, estimates of the real cost of those \$5,000 checks for 270 million adults range from one trillion dollars to almost two trillion. That's more than we spend each year for national defense. And it comes at a time when our national debt hit the 40-trillion mark.

Personally, my favorite item on his wish list these days is to have his birthday declared a federal holiday. Hidden behind the pure BS and media misdirection today are questions that No. 47 surely doesn't want to answer.

If I were in the White House press corps today, I would want to ask him how that pretty woman on his staff earned her \$45,000 bonus.



Keith Kappes
Columnist
Carter County Times

*Keith Kappes can be reached at
keithkappes@gmail.com*

The check's in the mail

You are not going to get five grand. We need to be real about that. Trump needs Republicans to hold the Senate and the House, just the same as a weak promise you can hang your hope on for a few more news cycles works better than \$1,700 showing up in your account. Just like tariff refunds and DOGE checks before it: you can wish in one hand and crap in the other and see which one fills up first. Working people used as pawns once again by a guy who literally covers everything in gold.

Here's the arithmetic anyway; \$5,000 to roughly 240 million American adults runs about \$1.2 trillion, before interest. We're already trillions in debt. Congress has to authorize the spending — the president doesn't get to become Willy Wonka and mail out \$1.2 trillion on his own signature. Meanwhile net customs revenue this fiscal year is about \$167.3 billion, nowhere close to covering it, and the federal deficit already stands at \$1.97 trillion this year alone, higher than all of last year. This isn't a Democrat-versus-Republican jazz hands magic show. It's a math problem, and the guy promising you the check knows it doesn't add up.

So, while you're waiting on a theoretical check that isn't coming, look at what's actually happening with money that IS moving. Reuters calculated the Trump family pulled at least \$2.3 billion from four cryptocurrency ventures between mid-2024 and April 2026 — while outside investors in those same ventures were sitting on roughly \$2.3 billion in losses by the time the dust settled.

Ever heard of Kalshi and Polymarket? Donald Trump Jr. is a paid adviser to Kalshi and sits on the advisory board of its rival, Polymarket. His firm, 1789 Capital, has invested tens of millions in Polymarket and is now leading a new \$1 billion round for it. Meanwhile, the administration's own Commodity Futures Trading Commission has sided with prediction-market companies in their fight against state regulators trying to treat them like gambling operations instead of "commodities."

That doesn't mean Trump Jr. personally calls up regulators. It means the family has money in the game, and the government is making calls that happen to favor the game. That's not a conspiracy theory. That's just where the money is, and where the wins keep landing. Every bit of this can be found with a simple Google search.

This is what I mean when I say the right is playing you. Not "government bad" in the abstract — a specific, traceable pattern where you're handed a hypothetical \$5,000 to get excited about while people with the same last name as the president are quietly banking real billions off decisions their own family's agencies are making.

Stop treating politics like a fantasy football league where you just cheer for your jersey. Look at who invested in what. Look at who sits on which board.



Robert Dean
Guest Columnist
Carter County Times

See CHECK on A-6

Carter County Times

Members of the Editorial Board

Nicole Wells, publisher

Jeremy Wells, editor **Keith Kappes**, columnist

Policies	
General	Letters should be limited to 300 words or less. Letters should focus on issues that affect the community as a whole, and not personal or business disputes. Letters must include a verifiable address, along with the phone number and signature of the writer. Letters submitted via e-mail need only include a phone number in lieu of a signature. Letters, columns and cartoons do not necessarily reflect the views of the Times or EK Newsgroup, LLC. General interest guest columns are welcome. For details email editor@cartercountytimes.com.
Circulation	The deadline for news copy and letters to the editor is noon on Monday prior to publication. The deadline for display and classified advertising is 5 p.m. on Monday prior to publication.
Letters & Opinion	
Advertisers should check their ad the first time it runs. The Times shall not be liable for any typographical errors or for failure to publish an ad or errors in publication except to the extent of the cost of the ad for the first insertion. Adjustment for errors is limited to the portion of the ad wherein the error occurred. The Times reserves the right to reject any advertisement and submitted editorial copy, and reserves the right to edit any copy submitted for publication. Corrections will be made at the discretion of the editor.	
A one-year in-county subscription costs \$26.00 plus tax. Due to additional mailing fees, any subscriptions mailed out of county will cost \$52.00 plus tax.	
The Times welcomes all letters to the editor.	

■ **Check** from A-5

Look at who profits when a law changes, and then look at what actually happened to your bank account this year. Gas is up. Groceries are up. Energy is up 16.3 percent. Inflation is still running 3.4 percent. Your \$20 doesn't get you a quar-

ter tank anymore.

Don't take my word for any of it. Read the filings. Read the disclosures. Read who owns what and who gets paid. These things should be considered before you pull that lever in November.

Then ask the only question that matters: who's getting richer, who's paying for it, and why are you the one showing up in the goofy American flag colored cowboy hat but the gas to get you to the rally nearly bankrupted you for

the week?

Contact us at or send submissions to news@cartercountytimes.com
Visit the author on Substack at What's Annoying Robert Dean Today?

■ **Mothman** from A-1

straightforward adaptation of that book. It was, he noted, too big, too weird, and too sprawling. What he sought to do instead was to capture the feel of Keel's book, the sense of confusion and anxiety and paranoia that radiated out from Point Pleasant to infect the author's life.

And though it isn't a straightforward adaptation of the source material, for many folks Hatem's screenplay was their introduction to the cryptid and the concepts that have come to define him. For instance, Keel's book links the appearance of the Mothman to the collapse of the Silver Bridge, citing vague predictions of a tragedy from mysterious individuals who gave the writer and reporter just enough information to make him worry, but not enough to clearly predict or prevent what was to come. It made the Mothman sightings appear, at least in Keel's writing, as though the entity were a predictor or harbinger of doom. Hatem drove this point home by having the character of Alexander Leek (an academic and stand in for Keel the investigator) explain to Richard Gere's character of John Klein (a representation of Keel the experimenter) that the image often appears before

tragedies, including an appearance at Chernobyl before the nuclear reactor meltdown there in 1986.

This fits the timeline of the film, which is set in 2002, 16 years after the Chernobyl disaster instead of twenty years prior. But it was a complete fabrication. There were no actual sightings of a winged being at the doomed reactor.

"When I wrote it, I was making it up," Hatem said.

The screenplay was written in 1997, he noted, before the ubiquity of the internet.

"It (the internet) was not part of my life, so I was not checking news feeds. I had certainly never read any books outside of the Mothman Prophecies that had anything to do with Mothman. Certainly nothing current. So, it served my purposes to extend the mythology down the line a little bit, but I was making it up."

But, despite being fiction, Hatem's attempt to "extend the mythology" has worked, with legions of online "researchers" today citing it as a legitimate example of the Mothman being seen prior to a tragedy.

Another unintended consequence of Hatem's film might be the Mothman Festival itself, where the screenwriter and podcaster

will host a pair of talks this weekend. The festival, organized by Mothman Museum curator Jeff Wamsley, debuted in 2002 – the same year the film was released – building on the attention the film had garnered as a way to promote tourism to the small Ohio River town. Since then, the festival has grown into one of the premier paranormal and legend tripping destinations of the eastern United States, drawing interest and visitors from across the country and around the world.

Hatem will host a presentation about the film at 3 p.m. on Saturday, September 19, as part of the festival's official events. Then, later that evening, he will hold a live reading of his popular podcast, Richard Hatem's Paranormal Bookshelf from 7 – 9 p.m. Tickets for that event, where Hatem will explore West Virginia writer Gray Barker's book "They Knew Too Much About Flying Saucers," are available through Hatem's website at the events link.

For those who saw Hatem's Light in the Dark tour at last year's event, this will not be a repeat of that performance, but something that the writer hasn't performed live before. Though that book is not directly related to

Mothman, it is adjacent (Barker's book on the events, The Silver Bridge, debuted in 1970, five years before Keel's Mothman Prophecies) and Hatem references meeting John Keel and the early work on the screenplay for the film.

"I chose that one for the Mothman Festival because it not only is talking about Gray Barker, which I thought was interesting and peripherally connected, but the story that I tell about myself is about the very beginning of the writing process for the script for the Mothman Prophecies and some of my communications with John Keel, so it seemed very sort of on theme."

Those who haven't yet seen the "live only" episode that Hatem featured at last year's event, can find tickets to the Cleveland (September 16) and Pittsburgh (September 17) readings of that show at Hatem's event page as well.

For more information about the Mothman Festival, including a listing of speakers, entertainment, and events, visit their website at mothmanfestival.com.

Contact the writer at editor@cartercountytimes.com

■ **Faire** from A-1

of the combat. "You can expect to see both male and female fighters, all fighting each other. We fight with steel weapons, and the tournament style we will run at Vandalia is called the 'Tournament of Fate.' And the fight is all determined by a fan pulling dice out of a bag."

Messer said the combatants are grouped into four different teams, and everything else is determined by what is drawn. A faire patron will be pulled out of the audience at random and will draw and roll dice. Those dice determine the fighters, nature of the combat, and the weapons used. It could be knives, swords, or any other number of weapons the combatants have been trained to use. The roll of the dice even determines how many successful strikes are required for fighters to eliminate their opponents.

"You can't choreograph and you can't plan because you don't know what's coming," Messer said.

The combatants have a lot of experience, Messer explained. He has been

fighting in armor himself for 41 years and has helped train many of the combatants.

"We have five people I have fought with for thirty years," he said. "There are a couple of twenty-year fighters in the group as well. There are also a lot of ten-to-fifteen-year fighters. Since we started doing the renaissance fairs, we have picked up a lot of the younger generation. And what I mainly do now is train the young kids."

Part of the training of the younger generation, he said, is teaching them actual fighting styles and techniques.

"We do historical European Martial Arts (combat systems that originated in Europe between roughly 1300 and 1800) which is called HEMA," Messer explained.

The style covers the techniques from Italy, Germany, and Spain, he said. And over the past seven to ten years people have started to really consult old manuscripts about the techniques.

The combatants that will be present at the

Vandalia Renaissance Faire have studied blocks and attacks across multiple styles, a wide variety of weaponry, and multiple combinations of defensive and offensive weaponry. So, Messer said, what you will see at the Faire, although not mortal combat, is definitely real combat.

"And we do everything from single combat (one on one) to groups of three versus three or five versus five."

The group regularly trains on Sundays, he said, at Ashland City Park. Messer said his group covers everything from unarmed, padded armor fighting to historical fencing with rapiers. And attending the fair will give you an opportunity to see all the multiple styles of fighting, and perhaps even chosen as the patron to roll the dice and determine those fights. Messer says they can train anyone in any style and any level of experience.

"Now we are getting a lot of people coming over from the Lightsaber League," Messer said. "They have great sword

handling techniques, so they know the difference between offense and defense." Messer said he also has two professional boxers who are now getting into the sport, and are building upon their fighting experience by learning to use weapons for combat.

Messer said that the combat is amazing to watch, and enjoyable at any level of experience. And the full on, no quarter combat makes everything a legal attack, which adds to the thrills the crowd experiences watching it.

"Headbutts are legal," he said. "Kicks are legal and knees are legal. I can throw you, and with our style you can punch, grapple, and shield bash."

Combat and culture, brawling and broiling, merchants and mayhem, all make the Vandalia Renaissance & Fantasy Faire a must attend this October. For more details visit vandaliarenfaire.com.

Contact the writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com

A wealth of stories at Cave Run

By Charles Romans
Carter County Times

The popular festival of stories returns to Cave Run Lake, near Morehead, again this year, September 25 – 26. The Cave Run Storytelling Festival brings celebrated storytellers from across the country to entertain both young and older listeners alike, all while surrounded by the beauty of one of Kentucky's most popular destinations. And the stories themselves echo Appalachian traditions through the power of

music and the spoken word.

Festival co-founder Carolyn Franzini said it all began in 1999.

"In 1999 there were several citizens in Morehead, and some of us had been to the National Storytelling Festival in Jonesboro, Tennessee," Franzini said. "And some of us thought we could have a little festival in Morehead."

Franzini said several of those who had experienced the amazing storytelling in Tennessee put together what would become the

Cave Run Storytelling Contest.

"We had it out by the lake, which is such a beautiful place," she said. "We had a lot of people come, so we decided to continue to do this."

And continue it they have.

"This will be year 26," Franzini said, noting that the community has supported them from the outset.

"The community gives us a lot of support," she said of the festival's success. "There are businesses who give

money, and tourism gives money, and all together it has helped make it such a wonderful thing."

"We have about three thousand people," she said. "School students come on Thursday and Friday, and many schools come every year because they know it is a great event."

And there is the consideration of expense as well, she said. Franzini said that many schools cannot afford to have well-known storytellers like the ones who speak at the festival because it can get fairly expensive. But

CLASSIFIEDS

PUBLIC NOTICES

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
GRAYSON DAM WATER CONTROL PLAN UPDATE
CARTER COUNTY, KENTUCKY**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Huntington District, by this Notice of Availability (NOA), advises the public that the Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the Grayson Dam Water Control Plan Update is complete and available for public review. The project is located in Carter County, Kentucky. A Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is anticipated for the proposed project. A Draft FONSI is included with the DEA for public review.

In compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the DEA and draft FONSI must be available to the public in the affected area for thirty (30) days for review and comment. Final determination regarding the need for additional NEPA documentation will be made after the public review period, which begins on or about September 23, 2026. Copies of the documents may be viewed at the following location:

Carter County Public Library – Branch
116 W Main St.
Grayson, KY 41143
Phone: (606) 475-1528

The documents may also be viewed at the following website:
<https://www.lrd.usace.army.mil/Mission/Public-Review-Approved-Plans/>. Copies of the DEA and draft FONSI may be obtained by contacting the Huntington District Office of the Corps of Engineers at (304) 399-5924. Comments pertaining to the documents may be submitted to:

Ms. Megan Wilburn
Acting Chief, Environmental Analysis Section, Planning Branch
Huntington District Corps of Engineers
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, West Virginia 25701-2070
Email: Megan.B.Wilburn@usace.army.mil

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
CARTER CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 26-CI-00035**

KAR TAX LIEN PORTFOLIO, LLC**PLAINTIFF**

VS.**NOTICE OF SALE**

BILLY EUGENE OAKLEY; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF BILLY EUGENE OAKLEY; PAULA OAKLEY; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF PAULA OAKLEY; UNKNOWN OCCUPANT; COUNTY OF CARTER, KENTUCKY**DEFENDANTS**

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Carter Circuit Court, entered on August 4, 2026, I shall offer for sale the property described herein at public auction on the Courthouse steps of the old Carter County Courthouse, 300 West Main Street in Grayson, Kentucky, on the **7th day of October, 2026 at or near the hour of 3:40 p.m.**, to the highest bidder on the following terms:

The aforementioned real estate shall be sold as a whole. The real estate shall be sold on a credit of thirty (30) days, with the privilege of the purchaser to pay for bid in cash in full, and if not paid in full then the purchaser shall make a cash down payment of at least ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to cover the costs of the judicial sale; and the purchaser shall execute a bond for the remainder of the purchase price, with good surety thereon, to be approved by the Master Commissioner of this Court, and bearing interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of the sale, until paid; additionally, a lien shall be retained upon the real estate to be sold herein, to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days of the date of sale upon which execution may be levied by the Master Commissioner of this Court.

Description of the Property: 158 Gilliam Cem. Rd., Olive Hill, Kentucky 41164. (For Legal Description see LSOT: Deed Book 215, Page 183, Carter County Clerk's Office.)

Map/Parcel ID Number: 015-00-00-016.01.

NOTE: Only delinquent ad valorem taxes shall be paid from the sale proceeds. The Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of the taxes for the current year and thereafter.

Honorable John P. Thompson
Master Commissioner
Carter County, Kentucky

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
CARTER CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 26-CI-00042**

KAR TAX LIEN PORTFOLIO, LLC**PLAINTIFF**

VS.**NOTICE OF SALE**

TIMOTHY A. KOUNS; ROBIN MICHELLE MARTIN; COUNTY OF CARTER, KENTUCKY**DEFENDANTS**

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Carter Circuit Court, entered on August 4, 2026, I shall offer for sale the property described herein at public auction on the Courthouse steps of the old Carter County Courthouse, 300 West Main Street in Grayson, Kentucky, on the **7th day of October, 2026 at or near the hour of 3:35 p.m.**, to the highest bidder on the following terms:

The aforementioned real estate shall be sold as a whole. The real estate shall be sold on a credit of thirty (30) days, with the privilege of the purchaser to pay for bid in cash in full, and if not paid in full then the purchaser shall make a cash down payment of at least ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to cover the costs of the judicial sale; and the purchaser shall execute a bond for the remainder of the purchase price, with good surety thereon, to be approved by the Master Commissioner of this Court, and bearing interest at the rate of 6% per annum from the date of the sale, until paid; additionally, a lien shall be retained upon the real estate to be sold herein, to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days of the date of sale upon which execution may be levied by the Master Commissioner of this Court.

Description of the Property: 379 Rocky Road, Grayson, Kentucky 41143. (For Legal Description see LSOT: Deed Book 269, Page 11, Carter County Clerk's Office.)

Map/Parcel ID Number: 083-00-00-009.03.

NOTE: Only delinquent ad valorem taxes shall be paid from the sale proceeds. The Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of the taxes for the current year and thereafter.

Honorable John P. Thompson
Master Commissioner
Carter County, Kentucky

**COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
CARTER CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 25-CI-00142**

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC**PLAINTIFF**

VS.**NOTICE OF SALE**

SHERRI L. KAZEE; UNKNOWN SPOUSE, IF ANY, OF SHERRI L. KAZEE; COUNTY OF CARTER**DEFENDANTS**

Pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale in the Carter Circuit Court, entered on August 19, 2026, I shall offer for sale the property described herein at public auction on the Courthouse steps of the old Carter County Courthouse, 300 West Main Street in Grayson, Kentucky, on the **7th day of October, 2026 at or near the hour of 3:30 p.m.**, to the highest bidder on the following terms:

The aforementioned real estate shall be sold as a whole. The real estate shall be sold on a credit of thirty (30) days, with the privilege of the purchaser to pay for bid in cash in full, and if not paid in full then the purchaser shall make a cash down payment of at least ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to cover the costs of the judicial sale; and the purchaser shall execute a bond for the remainder of the purchase price, with good surety thereon, to be approved by the Master Commissioner of this Court, and bearing interest at the rate of 7.375% per annum from the date of the sale, until paid; additionally, a lien shall be retained upon the real estate to be sold herein, to secure the payment of the balance of the purchase price within thirty (30) days of the date of sale upon which execution may be levied by the Master Commissioner of this Court.

Description of the Property: 5278 U.S. Highway 60, Rush, Kentucky 41168. (For Legal Description see LSOT: Deed Book 502, Page 54, Carter County Clerk's Office.)

Map/Parcel ID Number: 128-00-00-016.00.

NOTE: Only delinquent ad valorem taxes shall be paid from the sale proceeds. The Purchaser shall be responsible for payment of the taxes for the current year and thereafter.

Honorable John P. Thompson
Master Commissioner
Carter County, Kentucky

by coming to the festival to hear multiple storytellers it is much more cost effective.

"Plus, it is such a beautiful place," she said of Cave Run.

Tents are set up along the lake at an area that used to be called the beach, and those tents can hold up to 1,000 and the venue seats roughly 850, she said.

"We are very organized, we have programs, and lots of information," she said.

"It is a great event," Franzini continued. "So many kids are so involved in their gadgets these days. But here you get to have a real experience of hearing someone talk and enjoying it, and that is a whole

See STORIES on A-8

Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps

Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas

The Spats

by Jeff Pickering

TIGER

by BUD BLAKE

OLIVE & POPEYE

By Randy Milholland

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINGOFF

Just Like Cats & Dogs

by Dave T. Phipps

CryptoQuip

This is a simple substitution cipher in which each letter used stands for another. If you think that X equals O, it will equal O throughout the puzzle. Solution is accomplished by trial and error.

Clue: R equals C

QINY RMVKL BMV RNKK FCMFKC

QIM GMYC "HM" MH EMACYIJHP

JH N KCPJEKNYJGC NEECAZKB?

NHYJ ZMLJCE.

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SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

Chant
HAMNET

Former
RIPOR

Candid
SOTHEN

Patrol
STUCO

TODAY'S WORD

"Clean up my room? You act like _____ is just around the corner."

Even Exchange

by Donna Pettman

Each numbered row contains two clues and two 6-letter answers. The two answers differ from each other by only one letter, which has already been inserted. For example, if you exchange the A from MASTER for an I, you get MISTER. Do not change the order of the letters.

1. White Cliffs of _____ O _____

2. Monkey with _____ A _____

3. Police ID _____ D _____

4. Canonized one _____ S _____

5. Dollywood owner _____ T _____

6. Whittle _____ A _____

7. Saunter _____ B _____

8. Mountainous _____ I _____

9. Scream, like a pig _____ L _____

10. Royal chair _____ E _____

Under water worker _____ I _____

Bad humor _____ E _____

Flat-bottomed boat _____ R _____

Muffled _____ F _____

Come again? _____ D _____

Bend in the road _____ U _____

Abundant _____ P _____

Yuletide shrub _____ O _____

Noisy door sound _____ K _____

Multitude _____ G _____

GO FIGURE!

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

10. Throms, Troms

9. Squal, Squeak

8. Hilly, Holly

7. Ample, Ample

6. Cane, Cane

5. Parton, Parton

4. Saint, Saint

3. Badge, Badge

2. Tamper, Tamper

1. Dover, Dover

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Ashley and Wynonna

6 Consumer protection agcy.

9 Catchall abbr.

12 Track star Bolt

13 Tic-tac-toe win

14 "The Matrix" character

15 Refuse an offer

16 Seattle suburb that's home to Microsoft

18 Credit rating publisher

20 Skin soother

21 Corp. money exec

23 Overly

24 Part of LGBTQ

25 Hit on the noggin

27 Japanese fish dish

29 Tranquil

31 Sort of dive

35 Police ID

37 Employ

38 Hairnet

41 Moray, for one

43 Past

44 Plane-related

45 Country song?

47 Archbishop Tutu

49 Stag

52 Altar affirmative

53 Reuben bread

54 More practical

55 Aachen article

56 Rowing need

57 Birch's kin

5 Stuffed shirt

6 Gift giver's words

7 Low digits

8 Atlantic fish

9 — Holmes (Sherlock's sister)

10 Mortise partner

11 Encryptions

17 "Butterfly" singer Carey

19 Medicated

21 "60 Minutes" ailer

22 Nemesis

24 Fill in — blank

26 Explosive sound

28 Bed cover

30 Wee bit

32 Tiara stone

33 Work unit

34 Old Olds

36 Census info

38 "Sexy" Beatles girl

39 "— say more?"

40 Director Welles

42 — apso (small dog)

45 Novelist Seton

46 Airline to Tel Aviv

48 Spanish gold

50 Born

51 Blunder

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Weekly SUDOKU

6 1 4 9 7 5 3 8 2 7 9 6

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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FiveSpot™

Hyperbole?

S U P E R

Word with market or bowl

Extra

Records

Breathes heavily, like a dog

Paint finish option

Willie Mays or Barry Bonds

Solve each row by replacing one letter from the answer above or below and scrambling to make a new word. When complete, the top and bottom words will have no letters in common.

FiveSpot is a trademark of Michael McLinden. See more at www.sproutsudoku.com

02657

King Crossword

Answers

1. Ghost

2. General William T. Sherman

3. "Easy Rider"

4. Indian Ocean

5. Tim (stannum)

6. 14 lines of poetry

7. Limestone or chalk

8. Burger King

9. Franklin D. Roosevelt

10. Spiral

Trivia test

by Fifi Rodriguez

1. TELEVISION: What is the name of Jon Snow's dire wolf in "Game of Thrones"?

2. HISTORY: Which Civil War general literally used "scorched earth" tactics in his march from Atlanta to Savannah, Georgia?

3. MOVIES: Which 1960s movie has the tagline, "A man went looking for America, and he couldn't find it anywhere"?

4. GEOGRAPHY: Which body of water includes islands known as the Seychelles?

5. CHEMISTRY: Which element's symbol is Sn?

6. LITERATURE: What is the length of a traditional sonnet?

7. GEOLOGY: What is a common name for calcium carbonate?

8. FOOD & DRINK: Which fast-food chain goes by the name Hungry Jack in Australia?

9. U.S. PRESIDENTS: Which president gave radio addresses that were described as "fireside chats"?

10. ASTRONOMY: What is the shape of the Milky Way?

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CHRISTMAS

Today's Word

3. Honest; 4. Scout

1. Anthem; 2. Prior

Solution

SCRAMBLERS

FiveSpot™

Solution

6 9 3 8 4 5 7 2 1 7 3 8 5 6 4 9 8 4 6 5 8 1 7 2 3 6 9 3 4 6 2 8 5 6 7 3 2 1 4 8 5 6 7 3 2 8 2 7 4 3 1 6 5 7 3 6 1 2 8 4 9

Answer

Weekly SUDOKU

Anti bodies.

in a legislative assembly?

who vote "no" on something

What could you call people answer

CryptoQuip

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

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7. Ample, Ample

8. Hilly, Holly

9. Squal, Squeak

10. Throms, Troms

different experience for many kids.”

“It opens their eyes to stories,” Franzini said. “And we always hope that when people attend our event they will realize they have stories as well. And then they can go home and share them with their family and friends or write them down or something. That’s always the purpose of a storytelling festival. It’s to help people understand that stories are important, and that you have stories.”

“It would be great if one of those kids would go home and have their grandpa tell them a story about his childhood,” Franzini said. “They might learn something. It’s just a thought.”

But in reality, all stories begin as just a thought. It’s only when we share those thoughts that they become stories.

The Cave Run

Storytelling festival will host professional storytellers April Armstrong and Antonio Rocha, Bil Lepp and Josh Goforth, Kevin Kling and Nestor Gomez, and Sheila K. Adams. Tickets can be purchased at caverunstoryfest.org for Friday and/or Saturday. Thursday is reserved just for students, but the remaining two days are for both students and adults. A full list of scheduled events

is available on the website. [writer at charles@cartercountytimes.com](mailto:writer@charles@cartercountytimes.com)

Contact the

Kentucky Dept of Agriculture Livestock and Grain Market Report

Compared to last week, feeder steers and heifers generally sold 6.00 to 10.00 higher with instances to sharply higher especially for high-quality, weaned packages and groups. There was a strong demand and improved buyer activity this week. Yearling steers and heifers appeared firm with buyers willing to pay premiums for quality and weaned cattle. Slaughter cows sold mostly steady with instances to 4.00 higher, while lean cows were 1.00 to 3.00 lower. Slaughter bulls were unevenly steady with trends ranging from 4.00 lower to 3.00 higher. Demand for slaughter classes ranged from moderate to good.

Week ending 9/12/26

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

Steers (M&L 1-2)	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
350-400 lbs	442.29	445.40	446.36
400-450 lbs	421.69	421.44	439.36
450-500 lbs	406.76	394.41	414.89
500-550 lbs	375.07	366.59	395.10
550-600 lbs	366.36	350.98	378.51
600-650 lbs	350.54	333.89	367.29
650-700 lbs	343.28	321.02	351.94
700-750 lbs	325.66	327.59	345.62
750-800 lbs	322.66	315.01	343.08
800-850 lbs	324.23	315.13	339.67
850-900 lbs	303.98	301.01	329.52
Heifers (M&L 1-2)			
300-350 lbs	395.63	409.40	404.76
350-400 lbs	391.71	390.39	404.46
400-450 lbs	375.59	368.60	387.29
450-500 lbs	356.38	349.64	375.35
500-550 lbs	339.45	331.09	357.17
550-600 lbs	326.72	320.66	348.18
600-650 lbs	315.55	316.01	333.34
650-700 lbs	304.35	293.19	315.93
700-750 lbs	292.46	279.28	311.47
750-800 lbs	284.46	276.38	316.23

Slaughter Cows	Average	High	Low
Breakers	130.00-165.00	150.00-178.00	135.00-150.00
Boners	127.00-170.00	152.50-183.00	107.00-150.50
Lean	114.00-167.00	145.00-170.00	95.00-151.00
Slaughter Bulls	Average	High	Low
Yield Grade 1&2	181.00-213.00	202.00-230.00	157.00-196.00

Aug 27, 2026		Bowling Green, KY	
SLAUGHTER GOATS: 218			
Kids-Selection 1	52 lbs 330.00; 68 lbs 317.50.	Selection 1-2	83 lbs 305.00; 105 lbs 300.00.
Selection 2	53 lbs 300.00; 62-67 lbs 275.00-295.00.		
SLAUGHTER SHEEP: 661			
Hair Breeds-Choice & Prime 1-2	54-56 lbs 337.50-350.00; 66-68 lbs 305.00-330.00; 75-76 lbs 285.00; 90 lbs 230.00; 88 lbs 260.00; 103-107 lbs 225.00-230.00; 110 lbs 260.00.		
Choice 2	50-59 lbs 360.00-365.00; 68 lbs 315.00; 76 lbs 277.50; 88 lbs 240.00; 108 lbs 260.00.		
Wooled-Choice & Prime 1-2	145 lbs 205.00		
GRAINS	This Week	Prior Week	Last Year
Corn	4.70-5.19	4.73-5.31	3.67-4.27
Soybeans	12.10-13.64	12.25-13.50	9.09-10.23
Red Winter Wheat	6.43-7.48	6.33-7.89	4.78-5.47

Engaged families help build healthier communities

Strong families are often at the heart of strong communities. From helping children succeed in school to supporting older adults, participating in local programs and checking in on neighbors, families help create the connections that make communities healthier, safer and more supportive places to live.

That influence begins at home. Families are often the first place people learn healthy habits, find encouragement and receive care during difficult seasons of life. When community programs recognize families as partners, those programs are more likely to meet real needs and lead to lasting changes in health and well-being.

Access to research-based information and practical programs that fit their homes, schools and neighborhoods helps families make choices that support long-term well-being. Families also contribute valuable insight into what their communities need and what kinds of support can make a difference.

Families strengthen communities through everyday participation, from volunteering at schools and joining neighborhood projects to taking part in health and wellness activities. These efforts build trust, connect people to resources and create a stronger sense of belonging.

Participation benefits families, too. Community programs and events help families meet one another and build support networks that can be especially valuable when they are navigating health concerns,

parenting challenges or stressful seasons of life. Family involvement can also improve how community programs and services are designed. When families share ideas, help set priorities and take part in decisions, programs are more likely to reflect real-life needs and build trust with the people they are meant to serve.

Schools offer one of the clearest examples of how family involvement benefits the wider community. When families are engaged in education, children are more likely to do well in school, attend regularly, have fewer behavior concerns and feel emotionally supported. Family engagement also strengthens communication with teachers, school staff and community partners.

Family participation also supports mental and emotional health by reducing isolation, strengthening relationships and encouraging healthier habits for both children and adults.

When families are welcomed as partners, communities are better prepared to support people across every stage of life. Their involvement strengthens local programs and creates places where people feel connected, supported and able to thrive.

To learn more about family-focused programs and resources in your area, contact the Carter County Extension Service office.

Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of economic or social status and will not discriminate

on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expressions, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

Source: Monica Mundy, Ph.D., Extension specialist for community and family health

