

The Crittenden Press

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Printed in Marion, Ky., on recycled paper with soy ink
USPS 138-260 • MARION, KY 42064

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2008

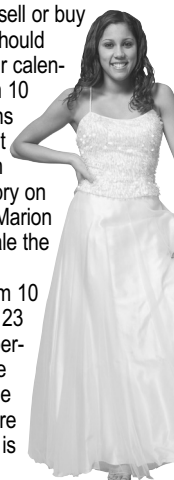
75 CENTS
A home-owned newspaper since 1879
VOLUME 128, NUMBER 31 - 14 PAGES

Prom scheduled for May 3 at Paducah

Crittenden County High School prom is May 3 at Madison Hall in Paducah. Pictures will be taken at Rocket Arena from noon to 4 p.m., immediately followed by the grand march. A charter bus to Madison Hall leaves Marion Country Club at 6:30 p.m. The dance begins at 8 p.m., and ends at midnight.

Marion prom dress sale set for Feb. 23

Anyone looking to sell or buy a used prom gown should mark Feb. 22 on their calendar. That Friday from 10 a.m., to 5 p.m., gowns can be dropped off at the Carson Davidson National Guard Armory on Rochester Street in Marion for a consignment sale the following day. The sale will be from 10 a.m., to 5 p.m., Feb. 23 at the armory. A 20 percent consignment fee will be assessed if the gown is sold, but there is no fee if the dress is not sold. Money or gowns can be picked up from 6 to 8 p.m., the day of the sale. For questions, contact Sarah Holler at 965-0412 during the evening.



Fohs Hall Ball still has room for more

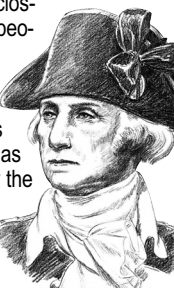
While meal reservations for the seventh annual Fohs Hall Ball are closed, there are still plenty of seats available for those wishing to attend Saturday's dance and concert. This major fundraising event for upkeep of the 82-year-old community center and former school will feature big band music from The Temple Airs, an Evansville-based orchestra. Dance-only tickets for the semi-formal affair are \$25 and can be picked up at the door. Doors open at 6 p.m.

Auto classifieds free entire month

Classified advertisements selling under our automotive heading are free to non-commercial entities the entire month of February in The Crittenden Press. For more, or to place your ad, call The Press at 965-3191.

Few offices closed for Presidents' Day

Though Presidents' Day is a federal holiday, only limited closings will affect most people on Feb. 18. In Crittenden County, all courthouse and City of Marion offices will be open, as well as all state offices. Only the postal service and Crittenden County Public Library will be shut down in the official observance of George Washington's birthday.



Local meetings

■ Crittenden Fiscal Court will meet at 9 a.m., Feb. 19 at the courthouse with a 9:15 a.m., public hearing on the four-percent insurance tax.
■ Crittenden County Board of Education will meet at 6 p.m., Feb. 19 at Crittenden County Middle School.

Weather

Reported by UK Ag Weather Service as of Wednesday at Princeton, online at www.gwxx.ca.uky.edu.

Forecast
THURSDAY FRIDAY
6 am Mostly clear, 27° Mostly clear, 32°
Noon Mostly clear, 41° Mostly clear, 45°
6 pm Mostly clear, 41° Mostly clear, 45°
9 pm Mostly clear, 37° Mostly clear, 41°

Precipitation report
Last 7 days1.40 For 2008.....3.58
Last 30 days3.40 Deviation.....-0.98

Online

Visit the-press.com 24-7 for updates on your local and breaking news, including full-color video and slideshows of events. Send news tips to pressnews@the-press.com.

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Paddy's Bluff Retreat sold, closed

STAFF REPORT

One of the area's most popular recreational sites has been sold and closed.

Paddy's Bluff Retreat near Dycusburg was sold last week, according to John Travis, who started the ATV park five years ago and turned it into the county's largest commercial recreational enterprise.

Grogan and Hatcher Properties, LLC of Arlington, Ky., has purchased the property. Travis said he doesn't know what the new owner plans to do with it, but he is quite certain that it will no longer be operated as an ATV park.

According to the Kentucky Secretary of State's Web site, Grogan and Hatcher, LLC is a Kentucky limited liability corporation owned by Bobby L. Grogan and Mark Hatcher. The two are partners in a farming enterprise and are affiliated with several other Kentucky companies individually. Grogan is president of Grogan's Sausage in Arlington.

Crittenden County Judge-Executive Fred Brown said Paddy's Bluff had

become a western Kentucky landmark which was known far and wide.

"It was an attraction that brought in a great deal of tourism and benefited our local economy," Brown said. "I think a similar type enterprise would be very viable here. We have plenty of undeveloped property where someone could start up something like it elsewhere."

Brown said the county and the local economic development corporation would be willing to work with anyone interested in developing a new ATV park in the county.

Travis said some entrepreneurs have already contacted him about starting up an off-road vehicle park in a nearby county. They were consulting with Travis on the feasibility, he said.

"It was a very good business and we appreciate everyone who supported us and came to the park," said Travis, who opened the 650-acre facility in April of 2003.

"I thought it would be a weekend job, but it turned into a whole lot more than that," he said.



"Our biggest weekend was Memorial Day last year when we had about 1,800 people."

— John Travis
former owner of Paddy's Bluff Retreat

The park hosted three- and four-day events during most holiday weekends, drawing hundreds of ATV riders and Jeep enthusiasts. It had also become host to a national off-road buggy event.

"Our biggest weekend was Memorial Day last year when we had about 1,800 people," said Travis.

In addition to off-road trails, the park offered overnight camping. Travis said several camper trailers are still located inside the complex. Owners

need to contact him within the next 20 days to make arrangements to move them. He can be reached at 836-4297.

Paddy's Bluff had always been a local landmark. There is a legend surrounding the bluff overlooking the Cumberland River. It was there that an early Irish pioneer named Paddy rode a team of mules off the bluff into the river, one legend says. It was also a site used during the filming of "How the West was Won."

Travis bought the property several years ago from the former Westvaco Corp., and a private landowner. About 200 acres was known as the Eugene Duvall farm with the balance previously belonging to the timber and paper company.

Travis, who also operates a private timber company, had been logging portions of the property while operating the ATV park, too.

"I really hated to let it go, but I had already signed the option back before we opened Paddy's Bluff," Travis said. "The people who had that contract exercised their option to buy it last week."

Hard at play

Volunteer efforts lead way along push to convert park into gem

Skate park now ready

By DARYL K. TABOR
MANAGING EDITOR

On Monday, as a distant hammering signalled the finishing touches to the roof of new dugouts at the future home of the Marion Bobcats, the occasional clamor of an air wrench indicated the beginning of an oasis for local skateboarders — Marion Skatepark.

Pallets of unassembled ramps and rails that will be give birth to noseslides and laser flips were strewn around an 80- x 100-foot concrete slab where terms like love, ace and deuce were once used to keep score of tennis matches. A crew from American Ramp Company, or ARC, in Joplin, Mo., has spent most of this week erecting the parts into about 10 props to be used by skaters at the new facility.

By all indications, the long-awaited skatepark at Marion-Crittenden County Park should be completed by nightfall today (Thursday) and ready for skaters after school on Friday.

"They'll all be out there," said Maetta Witherspoon, mother of a local skateboarder and volunteer who has helped teens organize numerous efforts to help pay for the park. "They can't believe it's finally here."

For the last few years, skateboarders and their parents have worked to generate more than \$10,000 through efforts like picking up trash, bagging groceries, grill-outs and even publishing a cookbook. About \$3,000 of that added to the equal \$25,000 contributions from the county and City of Marion paid for the equipment assembled this week.

"We're real proud of what's going on out here," said park board chairman Paul Belt, maneuvering pallets of skate equipment with a forklift Monday.

City officials, too, are happy to have a home for skateboarders, who have encountered difficulties in finding acceptable areas to perfect their art. Marion Police Chief Ray O'Neal hopes the new skatepark will cut down on complaints his department gets about congregating skateboarders.

"I really feel like it will, with this," O'Neal said, adding that there is now no reason for boarders to be in the downtown business district or in the streets.

"...We're going to give the new skate park ample opportunity to make a difference before looking at a ban on streets (and) sidewalks," City Administrator Mark Bryant said.

Witherspoon said she and most other skateboarding parents understand and expect tougher enforcement now. She's just happy her child has a safe place to enjoy himself.

"They have been wonderful — the city, county and park (board) — all working together," Witherspoon said.



PHOTOS BY DARYL K. TABOR
Kenny Arnold of American Ramp Company in Joplin, Mo., on Monday afternoon shows Marion-Crittenden County Park Board Chairman Paul Belt where he would like a pallet of parts to be set for erecting equipment at the park for a skate-board facility. Arnold said the entire set-up should be completed by the end of today (Thursday). Below, Chad Thomas (foreground) and Chris Miller of T&T Concrete in Marion put the finishing touches Monday on the roof of the home dugout at Gordon B. Guess Field, also at the park. The new dugouts join the grandstand in the background as just two of the major improvements completed or planned in preparation for the upcoming Marion Bobcats inaugural season.

Diamond dreams coming true

A couple of hundred yards from the skatepark lies Gordon B. Guess Field, home to Crittenden County's High School baseball team, as well as the Marion Bobcats when opening day arrives June 4.

On Monday, Chad Thomas, his brother Zac and the rest of the T&T Concrete crew were finishing the roof of the new dugouts at the field. Chad is one of the 20 investors backing the semi-pro summer collegiate league baseball team and both he and Zac played on the same field in high school.

"I wish we'd had these when I played," Zac said of the dugouts, which are deep enough to shield players from the sun and large enough to comfortably fit the entire 22-man Bobcats roster.

The dugouts, recently completed 250-seat grandstand and the Bobcats are largely the advent of the man for whom the field is named. The former banker and avid baseball fan has taken an interest in the field for years, awaiting the day he might be able to bring big-time summer baseball to Marion. By making an investment into Marion Baseball Club LLC and acquiring 19 other equal investors from around Crittenden County, Guess has a team for an entire population to enjoy.



"It's our team," he said. "It's Marion's team. It says a lot for this community."

Another of the investors, Kory Wheeler, believes the team will help put Marion on the map.

"I'm proud to say that it's our team," the sports fan and park board member said. "It's good for the people of the community."

And Kory, along with her husband Bill, who together own two Marion restaurants, could be the added beneficiaries of an economic boost when players and fans spend their money to eat in town.

Attorney Alan Stout views his stake in the Bobcats as a donation to hopefully bring some of the magic he experienced as a youth player at old Grady Field to a new generation.

"I think we have a unique opportunity here for something that is a good fit for Marion," Stout said. "I hope the community embraces the Bobcats."

Backers credit Guess' lead by example in making the effort happen.

"The investment and volunteer support is a testimony to his commitment of time and energy put into this project," said Stout.

"For anybody who puts that much into something for the community," added Wheeler, "you have to back it."

New tax a perplexing proposal

The proposed insurance premium tax being initiated by the Crittenden County Fiscal Court is drawing a great deal of fire from the community.

As written and proposed, the plan would levy a four-percent new tax on county residents who pay premiums on homes, cars, health and life insurance.

What's unclear is whether magistrates will maintain the current framework of the plan when the measure comes before the court for a final vote, probably later this month. Chances are that county officials will do one or two things before eventually passing the ordinance and creating the new tax.

1. Look for magistrates to retool the ordinance in order to exclude health and life insurance. Most insurance companies in the area say it's



virtually impossible to tax those types of policies, not to mention highly unpopular.

2. There is a high probability that county officials will lower the rate from four percent to either three or two percent before final passage of the plan. That's based on some of the latest information we're getting from elected officials.

Opposition to the tax is going to be heavy. Already, the lead is thicker at the courthouse than it was at Antittem. Farmers and busi-

ness folk in the county are the most vocal. Some say their insurance premiums will go up thousands of the dollars if the tax is passed as proposed. While they understand the need to raise additional funds to maintain local government, they're up in arms about such a drastic increase.

County leaders maintain that without a big influx of cash, the 2008-09 budget cannot be balanced. Rising costs in labor, retirement, fuel and everything else will create a major shortfall, says Judge-Executive Fred Brown. According to the judge's preliminary figures, Crittenden County's project general fund revenue for the coming fiscal year will be \$566,000 while projected spending will be \$628,000. Likewise, the local government economic assistance fund - which foots the bill for many county services -

is projected at a \$75,000 shortfall.

Slashing contributions to the park, fire departments and civic groups would not come close to solving the problem, officials say.

At its current pace of usage, the county's fuel budget is going to be obliterated this fiscal year. If the county road department - which maintains local roads - continues pumping fuel as it has, the department will surpass projected gas and diesel spending by about \$25,000.

Through November, the county had burned \$46,000 worth of fuel just five months into its fiscal year. Unless a county committee made up of magistrates Greg West and Glenn Underdown can find a way to curb consumption, the road department will spend over \$100,000 this year for fuel.

For a while the county was receiving more than \$35,000 every quarter from coal severance taxes. Because the coal mine in the northern part of the county has been shut down for several months, the coal funds have been reduced to a trickle. Last quarter, Crittenden County got \$12,000 from the state. That source of income will dry up completely in the next four years if the mine doesn't return to operation.

Those and other stories abound when local officials start discussing the challenges of balancing a budget in the face of inflationary prices for goods and services. We, as common citizens, know too well what it's like trying to get to the end of the month with enough bread and milk to keep the kids pacified.

From what we've heard from the masses, taxpayers

don't mind kicking in their fair share, but they can't be expected to pay four percent on top of their health insurance premiums, which are astronomical as it is.

Stay tuned, this could be the most controversial issue in some time. Although the fiscal court is scheduled to discuss this measure at its Feb. 19 meeting, there's a good chance magistrates will not bring it to a final vote right then.

Anticipating a large crowd of local citizens, elected leaders will want to chew on the comments made during the public hearing prior to casting their final vote on this proposed new tax.

(Editor's note: More responses will appear at a later date. Chris Evans is the editor and publisher of The Crittenden Press. His column appears periodically.)

The Press Letters

Writer: Too much tax assessed now

To the editor:

I am writing to thank (magistrates Dan) Wood and (Greg) West for standing up for us in the county. We are taxed enough already. I have read the articles in the paper and note that only at the very end of one of them, do we read that (Judge-Executive Fred) Brown and company are going to jam this insurance tax down our throats with one more meeting, and by the way, we'll most likely jack you for more property taxes, too, but not so much that we'll want you to vote on it.

Before we get a new tax, perhaps someone should explain how a \$7.6 million jail is a good deal at a final pay-off of \$15.7 million? Why are we spending \$12,500 for the city/county park and then contributing another \$12,500 for that same park? Whose pockets are we lining? Who is making these decisions and how can they even remotely consider them sound financial decisions?

We all already pay federal tax, state tax, county tax, school tax, library tax, health department tax, extension service tax, franchise tax and lest I forget restaurant taxes on all the business that we do everywhere. Add to that auto registration, auto insurance, utilities and phone bills, about the only thing I could find that we don't pay extra tax on is our trash pickup, but even there we pay a fuel surcharge.

Time to stop taxing and trim some fat!

Stan Wheeler
Marion, Ky.

Health department too hard on Amish

To the editor:

Last month, I wrote of a meeting that took place between the Crittenden County Health Department officials and the owners of an Amish store in the county. The owners had previously been told by a department employee that the business could be shut down immediately.

Requirements listed in the "Fixture Requirements, Food Branch" under the letterhead

The Press Letters Policy

The Crittenden Press accepts and encourages letters to the editor on a variety of subjects. Letters should be submitted by 5 p.m., Friday the week before publication.

Letters must include the author's name, address, phone number and signature. Phone numbers will not be published. They are for our records only in order to authenticate a letter's author.

Letters should be written in good taste and in most cases should not exceed 300 words.

Letters will be edited for spelling and grammar and The Crittenden Press reserves the right to reject or edit letters for clarity, brevity and otherwise at our discretion. Writers should limit their letters to no more than one per month. Original copies of submitted letters will be retained in our files.

Letters may be brought into our office on East Bellville Street, sent to P.O. Box 191, Marion, Ky., 42064 or pressnews@the-press.com.

of the Cabinet for Human Resources Department for Health Service specifically apply to "new or extensively altered establishments." The store in question has been in the same location in an unaltered state for some years and has been visited by the health department before.

The store was cited under the health department's code "610: Retail Food Store" for prepackaging and processing items.

The store in question dispenses bulk food, nuts, etc., which are repackaged in smaller containers. It's pretty clear that requirements for prepackaged food are aimed at employees. This particular store has no employees. It is operated solely by family members consisting of a mother and daughter who have the use of the nearby farm home where restroom and other necessary facilities are located.

As mentioned, the store was cited for was processing food. There is absolutely no food processing or preparation taking place in this store, and again, there are no employees to provide a restroom for.

Is it any wonder that county health officials did not want a public meeting in regard to this issue? The store owners were given a deadline of just three weeks to comply with these seemingly unnecessary requirements.

Merril Greeman
Salem, Ky.

Little league hoops brings out 60 girls

To the editor:

This letter is in regards to the little league program.

First of all, I personally want to thank Shannon Hodge for taking the time out of a busy schedule to still maintain a little league program for the girls. My daughter truly enjoys and loves the game of basketball. Shannon brings her basketball team to help with the program when they can, and it absolutely thrills those girls for the high school team to be there.

The little league program is in progress now, and has had a successful turnout of girls this year. The program had around 60 girls at sign-up the first of January, and practice is still going on for ages five- to 12-year-old girls. So, if there are 60 girls wanting to learn the game of basketball, you know there are 60 or more boys out there as well.

We, the parents, are wanting to make this program successful for the kids - for boys and girls, both - to teach the basic fundamentals of basketball and have fun playing the game. Again, we are *not* trying to take away from Upward. I believe if we can start a program for little league basketball, it will truly be beneficial to the middle and high school programs at Crittenden County. I can honestly say that I truly love the game of basketball, and I would like to see this be a successful program now and many years down the road.

I hope to see many parents at the next meeting, this Saturday. Come out, parents, and let's make this work for the kids.

Thanks again, Shannon, and way to go Lady Rockets, Class A regional champs!

Misty Champion
Salem, Ky.

Why does sin beget hell?

Why does sin beget Hell as such harsh punishment? Several reasons can be given. We are told "Sin is a reproach to any people." Proverbs 14:34.

Reproach is shame. Sin brings shame to any people. Study the awful beatings and death Jesus went through to pay for sin and you'll see just how sinful sin really is.

Why is sin so sinful? It is - lending our body, soul, or mind to do anything God did not build us to do.

God built our bodies to live, do, and act a certain way. To digress from that blueprint is a breach of God's plan, is abnormal, and will always cause a malfunction.

He built our inward self - our soul - to be His friend, His care-giver and care-taker, to know and love Him and use our bodies, souls and minds the way He created us to function.

He wanted to have fellowship us. He came in the cool of the day to commune with Adam until Adam misused his body and God's world contrary to the construction of it all.

After that God could not have fellowship with Adam anymore. The world and all humanity have suffered ever since.

God built our bodies to live in a perfect climate. To live out in a garden of a kind and beautiful natural world, without the care, hassle, and stress of bills, housing, concrete jungles, sickness, crime, fear, pain, and struggle.

He told man to take care of the earth and subdue it. He built women to have and care for children, nurturing the next generation, making great and Godly men and women, and He built men to take care of them in peace and plenty.

Women cannot do the hard work men are built to do and hold up. Men cannot have babies. But sin has put a reproach on having, caring, training, and nurturing children, and tried to make sissies or queers out of men.

God built our minds to be free, to learn from Him who built us. He built our inward man to have close communion with Him, and to love, and bring happiness to others.



When Adam and Eve chose to take what God had built to be used a certain way, and use it against God and against what He had built them for, following the instructions of the Devil, they were driven out of the perfect world they had been made for and that had been made for them.

They had to learn how to cultivate the earth, make clothes, provide shelter and food in a world that was cursed with pests, thistles, and thorns and hard work.

Woman's body was built to only have a few children and without pain and sorrow. But when she disobeyed God and misused her body against His instructions, He told her He would multiply her sorrow and her conception (ability to conceive).

Her first two conceptions brought her unmitigated sorrow, as her first born son killed her second son.

God did not want His prize creation to have to languish in pain and sorrow, fear and dread. We were not constructed for it and that is why it ruins our health, minds, and relationships.

By misusing our bodies in wrong habits, thoughts, and food we bring on heart disease, mental sickness, and all kinds of diseases, and why so many are in the life of crime.

So the question again: Why is sin so sinful? Jesus knew the results and penalty for sin, that is why He wept at Lazarus tomb even though He was going to raise him from the dead. He knew sin causes death and all the suffering and pain that goes with it for the one that dies and those that love them.

Sin is so sinful, shameful, disgraceful, and destructive God took His presence from Jesus when He hung on the cross being sin for the world. God hates sin because of the awful pain and shame it brings the human race.

Sin shatters lives, homes, marriages, children, health, beauty, and youth.

Sin lies at the root of all pain, sorrow and death.

"The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Ro. 6:23

Until we see sin as exceedingly sinful, until we are truly sorry we've ever had any part in it, we aren't really saved from it.

"To fear God is to hate evil." Sin has a price tag, and we WILL reap what we sow. We will pay for sin, but salvation is free.

God wants us back in His image, in His plan for our happiness. Until we are there, we will not find the life and happiness we are looking for and what God created us for.

Sin shames us, robs us, diminishes us, makes us suffer and fail and in the end get hell for ever.

Salvation lifts us to a life of character and nobility, and God will then use us to bring happiness, self respect, and honor to our lives and those we love.

When we live in sin we are spiritually dead and that is why we make such bad decisions that keep leading us into heart ache and failure.

Salvation makes us into a new creature. That comes only when we truly are convicted and ashamed of sin, and hate, really hate sin and have real sorrow we were ever tricked by the Devil to act and do such stupid things that eventually make our lives hell on earth, and then in Hell forever.

We have to realize the damage it has done us and the hurt we've caused God, ourselves, and others and admit it to God and ask forgiveness.

To come to that place in our lives the Bible calls it "coming to our senses."

Paul said: "Therefore if any man be in Christ he is a new creation. Old things have passed away and behold all things have become new and all things are of God..." 2 Cor. 5:17,18

My whole being utters a resounding amen to that!!!

(Editor's note: Lucy Tedrick is pastor at Marion Church of God. Her column appears weekly in The Press.)

The Crittenden Press
USPS 138-260
125 E. Bellville St. • P.O. Box 191
Marion, KY 42064-0191 • 270.965.3191
Open weekdays from 8 a.m., to 5 p.m.
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Published every Thursday. Periodicals class postage paid in Marion, KY 42064. SUBSCRIPTION rates in Crittenden, Livingston, Lyon, Caldwell, Webster and Union counties are \$30 per year; elsewhere in Kentucky are \$35 (includes \$12.50 postage fee); and out-of-state subscriptions are \$45. Address all mail, including subscription requests, changes of address, Form 3579 and letters, to P.O. Box 191, Marion, KY 42064. The management of this newspaper reserves the right to reject any advertisement at its sole discretion.

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Sun.-Wed. 7

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Week in Review **2008 Kentucky General Assembly**

General Assembly watch '08

Votes on alcohol, legislators finalized

While voters in 24 states headed to the polls Tuesday to select a presidential nominee, some Kentucky voters had their own elections to decide.

In Dawson Springs, the birthplace of Gov. Steve Beshear, a citywide alcohol referendum passed 454-390. For the first time in 55 years, this community of about 2,900 will permit the sale of alcohol.

Elsewhere in Kentucky, three unfilled seats in the General Assembly were filled. In neighboring House District 6, Democrat Will R. Coursey, a Marshall County banker, defeated Lyon County attorney Marvin Lee Wilson for the right to represent Lyon, Marshall and McCracken counties in Frankfort. Coursey will fill a seat left vacant by Democrat J.R. Gray, who resigned to become Labor Department commissioner.

In another House race, former Attorney General Greg Stumbo, a Democrat who left office last month, defeated the GOP's Larry D. Brown for an open District 95 seat.

Across the state, Republican Brandon Smith outpaced Democrat Scott Alexander for control of the 30th Senate District seat that opened when Daniel Mongiardo became lieutenant governor. Smith is an opponent of Beshear's proposed casino amendment.

After the elections, Republicans picked up a seat in the senate and now control that chamber 22-15 with one independent, but Democrats picked up two seats in the House to outnumber the GOP 63-37.

1st 3rd of session produces no laws

As of press time Wednesday, 21 days into the 2008 regular session of the Kentucky General Assembly, no bills have passed both the House and the Senate.

Senate approves military aid bills

Several measures related to the military were approved in the Senate Monday, including a bill aimed at offering tax relief to those serving in the armed forces.

Senate Bill 85, sponsored by Sen. Elizabeth Tort (R-Radcliff), would create a \$17 million tax rebate fund. The money would then be used for full rebates on taxes paid on military income, including active duty military members, reservists, and National Guard troops.

"Kentucky is one of only five states that do not offer relief for our military," Tort said.

Sen. Joey Pendleton (D-Hopkinsville) noted that many soldiers at Fort Campbell, in his district, claim citizenship in other states to save money. With 5,000 troops moving to the military base as a result of realignment, "I'll say to the troops, 'We want you to live in Kentucky because we appreciate what you do.'"

Senators also approved SB 68, which would allow Kentucky to join an interstate compact to make interstate school transitions easier on children of military service members, as well as Senate Joint Resolution 5, which would designate roads passing Fort Knox and Fort Campbell as "The Purple Heart Trail."

All three pieces of legislation now move to the House for its consideration, but House budget committee chair Harry Moberly (D-Richmond) does not expect SB 85 to pass because of the current budget crisis.

Sen. Dorsey Ridley (D-Henderson) voted for all three measures.

Measure aims to boost votes at polls

Legislation aimed at increasing voter turnout in Kentucky by allowing early voting across the state and giving non-violent felons a chance to have their voting rights restored was passed Tuesday by a House committee.

If passed into law, House Bill 138 would allow registered voters to vote at least 12 days before an election without offering an excuse as to why they cannot vote on election day, as is currently required for absentee voting. HB 70 would put a constitutional amendment on the next statewide general election ballot allowing voters to decide whether to restore voting rights for non-violent felons.

The bills, which passed the House Elections, Constitutional Amendments and Intergovernmental Affairs Committee, now go to the full House for its consideration.

Today there are over 186,300 convicted felons in Kentucky who are banned from voting under the state constitution, according to committee testimony.

Those supporting HB 138 said it would bring Kentucky in line with at least 35 other states that allow early voting, including five surrounding states. One of those supporters is Kentucky Secretary of State Trey Grayson, who explained that early voting helps accommodate voters who may work far from where they live.

Prison population a budget-breaker

In his state budget address this week, Gov. Steve Beshear delivered a stark, but not surprising message. The Commonwealth of Kentucky has \$580 million less for the next fiscal year than anticipated, which means making painful decisions as we draft a budget for the next two years. The governor's plan largely spares K-12 education and preserves spending on Medicaid and prisons. Agencies and programs across state government face serious belt-tightening.

The governor's proposal is only the beginning of the process. Currently, the House is working on the budget, and once it gets approval there, it will move to the Senate. The final step will be approval by the House and Senate Conference Committee. But even with the budget in the House, the Senate has already started its work, and through legislation, is looking at ways to improve the financial stress.

Prison spending is one of



Sen. Dorsey Ridley
Senate Review
dorsey.ridley@lrc.ky.gov

the fastest-growing segments of our budget. In 1970, Kentucky had 2,838 prisoners. Just last week, the state's inmate population was 22,442 and, by the end of the biennium, that number is expected to top 23,000. Kentucky's correction budget has swelled to nearly \$398 million in general funds. The governor plans to appoint a criminal justice task force to undertake a comprehensive review of Kentucky's penal code, sentencing guidelines and related issues.

There is no doubt that the prison population has exploded in recent years, and the clear reason is drugs. More than 80 percent of all state

prisoners are behind bars because of drugs and drug-related offenses. The Senate, for the third straight year, approved legislation to help felony drug offenders break the cycle of addiction.

Under our current system, a drug addict can be arrested on a non-violent felony charge, then get out on bail. Still hooked on drugs, he commits another felony to feed his addiction. Now he is looking at a much longer sentence as a repeat offender, and we have done nothing to help him get clean and become a productive member of society.

Senate Bill 72 would fundamentally change how we deal with drug offenders. Under the proposed legislation, we would provide drug addicts with treatment when it should do the most good — before they go to jail. All Class C and D felony offenders would be screened for addiction before their arraignment, and judges could make pre-trial drug treatment a condi-

tion of bail. If offenders stick with the outpatient program and stay clean, the offenders can stay out of prison and have their felony dismissed.

Of course, some addicts need more intensive treatment than others. For those who can't succeed in an outpatient program, Senate Bill 72 creates a 200-bed program in a prison-like setting. Volunteers would receive an even more rigorous treatment, along with skills training, to help provide them with a fresh start. While the outpatient treatment program would last two or three weeks, the inpatient program would last for three months minimum, and up to a year in some cases.

Long-term monitoring will be provided because follow-up is essential if either of these programs is to succeed. Research shows that the average addict who gets treatment has an 80 percent chance of relapsing, but if he can stay clean for 18 months, he has an 80 percent chance

of never taking drugs again. The odds are in our favor if we can keep drug abusers on the straight and narrow path for those 18 months.

The governor's budget proposal continues the current level of funding for the regional drug courts (\$1.8 million per year) in coal producing counties to help fight the problem of drug abuse in rural areas. This will allow the continuation of the highly successful drug courts within the fourth senatorial district.

We have just finished the first quarter of this session and there are still many issues to deal with in the coming weeks. I hope you will stay in touch by calling our Legislative Message Line at 1-800-372-7181 or e-mailing me at dorsey.ridley@lrc.ky.gov.

(Editor's note: Sen. Ridley represents Crittenden, Livingston, Henderson, Webster, Union and Caldwell counties. His column will appear throughout the 2008 regular session.)

State facing \$580 million revenue gap

Facing a sluggish state and national economy and looking at daunting revenue shortfalls, Gov. Steve Beshear last Tuesday offered lawmakers an \$18.6 billion state spending plan for the next two years that would require most areas of state government to cut spending, while preserving base funding for public schools and increasing spending in a few key areas like Medicaid and building construction at state universities.

The governor explained in his budget address to lawmakers that there really is no new money for state agencies over the next two years since the state is facing a \$580 million revenue gap next fiscal year and a \$306 million gap in fiscal 2010. Meeting prior commitments like K-12 education, Medicaid and a few "critical needs" the governor mentioned — including funding for the Bucks for Brains university research trust fund and more prison beds to provide housing for medium security inmates — will require what he called "greater management efficiency and cost containment."

The largest amount of new funding — over \$500 million — in the governor's budget proposal would go to Medicaid to maintain services for the over 722,000 low-income Kentuckians who receive this medical assistance from the state.

To protect our public schools, the governor recommended that SEEK (Support Education Excellence in Kentucky) funding be maintained at its current level of \$3,822 per pupil over the next



Rep. Mike Cherry
House Review
mike.cherry@lrc.ky.gov

two years. Most school districts — and we who represent them — would prefer that SEEK funding be increased over the next biennium to cover the growing needs of public education, although most of us recognize that those needs will have to be balanced with the necessity to fund other government services. We will explore all possible options in the House budget committee in coming weeks as we draft a budget bill based in part on the governor's recommendations.

Unlike K-12 education, Kentucky's public colleges and universities have not been spared spending cuts to get the state budget in balance.

Recognizing this, the governor has suggested that lawmakers make a long-term investment in postsecondary education over the next two years by approving \$113.7 million in state-supported bonds and \$519.5 million in agency bonds for construction projects at the schools, including university construction projects vetoed by Gov. Ernie Fletcher in 2006. Included in this bonding authority are Murray State University funds for continuing construction on a new science complex and replacement of Franklin Hall

Dormitory. Madisonville Community College would get funds for an energy and advanced technology center.

The governor said he intends to protect the state's tobacco settlement money set aside for agriculture and coal severance funds collected on mined coal and returned to coal counties. He did recommend, however, that the state use some coal severance money to fund mine-safety legislation enacted in the last two sessions and to fund \$50 million in bonds to meet water and sewer infrastructure needs in coal counties.

He also addressed state employee's salaries by calling for a two percent raise in each of the next two years.

I suspect some careful readers are now thinking, "What about water and sewer infrastructure needs in non-coal counties like Caldwell and Crittenden?" And, "What about raises for public school teachers and classified employees?" Good questions, as the governor provides for neither in his budget, thereby leaving it up to the legislature to find the means to do so.

This sets up a classical political/budgetary "rock and hard place" situation. The pressure and appropriateness of doing the above is great, but the ability to find additional funds through increasing already disastrous across-the-boards budget cuts is simply untenable. The solution is to find new revenue and the most apparent way to

do that would be to increase the cigarette tax. A \$0.25 a pack increase (although some are clamoring for more) seems to be where we are headed, which would still keep Kentucky well below the national average and competitively below surrounding states. Such an increase would bring in a little more

The governor's budget provides no money for teacher raises or water and sewer infrastructure projects in Crittenden County, leaving it up to the legislature to find a means to fund these.

— Rep. Mike Cherry

than \$100 million annually and be sufficient to fund school employees with a two percent raise and bond \$50 million in non-coal counties' infrastructure.

These and other budget issues will be the focus of much attention over the next two months. Meanwhile, legislation has been steadily passing the House chamber.

Among the high-profile bills passing the full House last week were three of which I'm the primary sponsor. They are: House Bill 139, which allows for 16-year olds, with parental consent, to donate blood; House Bill 91, which outlines school anti-bullying policies and procedures; and House Bill 250, which overhauls and strengthens executive branch ethics and was the first of the "governor's" bills to come out of either chamber. All three bills

passed unanimously and they now await Senate attention.

While Senate action is difficult to predict, I expect HB 139 to pass with little difficulty. HB 250 may get through the Senate, but with some substantial changes to be ironed out in conference committee. Once again, I'm not optimistic about HB 91, but

perhaps the third time will be charm for the bullying bill and prospects may be somewhat better this year.

Two other bills of interest which passed the House last week are HB 18, which would eliminate so-called "run-off" primary elections in gubernatorial races; and HB 12, which would allow students who serve in the military to extend their KEESS college assistance eligibility.

You can stay informed of legislative action on bills of interest to you by logging onto the Legislative Research Commission Web site at www.lrc.ky.gov or by calling the LRC toll-free Bill State Line at 866-840-2835. To find out when a committee meeting is scheduled, you can call the LRC toll-free Meeting Information Line at 800-633-9650. To leave a message for me, call 800-372-7181 or e-mail me at mike.cherry@lrc.ky.gov.

(Editor's note: Rep. Cherry represents Crittenden, Livingston, Caldwell and a portion of McCracken County. His column will appear throughout the 2008 regular session.)

The Press Community Calendar

Today

■ The CCMS Site-Based Meeting will be held at 3:30 p.m., today (Thursday) in the school's library.

Friday

■ "The Children's Sleeping Beauty," an adaptation of the classic ballet, will be performed 7 p.m., Friday by children of the Children's Center for Dance Education and local dancers at the Glemma Mahr Center for Arts on the campus of Madisonville Community College. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$6 for children 12 and under. Call 821-ARTS for tickets or information.

Saturday

■ The Crittenden County Genealogy Society will meet at 10 a.m., Saturday in the meeting room at the Library. The program will be about Kentucky in the War of 1812, presented by Fay Carol Crider.

■ Cumberland River Homes is hosting a soup and chili supper at 6 p.m., Saturday at the old Lions Club Building on Farris Street in Salem to help raise money for their storm shelter. Come and enjoy an evening of soup (several varieties) chili (several varieties) corn bread, crackers and all kinds of deserts and drinks. The meal will be \$6 for adults and \$3 for children under twelve. All carry-out meals will be \$6. Come and see our newly remodeled building and help us out with our storm shelter fund. Thanks from all the folks at CRH.

Monday

■ The Salem Garden Club will meet at 6:30 p.m., Monday in the voting room at Salem's Christian Life Center.

Tuesday

■ A Heritage Day planning meeting will be held at 6 p.m., Tuesday at the Marion Tourism Office. The meeting is open to the public for suggestions and volunteers. Call the Chamber of Commerce at 965-5015, 704-2712 or 704-1958 for more information.

■ The friends of the Crittenden County Public Library will meet at 5 p.m. on Tuesday. Bring your favorite snacks and appetizers for a Valentine's Day finger food meal.

■ If you served in the military you may be eligible for VA benefits. Renita Duff, a Regional Benefits Field Representative with the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs, will be in Marion on Tuesday from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. at the Crittenden County Public Library. She can answer your questions and offer assistance in filing for VA benefits. This is a free service provided by the state of Kentucky. For more information call Renita Duff at 1-877-662-0008.

■ There will be a Woodmen of the World meeting Tuesday at 6 p.m. at the Woodmen office on South Main St. in Marion. All members are invited. Wear red and bring red food.

■ Nancy Hunt, Crittenden County Extension Agent for Home Economics, will be conducting a class at the Crittenden

County Even Start Center at 1 to 2:30 p.m., Tuesday. The lesson will be "Stress Management." The public is invited to attend. The Crittenden County Even Start Center is located across the parking lot from the Crittenden County Elementary School. For more information call the center at 965-9760.

Next Thursday

■ There will be a National Weather Service Weather Spotters Class (Basic and Advanced combined) from 6 to 9:30 p.m., next Thursday at the Ed-Tech Center. There is no cost to attend and training credit will be given. The class is sponsored by the Crittenden County Rescue Squad.

■ Valentine's Day brings the Van-Dells to the Glemma Mahr Center for Arts on the campus of Madisonville Community College for an evening of 1950s and 60 rock and roll. Tickets are \$20 for the main floor and \$15 for the balcony. The performance begins at 7:30 p.m., Feb. 14. Call 821-ARTS for tickets or information.

Upcoming

■ Teen Court in Crittenden County was cancelled Monday, but will be held from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., March 3.

■ The National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE) Local Chapter 1373 will meet at 11:15 a.m. on Feb. 20 at the Marion Cafe. We wish to invite all current and retired Federal employees to join us at our monthly meetings. The discussion will be about the 2008 NARFE National

Board of Ed asking for input on issues

Crittenden County Board of Education is inviting the community to share with it suggestions that may be used to better assist the economic and educational well-being of the community. In a letter to local leaders, Superintendent John Belt invited the community to one of two meetings at the Ed Tech Center Tuesday. A noon and 6 p.m., meeting will be held to accommodate all schedules.

If you plan to attend, RSVP is requested by Friday by calling the board office at 965-3525.

Convention which will be held at the Galt House in Louisville next September. The theme will be a Kentucky Derby Theme, "Going the Distance for Your Future." For more information visit the Kentucky NARFE Web site at <http://laurelrose.com/KYNARFE/> or contact Tom Diaz at 965-2621.

■ This year's 4-H aluminum can drive will be held from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Feb. 16 at the Lions Club building and fairgrounds. Anyone who would like to donate cans may drop them off during that time. Please let us know which 4-H club you would like to donate the cans to or you can make a general donation to the 4-H council. For more information call the Extension Office at 965-5236.

■ The Rocket 4-H club will host a Group Yard Sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Feb. 16 at the

Marion Armory. There will be furniture, bedspreads, home decoration items and much more.

■ Crittenden County Homemakers International Program will be Feb. 15 at the Ed-Tech Center starting at noon. Lunch will be provided followed by a program on Finland presented by T.J. Papineau, who lived with a family in Finland on a 4-H trip. This program is open to the public.

■ The Class of 1968 will be having a planning meeting for its 40th class reunion at 10 a.m., Feb. 16 at Thom's Sweet Shop (please use the Marion Cafe entrance). We need any class member who would like to help. For additional information call Sheila (Brantley) Truitt at 965-2490. In case of inclement weather, we will reschedule.

■ If you've not planned your valentine get-away, Kentucky State Parks have a variety of options still available for lovers. At Kentucky Dam Village State Resort Park in Gilbertsville, a valentine couples get-away package includes lodging for Saturday night, dinner and theater and breakfast. The murder mystery "Reality Bites Back" at Market House Theater in Paducah will be part of the \$164.99 package. Call 1-800-325-0146 for reservation.

Ongoing

■ The Senior Citizens Center in Marion, located at 210 N. Walker St., is open for lunch weekdays at 11:30 a.m. The meals are \$2 for anyone over 60 and \$4 for others.

Will you be faithful in February?

Each Feb. 14, we paint our homes red with roses, boxes of chocolates, and other colorful gifts that remind our special someone of our love. Yet, the other 28 days of the month, we usually have the blues. The February blues that is. We are tired of cold weather. Our outdoor thrill seekers are tired of being shut in. Our students are not yet excited about graduation, the prom, and the end of the year. However, the new has worn off of a new semester and getting up each day seems to be a cruel, painful task.

Many of us made new commitments on Jan. 1. But the excitement of a new challenge has faded and for the



most part we have failed to make the changes we had hoped for. By February 1st our diet has gotten back to normal, our exercise program has become laborious, and unfortunately our commitment to increased prayer and Bible reading has all but come to an end.

Many of us fight the February blues by deciding

to stay home on Sunday morning and seek a little more rest before we go back into another difficult work week. With winter heating bills and Christmas debt to pay back, our financial contributions to our church through tithes and offerings seem to have little priority.

Perhaps it was during a time of natural inactivity that the Apostle Paul instructed his young apprentice Timothy to be prepared in season and out of season. To Paul, there was no excuse for being unfaithful even if the weather, the calendar, and the check-book all supported just hibernating at home until spring. Because he knew

that the work of the Lord must be carried out no matter what month it is, Paul pleaded with his followers to prove faithful no matter the circumstances.

Clearly, Christians glorify God when we get all excited about Christmas, Easter, and times of revival. But, maybe, just maybe we glorify Him the most when life is the most routine, challenging, or even boring, and yet even during these times, we prove faithful.

Will you glorify God and prove faithful this February? (Editor's note: Rob Ison is pastor at Emmanuel Baptist Church in Greenwood Heights. His column appears periodically on this page.)

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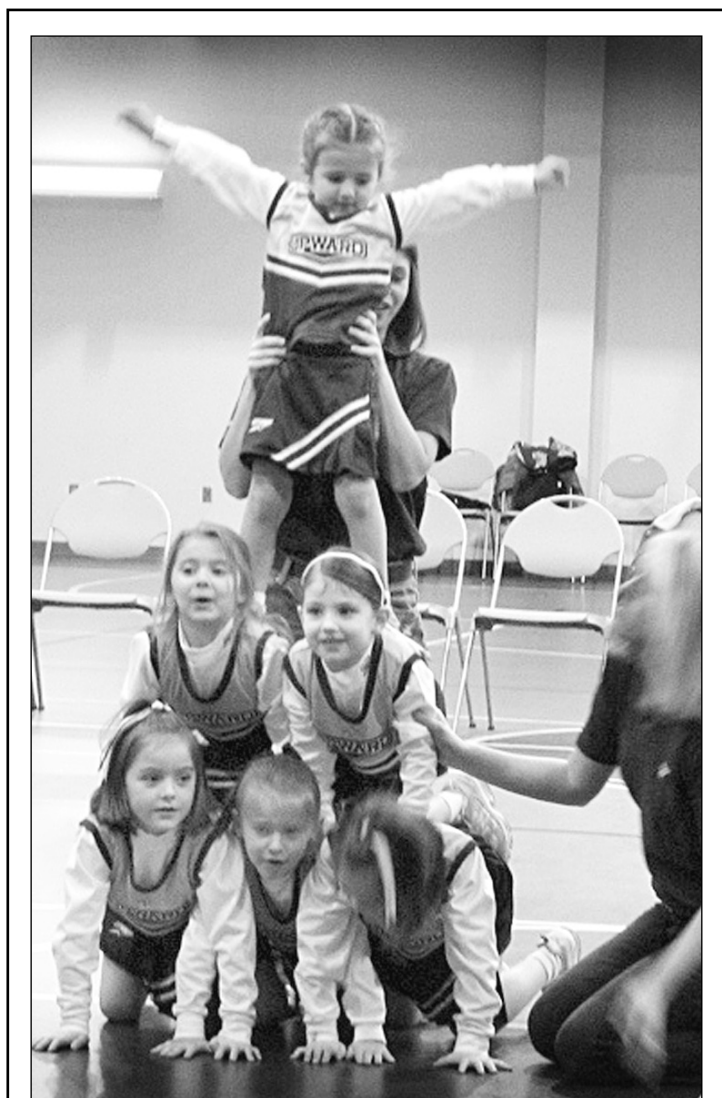


PHOTO BY CHRIS EVANS

Upward bound!

Marion Baptist Church's Upward basketball and cheerleading programs are in full swing. Teams practice and play a couple of days a week at the church's Family Life Center. The athletic events are outreach programs sponsored by the church. Pictured here are cheerleaders building a pyramid with four-year-old Isabella Holloman at the apex of the tower.

Churchnotes

■ The former Crusaders for Christ Church, now Who So Ever Will Full Gospel Church, located at 200 Church St. in Marion, is still open and holding services. Service times are Sunday at 11 a.m., and 6 p.m. Bro. Steve Hackney and congregation welcome visitors for worship and fellowship

■ ACCESS Christian Singles will have their regular "Second Saturday" Fellowship at 7 p.m., Saturday at the Christian Outreach Center at First Baptist Church of Paducah with a Game Night. Singles are asked to bring some type of snack or two liter drink, along with your favorite table games. ACCESS is an inter-denominational Christian singles group serving west Kentucky and southern Illinois. The only requirement to join is to show up for the group's events. For more information, visit wkaccess.aboutpaducah.com or call 559-4788 or 556-0175.

In Loving Memory of
ROBERT CLARENCE BRANNAM
July 15, 1937 - January 23, 2008

Robert Clarence Brannam, who was the son of the late James Ernest and Mary Ettia Murray Brannam and a brother to the late Meddie Jean Roberts, will be greatly missed by his brother James W. and wife Jean Brannam of Hemitt, Ca.; sister Dorothy V. Binkley of Marion; Aunt Zelona Brannam Belt of Marion; five nephews, Mitch Brannam of Hemitt, Ca., Keith and wife Andrea Brannam of Santa Margarita, Ca., Glenn and wife Jane Binkley of Sullivan, James "Skipper" and wife Tammy Roberts, and Robert "Rocky" and wife Amy Roberts of Marion; three nieces, Virginia Binkley Hagan, Gloria Binkley Tidwell of Marion and Anetta and husband Rick Kentfield Nelson of Frances.

THE BASEMENT

The Hottest New Hangout For Teens!

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For Teens Grade 6 - 12

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Starting February 8 • 7 - 11 p.m.
(Feb. 8, Feb. 22, March 7, March 21, April 4, April 18)
(Unless Otherwise Advertised)

No Cover Charge / Free Entry
Come & Hang Out, Play Games, Have Some Snacks & Just Chill
POOL • AIR HOCKEY • FOOSBALL • KAROKE • PS2 • Wii
Food & Drinks Available For Purchase
(To Help Offset Expenses)

Worship with us

Join one of these area churches for fellowship and spiritual growth

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

— Matthew 18:20

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BRO. WAYNE WINTERS, PASTOR

Sunday school, 10 a.m. • Worship, 11 a.m.
Sunday and Wednesday evening services, 6:30 p.m.

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Contemporary in Worship

2925 U.S. 641, Marion • Harold Patrick, Pastor
Sunday Services 10:30 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

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Bro. Rob Ison, Pastor
Captured by a vision...

108 Hillcrest Dr., Marion, Ky. • 965-4623
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Morning Worship 10:45 a.m. • Sunday Evening 6 p.m.
Wednesday 7 p.m. Adult Bible Study • Children and Youth Activities

Marion Baptist Church
College and Depot, Marion • 965-5232

• Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
• Sunday worship: 10:45 a.m., 6:30 p.m.
• Wednesday: 6:30 p.m.
• Mission Possible (Grades 1-12):
Wednesdays 3:10 p.m.

Pastor Mike Jones

St. William Catholic Church

Sunday Mass 11 a.m.
860 S. Main St.
Marion, Ky.
965-2477

Father Larry McBride

Marion Church of God
334 Fords Ferry Road • Marion, Kentucky

Sunday School 10 a.m. • Morning Service 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6 p.m. • Wednesday Evening 6 p.m.
"Where salvation makes you a member."
Lucy Tedrick, pastor

Mexico Baptist Church
175 Mexico Road, (270) 965-4059

Sunday Bible Study 10 a.m. • Sunday Worship Service 11 a.m.
Sunday Discipleship Training 6 p.m. • Sunday Evening Service 7 p.m. • Wednesday Service 7 p.m.

Pastor Tim Burdon
Minister of Music Mike Crabtree
Visit us at www.mexicobaptist.org

FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
224 W. Bellville • Marion, Ky.

Sunday School 9:45 a.m. • Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.
Sunday Night Worship 7 p.m.
Mickey Alexander, Choir Director

Sugar Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church
585 Sugar Grove Church Road • Marion, Ky.

Sunday School 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
Gary Carlton, Pastor • www.sugargrovecp.org

Second Baptist Church
730 E. Depot St., Marion

Sunday Bible study and coffee 10 a.m.
Sunday morning worship 11 a.m. • Sunday night study 6 p.m.
G-Force children fellowship Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
Thursday Bible study and prayer 7 p.m.

Bro. Danny Starrick, Pastor • Bro. Chris O'Leary, worship leader

Unity General Baptist Church
4691 U.S. 641 Crayne, Kentucky

Sunday School 10 a.m. • Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6 p.m. • Wednesday Night Service 7 p.m.

Pastor, Buddy Hix • 365-5836

Marion United Methodist Church
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The People of The United Methodist Church

College Street • Marion, Kentucky
Sunday School 9:30 a.m. • Worship 10:45 a.m., 7 p.m.
Wednesday Night Bible Study, 6 p.m.
www.the-press.com/MARIONUnitedMethodist.html
Pastor Wayne Garvey

Deer Creek Baptist Church
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Sunday worship: 11 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wednesday services: for all ages 7 p.m.
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State Route 506 - Marion, Kentucky

Sunday School 10 a.m. - Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday Night Bible Study 6 p.m.
Pastor Cortis Hill
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Sunday School 10 a.m. • Worship 11 a.m.
Casual apparel | Greg West, pastor

Marion General Baptist Church
WEST BELLVILLE STREET • MARION, KY

Sunday School 10 a.m. • Sunday Worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m. • Tony Perryman, Pastor

Pleasant Grove General Baptist Church
State Route 723, 4 miles north of Salem

Sunday School 10 a.m. • Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6 p.m. • Wednesday Bible Study 7 p.m.
Herbert Alexander, Pastor

MARION CHURCH OF CHRIST
546 WEST ELM STREET • MARION, KY
965-9450

Bible Study 9:30 a.m. • Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m., 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study 6:30 p.m.
— The End Of Your Search For A Friendly Church —
Minister Andy Walker

Barnett Chapel General Baptist Church
Barnett Chapel Road
Crittenden County, Ky.

• Sunday school: 9:45 a.m.
• Sunday worship: 11 a.m.
• Sunday evening: 6 p.m.
• Wednesday night Bible study: 6 p.m.

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720 S. Main St. • Marion | Bro. Gary Murray, pastor

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. — Philippians 4:13

WEDNESDAY: Bible Study 5:45 p.m. • Prayer Service 7 p.m.
SUNDAY: Sunday School 10 a.m. • Morning Worship 11 a.m. • Evening 7 p.m.

Tolu United Methodist Church
Bro. Steve Tinsley, Pastor
We invite you to be our guest

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.
The People of The United Methodist Church
Sunday School 10 am • Service 11 am • Bible Study 6 pm

The Press Community Spotlight



News and notes on the people you know from Marion and surrounding communities

Community Spotlight

City recognizes Foster for five years of service

George Foster, a Marion Police officer, was recognized in January for his five years of service to the City of Marion. Foster began his employment with the city as a code enforcement officer before transferring to the police department.



Foster

Local 4-H agent Baker earns new certification

Bonnie Baker, Crittenden County Extension Agent for 4-H, has recently earned certification in Search Management from the Kentucky Division of Emergency Management. Baker has previously earned certifications in Basic Search and Rescue and the National Incident Management System which can be utilized in the 4-H Camping Program and other outdoor activities.



Baker

Farmers Bank board boasts five promotions

The Board of Directors of Farmers Bank and Trust Company, which has offices in

Marion and Salem, recently announced five personnel promotions. Joyce Travis was named assistant cashier and card services supervisor; Sandra Stephens was named assistant vice president and will continue as assistant compliance officer and executive secretary; Barrett Belt was named assistant vice president and will continue as loan review officer; Wade Berry was named vice president and will continue as senior loan officer; and Chris Cook was named vice president and will continue as compliance and marketing officer.

City code board keeps Harrison, Newcom

Mandi Harrison and Perry Newcom were reappointed recently to the City of Marion's Code Enforcement Board. Harrison, who works as an office deputy at the Crittenden County Sheriff's Department, and Newcom, owner and operator of Crittenden Farm Supply, rejoin Vicky Berry and Larry Hurst on the board. One position remains open after Dick Roach's resignation from the board.



Harrison



Newcom



PHOTO BY DARYL K. TABOR

Ed Runyan (seated) was honored last week by the Fohs Hall Inc., Board of Directors for his 26-plus years of service to the organization charged with upkeep of the historic building. Runyan is a charter member of the board, which originated in 1981 for perpetual preservation of the landmark building donated to the community by Julius Fohs in 1926. Runyan resigned his post prior to moving to Colorado with his wife Dell last week. Other members of the board are (from left) Mike Vaughn, Thom Hawthorne Sr., Nicky Porter, James Carter, Ethel Tucker, President Alan Stout, associate director Judy Winn, Malcolm Hunt, Linda Schumann and Bob Briley.

Fohs Hall Inc., names '08 directors, officers

On Monday, Fohs Hall Inc., set its slate of directors and officers for 2008. Ethel Tucker, Diatra Beavers, Nicky Porter and Malcolm Hunt all agreed to renew their three year terms while Marie Burkhart and Daryl Tabor will fill the unexpired terms of Allison Evans and Ed

Runyan, respectively. Officers for the board charged with upkeep of the 82-year-old building remain unchanged with Alan C. Stout as president, Linda Schumann as vice president, Beavers as treasurer and Mike Vaughn as secretary. The board meets the second Monday of each month at 4:30 p.m., at Fohs Hall. The next meeting is in March.

Gilbert Funeral Home launches Web site

Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion has launched a new website where viewers will find obituary information, including visitation and funeral times, and much more. The site is at www.gilbertfunerals.com and can be accessed directly from The Press Online's obituary

page. At GilbertFunerals.com, viewers will find a variety of helpful links including information on pre-need arrangements, contact numbers and email addresses, and interesting background information about the funeral home.

Library board installs new slate of officers

The Crittenden County Public Library Board of Directors last month installed a new slate of officers. Angel McDonald was elected president and Daryl Tabor vice president. George Sutton and Jeanette Phillips retained their offices of treasurer and secretary, respectively.

Local extension agent named state president

Nancy Hunt, Crittenden County Family and Consumer Sciences Extension Agent, was installed in December as state president of the Kentucky Extension Association of Family and Consumer Sciences at its annual meeting in Lexington. The association is comprised of more than 130 Extension agents employed by the University of Kentucky. Hunt has been employed in the Crittenden County office for 28 years.

Native promoted to state police major

Kentucky State Police Capt. Steve Wright, a native of Marion, on Tuesday was promoted to major and will serve as Forensic Laboratory Troop Commander. His responsibilities will include operational supervision of forensic laboratories in Frankfort, Louisville, Madisonville, Cold Springs, Ashland and London. A 21-year KSP veteran, Wright is a resident of Frankfort.



PHOTO BY DARYL K. TABOR

Native American presentation

Anthony "Red Feather" Nava (left) plays a tom-tom Jan. 29 at Crittenden County Public Library while Flying Red Wind of Marion plays one of Nava's flutes. Nava, a member of Pascua Yaqui Nation of Arizona who lives in the Louisville area, presented to those gathered the background of the Native American culture and its struggles to keep alive traditions today. Besides dispelling many myths about the culture, Nava played hauntingly beautiful songs on several of his flutes and performed numerous songs from different Indian nations. Flying Red Wind, who has lived in Marion four years, was invited to perform with Nava, who travels around the state and country sharing his knowledge. His Web site is anthonyredfeather.nava.org.

Local Briefs

News from the region and state from AP and staff reports

City cracks down on water thefts

Marion City Administrator Mark Bryant on Tuesday issued a warning to water thieves: "If we catch you, we will prosecute."

Bryant said that several recent cases of blatant theft of services in the Marion Water System prompted him to speak out on the subject.

"I have turned two cases over to Chief (Ray) O'Neal and the Marion Police Department in just the past two weeks," he said. "In each case, the theft amounted to over \$1,000 worth of water and sewer service."

Bryant said that the city is taking additional measures to cut down on the ability of would-be thieves to steal water from the system, such as periodic audits of shut-off meters. He added, however, that no matter what preventive measures were taken by the city, "people with a strong desire to cheat the system will find a way to do so, if only for a limited period."

The city's code of ordinances

requires authorized water system personnel to turn on water service. Bryant warned that anyone else doing so was breaking the law.

Since other customers of the water system collectively finance any water used by thieves or non-paying customers, the city will initially offer those caught stealing the option of paying for the water before charges are actually filed.

"We really just want to recoup the money owed to the system," Bryant said. "That keeps the 99.5 percent of honest, hard-working water customers from having to absorb what the crooks have cost them."

Grand jury indicts one on Monday

The Crittenden County Grand Jury convened Monday and heard two cases. Of those, the grand jury indicted one and continued the other case.

Indicted was Joshua L. Jones, 19, of Arleen Street in Marion on one count of second-

degree escape, a Class D felony. Jones was charged with not reporting to the Crittenden County Jail as required in regard to another charge against him.

Later Monday, Jones agreed to a plea deal and at his arraignment in Crittenden Circuit Court pleaded guilty to a lesser charge of fleeing or evading, a Class A misdemeanor. He was put on 12 months probation.

The grand jury will next convene April 7.

Ice a factor in 641 Fredonia accident

Ice was apparently a factor in a Fredonia-area wreck last Thursday morning that required the driver be removed with the Jaws of Life.

According to The Times Leader newspaper in Princeton, Patsy Gray, 50, of Benton was headed north on U.S. 641 when her passenger car apparently hit an icy spot and slid off the roadway, breaking through a fence and slamming into a utility pole. The wreck occurred near the rock quarry.

CRITTENDEN COUNTY HOMES

MARION HISTORIC HOME...located on corner lot 3 blocks from center of town. This 3 BR 2 Bath home has early 1900's period architecture inside and out, high ceilings, gorgeous dining room with Butler's pantry. Large living room with hardwood floors and original double pocket doors leading to the dining room/kitchen area. Home also has outside entry for upstairs for anyone looking for rental income. Upstairs has separate kitchen and bath with 2 bedrooms. Two car garage with side street entry, large corner lot with trees and plenty of areas for your favorite flower gardens. Enjoy your morning coffee or evening tea in the sun room. Home also could be converted to professional office/specialty shop. Call today to set up a showing.

SALE PENDING GREAT VIEWS...of the Fredonia Valley from this 3 Bedroom, 2 Bath home located on Lilly Dale Rd. Sit on the large front porch and enjoy scenic views, or work in the flower garden situated around a stone patio. Quiet and peaceful, this home has large open floor plan so you can enjoy the kitchen and den with fireplace. Large two car garage with work area, yard is landscaped and has large oaks to keep you in the shade, all on 2.2 acres of land. Over 2100 sq. ft. of living area for only \$65,000, call and set an appointment today.

WALK TO TOWN...from this immaculate brick home featuring 2 bedroom, 2 bath, foyer, formal living room, separate dining room, family room, eat-in kitchen with appliances. This attractive home has attached double car garage and 34' x 36' shop building with loft situated on large deep lot.

SOLD LIVING IN THE COUNTY AT ITS BEST...this 3 BR, 2 BA split level has been completely remodeled and maintained top to bottom. Modern kitchen appliances, lovely den with large stone fireplace, master BR has large closets and separate bath, central HVAC, county water and well. Home is on 3 plus acres with small pond and stable overlooking beautiful fields and woods. Walk out your back door and enjoy the water garden or sit on the deck and enjoy the pool. Home is ready for you to move right in. List price \$144,900.

SOLD WANT THE CONVENIENCE...of town living without paying city taxes, this 2 bedroom, 1.5 bath brick home is located less than half mile from city limits on Hwy 120. Home has partial finished basement, detached 2 car garage, very nice 16 x 30 metal shop building, a barn all on approx 2.5 acres. Basement with bath/shower and would be very easy to use one of the rooms downstairs as extra bedroom if needed. Call us to set up a showing, \$105,000.

COUNTRY LIVING...3 bedroom, 2 bath mobile home situated on approx. 2 acres in Crittenden County. Also features stove, refrigerator, dishwasher, 24' x 30' garage with concrete floor and work benches. Plenty of room to have a garden or let the kids run. Call today for more info.

STARTING OUT OR SLOWING DOWN...this is right for you. Nice 2 bedroom mobile home w/deck, porch and portable 10' x 16' storage building. Must be moved. Reduced \$15,500.

FIXER UPPER...investors take a look at this 3 bedroom, 1 bath house located in Marion. Priced at \$14,500.

533 E. DEPOT ST...commercial building. Was being used as a doctor's office. Features large multi purpose room, offices, 2 baths, and a lot of parking space. Also has apartment with 3 bedrooms, 1.5 baths. Many possibilities. PRICE REDUCED.

GOLFER'S FANTASY...Enter down the private drive to this landscaped estate that joins Marion's County Club Golf Course. This magnificent two story home includes 4 to 6 bedrooms, open grand staircase, 2 master suites, 4 bathrooms, kitchen w/appliances, 2 laundries, study, great room with gas log fireplace, recreation room plus bonus kitchen, enclosed glass solarium & private deck overlooking the beautiful greens. In addition this lovely home has a large walk-out heated basement, an attached oversized double car garage plus many additional amenities. Fulfill your dreams by calling for an appointment today.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY

SALE PENDING ATTRACTIVE BRICK RANCH...with attached garage. Has 3 bedrooms, one and half baths, central heat & air. Kitchen w/appliances including washer & dryer. Located on large corner lot in Salem. Price Reduced to \$74,500.

CORNER LOT...located in Salem. Features 3 bedrooms,

1 bath, stone exterior. Walking distance to bank, grocery, churches, beauty shop, etc. \$29,500.

IMMEDIATE POSSESSION...2 bedroom home located in Lola. Features living room, dining room, kitchen w/ stove, refrigerator, washer, dryer, and much more. Reduced \$29,500.

RELAX ON LARGE BALCONY...overlooking your own private stocked lake. Attractive brick features: 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, family room, kitchen w/built-in appliances; formal Living & dining room with full glass panels overlooking lake. Has 2 car attached garage plus nice double unattached garage/workshop w/heat & air plus other amenities. Located on 3 beautiful lots in Salem Heights.

CHILDREN WANTED...in this 4 bdrm., 1 1/2 story family home that enters into living rm. w/grand open staircase. The nice colonial column front porch house has vinyl exterior with replacement windows and concrete double drive with large 30' x 40' building. Situated on beautiful corner acre lot in Salem.

LOTS / SMALL TRACTS / FARMLAND

1.27 ACRE LOT...located in Marion. Many possibilities. Call today. Owner/Agent.

LAKE AREA LOT...located south of Eddy Creek Marina on Hwy 93. Perfect for mobile home or build your dream home. Utilities already on property. Call for more information.

MOBILE HOME LOTS...These lots are located at the end of the road. Utilities available and ready for your home. Buy one, two or all. Priced to sell. Call today for more information.

GREENWOOD HEIGHTS...looking at building your dream home? Here are the lots for you. Priced to sell at \$8,000. Call for more information.

SALE PENDING 27.994 ACRES...of prime deer & turkey hunting ground. Located in Crittenden County with 3-5 acres open and balance in woods.

60.5 ACRE CATTLE FARM...with portion of farm in timber with road frontage on two roads. Farm is fully fenced and cross fenced and has two ponds. Property has several areas that would make great home sites that have wonderful views of Crittenden County. Abundant deer and turkey also make this farm a great place to harvest that trophy deer or turkey. Call us for a showing. \$119,500.

AWESOME DEER AND TURKEY HUNTING...on this 75.5 Acre Crittenden County Farm. 30 acres of tillable farm land surrounded by hardwood timber and creeks. Great views from atop this farm, several areas of the farm would make a great home site or a place to put that secluded cabin. Several nice trophy deer and turkey have been taken from and around this location. Give us a call to view. \$149,500.

COMMERCIAL PROPERTIES

1800 KENTUCKY, PADUCAH KY...Midtown office location. Access to bldg. from KY Ave. or thru the alley off 18th St. Professional office bldg. w/ many rooms available. \$139,900.

1806 KENTUCKY, PADUCAH, KY...Commercial bldg. Located on corner of 19th & KY Ave. Has over 2400 SF of space that currently has 1100 SF leased to "Man's World" barber shop. Balance of bldg. approx. 1300 SF recently has been used as convenience store. Features a storage bldg. in rear w/over 950 SF. Conveniently located near hospital and DR. offices & other professional bldg. This would be a great investment opportunity. \$165,000

112 S 5th ST., PADUCAH, KY...located in heart of downtown renovation area. Building was home to "Conway's" barber shop for over 50 years and bldg. dates back over 100 years. Period architectural designs are still very visible & attractive. \$80,000.

RESTORED HISTORICAL COMMERCIAL BUILDING...located Main St. in downtown Marion. This renovated building has original ornate tin/medallion ceilings, hardwood/mosaic tile flooring, replacement windows plus central heat & air. The building has 1 and half baths, 2 stories with an open staircase leading to the balcony and second floor. Excellent for various retail businesses and downtown apartment. Come take a look and began a new business or transfer your location to this unique building. Call today for more details.

GREAT LOCATION...in Salem. Commercial building and lot. Many possibilities. Call for more information.

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS...from this 30 x 50 garage. Features (3) 10' x 12' overhead doors, office space, propane heat, exterior lighting, concrete floors, city water. Call for more details.

UPCOMING AUCTIONS

SAT. MAR. 15, 10 AM - 67.7 acres of hunting land. Deer, turkey, duck. Location: Hwy 137 in Livingston County.



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