

## MARION MAN FACES MURDER CHARGE IN LIVINGSTON CO.

A Marion man is charged with murder and first-degree burglary after he allegedly broke into a Livingston County home Saturday and killed a 56-year-old woman. Claude L. Brown, 24, was charged and lodged in the McCracken County Jail following an investigation by Kentucky State Police and the Livingston County Sheriff's Department.

According to reports, Livingston authorities responded to a disturbance at a Lola Road home. When they arrived, Karla S. Haley, 56, was found with multiple stab wounds. Brown was taken into custody at the scene and Haley was taken by EMS to Livingston Hospital where she later succumbed to her injuries.

According to state police, Brown is believed to have broken into Haley's home and stabbed her during a fight. KSP says there is no early indication that this was anything other than a random crime.

Brown, who went to school in Crittenden County, had moved away from here for a time, but had recently returned and was living on Rochester Ave., according to local authorities. Brown was to appear in Crittenden District April 14 on violations stemming from a traffic stop here in late January. He was charged with having no driver's license, expired plates and no insurance. Court records also indicate that Brown was convicted of possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia in Marion in 2015. He was given a 45-day suspended sentence, probated for two years.



Brown

## DO-OVER LEGISLATION GETS APPROVAL FROM GOVERNOR

Gov. Andy Beshear late last week signed Senate Bill 128, called the "Do Over Bill," which gives students a chance for a supplemental school year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, to help them get back on track academically.

Local school districts will have an option to accept or deny the policy. Students have until May 1 to decide if they want a "do-over" school year. The school board would then decide by June 1 if it is going to accept all requests or none. Districts will not be allowed to make the decision on an individual basis.

The new law would also give high school senior athletes a fifth year of eligibility.

## GOOD FRIDAY CLOSINGS

Crittenden County Courthouse and all of its offices will be closed on Friday in observance of Good Friday. Crittenden County Road Department, County Convenience Center and Animal Shelter will be closed Friday and Saturday. The Press will also be closed Friday.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Marion Code Enforcement Board will meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 6 at city hall.
- Marion Planning and Zoning Board will meet at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, April 15 at city hall.

## SPOTLIGHT ON LOCAL BUSINESS

# Booming Industries

### Whether by road, mine or sea, local business staying on heavy daily grind

STAFF REPORT

Marion has long been a self-supporting community – its entrepreneurs putting paychecks in local pockets and overall resourcefulness strong enough to survive when other cannot.

From nearly every local manufacturer, including Siemens, Par 4 Plastics and Vibra Finish South to tire shredding, farming enterprises, raw timber providers and finishers and river and marine industries, Marion and Crittenden County have proven quite capable of carving out a livelihood in an area unquestionably remote.

On the south side of town squeezed into a nook one block off Main Street is Riley Tool and Machine. It's founder, Todd Riley, has proven an uncanny ability to improvise, adapt and overcome during almost any climate.

As markets and demands have changed, Riley Tool and Machine has relied on



Todd Riley



This enormous pavement mixer is being completely refurbished inside Riley Tool and Machine's new building off Moore Street on Marion's south side. The building is 30x80 and 16 feet high, but this piece of equipment occupies almost the entire area. Pictured are Bud Trail and Bennie Lynch.

a vision that looks past horizon and prepares what's beyond.

The company has been around for more than 20 years. It started inside the former Southside Machine Shop and lifted off with an innovative service that allowed Riley to corner the market on sharpening tire-shredding blades. A relationship with another local

entrepreneur – Kent Martin – allowed Riley to start on solid footing in the niche industry.

Over the years, however, the heavy-duty blade business began to wane, so Riley began working on a plan to make his business more flexible. Now, it's as diverse as any company

See **GRIND**/page 4

ENVIRONMENTAL Fee Phase-In				
PHASES 1&2 OF CITY OF MARION ENVIRONMENTAL FEE ON WATER/SEWER				
	CURRENT	ORIGINAL PROPOSAL	NEW RATE JULY 1 APPROVED PLAN	NEW RATE JULY 2022
Water Usage				
Up to 1,500 gallons	\$20.60	\$41.82	\$31.21	\$41.82
1,501 to 5,000 gallons	\$27.40	\$55.62	\$41.51	\$55.62
5,001 to 15,000 gallons	\$34.50	\$62.72	\$48.61	\$62.72
15,001 to 25,000 gallons	\$102.95	\$270.12	\$186.54	\$270.12
Over 25,000 gallons	\$197.00	\$497.00	\$347.00	\$497.00
Sewer customers not in city	\$41.00	\$83.14	\$62.07	\$83.14

## Sewer project, rate hike approved by slight margin

STAFF REPORT

Betting on COVID relief funds to supplement costs of building a new sewer plant, Marion City Council approved by a narrow majority a plan to phase in higher environmental fees over the next 15 months.

The council approved a plan to split in half a proposed hike in the environmental fee tacked onto city water and sewer bills, phasing it in starting in July then bumping it up again in July of 2022. If money becomes available from the American RESCUE Act or other sources, that second hike next year could be scrapped.

The city approved the two-step increase by a 4-3 vote with Mayor Jared Byford and council members Phylis Sykes, D'Anna Browning and Dwight Sherer voting with the majority. Councilmen Darrin Tabor,

Donnie Arflack and Mike Byford voted against the plan. The council voted along the same line in approving the lowest of nine construction bids at \$13.6 million from the Walker Company. The highest bid was \$19.3 million. All bids were greater than originally anticipated. Rising materials costs, city leaders said, was largely responsible for the project over-shooting estimates by about \$2 million.

"You have never seen building materials this high," Tabor said, adding that history has shown costs will moderate again at some point.

Facing an April 12 deadline to select a contractor, council members in favor of the plan pointed out that further delays

See **SEWER**/page 4

## Stout is MSU Distinguished

STAFF REPORT

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge and Crittenden County native Alan C. Stout will be honored as a 2021 Distinguished Alumni recipient at Murray State University.

MSU will host a virtual celebration beginning at 5 p.m., Friday, April 16 to honor 2020 and 2021 Distinguished Alumni.

Stout, one of three 2021 honorees, is a graduate of Crittenden County High School and a 1978 gradu-

ate of Murray State University. He operated a private law practice in Marion and was elected five terms as Crittenden County Attorney between 1985-2021 before turning his sites to the bench. He was selected as a bankruptcy judge.

Today, Stout is chief



Stout

judge of the U.S. Bankruptcy Court in the Western District of Kentucky.

In remarks recorded last week for the virtual induction ceremony, Stout fondly recalls his time in Alpha Tau Omega fraternity and undergraduate studies at MSU, where he obtained a degree in television production.

He says he had three options upon graduation –

See **STOUT**/page 4

April fools believe it's free money

Billions... with a B.

In the mid 1980s with credit card debt of \$1,200 a cub reporter emerged from college believing it would take generations to eliminate his debt.

Fortunate indeed not to be saddled with hefty education loans – thanks to father's willingness to absorb the tuition while driving old vehicles – this scribe is eternally grateful for being on neutral financial footing – for the most part – as adult life began.

Yet, more than one thousand in debt due to mindless spending on a plastic card made too readily available for a college student on a hedonistic road to certain ruin was uncomfortable. Thank God that good sense eventually prevailed.

Eight percent on a conventional bank loan helped clear up the matter. That single-digit interest was much easier to swallow than the card's rate of more than twice that. Thirty-six months later, the monetary mountain was reduced to a plain. Thank God again for friends in the banking business. Lots of life's lessons are waged over money in early adulthood. How we navigate those uncertain times is tantamount to the ability to build some measure of equity in later life.

Please don't misunderstand, there is no shame in owing money. The ability to borrow is fundamental to our nation's economic principals. Yet leveraging oneself beyond the ability to service that debt is folly. Spending, spending, spending without regard to uncertainties of the future is plain foolish.



Chris EVANS  
Press publisher  
About Town

As we enter a second April of the COVID-19 pandemic, keen observers are quick to cry foul at the loosey goosey spending by Uncle Sam in the name of relief. Certainly, many families are struggling and need help. Government figures say the economy lost almost 10 million jobs during the COVID scaleback. After most of us get a job of vaccine, forecasters believe there will be a boom. This one will not be a jobless recovery as we saw following the previous recession. Round here jobs are already more prevalent than job seekers. Just look in our newspaper at the number of local companies needing help. Employment want ads abound.

We are going to need every job our economy can muster in order repay Uncle Sam's debt. He's reminded us lately of that uninhibited 20-something-year-old fellow cocked on a Visa and signing off on debt that might have required generational recovery.

Almost bet you that on average there is more money in individual savings accounts today than before the pandemic.

Here's your April fools... the number we're looking at does not start with a B. It's trillion... with a T. About \$2.5T to be exact. It's a figure that resembles \$1,200 in Visa debt to a young fellow earning just over minimum wage. Within 10 years, repayment will be required to begin, and the pain will be stifling for young adults struggling to afford their own financial indiscretions and those of their uncle.



# Deaths

## Foreman

Services for Anna B. Foreman were Saturday, March 27, 2021 at the Church of Christ at Hartsville Pike in Gallatin, Tenn. Doyle Farris officiated.

Foreman, 85, died Sunday, March 21 at Alive Hospice in Nashville.

She was a native of Salem, receiving her high school diploma from Abraham Lincoln High School in Paducah, and she received her certificate for Commercial Foods from West Kentucky Area Vocational School in Paducah.

Surviving are two daughters, Camae (Felix) Morrison of Louisville and Delores Foreman of Paducah; three sons, J. Eric (Sarah) Foreman of Gallatin, Victor (Georgia) Foreman of Gallatin and Stephen (Rhonda) Foreman of Paducah; several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, Harve Foreman, and mother Jettie Landers; three sisters, and four brothers.

## Shewcraft

Ann Shewcraft, 86, died Sunday, March 14, 2021 at her home in Lexington.

She is survived by her husband, Clifford Shewcraft; a son, Terry (Suzann) Shewcraft of Georgetown; a brother

Johnny (Nancy) Rushing of Harvest, Ala.; a sister, Lanna Collins of Port Ritchey, Fla.; two nephews, Fred (Kim) Williams of Belleville, Mich., and Tim Rushing of Harvest, Ala., and two nieces, LeAnne Williams, Port Ritchey, Fa., and Melinda (Addam) Arrington of Franklin, Tenn.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Grace Rushing; father, Rozzle Rushing; a grandmother, Ethel Rushing; and a brother, Jerry Rushing.

Burial was in Mexico Baptist Church Cemetery. Memorials may be made to Mexico Cemetery Association.

## Taylor

Estes Hardesty Taylor, 103, of Paducah, died Friday, March 19 at Oakview Nursing & Rehab in Calvert City.



She was born July 8, 1917 in Crittenden County, the daughter of the late Luther and Minnie Harden Hardesty.

She was a social worker and loved gardening and taking karate which she started doing in her 80s.

Surviving are a daughter, Leeta Taylor of New York, NY; and a sister, France Putnel of Fort Myers, Fla.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Francis H.

Taylor. A graveside service was held Saturday, March 27 at White's Chapel Cemetery in Irma with Gary Hardesty officiating.

## Hughes

Charles Franklin "Frankie" Hughes, 57,



of Evansville, died Monday, March 22, 2021. He was born Dec. 29, 1963 in Marion to the late Charles Warren Hughes and Sherrie H. Woodall-Stidham.

Surviving are his wife, Laura S. (Berry) Hughes; two daughters, Jennifer (Lee-Wayne) Johnson and Brittini Hughes; a son, Charles Landon Hughes; a granddaughter, Dalayah Johnson; four sisters, Lisa (Will) Casswell, Tina Duncan, Misty Garbers and Ramona Reed; nieces and nephews.

Services were Wednesday, March 31 at Alexander North Chapel in Evansville, officiated by Rev. Bill Altman with burial in Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Crittenden County.

Condolences may be offered at [www.AlexanderNorthChapel.com](http://www.AlexanderNorthChapel.com).

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# Courthouse eases restrictions

Beginning April 5, county government will take another step toward normalcy with a few changes at the Crittenden County Courthouse.

All exterior doors will be unlocked and no longer will employees monitor each person en-

tering the building.

"I do ask that people continue to practice social distancing and respect for masks," said judge-executive Perry Newcom.

The courtroom will continue to be monitored by an attendant in order to safely allow access for

all patrons of the judicial process, Newcom said.

County offices will continue to control the number of people allowed in their respective offices at a time so lines may continue to be the norm for now.

# Community Events & Meetings

•Classy and Grassy, Crittenden County's young bluegrass band, will hold a free concert Sunday, April 18. At 60 percent capacity, Fohs Hall will hold 300 people. Those who cannot attend

can watch on Facebook Live.

•There will be an Extension District Board meeting at noon, Tuesday, April 13 at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.

•Crittenden County Board of Elections will meet in special session at 3:30 p.m. Monday, April 12 in the county clerk's office.

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## GRANT SOUGHT TO DIGITIZE RECORDS

Crittenden County Clerk's Office has submitted a grant application to the Kentucky Department for Libraries and Archives requesting more than \$30,200 in funding to preserve and digitize records held in the office. The request would supplement the office's own expenditures to maintain the county's permanent documents such as deeds, wills, marriage records, minutes of local government meetings and more. "State lawmakers ap-



pear to be moving toward eventually making all county records available online," said County Clerk Daryl Tabor. "Receiving this grant would take us a giant step toward achieving that." The grant request focuses primarily on digitizing and micro-filming more than 77,500 pages of deeds and marriage records.

If approved, all of the county's marriage records would be digitized, making them available to online subscribers and for free on the public work stations inside the county clerk's deed room. Deeds for the last 100 years would also be made available digitally. The grant also requests hundreds of archival boxes to better store delicate records dating back to the county's formation in 1842. This will properly protect those documents during relocation to a new courthouse in the near future.

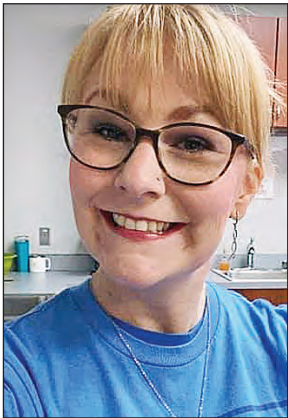


## Marion Baptist Church Family Life Center Director Leah PERKINS

Leah Perkins took over as director of the Marion Baptist Church Family Life Center not too long before the pandemic began. Her role has temporarily changed because of COVID-19, but hopefully very soon the public facility will back into full swing.

**Q:** What do you do as MBC FLC Director?  
**A:** As the FLC director, I oversee the reservations and public use of the facility.  
**Q:** How did you get involved to take this position?  
**A:** The position of Family Life Center Director came open, I applied, was given an interview and then hired.

**Q:** What kind of work do you do on a normal basis?  
**A:** As the FLC Director, I oversee the public use and reservations of our facilities. Since we've had to close to public use because of the COVID-19 pandemic, I've been helping with our church's food



pantry, which gives a family the opportunity for a box a week, this includes anything from fresh foods, frozen foods, dry goods and canned goods depending on our supply that week. This ministry has been a huge blessing to our community families and has grown since the pandemic began. I am also heavily involved in a ministry at our church called Celebrate Recovery, which is a worldwide ministry that began at Saddleback Church in California. Since I am working at the church it gives me the opportunity to serve God and our community in many, many ways.  
**Q:** What kind of activities are offered at the life center?  
**A:** The activities we offer are an indoor walking track, a full basketball court, a room with exercise equipment, we have volleyball equipment and offer reservations to both our members and the community. These reservations include a facility for birthday parties, family and school reunions and get togethers

of all kinds. We also have a full kitchen that is available to use upon reservation. There is a deposit and a fee that depends on the size and activity of the reservation.

**Q:** Why is this something you feel is important for the community?  
**A:** I feel that MBC's Family Life Center is important for our community because it is a place for all ages to gather and fellowship, whether it's friends meeting to walk a couple of miles on our walking track or shoot a couple of rounds of hoops on our court. It's a place our teens gather in their off time to play basketball and hang out together. It's a place local homeschoolers use for recreation time. Our facility has hosted numerous community activities such as a yearly community thanksgiving meal, drive through community meals, Community Christmas, local scouting meetings, Upward, Celebrate Recovery meetings, hospital virtual trainings, preschool screenings, basketball practice plus many more. It's a staple for our community and has the opportunity for so many more activities for outreach and for our church to show love to our community. I'm so blessed that I get to be apart of such a blessing to our community. I love what I do and I love that the opportunities and potential to be a bigger blessing are there just waiting to be imagined. I love our community and my church.



## 50 YEARS AGO

**April 1, 1971**  
■ Mrs. Vernon Fritts, President of the Crittenden County Homemakers Association, was appointed State Chairman for Issues and Concerns at the annual meeting of the Kentucky Extension Homemakers Association.  
■ For the second year in a row, Frances' Independent Basketball team won the Jayvee Invitational Tournament. Members of the team were Anthony Tabor, Dennis Mott, Hugh Highfil, David Winters, Kerry Crider, Bobby Winters, Dwight Brasher, Jat Tabor, Tommy Highfil and Howard Crider.

## 25 YEARS AGO

**April 4, 1996**  
■ Nancy Hunt of Marion was elected vice president for the Kentucky Association of Family and Consumer Sciences.  
■ Twelve Crittenden County students achieved superior ratings during FFA regional competition at Murray State University. The students, their divisions and ratings are as follows: Wesley Belt, dairy impromptu, superior, 1st; Carlton Binkley, nursery & landscape impromptu, superior 1st; Amanda Grau, creed speaking, superior 1st; Jennifer Taylor, greenhouse and floral impromptu, superior, 1st; Dustin Hill, turf and lawn, superior, 2nd; Jason Sutton, beef impromptu, superior, 2nd; Bobby Chandler, swine impromptu, superior; Stacie Holder, prepared public speaking, superior; Libby Maddux, horse impromptu, superior; Aymee McConnell, small animal impromptu, superior; Ryan McDaniel, extemporaneous public speaking, superior; Shaun Wesmoland, crop impromptu, superior; Keith Ethridge, sheep impromptu, excellent; Randa Poindexter, excellent; Eddie Knight, fruit and vegetable, good.  
■ The Lady Rockets held their annual awards banquet. Senior Jodi Perryman picked up four awards including senior award, top free throw percentage, top rebound percentage and 110 percent award. Junior Adria Mott was awarded for the top three-point shooting percentage and most assists. Senior Leslie Herrin won highest overall field goal percentage. The coaches awarded freshman Summer Smith as the most improved player. Ashley Hamilton, a sophomore, was named the top defensive player, while junior Heather Hamilton won the Lady Rocket pride award. Herrin, Heather Templeton, Shana Wheeler and Marta Yager also received senior awards.  
■ The Rockets held their basketball awards banquet. Winning awards were

Kyle Myers, Jeremy Walker, Heath Sutton, Jared Champion, Allie Turley, Jon Goad, Ryan Perry, Chris Brantley, Floyd Turley and Nathan Boone.  
■ CCHS seniors Jamie Myrick and John Foster won trophies at the Kentucky individual chess championship. Foster was the defending state champion, but Myrick took first place.  
■ Yvette Wilson won first place in the miscellaneous crafts division at the Kentucky State Beta Convention held in Louisville.

## 10 YEARS AGO

**March 31, 2011**  
■ Crittenden Countians were among a group of board members from the Penyrile Area Development District who attended the Washington, D.C. Policy Conference hosted by the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO). Judge-Executive Perry Newcom and Crittenden County PADD board member Bart Frazer were among the group.  
■ Crittenden County High School's girls' basketball team held its annual awards banquet. Among those honored were, Mary Mattingly, JV Warrior Award; Bailey Brown, Dedication to the Game Award; Summer Courtney, Senior Award and Varsity Warrior Award; Whitney Johnson, Senior Award and Most Rebounds Award; Jessi Hodge, Senior Award, Most Points Award, Most Assists Award, Most Steals Award and Most Valuable Player; Maggie Collins, JV Hustle Award and Lady Rocket Pride Award; Davana Head, Challenge Award; Randa Leidecker, JV Leadership Award; Summer Phillips, Most Improved Award; Kaitlin Binkley, Challenge Award; Laken Tabor, 110 Percent Award, Senior Award, Best Free Throw Percentage Award and Best 3-point Field Goal Percentage Award.  
■ Two Boy Scouts from troop 30 earned their snow sports merit badges after a two-day trip to Paoli peaks while attending a Boy Scout jamboree. Scouts that earned the badges were Ryan James and Ryan Dunham. James and Clay Stevens also earned Polar Bear patches after sleeping outside in 32-degree weather.  
■ Ladonna Herron, a Crittenden County High School senior, performed solo pieces at the annual Kentucky Music Educators Association and the Ensemble Choral Festival. Herron performed at both Murray State university and Paducah First Baptist Church where judges rated her. Herron achieved a distinguished rating on all five of her solo performances.  
■ The Marion Junior Bobcats 8-under traveling baseball team won the USSSA Bluegrass Brawl held at Hopkinsville. The team played four games in two days, beating the Paducah Tigers and Southern Kentucky Sluggers twice. In the championship game, the Bobcats defeated the Sluggers 11-3. Players were: Tanner Beverly, Tate Roberts, Aiden Rush, Gabe Mott, Daley DeBoe, Trace Adams, Caden McCalister, Tyler Boone, Ian Ellington, Braxton Winders and Gunnar Bingham.

## Marion native pens book

**BY KAYLA MAXFIELD**  
PRESS STAFF WRITER  
Christian-based writer and former Marion resident Brent Brantley has released his first novel titled, "You Cannot Grasp the River." Brantley is a Crittenden County native and missionary whose fascination with other cultures, beliefs and traditions is shared through his writing. The novel tells the



Brantley

story of a six-year-old Stone Age Papuan boy named Benjad who is thrust into the modern world when a soldier-turned-missionary and his wife rescue him from an evil shaman who has killed his parents. The enraged shaman plots the murders of both the boy and his adopted family. Brantley says the story is filled with humor, action and suspense as it traces Benjad's adjustments to his new life. The theme is a conflicted worldview between Benjad's clan's traditional demand for

vengeance and his now Christian faith. The book's message culminates 12 years later in a deadly struggle between the young man and murderous shaman in an unexpected finale. With desire to create plausible plots and unexpected endings, Brantley uses realistic themes that leave the reader entertained but also enlightened in the different ways of the world across the map. Brantley and his wife Jeanette currently live near Dallas, Texas. His novel is available on Amazon.

## COVID cases send students home this week

Due to positive COVID-19 cases among students and staff, Crittenden County Middle School will not have in-person classes the remainder of this week. Instead, middle school students will

do their school work remotely Wednesday through Friday. School officials say the cancellation of in-person classes will allow for enhanced sanitizing and deep cleaning. This

change is only for Crittenden County Middle School students. All elementary and high school students will continue with their regular in-person and virtual learning plans.

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*For Age 2-5th Grade*



# State represenative says questions remain over unemployment misteps

The Kentucky General Assembly was out of session last week because of the veto period that allows the governor to decide what legislation, if any, to veto. Therefore my update this week will focus on a joint meeting of the House Budget Review Subcommittee on Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Protection which I chair, and the House Budget Review Subcommittee on General Government, Finance, Personnel and Public Retirement. The committee meeting was held to address fraudulent Unemployment Insurance (UI) claims.

There have been a large number of UI claims that have been filed by people who have been able to get the personal information of others. These fraudulent claims were made in the name of people who never filed a claim because they continued to work during the pandemic, and many of these false claims were paid. This has happened throughout the commonwealth, including to members of the General Assembly. Committee members had a number



Lynn BECHLER  
KY STATE HOUSE  
Guest  
Commentary

of questions for the members of the executive branch who testified, but sadly, firm answers to most of the questions went unanswered.

One of the most pressing issues has been the lack of phone help. Callers most often get a voicemail recording and never receive a return call. Those lucky enough to actually have their call answered were frequently placed on hold until the call was canceled when the staff left work at the end of the day. The answer we were given to that problem was that a call center should be in place by about the middle of April. Hopefully the call center number will be well publicized.

There have been three instances of data breaches in Kentucky's UI system that the executive branch acknowledges, but I find it hard to believe that there were not more based on the volume of fraudulent UI claims the state has experienced. However, those who testified said the information was found on the "dark web," not due to data breaches. We were also told that this problem is not unique to Kentucky. There have been over \$63 billion in fraudulent claims submitted nationwide and it is expected to hit \$100 billion. In Ken-

tucky, there have been just under \$6 billion paid of which \$1.6 billion has come from the federal government.

In at least one case, the state paid a fraudulent claim and subsequently determined that the person whose identity was stolen was not eligible for UI. The state then placed a lien on that person's residence. This is not simply unbelievable, it is unacceptable.

Because UI income is taxable, those who had fraudulent claims submitted and paid in their names have received forms from the state indicating they are "on the hook" for the tax bill. The question then becomes: "What is the government doing to resolve the matter and what should individuals do." The response to the first part of the question was that the state was looking into the issue, but no specifics were offered. The response to the second part of the question was that the IRS said to only claim what was actually received, not what the state paperwork listed.

There are currently about 67,000 unresolved UI claims in the commonwealth, and we were told that fraudulent claims are hindering payment of legitimate claims. Anyone having a

tax return rejected because of fraud will have to file an amended return.

Regrettably the committee was unable to get firm information to several questions. Two of these questions were: "What is now being done to protect citizens' identity," and "What is being done to pursue the criminals perpetrating fraud."

Nevertheless, I will continue working with and pushing the executive branch on this massive problem and provide updates as appropriate. In the meantime, I urge everyone to remain diligent in working to protect their personal information.

As always, thank you for reading my updates and thank you for contacting me with your concerns and thoughtful suggestions. It is a privilege to represent you in the Kentucky House of Representatives and your input helps me make decisions that best represent the views of the Fourth District.

*Rep. Bechler (R-Marion) represents the 4th District, which includes Crittenden and Livingston counties. You can reach him at 800-372-7181, 502-564-8100 or by visiting legislature.ky.gov where you can find his email link.*

## SEWER

Continued from page 4 most likely wouldn't save anything in the long run. Councilwoman D'Anna Browning, as did others, said that after a great deal of anxiety over the matter, she voted to proceed.

"Doing nothing will cost us even more," she said. "Our backs are to the wall."

Council members Darin Tabor and Donnie Arflack were among the most vocal opponents.

"I stand by my original position that the city cannot afford this increase. Our 1,200 customers cannot pay for a \$15 million project," Tabor said.

The city has already paid about \$3 million to improve the collection system.

"We need to forget this pie in the sky notion that money will be coming later and reject all of these bids," Tabor added.

City Administrator Adam Ledford cautioned that rejecting all bids now would not guarantee less expensive options in the future.

The Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA) told the city several weeks ago that it needed to double the environmental fee on customers. It's been a highly unpopular fee among customers since originally launched in 2016, and raised once already in 2019. As costs have grown to build a new sewer system, state officials have told city leaders to raise rates or they'd be in jeopardy of losing a KIA loan of one-half of one percent interest to finance the project over the next 30 years.

For more than five years, the state has been putting pressure on Marion to fix its sewer plant, which is failing due to old age and antiquated design and procedures. Plus, it lies in the floodplain, which makes it prone to overflowing. The Environmental Protection Agency has examined the situation, and Kentucky Division of Water has insisted that something be done, or else the city could face incredible fines.

There is indication that the pandemic delayed the project for about a year, which had prompted questions as to whether the city might qualify for supplemental funding for the sewer project from federal relief packages or afford it

more time to look at other options.

Ledford has explored the possibility of Marion getting some of the \$2.6 billion in American RESCUE Act funds. He said it appears that about \$530,000 - based on Marion's population - could be secured for the project. That would cover about 25 percent of the additional money that needs to be raised to guarantee financing for the project. He said the Delta Region Authority and perhaps other funding sources might be tapped to further offset the cost to customers. If so, the burden of a second hike in the new two-phase increase might be completely avoided.

"Our backs are to the wall and I think this is the best route we can take," Mayor Byford said.

est to finance the project over the next 30 years.

For more than five years, the state has been putting pressure on Marion to fix its sewer plant, which is failing due to old age and antiquated design and procedures. Plus, it lies in the floodplain, which makes it prone to overflowing. The Environmental Protection Agency has examined the situation, and Kentucky Division of Water has insisted that something be done, or else the city could face incredible fines.

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## STOUT

Continued from page 1 help his brother in one of the coal mines his family owned; attend one of two law schools to which he had been accepted; or try for a job in television.

"My third option was to get a job in the television field," Stout said. "Ted Turner was hiring in Atlanta, Ga., for this idea he had for a 24-hour news show - I thought that was risky, because who would want to watch news 24 hours a day?" Stout said with a chuckle, referring to the obvious success of Turner's CNN. Several fellow MSU grads did apply and were hired by CNN.

Stout decided on law school, of course, and attended Salmon P. Chase School of Law.

Stout served on the Board of Trustees of the MSU Foundation and was chairman for three years of the Board of Regents.

He joins the late Dr. Forrest Carlisle Pogue as the only other Crittenden Countian to be selected as a Distinguished Alumni at Murray State University.

Other 2021 inductees are Dr. Bonnie Higginson, class of 1975 and 1979, retired provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at MSU and Dr. Melissa Collins, class of 1999, a teacher in Memphis City

Schools.

The 2020 recipients are Steven J. Blivin, class of 1986, a captain in the U.S. Navy (retired); Janet Lomax-Smith, class of 1976, a retired news anchor; Dr. Robert McGaughey III, class of 1965 and 1969, retired JMC chairman (posthumous award); Dr. Denise Rutherford, class of 1984 and 1985, senior Vice President of Corporate affairs at 3M.

The induction ceremony can be viewed on Facebook and YouTube at [murraystate.edu/streaming](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmurraystate).

A Zoom "meet and greet" will be offered to those who register at [murraysate.edu/distinguishedalumni](https://www.murraysate.edu/distinguishedalumni). You can also leave a congratulatory note for one of the recipients or make a gift in his or her honor.

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## GRIND

Continued from page 1 around, employing 18 people and providing service to mining, marine, rail and other manufacturing and service sectors. Riley said his longtime friendship with Jody Herrin of Marion has developed into a business relationship in the aggregate and asphalt industries, with which Herrin is associated.

"He is with Road Builders Supply near Indianapolis and thanks to him we've been able to get our foot in the door," Riley said. "That's important because without connections like that you can't get in, but once you're in and they like your work things turn out well."

Much of what Riley Tool and Machine is doing now is on the road, or water.

"We had a towboat company ask us about repairing a kevel," said Riley, describing the large steel cleat to which ropes are tied to secure barges to tugs or when moored.

"The barge was on the Ohio River so I asked them when they'd be passing by Cave In Rock and I would meet them there," Riley said. "The guy said, 'Can you do that?'"

Sure, and now Riley's phone won't quit ringing as other companies are wanting service on the go.

There are similar stories about the small Marion company's growth in other sectors, including

how it's positioned itself as a key contractor for area rock quarries from repairing heavy equipment like screens and separators to cleaning yukes with a mobile high-pressure washing system that Riley's crew built on a trailer.

The company expanded with a large building on what is now tight quarters on Moore Street. Inside it a welding crew recently was rebuilding an enormous mixer for the pavement-making machine.

"We've designed a way to handle this job without the need for a crane to turn it every few days," Riley said. "It's really something that could help us get a whole lot more business like this."

His revolutionary ideas continue to grow the business. Plans are to move more into the railroad industry in the coming months.

They're working six days a week right now and that might not be enough as demand for Riley's services continues to ramp up. Crew members earn good wages and have benefits, too.

Diversity has been a key component for Riley's strategy in a competitive world complicated by a year-long pandemic.

"It's really been unbelievable just how busy we are right now. Just blessed," he said.

Riley is also including his sons, Payton and Paxton, in the family-owned business with hopes of them carrying on the proven formula well into the future.

the  
Crittenden Press

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125 E. Bellville St. | P.O. Box 191 | Marion, KY 42064

270.965.3191 | [www.the-press.com](http://www.the-press.com)

Chris Evans, editor & publisher

Allison Evans, advertising director

Alaina Barnes, creative design

The Crittenden Press (USPS 138-260) is published weekly by The Crittenden Press Inc., P.O. Box 191, 125 E. Bellville St., Marion, KY 42064. Periodicals postage paid at Marion, KY and at additional mailing offices. Subscriptions \$32 to \$55 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Crittenden Press, P.O. Box 191, Marion, KY 42064.

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CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KY - 300.5 ACRES - \$560,000 - This farm is a solid hunting tract with everything needed to grow, hold and harvest big bucks! The tract also includes a 7 +/- acre pond with fishing opportunities

CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KY - 160.7 ACRES - \$345,000 - Hunting property with WRP acreage and quaint hunting cabin. Property sits alongside the Tradewater River and has excellent deer, turkey and waterfowl.

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CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KY - 798.05 ACRES - \$1,792,000 - Secluded hunting property alongside the Ohio River with a diverse habitat. Deer and waterfowl opportunities. Tillable ground and open pasture.

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# Early pioneers and early roadways

This is an interesting article that was written many years ago in 1931 by Rev. James F. Price. It's a look into some of our very early history of the land and the settlement of our county.



**Brenda Underdown**  
County Historian

**Forgotten Passages**

The early pioneers of our western Kentucky that later would become Crittenden County were a most neighborly and visit-prone people right from the beginning. This can be attributed to many factors, not the least of which was the dark, gloomy, largely unbroken forest which blanketed our virgin landscape and cast uncontrollable fears of Wilderness Fever caused by too much loneliness and isolation. Added to this was the nagging fear of Indian trouble.

The pioneer of original Livingston County was that hardy breed of perpetual western movers we term the Scotch-Irish. Even though they were relatively poor, in most instances, they retained the overbearing family and neighbor ties as the system was developed in the deep South. There were a few of the planter-aristocrats who attempted to set up plantation type farms. These were usually in the river bottoms, but these people soon realized that this land was just not suitable for such uses, and soon adapted themselves down to the smaller cropping method of provision farming.

**Traveling To Western Kentucky**

The Pioneers migrated to what became Crittenden County by both the overland routes across the Cumberland Mountains and across Kentucky or through the Cumberland River Valley through Tennessee by wagon, foot and pack-horse, and by the river flatboat route down the Cumberland, Ohio and Tennessee rivers.

By far, the former overland routes were mostly always taken by the home seeking, very few of whom lived near rivers in Virginia, North and South Carolina and Tennessee, and fewer yet had any river boats nor navigation skills, and since few had money to buy or build boats and rent crews or pay passage, the river pirate and hostile Indian danger on the rivers decided the way this county was settled, which was traveling on land.

The overland travelers

in the virgin Kentucky and Tennessee forests always traveled in groups as a means of protection against the ever-present larger savaging-wild animals, such as wolves and panthers, which would follow the pioneer's herds of cattle, hogs, sheep and poultry in packs awaiting the opportunity to attack a straggling animal or even a child.

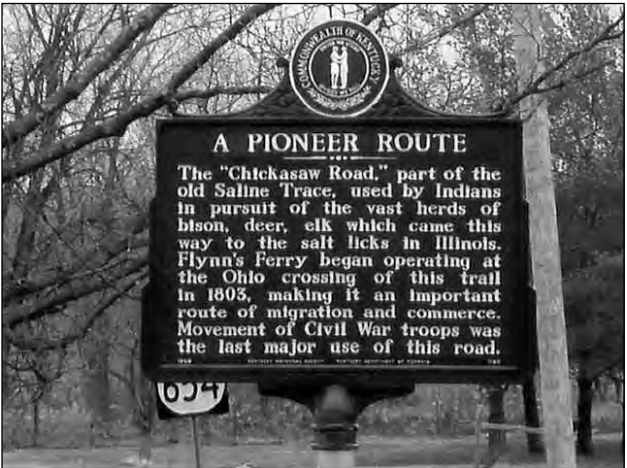
They also traveled together for protection from possible attacks of hostile Indians or robbery and murder by land pirates, although there was less actual danger of Indian attacks in Kentucky, since they were using the state only as a hunting ground and had become adjusted to sharing the game with the white settlers.

When the groups of overland traveling pioneers arrived in west Kentucky they considered the wooded rolling hill-land of what was to become Caldwell and eastern and southern Crittenden County as prime land, for the pioneers were convinced that land that would not grow trees would grow nothing, and most of them were quite familiar with hill-farming in their original homes in the South, thus the first sections of original Livingston County to become settled were its eastern and southeastern half.

The original permanent settlement of what was to become Crittenden County was determined to a great extent by the only roadway that naturally led through the desired homestead country in a south to north direction.

**Roadway known as the: Saline Trace, Chickasaw Trail and Flynn's Ferry Road**

Geologically a natural break, formed by parts of Camp Creek and Piney Creek in very early times formed a basis for a North-South track or trail through the eastern part of the county from



**A Kentucky Historical Highway Marker stands at the intersection of Ky. 284 South and U.S. 60 East telling the history of the old roadway through Crittenden County to the Ohio River.**



**The buffalo that created the first trace or path through the area have been called the trail makers of engineering because of their habit of finding the best route between the forest and the cane thickets to the salt licks in southern Illinois.**

the plains or grasslands of middle Tennessee and southern Kentucky to the salt licks along the Saline River in southern Illinois.

The first use of this pathway was made by the great herds of buffalo and other grazing animals that had inhabited the grasslands from time immemorial as the route to travel to secure the supply of salt, which was necessary for their health.

The "Saline Trace" was built by the buffalo, which has been called the trail maker or engineer, because of his habit of finding the route of least resistance between salt licks and cane breaks. His trail, some 4 or 5 feet wide, was hard packed by many hoofs. Indians adopted and followed his traces, or paths.

Before Crittenden County was settled, the Chickasaw tribe of Tennessee sent hunting parties into the area. One of these early camps was located in the vicinity of

Piney Fork Church, near where the present highway crosses the creek west of the church.

The Kaskaskia Tribe representing the powerful Illinois nation, often camped on lower Camp Creek near the site of Weston. Thus these large groups of Indians often came into conflict over possession of hunting rights in the land that was to become eastern Crittenden County.

Early Crittenden County tradition tells us that in about 1790, warriors of these tribes met near the Piney Fork campsite, and in a running battle from there to the river, more than 200 Indians were killed. The Chickasaws won the battle and immediately made provisions for the spoils to be transferred to their camp. They cleared a road along the trail for the use of their wagons, by 1790, the Chickasaw had adopted the full use

of the white man's freight wagon.

When early settlers located at what would later become Weston, the road was known as the Chickasaw Trail, but soon in 1803 it would become known as Flynn's Ferry Road for George Flynn who opened a ferry and established a better road to Big Spring in Princeton.

**Armstrong and Centerville**

The land that is now Crittenden County is a rolling plateau cut by three main north-south running valleys which are clearly divided by high ridges between them in its southeastern quarter which were the first sections to be settled by the pioneers after the Centerville neighborhood had been taken up.

The Armstrongs were among the first settlers of (what was to become) Crittenden County. James took up 200 acres on Livingston Creek, the site of Centerville, where he had already built a residence a few years earlier. Logan Armstrong and Samuel Armstrong took up 200 acres on the same creek. The three tracts were all surveyed in 1799. (There is a Kentucky Historical Marker to mark the site of Centerville on the Crittenden-Caldwell line on Mott City Road.)

The Piney Fork Valley was next preferred by the homesteaders. It begins as a narrow valley in the south, near where

the original Piney Creek Baptist Church was located and is separated from the Tradewater River Valley by the Haw, Blackburn and Piney Bluffs ridge on the east, but soon broadens to the Twin Knobs-Wilson Hill ridge on the west. (Who would have ever dreamed that the once historically known Twin Knobs would be no more, and a modern highway would now be where they once stood. These knobs were landmarks known for miles around by pilots in the air and from travelers on the highways.)

This valley was very fertile to the basic pioneer crops and was well drained by both forks of Piney Creek and watered by numerous ever flowing springs. The land was also blanketed by a fine virgin growth of hardwood timber. These factors made it the ideal location for successful pioneer settlement and it became the "cradle" of Crittenden County.

As each generation dies out, much of our past history is lost. It's nice to have these written facts to still read and recall the very early days of our county and its pioneer people.

*(Brenda Underdown is chair of Crittenden County Historical Society and a member of Crittenden County Genealogical Society. Much more local history can be found at OurForgottenPassages.blogspot.com).*

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**Changes in policy:**

With mowing season quickly approaching, we have changes that are being made in our grounds policy. Effective immediately, we will no longer allow individuals to leave flowers, vases, trinkets and immovable or movable objects on the ground around the headstones located in the cemetery. These items risk damaging mowers and lawn care equipment. Our new policy states specific criteria for items placed in the cemetery:

1. Items must be attached directly to the headstone and may not be touching the ground.
2. Limit of one Jacob's rod per headstone (Must be directly next to said headstone).

Items that do not meet these criteria will become property of the cemetery and will be disposed of at the staff and ground crew's discretion. If there are any remaining items you want to keep, please remove them in a timely manner or they may be disposed of.

**Internment fees:**  
Internment fees will remain at \$250. This amount is due upon a casket burial as well as ashes being buried and/or spread. It is against cemetery protocol for ashes to be buried atop another grave or anywhere in between. You must contact the cemetery directors for guidance on this issue. Our local funeral homes know the internment fee and may collect that from you to pay the cemetery themselves. If they do not pay it, you are responsible for the fee.

**Donations:**  
The internment fees go directly toward paying the lawn care bill each year. There are limited funds available for mowing and upkeep. In order to keep the cemetery in a condition that is honoring to those who are buried there, we ask for your generous donation and ask that you continue to make donations when possible.

**Contact:**  
If you would like to make a donation, please make checks payable to Loveless Chapel Cemetery Fund. Checks may be mailed to P.O. Box 493, Salem, KY 42078 or to Farmers Bank and Trust Co. Attn: Tyler Coleman at 216 W. Main St., Salem, KY 42078. If you have questions or concerns you may contact the Cemetery Director, Phillip Tosh at (270) 601-1255 or (270) 625-8126. You may also contact Tyler Coleman at (270) 988-9000.

We sincerely appreciate your understanding and support,  
-The Directors of Loveless Chapel Cemetery Inc.-



What a week!

My faith heritage is located in the Radical Reformation and Reason. Because of that, Holy Week is for people of similar heritage pretty much like any other week of the year. Those who come from mainline traditions may spend more days attending services this week than any other time of year.

Each day has its own liturgy as we recall the last week of Jesus' life. What begins in triumph ends in disaster – only to be overcome by the greatest victory known to man for those who believe. Resurrection – victory over death – teaching us that there is truly nothing to fear in this world.

That is not to be dismissive of the pain and anxiety that overwhelm us as we live our lives. We still must walk the days between now and the day of resurrection for all believers. They can be frustrating, terrifying, and cause us to doubt and falter from time to time. If the last week of Jesus' life teaches us anything, it teaches us that life can change rapidly.

The disciples that were travelling and staying with Jesus during this week began by accompanying Jesus into Jerusalem as a king. They retrieved an animal for him to ride on. Based on how they acted as they approached Jericho, attempting to keep a blind man from 'seeing' Jesus, they ran interference for him so he could make his way into the Holy City of David. Imagine the commotion as people shouted, "Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" Branches of trees, palm fronds, laid along his path. Peace and victory! Before the week was over they would betray, deny, and abandon him because of fear and disappointment.

I suspect that some of the very same people who were carried along shouting 'Hosanna!' at the beginning of the week would, before it was over, inexplicably be shouting, 'Crucify him!' I also believe that some of those same people would have heard the apostle Peter preach a sermon a few weeks later and repent of their behavior.

The religious leaders no doubt watched in anger, horror, and fear as this rebel from Galilee processed onto their turf. The day after his royal reception he made a mess

of their religious business when he turned over their tables of commerce at the temple. Before the week was over, they found their courage and used the Roman legal system, which they hated, to their advantage. Nothing like religious leaders using the law to force their agendas and maintain their control.

The Roman authorities were caught in a bind. The province of Judea was an important buffer state, but troublesome. The Romans were nothing if not pragmatic. They did not care that much for the people, they just wanted them to behave. As a result, they were complicit in murdering an innocent man – not that it would bother them that much. Imagine a government making policy just to placate a noisy crowd. They began the week somewhat in control and ended it by unwittingly unleashing the greatest force for good the world has ever known. Even if it is full of chronically faulty practitioners.

It is entirely possible to pass through Holy Week and go to all the liturgical services or read the events of this week in the gospels and keep a safe distance from the events. We view it through remembrance or with the narrator, but never get dust on our feet, sweat on our face, or tears in our eyes. We never get angry or worried or try to manipulate the events to our advantage. We might even be so bold as to think we would have been different than all of those who lived through it.

But...we were all there. The true believers who were so disappointed that they quit. Those in the crowd who were swayed one way and then another. We are the ones who have a vested interest in keeping 'church' the way it is and have no problem using money, position or whining to get our way. We are changeable. We get scared. We are not beyond accusing. We are unbelievers who just want people to behave. We are all there. None of us are above being any of those who had a part in the events of that week.

Good thing the story doesn't end there.

Dr. Sean Niestrath is a minister in Madisonville, Ky. He holds a doctoral degree in ministry. You may contact him at sean.niestrath@outlook.com.



Sean NIESTRATH  
Faith-based columnist  
Guest Columnist

Easter Events

■ First Cumberland Presbyterian Church will host a Good Friday candlelight communion service at 7 p.m., Friday, April 2. Daniel Hopkins will lead the service.

■ Sugar Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church will have Easter sunrise services at 6:15 a.m., Sunday, April 3.

■ Livingston Hospital Auxiliary will have an Easter Bunny "Hop Thru"

between 3-5 p.m., Friday, April 2. The event will take place in the parking lot in front of Livingston Hospital. Goody bags will be distributed to children of all ages.

■ Marion Baptist Church will host an Easter Egg Hunt at 10 a.m., Saturday, April 3 on the youth soccer field at Marion's City-County Park. Children ages 2 through fifth grade are welcome to participate.

■ Marion Second Baptist Church will host a church Easter Egg Hunt from 1-3 p.m., Saturday, April 3 at the church located at 703 E. Depot St.

New life is possible when we trust in the risen Christ

**Question:** I'm puzzled! It's hard for me to believe Jesus rose from the dead. How can a guy who was dead not be dead anymore?

**Answer:** Jesus was certainly dead. Roman soldiers hung Him on a cross outside the wall of Jerusalem 2,000 years ago. They made sure He was dead by thrusting a spear into his side (Jn. 19:33, 34). His followers buried Him on Friday afternoon. On Sunday morning, He arose from the dead. That evening, He appeared to ten of His disciples behind a locked door (Jn. 20:19, 20).

Thomas wasn't present. A week later He came to them again. "Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe." Thomas exclaimed, "My Lord and My God!" (Jn.

ASK the PASTOR  
By Bob Hardison



20:27, 28).

They heard His familiar voice, saw his nail scared hands and feet. His very presence was definite proof He was alive.

Jesus' words to Thomas speak to us, too. "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed" (Jn. 20:29). We have not seen Jesus in the flesh, but He is the same Jesus who arose from the dead. He yearns for us to believe in Him, too. When we do, we are blessed—both now and for all eternity!

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

DELINQUENT TAX PAYMENTS

Starting April 16, personal and business checks will no longer be accepted for payment of any delinquent property taxes in the office of Crittenden County Clerk. Accepted forms of payment will include cash, debit or credit card, certified check and money order.

Business checks from registered third-party purchasers prior to and at the tax sale on Aug. 26, however, will be permitted.

ELLINGTON Detailing

119 W. Gum St., Marion, KY 42064

IS TEMPORARILY CLOSED

WE WILL RE-OPEN Monday, April 12

We appreciate your understanding as we take time off to be with our son Ian who was seriously injured in a motorcycle accident March 20. We are so blessed to live in such a caring, gracious community. Thank you for your continued prayers.

Rommel Ellington, Jr.

WORSHIP with us this week

Visit one of our area churches for worship and fellowship

**St. William Catholic Church**  
Sunday Mass 11 a.m.  
Father John Okoro  
860 S. Main St. Marion, Ky (270) 965-2477

**Mexico Baptist Church**  
Minister of Music Mike Crabtree  
Pastor: Tim Burdon  
Sunday Worship Services: 10 a.m., 7 p.m.  
Sunday Bible Study: 9 a.m.  
Sunday Discipleship Training: 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Worship Service: 7 p.m.  
175 Mexico Rd. (270) 965-4059 MexicoBaptist.org

**DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Pastor: Bro. Chris Cummins  
Sunday Bible Study: 10 a.m. • Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.  
Approx. 5 miles from the intersection of Hwy. 60 & Hwy. 297  
Phone: (270) 965-2220

**Freedom General Baptist Church**  
Pastor: Ross Atwell  
87 Freedom Church Rd., Marion (about 1 mi. from Marion off Ky. 91)  
CHURCH TIMES:  
Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Evening 6 p.m.  
Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Wed. Bible Study 6 p.m.

**Marion Baptist Church**  
College & Depot streets, Marion • (270) 965-5232  
Pastor: Bro. Aaron Brown • Children's & Youth Pastor: Bro. Shawn Holeman  
SUNDAY CHURCH TIMES:  
8:30 a.m. Coffee Juice Fellowship • 8:45 a.m. Sunday School • 10 a.m. Morning Worship  
6 p.m. Youth Bible Study • 6 p.m. Evening Worship  
WEDNESDAY CHURCH TIMES: 6 p.m. Prayer/Devotional Service • 6:45 p.m. Adult Choir Practice

**SEVEN SPRINGS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**  
219 Seven Springs Rd., Marion, Ky. 42064  
Sun. School for all ages: 10 a.m.  
Sun. Worship: 11 a.m., 6 p.m. • Wed.: 7 p.m.  
Bro. Austin Weist, pastor  
- We are an Independent Baptist Church seeking to know Christ, and to make Him known to the community around us. -

**Crayne Community Church**  
Crayne Cemetery Road, Crayne, Ky.  
Bro. James Driver, Interim Pastor  
Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

**FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**  
224 W. Bellville St., Marion, Ky.  
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.

**growing in grace**  
2 Peter 3:18  
**PLEASANT GROVE General Baptist Church**  
Located on Ky. 723, 4 miles north of Salem  
Sunday School 10 a.m. | Sunday Worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m. | Wed. 7 p.m.

**Marion Church of God**  
334 Fords Ferry Road, Marion, Ky.  
Sun. School 10 a.m. • Morning Service 11 a.m.  
Sun. Evening 6 p.m. • Wed. Evening 6 p.m.  
"Where salvation makes you a member."  
Lucy Tedrick, pastor

**Emmanuel Baptist Church**  
108 Hillcrest Dr., Marion | (270) 965-4623  
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Adult Bible Study, Children and Youth Activities: 6 p.m.  
Captured by a vision...

**Tolu United Methodist Church**  
Bro. Alex Kirby, Pastor  
We invite you to be our guest  
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.  
**The People of The United Methodist Church**  
Sunday School 10 a.m. • Service 11 a.m.  
Wednesday Night Youth 6:30 p.m.

**Barnett Chapel General Baptist**  
Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Barnett Chapel Rd., Marion, Ky.  
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.  
Wednesday Night Bible Study: 6 p.m.  
Barnett Chapel...where everyone is welcome.

**PINEY FORK**  
CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
Pastor Junior Martin  
Ky. 506 | Marion, Ky.  
SUNDAY School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Bible study 6 p.m.  
A new beginning, going forward and looking to the future

**Sugar Grove**  
Cumberland Presbyterian  
585 Sugar Grove Church Rd., Marion, Ky.  
(270) 704-2455  
Sun. School: 10 a.m. | Sun. Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m.

**Marion United Methodist Church**  
Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors.  
The People of the United Methodist Church  
WED: Bible Study 5:30 p.m.  
SUN: Sun. School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 p.m.  
Bro. David COMBS  
South College St.

**Frances Community Church**  
Bro. Butch Gray  
Wed. night prayer meeting & youth service: ..... 6:30 p.m.  
Sunday school: ..... 10 a.m.  
Worship service: ..... 11 a.m.

**Hurricane Church**  
Hurricane Church Rd. off Ky. 135 West  
Pastor: Bro. Danny Hinchee  
Sun. School, 10 am. • Worship, 11 a.m.  
Sun. Evening services, 6 p.m.  
Wed. Evening services, 7 p.m.

**Unity General Baptist Church**  
4691 U.S. 641 • Crayne, Ky.  
Barry Hix, pastor • (270) 365-5836 or (270) 625-1248  
Sunday School 10 a.m. • Sunday Worship 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening 6 p.m. • Wednesday Night Service 6 p.m.

**Marion Church of Christ**  
546 West Elm Street • (270) 965-9450  
Sunday Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.  
- The end of your search for a friendly church -

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The Crittenden Press

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for sale

Like new rolling walker, \$50; bedside commode, \$50; crutches, \$10. (270) 96503019. (2t-13-p)

For sale: 42 old license plates dated 1960s to current. Some very colorful. \$5 each or \$200 for all. (270) 965-3019. (2t-13-p)

Quilting machine, \$500. (601) 799-8169. (2t-13-p)

ARs for sale (270) 969-0069 (4t-13-p)

Ammo for sale (270) 969-0069 (4t-13-p)

wanted

Seeking sleeping room in Marion or Sturgis area for 35-year-old male with no pets, children or spouse; looking for work to start new life; clean with no bad habits. Call Gaylon "Wade," at (618) 518-2072. (1t-13-p)

Hay ground needed. Will pay by the bale. (270) 704-1787. (8t-18-p)

real estate

For sale, 305 W. Depot St., Marion, 2 BR house with full basement. Nice yard and detached 2-car garage. Asking \$40,000. Willing to negotiate. (270) 704-3894. (5t-17-p)

for rent

1 BR efficiency apartment, all utilities included, \$350 plus \$350 deposit. (270) 704-3234. (tfc-13)

employment

Non-CDL Box Truck Driver Needed Immediately! Min 2 yrs recent driving experience. Clean MVR. Great pay, benefits. Submit application in person at Liberty Tire Recycling, 2071 US 60 West, Marion KY or fax resume to (270) 965-3618 or email to [hmaloney@libertytire.com](mailto:hmaloney@libertytire.com). Call (270) 965-3613 for more info. EOE. (1t-13-c)

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Help wanted 8-10 hours a week mowing, weeding and doing other yard

work. Mower and other equipment provided. (270) 965-4727 (13-tfc)

**OWNER OPERATOR** – Must have own semi-tractor. Forklift experience needed – or someone raised in a farming community. Dedicated Southern IL/Western KY. Established company. Excellent pay and fuel rebate. 219-663-5678 X 17. (4t-15-p)

Manager and hourly supervisor needed at Crittenden County Detention Center. Apply at the jail through Kellwell Food Management. (4t-14-p)

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services

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notice

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bid notice

The Crittenden County Board of Education is accepting sealed bid(s) for diesel fuel, propane and tires for the FY2022 school year. All sealed bids must be received by April 16, 2021 by 1:30 p.m., at which time they will be opened. Bids will be received at the Crittenden County Board of Education, 601 West Elm, Marion, KY 42064 ATTN: Vanessa Shewcraft and must be marked "Bid". The Crittenden County Board of Education reserves the right to decline any or all bids. Please contact Wayne Winters with any questions at 270.965.3866, or wayne.winters@crittenden.ky-schools.us (1t-14-c)

legal notices

**NOTICE OF PASSAGE AND SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE**  
**ORDINANCE NUMBER 21-02 AN ORDINANCE CLOSING A PORTION OF WEST ELM STREET**  
Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Marion, Kentucky, at a special meeting held on March 25, 2021, at 5:00 o'clock p.m., gave second reading and passed and adopted an Ordinance relating to the Marion Code of Ordinances, which Ordinance had been given

its first reading at its regular meeting of the City Council held on March 15, 2021, at 5:00 o'clock p.m. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows: That portion of West Elm Street from its intersection with School Street east to the creek abutting the property on either side being the Crittenden County School District Finance Corporation is hereby closed.

The full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Clerk in the City Building, Marion, Kentucky, where it is available for public inspection.  
**PREPARED BY:**  
/s/ Robert B. Frazer  
**ROBERT B. FRAZER**  
**CITY ATTORNEY**  
**FRAZER & MASSEY**  
**ATTORNEYS –AT- LAW**  
P.O. BOX 361  
MARION, KY 42064  
270/965-2261  
March 25, 2021  
(1t-13-c)

Notice is hereby given that on March 10, 2021 Mona Gayle Myers of 803 Chapel Hill Rd., Marion, Ky. 42064 was appointed administratrix of Ronald G. Myers, deceased, whose address was 803 Chapel Hill Rd., Marion, Ky. 42064. Robert B. Frazer, attorney. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the administratrix before the 10th day of September, 2021 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred. All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately. Crittenden District Court Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-13-c)

Notice is hereby given that on March 24, 2021 Joseph Dylan Kitchen of 202 7th Ave., Shephardsville, Ky. 40165 was appointed executor with will annexed of Mary Ann Cox, deceased, whose address was 104 N. Weldon St., Marion, Ky. 42064.

All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the executor with will annexed on or before the 24th day of September, 2021 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred. All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately. Crittenden District Court Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-13-c)

statewides

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NOTICE OF PASSAGE AND SUMMARY OF ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NUMBER 21-03 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 50 WATER AND SEWER SYSTEM, SECTION 50.2, RATES AND CHARGES

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Marion, Kentucky, at a special meeting held on March 25, 2021, at 5:00 o'clock p.m., gave second reading and passed and adopted an Ordinance relating to the Marion Code of Ordinances, which Ordinance had been given its first reading at its regular meeting of the City Council held on March 15, 2021, at 5:00 o'clock p.m. A summary of the Ordinance is as follows:

The flat rate environmental assessment fee shall be amended as follows:

Effective July 1, 2021 the rate will be amended as follows:

1) Up to 1,500 gallons	\$31.21	<del>\$20.00</del>	per month
2) 1,501 – 5,000 gallons	\$41.51	<del>\$27.40</del>	per month
3) 5,001 – 15,000 gallons	\$48.61	<del>\$34.50</del>	per month
4) 15,001-25,000 gallons	\$186.54	<del>\$102.95</del>	per month
5) Over 25,000 gallons	\$347.00	<del>\$197.00</del>	per month
6) Sewer customers not on the City water service	\$62.07	<del>\$44.00</del>	per month

Effective July 1, 2022 the rate will be amended as follows:

7) Up to 1,500 gallons	\$41.82	<del>\$34.24</del>	per month
8) 1,501 – 5,000 gallons	\$55.62	<del>\$44.64</del>	per month
9) 5,001 – 15,000 gallons	\$62.72	<del>\$48.64</del>	per month
10) 15,001-25,000 gallons	\$270.12	<del>\$186.54</del>	per month
11) Over 25,000 gallons	\$497.00	<del>\$347.00</del>	per month
12) Sewer customers not on the City water service	\$83.14	<del>\$62.07</del>	per month

The full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the City Clerk in the City Building, Marion, Kentucky, where it is available for public inspection.

**PREPARED BY:**  
/s/ Robert B. Frazer  
**ROBERT B. FRAZER**  
**CITY ATTORNEY**  
**FRAZER LAW OFFICE**  
**ATTORNEYS –AT- LAW**  
P.O. BOX 361  
MARION, KY 42064  
270/965-2261  
March 25, 2021





# FAST-PITCH

## CCHS Softball

Members of the Lady Rocket fast-pitch softball team (front from left) are Elliot Evans, Anna Boone, Aubre Conyer, Jaycee Champion, Elle McDaniel, Matthia Long, (back) Coach Stephen Smith, Kalli Champion, Karsen Shouse, Destiny Knight, Jessi Potter, Ashlyn Hicks, Jada Hayes, Hadlee Rich, Callie Brown and coach Jason Champion. Not pictured Chandler Moss, Riley Smith, Brylee Conyer and Callie Dempsey.

# Softball girls have nice blend of senior experience, young talent

### FROM THE ARCHIVES

### CCHS Records

2019	.....16-14
2018	.....22-8
2017	.....27-8
2016	.....14-12
2015	.....17-14
2014	.....8-21
2013	.....5-19
2012	.....5-18
2011	.....6-15
2010	.....6-15
2009	.....7-14

A corps of seniors anchor the Lady Rocket softball team, but that group’s body of work is limited since Crittenden County and every other high school softball team in the state lost last spring’s season to COVID-19.

Coach Stephen Smith still has several question marks to answer before his team can repeat something akin to the success his girls have had in the recent past. Some of the blanks might fill in when a handful of upperclassmen get back into the swing of things after coming over from basketball and pandemic protocols that cost them some early practice time.

The early portion of the season will not include senior Chandler Moss, who is expected to be a major contributor on the rubber and at the plate. Moss hasn’t played softball since she was a freshman. She missed her sophomore year to injury and last year to the pandemic. This spring, she’s idled by virus protocol that cost the girls’ basketball team its postseason.

Showing power at the plate has been senior Ashlyn Hicks, the shortstop who hit two over the fence during Meet the Rockets.

Other seniors are second baseman Jada Hayes, outfielder Kalli Champion, pitcher Destiny

Knight, catcher Matthia Long and third baseman Jessie Potter. Riley Smith shores up the infield as a utility player and will see plenty of time in the circle.

“Having seven seniors returning will be the most experience we’ve had and this 2021 class was part of the team that won the All “A” region in 2017, and also won three games at the state tournament that year,” Smith said. “We have a great mix of experience plus some outstanding youngsters coming.”

Junior Hadlee Rich is one of several players on the varsity roster who has spent a great deal of time playing travel softball the

last several years. She is capable of playing a number of infield and outfield positions, including catcher.

Junior Callie Brown has gotten the nod at first base in early outings and Coach Smith has used a combination of outfielders including sisters Brylee and Aubre Conyer.

Underclassmen, including three seventh graders, may see varsity play, including pitchers Elliot Evans and Anna Boone.

“Once Chandler Moss and Riley Smith return, we will have the greatest pitching depth we have ever had,” Smith said. “We have a lot of catching depth, too.”

# Top recruit has UK on his list

He has a lot of potential college choices and likely will still get more scholarship offers but Frederick Douglass junior receiver Dane Key has cut his list of potential schools to 10.



Larry Vaught  
UK Sports Columnist  
Vaught's Views

He did that Sunday on his mother’s birthday and has Kentucky, Virginia, Arkansas, Michigan State, Oregon, South Carolina, Purdue, Wisconsin, Virginia Tech and Mississippi State left on his list. Other offers included Texas and Tennessee while both Notre Dame and Ohio State have shown interest.

“These 10 really stood out to me,” said Key. “They showed the most love to me and showed they want and need me to play and help them compete for a national championship.”

Key had 37 catches for 625 yards and 11 touchdowns in 2020 — teammate Dekel Crowdus, a UK signee, had 31 catches for 397 yards and 10 scores. As a sophomore, Key had 33 catches for 545 yards and eight scores.

Key obviously is looking for a team that has a passing attack to utilize his skills. He’s done numerous Zoom calls with coaches who have told him “how much they respect my game and how I play” while showing him how he would fit into their offense.

“They have all just basically told me how they need me,” Key said. “They are all great schools. I know eventually football will end and there will be life after football and they all can help get me ready for that.”

Several weeks ago speculation surfaced that Kentucky was not high on his list because UK did not recruit his brother, Western Kentucky standout Devon Key who is now preparing for the NFL draft. Dane Key’s father, Donte, played linebacker at UK from 1992-95 and is on the Douglass coaching staff.

“Kentucky is definitely on the list and I am just going to keep going with my decision-making process,” the Frederick

Douglass junior said. “I don’t really pay attention to what too many other people say. I keep things in my family and my circle. What outsiders might say is not what my decision will be.”

The 6-2, 175-pound Key is a four star recruit and ranked among the nation’s top 200 players by some recruiting services. He is the top rated player in Kentucky in his class.

He’s hoping to be able to make some campus visits in June and then be able to narrow his list to five schools for his official visits. He has no timeline for picking a school.

“I want to make my decision in the middle of my senior season or after my senior season,” Key said. “I want to take my time and make sure I am making the best decision for me.”

Dane Key said his family, including his mother Nicole, had input into his final 10 list he released Sunday.

“We talked about the offers we had and who wants me and who me and the family feel fit me the best,” Key said. “All the coaches I have talked to are great coaches. They tell me different things but it is a lot of the same about how much of a difference maker I can be in college.”

No matter which school he picks or when he makes his decision, Key will not be an early enrollee because he wants to play his senior baseball season.

He did not get a 2020 season because of COVID. A “couple” of schools in his final 10 have told him he could play baseball and football in college.

“I really have not thought 100 percent about baseball in college. Developing as a player and getting on the field early (in football) is my goal and I do not know if playing baseball would be best for that,” Key said.

“I have actually been playing baseball a little longer than football. It was the first sport I played. Getting to go out there now and play and swing the bat helps clear my mind about recruiting. It allows me to play the game I love and just have fun. Playing baseball with my friends takes the stress away (over football) when I am out there.”

If you thought Kentucky’s high school basketball season was cut short by the pandemic, consider what happened in Illinois.

Kentucky signee Bryce Hopkins played for Fenwick High School, located just outside Chicago. His team did not get to start practicing until the last week of January, played its first game Feb. 8 and only got to play until March 12.

“We played 16 games in five weeks. No state tournament,” said Fenwick coach Staunton Peck. “But we were super happy just to play.”

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## LOCAL SPORTS

### SPRING SPORTS

#### Upcoming events

**THURSDAY, April 1**

Softball at Union County

Baseball hosts UHA

MS Track at McCracken County

**FRIDAY, April 2**

Baseball at Mayfield

Softball hosts Calloway County

MS Baseball hosts UHA

**SATURDAY, April 3**

JV Baseball hosts Lyon County

**MONDAY, April 5**

Softball hosts Caldwell County

**THURSDAY, April 8**

Baseball at Warren Invitational

**FRIDAY, April 9**

Baseball at Warren Invitational

Softball at Murray Tournament

**SATURDAY, April 10**

Baseball at Warren Invitational

Softball at Murray Tournament

Track at Calloway Co. Invitational

**MONDAY, April 12**

Softball at Lyon All "A" Classic

**TUESDAY, April 13**

Baseball at All "A" Classic

Track hosts Quad Meet

### BASKETBALL

#### 2nd Region Playoffs

##### BOYS REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

###### Quarterfinal Results

UHA 80, Crittenden 79

Henderson 71, Caldwell 56

Madisonville 49, Webster 44

Hopkinsville 58, Lyon 56

###### Semifinal Results

UHA 69, Henderson County 53

Madisonville 66, Hopkinsville 65

###### Championship

University Hts. 63, Madisonville 61

##### GIRLS REGIONAL TOURNAMENT

###### Quarterfinal Results

Hoptown 2, Hopkins Central 0 (forfeit)

Union County 36, Trigg County 17

Madisonville 46, Christian County 42

Henderson 2, Livingston 0 (forfeit)

###### Semifinal Results

Union County 58, Hopkinsville 40

Henderson Co. 77, Madisonville 51

###### Championship

Henderson Co. 70, Union County 38

### OUTDOORS

#### Hunting Seasons

Here are some of the key hunting opportunities currently in season or coming up soon:

Antler Sheds	Year Round
Coyote Nighttime	Dec. 1 - May 31
Youth Wild Turkey	April 3-4
Wild Turkey	April 17 - May 9
Coyote	Year Round
Groundhog	Year Round
Turtles	Year Round

#### Youth turkey season

Hunters 15 and younger will have an opportunity to get first dibs on a big tom. The wild turkey youth season is Saturday and Sunday across Kentucky. Statewide season opens April 17.

##### CRITTENDEN COUNTY

###### Turkey Harvest Figures

Year	Harvest
2010	.513
2011	.519
2012	.566
2013	.525
2014	.233
2015	.390
2016	.375
2017	.374
2018	.288
2019	.344
2020	.341

##### LIVINGSTON COUNTY

###### Turkey Harvest Figures

Year	Harvest
2010	.401
2011	.329
2012	.384
2013	.367
2014	.313
2015	.266
2016	.305
2017	.296
2018	.226
2019	.239
2020	.233

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National Federation of High Schools Sports Network

# Rockets stay home for new coach

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County School District has announced that Gaige Courtney has been promoted, making him the 16th head coach in school history.

He has been an assistant coach for the Rockets for the past four seasons.

Courtney, 30, accepted the position last week after meeting with Supt. Vince Clark, Principal Amanda Irvan and others on a hiring committee.

A 2009 graduate of Crittenden County High School, Courtney played on the Rockets 2008 football team that advanced to the Class A state semifinals before losing to



**Gaige Courtney has been involved in the local football program from the time he was star player on junior pro teams.**

Beechwood. He went on to play collegiately at Kentucky State University, graduating in 2013 and staying on the

staff as a graduate assistant for more than a year.

From there, Courtney spent a two-year assistant coaching stint at Webster County before returning to Crittenden County in 2017 as linebackers coach. He was promoted to defensive coordinator the following season and has led a unit ranked among the state's best the past three seasons.

"I feel blessed and excited," Courtney said. "There's a whole lot of work to do and it's time to get going."

Courtney becomes just the second CCHS graduate to become head coach of the

Rocket football team.

Supt. Clark said Courtney's hiring signals what will be a seamless transition after the recent resignation of former head coach Sean Thompson, who will be going to Paducah Tilghman.

"I am very happy to have someone lead this program that has been part of it and connected to it and who cares about the players and this community," Clark said. "He understands the culture here, and Gaige will continue the momentum that has been established in our football program."



**Crittenden County's Ashlyn Hicks leads off third in the first inning of Monday's game. She later scored CCHS's only run.**

## TRACK | FIELD

### School-record jump

**March 26-27**

#### At Marshall County

Crittenden's Tristan Davidson was second in the high jump and tied the school record at 6-foot-2 at last weekend's Invitational of the South at Marshall County.

CCHS track coach Sandra Martinez counted Davidson's jump among "several outstanding performances" at the two-day meet where competition was very strong.

**Girls**  
**100 meters** 25. Payton Maness.

**200 meters** 15. Payton Maness; 18. Karsyn Potter.

**Girls 400 meters** 5. Grace Driskill (1:08.21); 19. Karsyn Potter.

**Girls 800 meters** 3. Kate Keller (2:38.96); 20. Mary Martinez.

**1600 meters** 3. Kate Keller (5:38.67).

**300 hurdles** 8. Kara Fulkerson (57.26); 12. Ella Geary.

**High jump** 7. Grace Driskill (4-6); 9. Payton Maness (4-0).

**3200 relay** 7. Kara Fulkerson, Ella Geary, Mary Martinez and Karsyn Potter.

**1600 relay** 5. Karsyn Potter, Kara Fulkerson, Peyton Manness, Grace Driskill.

**Boys**

**100 meters** 12. Tristan Davidson; 32. Kaleb Nesbitt.

**200 meters** 11. Eli Moss; 20. Tristan Davidson; 28. Kaleb Nesbitt; 29. Noah McGowan.

**400 meters** 6. Eli Moss (56.48); 11. Tristan Davidson; 14. Noah Perkins; 18. Noah



McGowan

**800 meters** 16. Jaxon Hatfield; 25. Gabe Keller; 27. Dennon Wilson; 32. Cole Swinford.

**High jump** 2. Tristan Davidson (6-2, ties school record); 8. Nate Faith (5-4).

**Long jump** 11. Rowen Perkins; 19. Noah Perkins.

**Discus** 22. Sammy Impastato; 25. Lane West; 33. Isaac Sables.

**Shot put** 10. Noah McGowan (38-11); 31. Isaac Sables; 34. Sammy Impastato.

**1600 relay** 8. Noah Perkins, Rowen Perkins, Noah McGowan and Kaleb Nesbitt.

**3200 relay** 7. Rowan Perkins, Gabe Keller, Jaxon Hatfield and Nate Faith.

#### March 20 Meet at Calloway County Crittenden Results

**100 meters** 4. Eli Moss (12.04); 13. Kaleb Nesbitt; 14. Noah Perkins; 15. Rowen Perkins; 16. Noah McGowan.

**200 meters** 15. Kaleb Nesbitt.

**400 meters** 1. Eli Moss (55.39); 7. Noah Perkins (59.98); 9. Kaleb Nesbitt (100.75); 10. Rowen Perkins; 13. Noah McGowan; 14. Nate Faith; 16. Jaxon Hatfield; 17. Gabe Keller.

**800 relay** 8. Jaxon Hatfield (2:44.94); 12. Gabe Keller; 14. Dennon Wilson; 17. Steven Cole Swinford.

**High jump** 4. Nate Faith (5-2).

**Long jump** 3. Noah Perkins (17-0.25); 6. Rowen Perkins (15-2.25).



**Junior pitcher Logan Bailey got the opening-day start for the Rockets at Lyon County Monday.**

**Discus** 7. Sammy Impastato (80-11); 15. Lane West.

**Shot put** 4. Noah McGowan (32-9).

**Girls**  
**100 meters** 5. Grace Driskill (14.45); 8. Payton Maness (14.90); 10. Laycee Lynn (15.74).

**200 meters** 7. Grace Driskill (31.00); 8. Payton Maness (31.45); 11. Laycee Lynn.

**400 meters** 3. Grace Driskill (1:09.88); 5. Kara Fulkerson (1:12.39).

**800 meters** 6. Kara Fulkerson (2:54.20); 8. Mary Martinez (3:06.11) 12. Ella Geary.

**High jump** 1. Grace Driskill (4-10).

## SOFTBALL

### Girls beaten by Lyon

Lyon County outit the Lady Rockets and won Monday's season opener 11-1.

Seventh-grader Elliot Evans got the start for Crittenden as senior pitcher Chandler Moss is still unavailable due to pandemic protocol, lingering from basketball season.

Lyon touched the young pitcher for 10 hits and eight earned runs. Another seventh grader, Anna Boone closed

out last 1½ innings.

Senior Ashlyn Hicks had two of Crittenden's three hits in the game and scored its only run on an RBI by Kalli Champion. Matthia Long had the team's only other hit.

Tuesday's game against Murray was rained out.

## BASEBALL

### Rockets fall at Lyon

The Rockets fell 8-4 at Lyon County to open the baseball season Monday. Junior Logan Bailey pitched into the fifth inning, had two hits and drove in a run.

Crittenden trailed 5-3 in the last of the sixth before the Lyons scored three in their half of the inning, extending their lead. A one-run seventh came up a bit short for the Rockets. Trace Adams, Gabe Mott, Braxton Winders and Hunter Smith each had hits for CCHS. Winders' was a double.

Travis Yancy had three hits and two RBIs and Brody Williams homered for Lyon, which is ranked among the region's top teams.

Freshman Jeremiah Foster and junior Maddox Carlson also pitched for Crittenden.



**The Crittenden County High School baseball team includes (front from left) Tanner Beverly, Hunter Smith, Tyler Belt, Jeremiah Foster, Casey Cates, Seth Guess, Briley Berry, Evan Belt, Seth Guess, Case Gobin, (back) coach Chris Evans, assistant coach Jamie Brown, Tyler Boone, Caden McCalister, Ben Evans, Maddox Carlson, Braxton Winders, Gabe Mott, Trace Adams, Tate Roberts, Walker Phillips, Logan Bailey and assistant head coach Devin Belt.**

# Rockets working to overcome early setbacks

Crittenden County opened its baseball season early this week and despite the excitement surrounding the start of the spring schedule, the Rockets are reeling from the loss of one of its top pitchers. Senior Ian Ellington was injured in a serious motorcycle wreck just over a week before the season started.

Additionally, senior pitcher and first baseman Tyler Boone broke a bone in his foot in his final basketball game, one week before base-

ball season.

The injuries pose a setback for a team with very high expectations. The Rockets won 18 games – the second most in school history – in 2019, the last time they played. Many of the primary players are back from that team and poised for breakout senior seasons. Among those are infielder Trace Adams, catcher Caden McCalister, shortstop Gabe Mott and outfielder Braxton Winders.

Junior Maddox Carlson is a

player to watch this season. He will pitch and play mostly on the infield. Two more juniors Logan Bailey and Ben Evans were regulars two years ago and will both pitch and play infield.

If there are any question marks in the Rocket lineup, they're in the outfield. Winders is the only returning starter so it remains to be seen who will emerge as everyday players in the CCHS grass. Candidates include senior Tate Roberts, sopho-

mores Briley Berry, Seth Guess, Case Gobin and freshman newcomer Hunter Smith, who transferred in from Georgia. Freshman Casey Cates is also a utility player who could see some varsity time at various spots.

Freshman Jeremiah Foster has looked impressive in pre-season outings and will likely fill a starting role on the pitching staff.

CCHS will play in Bowling Green next week during spring break.



# County tax bills still unpaid on April 15 go to collections

If you have yet to pay your 2020 Crittenden County property tax bill, it is payable until April 15 in the sheriff's office. More than 300 tax bills remain unpaid.

A 10-percent penalty and 11-percent sheriff's add-on fee is assessed on delinquent bills, which means a \$1,000 tax bill will now cost the property owner \$1,210, plus the sheriff's commission (up to 4 percent of original tax bill plus penalty).

After April 15, unpaid property tax bills are transferred to the county clerk's office for collection, and they become certificates of delinquency. That means additional fees – one percent interest, county clerk commission and fees associated with the lien that is placed on the property – must be added, per statute. For the first week

after April 15, the original \$1,000 tax bill, now a certificate of delinquency, would cost almost \$1,400.

After that date, a county attorney's commission of 20 percent and a postage fee is added. The certificate of delinquency then grows to more than \$1,600 for the property owner to pay in order to remove the lien that exists on the property. And the cost continues to rise until the Aug. 26 sale in the county clerk's office, when a third-party could purchase the certificate of delinquency and include its own administrative fees that may add hundreds of dollars to the cost to remove the lien and prevent potential foreclosure.

“No one enjoys paying taxes, especially with the penalty added, but paying

now to avoid additional penalties can save hundreds of dollars and avoid headaches to remove a lien that would exist on the property,” said County Clerk Daryl Tabor.

Prior year certificates of delinquency can also be paid in the county clerk's office. Those remain subject to third party purchases.

Also, starting April 16, personal and business checks will no longer be accepted for payment of any delinquent property taxes in the office of Crittenden County Clerk. Accepted forms of payment will include cash, debit or credit card, certified check and money order.

Business checks from registered third-party purchasers prior to and at the tax sale on Aug. 26, however, will be permitted.



Spring Fresh

Mallory McDowell and her mother Dena Joiner check out one of five greenhouses at Rusty Gate Farms during their seasonal grand opening Friday. All are packed full with a variety of choices between ferns, flowers and other springtime beauties.

# State, local school board come to agreement on new high school

Crittenden County Board of Education plans to move forward with construction of a new high school after state and local officials appear to have ironed out wrinkles in the local proposal.

A plan approved by the Kentucky Board of Education calls for 15 classrooms, science and computer labs, a family consumer science classroom, administrative suite and a few resource rooms to be constructed on the north side of Rocket Arena.

The estimated \$13-million project will include demolition of the western wing of Crittenden County Middle School and moving fifth through eighth grades to the existing high school. Once complete, middle and high school students will continue to share the current cafeteria, music and ag classrooms.

In addition to building the new high school, plans call for a track around a redesigned football field and construction of a new softball field. The school board plans to

purchase adjacent property from the state road department for the high school project, and on March 23 it accepted an environmental study for the Old Salem Road highway department property. No environmental issues were discovered in the soil, but the board will solicit quotes to remove structures there, one of which contains asbestos and lead-based paint.

More details about the timeline for construction is expected at the board's April 27 meeting.

# Students can see dentist at middle school

A school-contracted dentist will be at Crittenden County Middle School on April 26-27 to serve students.

Parents who are interested in having their student examined should

have their student pick up a form in the middle school office, or go online to MySchoolDentist.com and complete the digital registration form.

All information must be completed on the form.

The dentist will need to contact the parent if further information is needed.

Deadline to submit a registration form to the school is April 13.

# FIVE-COUNTY AREA

Most info in this graphic current as of March 26. \*Updates with March 29

County	Confirmed Cases Ever	Currently in Home Isolation	Currently Hospitalized	Recovered Cases	Deaths
Caldwell	1,178	19	2	1,131	26
Crittenden	645*	22	1	596	22
Livingston	750	11	0	721	18
Lyon	1,518	198	3	1,299	18
Trigg	1,144	46	1	1,088	9
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,231</b>	<b>296</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4,835</b>	<b>93</b>

Source: Pennyrile District



Crittenden County CASA volunteer coordinator Jenni Fowler and Judge-Executive Perry Newcom place pinwheels on the courthouse lawn.

# Wheels keep abuse efforts rolling

STAFF REPORT

For the third year in a row, Kentucky ranks first in the nation in a horrific statistic.

In the most recent Child Maltreatment Report issued by the Children's Bureau of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the commonwealth leads the country in child abuse cases, with a reported 22,410 victims in 2017, equating to 22 victims per 1,000 children. The report says the national average is 9 per 1,000.

In 2019, Crittenden County had 72 child victims in family court over

abuse and neglect cases. Statistically, that's four percent of the child population in the county.

In regards to April, which is Child Abuse Awareness Month, Judge-Executive Perry Newcom signed a proclamation at the courthouse on Tuesday marking and recognizing local steps being taken to lower the county's rate.

Family Court Judge Brandi Rogers alongside other Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) planted blue pinwheels on the courthouse lawn, representing a carefree

childhood, which is what the organization strives for with all children.

Marion Woman's Club also placed pinwheels at Marion City Hall.

In order to raise more awareness for child abuse prevention, CASA of Midwest Kentucky is asking the community to wear blue on the first day of the month. Share your photos at their Facebook page, [casaofmidwestky](https://www.facebook.com/casaofmidwestky).

CASA is in need of members to serve as CASA volunteers. For more information or to submit an application, visit its website [midwest-casa.org](https://www.midwest-casa.org).

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