Appalachian cryptids to be explained next week at LWU

SPECIAL TO THE CKNJ

Creatures that go bump in the night as well as in the woods will be the topic Wednesday, Oct. 21, of the next SnackChat at Lindsey Wilson University in Columbia.


Harold Bosstick

English professor Harold Bosstick will help audience members get into the spirit of Halloween when he discusses Appalachian cryptids.

SnackChat, which begins at 2 p.m. CDT Wednesday, is free and open to the public in the Thomas D. Clark Reading Room of the Katie Murrell A. Library. It will include light snacks and refreshments.

Cryptids are animals or creatures that people believe exist, even if their existence has not been proven or documented by scientists.

Some better known cryptids are Bigfoot, who has reported to have wandered into Southcentral Kentucky; the Kentucky Dogman, also known as the Beast of the Land Between the Lakes; and the wicked half-goat, half-man Pope Lick Monster, also known as the Louisville Goatman.

During his Oct. 21 presentation, Bosstick will discuss lesser known cryptids, including the Flatwoods humanoid of West Virginia, the extraterrestrial Hopkinsville goblins of 1955 – also known as the Kelly Green Men Case – and the hideous but innocuous squonk of Pennsylvania and the Pocono Mountains.

Bosstick specialized in studying folklore when he worked on his doctorate in English, the product of a lifelong fascination with monsters and extraterrestrial creatures, dating to the seminal 1990s science-fiction television show "The X-Files."

"I always joke that I was exposed to 'The X-Files' way younger than I should have," said Bosstick, who earned a doctorate in English from the University of Louisiana. "So it's been one of those things I've studied since a young age. I love talking about monsters, I love horror movies, and I love folklore that deals with cryptids."

Whether the monsters and creatures are in fact real is often beside the point, he said. The fact some people choose to believe in them can be revealing about a local culture and its way of life.

"We may or may not believe in them, but we still tell stories about them," Bosstick said. "And when we tell those stories, we're not just sharing what happened and the narrative of what a monster did, but we're sharing something about ourselves.

"That's what I've always found so fascinating about monsters is how much we tell about ourselves when we talk about monsters."

The creature known as Bigfoot, who has reported to have been seen a couple of times in Southcentral Kentucky when it wandered from its reported home territory in the Pacific Northwest, is a good example, according to Bosstick.

"Why do we want to tell a story about a giant hairy beast out in the middle of the woods?" he asked. "Partly, it's because sometimes we're afraid of the woods or what's in them."

Myths and legends of cryptids have proliferated in the Appalachian region, in part, because of the region's wild landscape.

"I think some of those stories took hold in Appalachia because of just how untamed and wild this place was when settlers first came here," he said.

Bosstick said that scholars have surmised that some people continue to talk about monsters today "not just because we're afraid of them, but because we use monsters to set up boundaries between ourselves and what is out there away from us."

"We also use monsters to express a kind of desire about things that are out there that we find interesting and want to know more about," he said.

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Notice is hereby given that the Comprehensive Agency Plan of the Campbellsville Housing Authority is on display for the next 45 days beginning Friday, October 16, 2026 and ending on Monday, November 30, 2026. The Plan can be reviewed, by appointment, at the Campbellsville Housing Authority located at 400 Ingram Ave, Campbellsville, KY 42718 during normal business hours. Any comments must be made in writing to:

Campbellsville Housing
& Redevelopment Authority
P. O. Box 597
Campbellsville, KY 42719

Notice is hereby given that the Campbellsville Housing Authority will hold a public hearing on **Friday, December 4, 2026 at 2:00 P.M.** at the Campbellsville Housing Authority, 400 Ingram Ave., Campbellsville, KY 42718. Any person unable to attend the public hearing in person may contact the Campbellsville Housing Authority for other options. The purpose of the hearing is to discuss the Comprehensive Agency Plan.

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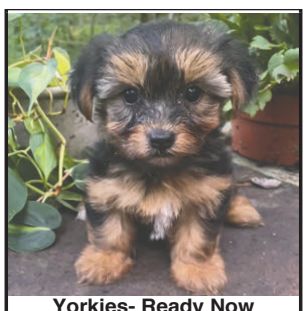
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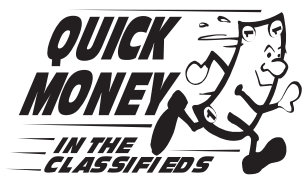
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