

■ **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