



The Crittenden Press

FRONTIER SERIAL KILLERS Page 4
3-Part Series on Early Western Kentucky

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24/7 BREAKING AND LOCAL NEWS / THE-PRESS.COM

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ONE DOLLAR

GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL TO EXPAND VOTING OPTIONS

Gov. Andy Beshear late last week signed House Bill 574, which expands voting opportunities in Kentucky. For full details of the plan see article in last week's edition of The Crittenden Press.

CANEY FORK CLOSED FOR NOW

Caney Fork Road in rural northern Crittenden County is temporarily closed to motor vehicle traffic because of a drain tile failure near the intersection of Nunn Switch Road. Caney Fork is between Nunn Switch and Blackburn Church roads. County officials say the road will likely be closed for a few weeks as a tile must be procured then installed.

ANOTHER LOCAL DISTINGUISHED

Former Campbellsville University president Ken Winters, The Press learned this week, should have been included in the list of Crittenden County natives named as a Distinguished Alumnus at Murray State University. Winters received the recognition in the 1970s. Others from Crittenden County are Jerry Brown, the late Forrest Pogue and most recently, federal judge Alan Stout.

CHAMBER PLANS FESTIVAL

Community leaders are beginning to make plans for this fall's Pumpkin Festival. Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce announced last week that this year's Pumpkin Festival will be held on Saturday, Sept. 25. Anyone interested in having a vendor booth or taking part in the event, can visit the Chamber of Commerce office at City Hall or its Facebook page.

COVID CAPACITY INCREASE

Gov. Beshear said this week that when 2.5 million Kentuckians have received at least their first dose of vaccine, the state will remove most capacity restrictions on gatherings of fewer than 1,000 people and reduce physical distancing guidelines. In addition, he will end the curfew for bars and restaurants. The governor believes the goal can be met in about three weeks. Masking would remain in effect and mass gatherings would still be limited until COVID-19 variants are under control and more Kentucky children are able to be vaccinated. The Governor said Kentucky has reported cases of all three variants of concern.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Marion Planning and Zoning Board will meet at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, April 15 at city hall.
- Crittenden County High School Site-Based Decision-Making Council (SBDM) will meet at 3:45 p.m., Tuesday, April 20 in the library.
- Marion Tourism Commission will meet at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, April 20 at Marion Welcome Center.



No matter what generation you're from or which platform you prefer, The Press is there bringing you news and sports in a timely fashion. Join us online today!

The Crittenden Press

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Trapper Haire has a newfound hobby tying fishing flies with feathers found around his home in northern Crittenden County.

YOUNG OUTDOORSMAN DRAWN TO FISHING

Tying on the Fly

STAFF REPORT

Trapper Haire loves to fish, but he'd almost rather make bait.

Just 11 years old, the young Crittenden County outdoorsman has found his calling, and it's tying flies.

Making lures is a craft that takes time to learn and years to perfect. From knots to materials, there's more than one way to tie a fly and Haire likes experimenting with all sorts of materials. With a yard full of critters on his family's 100-acre farm in the northern part of the county, Haire never runs out of feathers or hair to weave the perfect fly. He uses guinea feathers picked up around the house, but finds elk hair more favorable. After receiving a fly tying kit for Christmas, the fifth



Trapper Haire is all about fishing and making bait.

grader started buying other materials to create all sorts of fishing lures, including peacock feathers and other necessities both natural and synthetic including hooks

and thread.

A lifelong lover of the outdoors, Haire is involved in Scouting because he likes

See **FLY**/page 3

Surprise, Surprise... It's dad!

Home from deployment

STAFF REPORT

Coming home can be more emotional than leaving, said Staff Sgt. James Duncan, who surprised his two youngest children during a staged event Monday at Crittenden County Elementary School.

"I was more nervous about seeing them than I was actually going over there," said the Kentucky National Guardsman, who just returned from a nearly year-long deployment to Poland.

Duncan, 36, was summoned by the military to serve in Louisville during the initial outbreak of the pandemic last April. As soon as that assignment with the Kentucky Medical Command ended, he was shipped overseas for a planned deployment.

"I just thought somebody had dressed up as him," said second-grader Liam, who was sitting outside with other students, including his sister, Aubrey, when dad was revealed after hiding in a large box.

The school had been in on the surprise plans for days, but Principal



Staff Sgt. James Duncan returned home Monday after nearly a year in Poland with the Kentucky National Guard. Pictured with him are his son, Liam, and in the background his wife Breann and daughter, Aubrey. His oldest son, Keifer, was also at the surprise event held at Crittenden County Elementary School.

Taking a jab is correct course

Getting the COVID-19 vaccine is perhaps the most obvious no-brainer decision ever.

A few weeks back it became clear that there was enough juice for nearly everyone who wanted a jab to get one. That's when it became a no-brainer. Never would jumping in line in front of a more needful person be a noble move. However, with vaccine readily available for just about anyone willing to take it, there must be a weighted measure of reason behind waiting any longer. Finding none, I jumped in line.

Had the first dose at the local health department with absolutely no side effects. The other shot will come this week and since the wife had hers last Thursday without any fanfare, this one should be uneventful, too.

With 56 million doses already doled out in the United States and intense scrutiny applied to every shot, there's no reason to remain in the back of the line, or out of the line for that matter. So far, there have been no deaths attributed to complications following vaccination, at least according to cursory research on the internet, but there have been rare cases of adverse reactions.

There are a few folks around Marion who can testify to high temperatures and body aches following their COVID inoculation. Yet all of them have quickly recovered, sometimes within just a few hours of the onset of symptoms.

Those infrequent complications and temporary ill feelings are no argument for abstaining from the vaccine.

Tired of fast-food drive-throughs, closed sections in restaurants that aren't seating guests and these hot, annoying face coverings, are ample forces to prompt a shot or two.

Whether through fear, political persuasion or personal piety the reasoning behind foregoing the vaccine will never outweigh the option of getting it. At some point, those who have it will be allowed into places or on public transportation systems when those without will not. Fair? Who's to decide? It will certainly not be those of us in the average Joe aisle.

The decision we can control is whether to take the jab or not.

The author, Chris Evans, has been editor and publisher of this newspaper for decades. You can contact him at evans@the-press.com.



Chris EVANS
Press publisher
About Town

Deaths Emge

Mary Ruth Emge, 74, of Newburgh, Ind., died Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at her home after a short battle with cancer. She was a member of Holy Rosary Church in Evansville.

Surviving are her husband, Tim Emge of Newburgh; a son, Nathaniel (Luana) Emge of Monrovia, Calif.; two grandchildren, Adriana and Bianca Emge of Monrovia, Calif.; and a sister, Barbara Hicks of Newburgh.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Claude and Brinnie Andrews.

Graveside services will be at 1 p.m., Thursday, April 22 at Mapleview Cemetery. The family will receive visitors from Noon until service time at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion, KY.

Memorials may be made to the Mary Hall Ruddiman Canine Shelter, 24 Just A Mere Road, Marion, KY 42064.

Calvert

Ricky Lynn Calvert, 65, of Marion, died Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at Baptist Health Paducah. He was a United States Army veteran.

Surviving are his wife, Judy Calvert of Marion; three sons, Richard Calvert of South Bend, Ind., Michael Calvert of Osceola, Ind., and John Calvert Martin of Marion; a step-son, James Ard of Covington; two sisters Charlotte (Jimmy Edwards) Hamby of Frances and Sandra Purdy (Joe) Board of Dawson Springs; a brother-in-law, Ricky Warner; 11 grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James Obie and Willie Edna Brown Calvert; a brother, Donny Lee Calvert and step-son Joseph Warner.

Graveside services were Monday, April 12 at Asbridge Cemetery with Bro. Jerry Driver officiating.

Myers Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Jones

Stella Mae Jones, 78, of Salem, died Wednesday, April 7, 2021 at her home.

She was born March 13, 1943 to A. R. and Myrtle Dismore Jones. She retired after 23 years as a Master Sergeant in the U. S. Army and worked 23 years as a nurse.

She enjoyed art, music, sewing, cooking, and gardening and was of the Methodist faith.

Surviving are a daughter, Trisha Powell of Salem; a son, Joe Seekings of Salem; two sisters, Ruby Reeves of Justin, Texas and Irene Moore of Mesquite, Texas; three grandchildren, John Powell, Stephanie Tawfik and Kristen Burton; four great-grandchildren, Zoey, Damien, John Michael; and her caregiver for many years, Sally Shuecraft.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Kenneth Kimbro and her parents.

Funeral services were Monday, April 12 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services. Burial was in Paradise Cemetery.

Reed

Kora Beth Reed was born Saturday, April 10, 2021 with her perfect angel wings.

Surviving are her parents, Bobby and Kara Reed and Catherine Joyner of Burna; a brother, David; two sisters, Addie and Ranslee; two grandmothers, Mary McDonald and Terry Woodall; aunt Dovie (Ti) Yaw of Grand Rivers; her great-grandmother, Nora Driver of Salem; and many other family members.

Funeral services were Wednesday, April 14 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremations Services with Rev. Jim Wring to officiate. Burial was in Pinckneyville Cemetery.

Memorials may be made by mail to the March of Dimes, Donation Processing Center, P. O. Box 18819, Atlanta, GA 31126 or online at www.marchofdimes.org

Evans

Charles Wayne Evans, 73, of Salem, died Sunday, April 11, 2021 at Salem Springlake Health and Rehab. He was a member of Ambassadors For Christ Church.

Surviving are his wife, Barbara Evans of Salem; a daughter, Denese (Don) Keene of Marion; five grandchildren, Chad Keene, Kassie (Ryan) Culwell, Katie Keene, Leah Keene and Seth (Halina) Keene; four great-grandchildren, Remi, Roxi, Revel and Rowan; a brother, William (Vicki) Evans; two sisters, Janie Combs and Carol Hunter; and

several close nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles B. and Almeda Evans; a daughter, Shelly Brown; and a granddaughter, Jamie Brown.

Services are scheduled for 1 p.m., Saturday, April 17 at Gilbert Funeral Home with burial in Mapleview Cemetery. The family will receive visitors from 11 a.m. until service time at the funeral home.

Donations may be made to Ambassadors For Christ Church.

Willingham

Emma Nell Willingham, 93, of Marion, died Monday, April 12, 2021 at Crittenden Hospital.

Surviving are three sons, Dale (Natalie) Willingham of Marion, Russell (Lori) Willingham of College Grove, Tenn., Kenneth (Bernadine) Willingham of Oaklawn, Ill.; nine grandchildren, 13 great-grandchildren, four great-great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Murphy Willingham; her parents, Howard and Lonnie Bowers; a daughter, Wanda "Sis" Willingham; a son, Ronnie Willingham; and a daughter-in-law, Judy Willingham.

Services will be at 5 p.m., Saturday, April 17 at Gilbert Funeral Home with burial in the Willingham Family Cemetery. The family will receive visitors from 3:30 p.m., until service time at the funeral home.

Slaton

James C. "Tub" Slaton, 64, of Crittenden County, died Monday, April 12, 2021 at Deaconess Hospital Midtown in Evansville.

He was born in Crittenden County on June 3, 1956 to Jo Slaton and the late John "J.C." Slaton.

Surviving are his mother, Jo of Evansville; a sister, Lori Skinner Korn (Mitchell) of Nashville; two brothers, Tim (Kathy) of Evansville and Mark (Darlene) of Evansville; two nephews, Justin (Courtney) Skinner and Brandon Slaton (Alyssa); two nieces Ashley Skinner (Michael Ford) and Amber (Brandon) Wagner; nine great-nieces and nephews; and two special aunts, Francis Herrin of Crittenden County and Penny Towery (Wincell) of Portage.

Easter cheer

Sarah Ford, (left) president of the Crittenden County Extension Homemaker Association, presents Easter cards to Candy Yates, activities director at Crittenden County Health and Rehabilitation. Homemakers sent cards with inspirational messages to 62 residents.



High school build kicks off

STAFF REPORT

The official application requesting permission from the state to build a new high school was given approval by the Crittenden County Board of Education Monday night.

A blend of bonds and local funds totaling an estimated \$13.7 million will be used to construct the school on the north side of campus between Rocket Arena and West Bellville Street.

On Monday, the school board met with design and financial partners and laid out cost estimates and funding. The largest funding source is a \$9.3 million bond sale.

Called a BG-1 form, the official application for



Jeannie Cannon (right) of RBS Design Group, discusses plans for the new high school with (from left) board members Bill Asbridge, Chris Cook, Tim Grau and Ryan McDaniel.

construction submitted to the Department of Education could be approved in as little as four weeks. Meantime, a land survey and geotechnical borings will be performed on the proposed building

site.

A new high school will free up the existing high school for middle school students, and the 1947 wing of the middle school will be torn down.

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RECOGNITION FOR KY REP. BECHLER

The American Conservative Union Foundation (ACUF) has once again recognized Rep. Lynn Bechler, R-Marion, with an Award for Conservative Achievement. Rep. Bechler received his first award in 2014, which was the first year the ACUF started recognizing Kentucky legislators.

Rep. Bechler has been recognized every year since then making 2020 the seventh consecutive year he has been bestowed with this distinguished honor. This award is presented to state legislators that continually illustrate conservative principles in their work.

LIVINGSTON GETS 911 CENTER GRANT

Livingston County has received a grant to improve its 911 service center.

State Rep. Lynn Bechler announced that the Kentucky Office of Homeland Security awarded Livingston County Fiscal Court \$26,748. By statute, grant funding is directed to projects that establish and improve delivery of 911 services in the commonwealth, with an emphasis on



Increasing Next Generation 911 capacity.

“911 is an essential component to maintaining a community’s public safety and is critical when responding to an emergency,” Bechler said. “It is very important that in this modern age, our local emergency workers have updated equipment and systems in place when responding to an emergency. This is great news for my district, and I am confident this will keep the citizens of Livingston County safe.”

This competitive grant was issued based on critical need after Kentucky 911 subject matter experts analyzed and scored applications.

WASTE TIRE DUMP IS HERE NEXT WEEK

Crittenden County has received a grant through the Pennyrile Area Development District to collect waste tires over three days starting next week.

County residents can dispose of their tires

for free at the county convenience center on U.S. 60 East from 8 a.m., until 3:30 p.m, on Thursday and Friday, April 22–23 and on Saturday morning April 24 until noon. The county’s participation in the program requires it to only provide a collection site and manpower. Otherwise this is a free service for all involved. Tires will not be accepted from commercial businesses.

VEHICLE TAGS CAN RENEWED ONLINE

Through the first quarter of 2021, 49 vehicle registrations have been renewed online in Crittenden County for a total of \$6,026.29 in taxes and registration collected.

It’s easy to renew your tags online 24/7. Simply visit <https://secure.kentucky.gov/kytc/renewal> and pay with a credit or debit card.

The registration will be processed the next business day and promptly mailed to the customer from Crittenden County Clerk’s Office.

*For Breaking News
Between Issues
See The Press Online
Go to The Press Online*

MARION POLICE activity report

Data below provided by Marion Police Department compare February police activity for the month of March 2021 to the same month in 2020. The chart also includes the previous month’s totals, year-to-date police activity totals and a five-year monthly average.

CATEGORY	MARCH 2021	MARCH 2020	FEB. 2021	2021 YR TOTAL	5 YEAR AVG.
Miles driven/patrolled	3,395	2660	2,457	8,962	3,309
Criminal investigations	15	9	6	28	13
Domestics	10	11	4	20	9
Felony Arrests	3	0	1	5	5
Misdemeanor arrests	7	3	6	15	8
Non-criminal arrests	3	5	3	9	6
DUI arrests	2	0	0	3	0.9
Criminal summons served	1	3	1	4	2
Traffic citations	21	12	6	56	17
Other citations	20	10	8	37	7
Traffic warnings	5	4	3	10	0.5
Parking tickets	0	0	1	1	0.2
Traffic accidents	7	1	9	19	6
Security checks/alerts	41	37	30	113	60
Calls for service	166	196	124	421	205

MPD 270.965.3500
Police Chief
Ray O’Neal
Asst. Chief
Bobby West

On Facebook
Marion Police
Department
Marion-KY



50 YEARS AGO

April 15, 1971

■ Martha Marshall and Terry Boone, members of the Teenage 4-H Club, spent the week in Washington, D.C. as delegates to the Kentucky Older Youth Conference.

■ Margaret Gilland was elected to a W.O.W. State Office at the Jurisdictional Convention in Owensboro.

■ Airman Roger D. Walker completed basic training at Lackland AFB, Texas.

■ Seven Crittenden County teenagers attended the Teen Leader Environmental Workshop at the Lake Cumberland 4-H Center. Members in attendance were Shanan Travis, Mary Jo Arlack, Kathy Henry, Eddie Boone, Debbie Boone, Larry Hearell and Ricky Hatfield.

■ Pam Heady won the local spelling bee, earning her the honor of representing Crittenden County in the Tri-State Spelling Bee in Evansville.

■ Bennett Smith was named to the Three Rivers All-Conference basketball team for 1970-71.

25 YEARS AGO

April 18, 1996

■ Ryan McDaniel, a junior at Crittenden County High School, was elected Region 2

President of the Future Farmers of America for the 1996-97 school year.

■ Chris Brantley signed a national letter of intent to play basketball at Shawnee Community College.

■ Crittenden County High School Band, under the directions of Mark Benningfield, placed second in the American Music Festival held in Orlando, Fla.

10 YEARS AGO

April 14, 2011

■ Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce named Stout Law Office business of the month.

■ Sean McNeely, a junior at Crittenden County High School, participated in a district SkillsUSA competition. McNeely received a gold medal for his category, computer maintenance and repair.

■ Bob and Joy Briley of Marion were recognized for owning the Ohio Two-year-Old Pacing Colt of the Year. The award was presented during a meeting of the Ohio Harness Horseman’s Association.

■ Crittenden County FFA Chapter sent 15 members to compete at Murray State University FFA Region 2 Speaking Day. Crittenden’s Kari Buntin scored a Superior Second in Goat Impromptu. Dylan Crabtree scored an Excellent in Turf and Lawn Impromptu. Mark Farmer scored an Excellent in Crop Impromptu. Rachel Jennings scored an Excellent in Sheep Impromptu. Matt Papineau scored a Superior First in Poultry Impromptu. Daniel Patton scored an Excellent in Small Animal Impromptu. Faith Sitar scored an Excellent in Creed Speaking. Stacia Snow scored a Superior in Fruit and Vegetable Impromptu. Jake Woods scored an Excellent in Ag Mechanics Impromptu.



Children’s Librarian Melissa VAZQUEZ

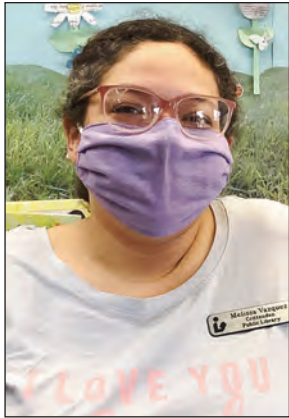
Melissa Vazquez is a relative newcomer to the Crittenden County Public Library having joined the staff almost 2 years ago. She was born in New Jersey then moved here from St. Louis because of family connections. The 31-year-old is a soon-to-be mother and has generated quite an online following with her videos from the library.

Q: Can you give a brief overview or description of your duties and responsibilities?

A: As a children’s librarian, I help parents pick out books for their children, provide resources to parents as needed and facilitate children’s programs such as 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten, Story Hour, Crafting Corner and so much more.

Q: How have the many children’s programs and activities had to change with COVID-19 restrictions?

A: Since the onset of COVID-19, all of our programs and activities have had to change by going to a virtual format instead of in-person. We are slowly making our way towards limited in-person programs



as COVID cases go down and our county remains yellow.

Q: Can you tell me about the Dial-A-Story program offered for children?

A: Dial-A-Story is a fun free program offered to our community that has librarians and other people in our community reading children’s books and telling a joke of the day. It’s a wonderful way to have that personal reading connection with the kids in our community. We currently have a program at our library called 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten. The goal is simple, read 1,000 books to your kiddo before they go to kindergarten. Everything is free in the program and kiddos who reach 200 book milestones get to pick a prize from the prize basket at the library, as well as get their picture taken with a milestone banner. Once they reach 1,000 books, they get a bigger prize and their picture put on the bulletin board! Parents just have to stop by the library to fill out a form for us and

receive their folder with all of the information and resources they need for the program, as well as check out some cool books for their kids!

Q: Has COVID-19/having virtual events decreased the number of children participating in various library activities?

A: I would say that since COVID-19 quite a lot of kids and parents are burnt out from doing things virtually, so our Story Hour numbers have decreased due to it being held on Zoom. However, we re-launched in-person Story Hour on April 2, which I am very excited!

Q: Why would you encourage parents/families to get their children involved with the public library?

A: I cannot stress enough how wonderful our library is and all of the things we do for the community. Most of it is free! Libraries provide everything from faxing, scanning, printing, computer usage, genealogy services, free programs for all age groups and of course free books, DVDs, audiobooks and checkout kits to borrow. We are constantly striving for ways to better meet the needs of our community and grow as a library. It’s absolutely worth getting involved with your local library, we have so much to offer!

FLY

Continued from page 1

camping and hiking, and he and his family enjoy fishing just about anywhere. A small pond behind his house is his favorite hole, but he once caught a seven-pound bass at Lake George. He can fish from a kayak almost all day, says his mother Jeretta Haire.

“We got him a fly tying kit. He watched the video then just starting making them,” she said. “He wants to start making YouTube videos about how to tie flies.”

Chenille is one of his

favorite materials for bait making. He likes to tie a little on a hook or jig head to replicate an insect that fish might find attractive. To make a lure appear lifelike in the water, you have to tie it a certain way to make it respond properly on the end of a line.

“You can personalize them how ever you want,” he explains. “Whether you like dark colors or big ones just find feathers or materials that fit your style.”

Squirrel fur is another good tying material. Getting turkey feathers or squirrel hide is pretty

easy. Those are animals he enjoys hunting the most, but it’s fishing that really turns his crank.

“I want to start molding soft baits, too,” he said.

Resourceful indeed, he also makes his own minnow traps and catches bait in the creek next to the house.

“Fishing is just more interesting to me than other sports,” he said, “because you can throw a worm into the water thinking you’re fishing for bluegill and next thing you know there’s a two-pound bass on the line.”



Harps etch notorious mark on pioneer west Kentucky

PART 1 of 3

Three-Part History Series
The Harps were among the most notorious outlaws during pioneer days and their savagery touched Crittenden County in more ways than one. More information about the Harps and their ties to this community can be found at the Historical Museum in Marion.

BY THOMAS BLACK
SPECIAL TO THE PRESS

Swinging the crying infant by its bare feet, the filthy, hulking brute of a man slammed its head against the rough bole of a huge water maple, causing the tiny skull to explode into a gory shower of blood, brains and bone fragments. Its young mother's agonized scream was cut short by the menacing glare of an upraised fist of this blood spattered monster who, just seconds before, had wrestled her colicky baby from the safety of her arms.

Too frightened to move or speak, Sally covered on the ground in pure terror. Then, as she continued to watch, with a crude animal like grunt and another mighty heave, he slung the now lifeless body into the dense, green canebrake. Many times before, she had seen what savagery this heartless animal was capable of, but this display of depravity was on an entirely different level. She knew if he could kill his own brother's child, he would have no difficulty whatsoever in snuffing out her sad, pathetic life.

With the violent murder of his nine-month-old niece, Micajah Harp, better known as Big Harp, just committed one of the most heinous crimes of his blood-thirsty outlaw career.

Many historians consider the Harps to be America's first known serial killers, and after two long centuries, it is indeed difficult, if not impossible to distinguish fact from fiction with regard to their brutal lives. I have always had a rather morbid fascination with their story and I know it's because so many of their worst crimes and the gruesome death of Big Harp took place within a few miles of my home in Crittenden County.

Learned scholars also like to argue whether the Harps were brothers or cousins. As physically different as they were, I'm more inclined to believe they were cousins. Either way, it is a moot point and for the sake of this article, we will consider them to be siblings. We do know that they were a gift to the rest of the world from Orange County, North Carolina. Dark complected Micajah was born around 1748. Two years later, fair-skinned, red-haired Wiley, who went by Little Harp, entered the world.

During the Revolution, acting more like mercenaries than someone that was actually sympathetic to the plight of the British crown, they fought against the Colonials in numerous engagements. Following the war, those people that had been loyal subjects of King George III and chose to continue to live within the original colonies were often treated with malicious contempt.

It was in this rough, hostile frontier environment that the Harps perfected their grisly avocation.

Having begun a life of crime at an early age, it is only logical that they were to experience many close calls with the law. Finally, in the mid 1780s, with a sheriff hot on their trail, the two men, accompanied by their joint concubines – sisters Susan and Betsy Roberts – fled North Car-



Author Thomas Black on the Cumberland Trail with his grandson Tristan.

olina for the remoteness of eastern Tennessee's rugged mountains. There they spent the next 12 years living with a handful of renegade Creek and Cherokee Indians, committing the most inhumane crimes imaginable. Victims in this vast wilderness were relatively few, so in order to quench their insatiable thirst for blood, they moved near the fledgling town of Knoxville, where in 1797, Little Harp married Sally Rice, the daughter of a Baptist preacher. There, they robbed, stole livestock, burned cabins and barns and killed anyone unfortunate enough to cross their hellish path.

Once again, the ever-present threat of being killed or captured forced them to cut and run. On a bitter cold morning in December of 1798, with their meager belongings in tow, they escaped north, up the Wilderness Road, through the snow covered Cumberland Gap into Kentucky, where their unheralded arrival gave an appalling reincarnation to the phrase, Dark and Bloody Ground.

At that time in America, they were by far the most sinister pair of individuals ever sired by the devil. Simply put, these boys from the backwoods of North Carolina were the embodiment of all things evil in mankind. When compared to the number of murders attributed to them, the vast majority of our modern-day serial killers are rank amateurs. Today, it would be considered poor parenting, but in the Middle Ground (Kentucky, Illinois and Tennessee) of the late 1700s, it was common practice for mothers to tell their misbehaving kids, "If'n ya ain't good, the Harps will get ya."

It is not known when or where the Harps killed their first victim and judging from the extreme diversity of their victims, it doesn't appear they killed for any lasting monetary gain. To the contrary, it seems they killed for no other reason than the pure thrill of the moment. About the only positive thing that can be said of the Harps is that they were certainly not prejudiced. They have been blamed with the indiscriminate slaughter of a half-a-hundred men, women and children of all ages and races. Plus, you have to wonder, how many more people were murdered by them in the trackless wilderness of Kentucky, Illinois and Tennessee that no one ever knew about. Asleep or awake, the Harps were always armed to the teeth and if the situation required, they were certainly not opposed to using a rifle to kill someone. However, by all indications, it seems they preferred to get within arm's reach of their victim, which allowed them to use either a razor sharp long-knife or a skull splitting tomahawk.

These instruments of death were quick, quiet and lethal and is the reason so very few people

that the Harps tried to kill ever lived to brag about their encounter.

In southern Hardin County, Ill., nestled on the bank of the Ohio River, you will find the sleepy little hamlet of Cave-in-Rock. It is an 18-mile drive from my front door, plus a leisurely five-minute cruise across the river on the contemporary ferry boat, Loni Jo. This ferry began operating way back in 1807 and is one of only 10 remaining in the state. On the weathered face of a shear, limestone cliff, quite literally within spitting distance of the river is an ancient cavern with a bloody history. In 1729, the French explorer and engineer M. De Lery, penned the earliest known record of *caverne dans Le Roc* (Cave-in-Rock), and you would indeed be hard pressed to come up with a more appropriate name. This bluff is approximately one-quarter of a mile in length and in a few places as much as 100 feet high. It is a beautiful, yet imposing natural fortification and presents a commanding view of the sprawling Kentucky countryside. One of the many unique features of this cave is it is not visible from the river until you are practically in front of it. But, from within its large, yawning maw, you can easily see for miles up and down *La Belle Rivière* (The Beautiful River). The grotto extends 165 feet straight back into the hillside. Its main chamber is 75 feet high and is partially illuminated by the diffuse light that passes through a narrow cleft in the dome shaped ceiling. This opening also functions as a chimney, and if needed, with the aid of a long ladder, an emergency escape route. Decades ago, a few scenes from the classic movies, "Davy Crockett and the River Pirates" and "How the West Was Won" were filmed at Cave-in-Rock. More recently, an episode of "In Search of History" entitled "The River Pirates" was filmed here in 1997 by the History Channel.

In 1797, Samuel Mason, a local crime boss, realized that, either through violent ambush or clever guile, Cave-in-Rock was the perfect location from which to prey upon the slow moving flatboats. Consequently, Mason pressed it into service under the guise of

an ordinary (tavern) and it became the center of operation for the many counterfeiters, highwaymen and river pirates that infested both sides of the Ohio.

From the interior of the cave, a harmless looking individual would appear and attempt to coax the flatboat crew to shore with the friendly offer of a gill of rum, much needed supplies or the carnal lure of illicit female companionship. After he helped tie off their boat, the unsuspecting crew would then have to follow him, single file mind you, through the narrow walk way that leads back into the cave. At this point, they were quickly surrounded at gun point, summarily relieved of their earthly chattel. A lucky few escaped. The less fortunate ones were killed, gutted like a deer, their body cavity filled with stones and then given a quick burial in the murky water of the Ohio. Oftentimes, the women, if their lives were spared, were forced to work as prostitutes within the cave.

Another ploy of the bandits was to have someone standing on the muddy river bank, usually a helpless female, waving to a passing boat and pleading for help. If the members of the crew were gullible enough to fall for this ruse and came to her rescue, then riflemen hidden behind the trees and boulders, at a given signal, shot them down like dogs. Either way, the hapless victims' flatboat was ransacked then scuttled or else taken intact, down the Mississippi to New Orleans, where the cargo and boat were sold by the pirates. Months later, via the Natchez Trace, they would then return to Cave-in-Rock to repeat this vicious cycle of crime.

After entering Kentucky, the Harps left a trail of murder and mayhem the breadth of the commonwealth that even Deputy Barney Fife could have followed. Near Danville, they were arrested and lodged in jail for a few days before making good their escape. Like moths to a flame, the Harps were inextricably drawn to Cave-in-Rock, arriving in the spring of 1799, where they quickly fell in with the resident outlaws. In May, a man, the sole survivor of a recent flatboat attack, was being held captive in the cave. Late one night, as the silver light of the full moon reflected off the broad river, unbeknownst to the others, the Harps forced this poor wretch to the top of the cliff above the cave. There, they stripped him naked, tied his hands and placed him upon the back of a blindfolded horse. Laughing sadistically, they whipped the horses rump with a keen willow switch and ran it, with the terrified, screaming man on board, over the precipice and onto the rocks far below, killing them both. Even as injured to brutality as the Mason gang was, this act of violence was simply too much for them to handle. At the business end of a cocked musket, the Harps were ordered to leave, and leave immediately. Begrudgingly,

they quickly gathered up their ragged families and with a stream of profanity that would peel the bark off of a persimmon tree, they vanished into the gloom of the Illinois night.

The sweltering months of June and July crept by and except for a handful of unsubstantiated rumors, nothing at all was seen of the Harps in Kentucky. The good people of eastern Tennessee weren't so blessed. Thirteen murders occurred there that perfectly fit the Harps *modus operandi*, and with the law on their bloody trail, the Harps once more hitched the reins of their weary horses to the North Star. It was in the course of this sudden exodus, while camped on the bank of the Mud River in Logan County, Kentucky that Big Harp killed his niece for the simple reason she wouldn't quit crying. He always said the squalling brats would be their undoing.

Little did anyone know that the Harps had quietly returned to their old stomping grounds in western Kentucky and were now living in a squalid, one-room log cabin on Canoe Creek eight miles south of Red Banks (the original name for Henderson, Ky.). It was during the dog days of summer that fear swept through the area like a wildfire when several bodies, bloated and horribly mutilated, were found near this cabin. The Harps, ever on the defensive, realized they were being watched and quickly sent their three women and two remaining children to a pre-arranged hideout. Once things had settled down, the men, in disguise, set out to retrieve their families. After a 15-mile ride, they stopped to water their horses at the home of James Tompkins. When Big Harp informed Tompkins that they were Methodist circuit riders, he invited them to break bread with him. While they ate, Tompkins casu-

ally mentioned that, several days before, he had used the last of his gun powder and was sorely in need of fresh meat. Big Harp, acting the role of the charitable minister, then proceeded to fill a teacup sitting on Tompkins table with powder from his own horn. As you shall see, even 200 years ago, misdeeds had a way to come back and haunt you.

When they were finished eating, the Harps wiped their greasy mouths on their sleeves, stood up from the table, shook Tompkins' hand and thanked him for the meal. In turn, Tompkins thanked the good reverend for the powder and assured him it would be used most wisely.

Vowing as to how there was a sinner behind every third tree whose soul was in need of redemption, they told him they must be on their way to do God's work. It was just a little after nightfall when they reached the home of Squire Silas McBee, hunter, Indian fighter and justice of the peace. Their intent was to kill McBee, but thanks to the viscous pack of bear hounds he kept for hunting, their plan quickly unraveled. Angered at their own misfortune, they traveled about four miles to the cabin of Moses Stegall, near the future town of Dixon, where they asked to spend the night.

Next week, the second in this three-part series will pick up with the Harps' overnight stay in modern-day Webster County that left a Crittenden County woman widowed.

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Remembering the Flanary family, part II



The Murders Cave was the subject of many stories and legends surrounding the area that was located in the rocky bluffs of Crooked Creek on Flanary property.



The landmark catalpa tree on Ky. 91 North can be seen today as it still marks its ground where it's stood for over 100 years.



This picture made around 1933 shows (from left) Watson Flanary, Samuel Flanary, Douglas (grandson of Samuel), Maggie and James Isaac Flanary, father of Douglas. Doug is the father of LaNita Flanary who shared pictures and information for the story.

Our story continues with the Flanary family and how the old home became a local landmark. Samuel and Maggie had two sons that carried on the history of the family and their land, both carried the family names William Watson and James Isaac Flanary. Watson lived in the family log house until he died. He was well known and liked by all in the Hebron community.



Brenda Underdown
County Historian

Forgotten Passages

their long journey across the country back to their home in Crittenden County. Imagine starting out from New Mexico on horseback through miles of uncharted land with guns and little else to make their journey home. It's a wonder that they made it back to Kentucky, but they did and continued to live out their life in their old home of Crittenden County.

Eli once owned and ran a grocery store on the corner of the Fords Ferry Rd. and Hwy 91, as we know it today. I remember the store as Shaffer's Store many, many years ago, but Eli Flanary is the one who started it, and he was able to do so with the money he received from his injury out West. LaNita's brother Thomas now owns that little corner where the original Flanary store once sat.

LaNita tells me that the family has one of the double-barreled shotguns and Eli's wooden illeg as family mementos today. They had been kept all those years in the little attic of the log cabin. What a story to pass down to future generations. And that is what LaNita's father Doug loved to do.

Another interesting story concerns the Mur-

der's Cave. Was it true or not that is where the outlaws used to throw the dead bodies after they murdered and robbed them? Some evidence I'd say has some proof to it is, when James was a small boy, which would have been in the early 1920's, he and some of his friends liked to play around the rugged bluffs and in the mysterious cave. Back in the depths of the cave they found a human skull with a bullet hole in it. The family doesn't know what ever happened to this relic, or if it ever made it home or was left in the cave.

The old Fords Ferry Road came down Pickering Hill and across a flat field near the ground opening of the cave. As you traveled the roadway you wouldn't even realize there were steep bluffs just yards from the road. The road continued in front of the Vaughn cabin across the field and veered right onto what today is Ky. 387.

In the open field, still standing today, you can see clearly from the highway another landmark, is an old catalpa tree, that was talked about many years ago.

An article written in 1933 about the improvement of our highways tells of Ky. 91 as it leaves Marion on what is now West Bellville Street, formerly the Old Salem Road. It passes near Freedom Church and school, through the Memphis Mines section, by Forest Grove School, around the side and over

the A. T. Terry hill by the old Bracey farm, and into the old Fords Ferry Road at the big catalpa tree. The tree was a landmark in the northern section of Crittenden County for more than half century, on Sam Flanary's lane. There, the road, which is graveled and well kept by the state, ends. The road from the Sam Flanary Lane to Dam 50 is surfaced with river gravel.

LaNita said her dad Doug tells the story of his father, James, and his brother, Watson, as young boys played in the Catalpa tree. On one occasion they used their sling shots to shoot some stones at a man riding by on a mule. The man was Mr. Barger and he had a load of eggs he was taking to town to sell. The mule reared up and the eggs got busted. The young Flanary boys got in a heap of trouble over that one.

I'm sure the old tree has many stories it could tell of days gone by. Even Mr. Hollis Franklin, another well-known and much thought of Crittenden Countain that lived in the area, once told in one of his stories, that as a young boy (would have been in the early 1900s), they used to play ball in the field where the old catalpa tree now stands.

—
The old tree still stands today, a bit ragged look-

Samuel and Maggie's other son, James Isaac Flanary died June 20, 2006. His obituary reads, "James Flanary, 90, of Marion, died June 11, at Salem Springlake Care Center. He was head lockmaster for the Corp of Engineers for 27 years. Three sons survive, David Allen Flanary of Fredonia, Samuel W. Flanary of Evansville and James Douglas Flanary of Paducah. Burial in Dunn Springs Cemetery."

It is the daughter of James Douglas that has shared this history with us. Her father loved for her to drive him around his old home area and he would share with her stories that his father James had told him when he was growing up in the area.

One of these stories was that Samuel and his brother Eli decided to go out West and work on the railroad and get a homestead for their labor. From a little item in The Crittenden Press dated Dec. 13, 1882, it was written Mr. Eli Flanary writes from New Mexico to his friends in this county that he is doing well and is highly pleased with his new home.

Somehow later Eli got hurt in a work accident and was so bad that one of his legs had to be amputated. They were in New Mexico at the time. For compensation, the railroad gave Eli and Samuel some money, two horses and two double-barrel shotguns. And with these they started

IN LOVING MEMORY

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Kyllis George McIntosh
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Farm 40 +/- ACRES - Furniture Appliances - Collectibles - Tools

FURNITURE - Oak table with leaf, 6 chairs, oak china cabinet, 2 small bar stools, 4 pc. oak bedroom suite queen size, roll top desk, cedar wardrobe, small drop leaf lamp table, sofa, oak entertainment center, 2 lamp tables, oak washstand with towel rack, swivel rocker, 4 drawer chest, 3 shelf cabinet, wood tall cabinet, electrical lift recliner, hospital bed, RCA color TV, tape player with disc player, 2 coffee tables, Singer electric sewing machine, Zenith stereo cabinet model, 4 John Deere glasses, John Deere coffee mugs, John Deere salt & pepper shakers, John Deere dishes, 6 quart ice cream maker, metal table with 4 chairs matched set, metal kerosene lamp, antique coffee grinder, antique flat iron, sausage grinder, crocks, blue insulators, draw knife, handwood plane, 2 kerosene lamps, iron small stove, 2 small iron skillets, swing & frame, futon bed, 6 metal frame chairs, rocker recliner, electric recliner steel frame, 4 drawer desk, 2 church pews, 3 full size bed frames, dresser, 6-gun gun cabinet, folding table, 2 small wood shelves, old school desks, bench, phone table, 9 folding chairs, RCA 18 cu. ft. refrigerator, electric grilling machine.

LOTS OF TOOLS - Handyman jack, small portable air compressor, metal tool box, tool kit 100+ pieces, Dremel saw, leaf blower, squirrel cage fan, some antique tools, 3 large expanding doors, log chains, bench grinder, set of car ramps, hand tools, power tools, drills, saws, Craftsman 1 1/2 hp 20 gallon air compressor, large number of power tools, John Deere riding lawn mower 48" cut 17 hp hydraulic lift, lots of jars, set of ramps, other items not listed.

Special note: The farm is in a set aside program, it pays \$5,000 a year. The year 2021 will be split 1/2 to owner and 1/2 to buyer. If the buyer takes out of program or fails to mow the land, the buyer will be responsible for paying the government.

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Redemption takes time

There it was, a beautiful brand new bicycle. It was what she really wanted. What she got, at first, was a doll house that was lovingly made by her father. The disappointment on her 10-year-old face was enough to convince her dad to go and sell the doll house and buy her that bike. There was not enough money for a bicycle, but there was enough craftsmanship and love in the dollhouse to get it.

It was not until a couple of decades later, when her father passed away unexpectedly that the full impact of her rejection of the gift of love hit her. And it hit her hard. If she could only say how sorry she was. I know that her father understood – and so did she. After all, she was only 10.

Years after her father's passing, she was at an estate sale and there it was. It was her dollhouse. It had her father's name on the bottom. It had been bought by a couple who wanted their granddaughters to have something to play with when they visited. It was a little worse for wear, but it was still as solid as when her father crafted it for his 10-year-old daughter. She bought it – back. Redemption!

If one lives long enough there will be moments like this. I know of a few people who have similar stories of lost family treasures that have suddenly and unexpectedly popped up and were met with opportunity to regain what was lost.

The stories how things are lost are as varied as the items. They do, however, share the common threads of lack of appreciation or deception. They also share an understanding on the part of the offender that a mistake had been made. Sometimes it is realized immediately (those tend to be the deception stories) and sometimes it takes months or years (those tend to be the lack of appreciation stories). The resolution comes when realized offense meets an opportu-

nity to make things right.

One of my favorite redemption stories (in the sense of buying something back) happened over 50 years ago in Wisconsin. There was a family



Sean NIESTRATH
Faith-based columnist

Guest Columnist

who immigrated from Europe to central Wisconsin and bought some land on which to farm. What they did not know (but the seller probably did) was that the land was sandy and not good for crops. What they did have was a picturesque creek full of trout and walleye. They built cabins and a rustic lodge and survived through the Depression. They hosted gangsters and presidents (not at the same time!).

In the early 1960s there was a group of churches looking for a camp. They learned of this property and approached the family about selling it. Once they learned that it would be used as a youth camp, they agreed on an attractive price. It was still more than the group had. So it was decided to collect donations and have a fundraising auction at the property with the blessing of those selling it.

The woman who owned

the resort donated her grand piano. Far and away the most valuable item. She attended the auction and outbid everyone. Then she donated her piano to the camp. Did you get that. She donated the piano to raise money to buy her property. Bought the piano for more than it was worth. Then gave it to the camp – again. This redemption story did not take much time to execute. However, the story of how the piano came to be at that place and then donated – twice – still resonates with all the children who attend that camp. The story is told to all of them so that they know.

It teaches them gratitude, generosity and responsibility. But they must be told the story – over and over, and generation to generation. Redemption stories are built from love and generosity. Most of the time they are triggered by an event that represents loss of some sort – but not always. They are consummated when opportunity meets more love and generosity. When they are honored and told they still teach us, and they last for generations.

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.

Church Events & News

■ The Padgett's will be singing at 6 p.m., Sat., April 17 at Crooked Creek Baptist Church located 1.2 miles from Marion off Ford's Ferry Rd. A love offering will be accepted.

■ Maranatha Baptist Church located at 1442 Cedar Grove Rd. In Salem, will have revival at 7 p.m., April 16-18. Bro. Leroy Driver will deliver the message.

■ The Clothes Closet of the First Baptist Church in Fredonia is open to serve the area with free clothes. For the time being, the

Clothes Closet is operating outdoors from 1-3 p.m. each Thursday. Please observe social distancing. The Clothes Closet will be closed in case of rain.

■ Fredonia Unity Baptist Church's clothes closet is open from 9 a.m. to noon on the second and fourth Saturday of every month.

■ First Baptist Church of Fredonia food pantry is open from 1 to 3 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in Coleman Hall of the church.

■ The clothes closet at

Mexico Baptist Church is open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each Monday.

■ Cave Springs Baptist Church between Lola and Joy in Livingston County offers food 24 hours a day, 7 days week at its outdoor Blessing Box in front of the church.

Does Your Congregation Have Something Planned?

Let us know. We post church notes here at no charge.

Email to thepress@the-press.com or call (270) 965-3191

Human life begins at conception

Question: Does human life begin when a baby starts breathing on his or her own? Does it begin three months or six months after conception? When does human life begin?

Answer: I am sympathetic to the thinking that a woman should have control over her own body. When I was in school I had a fairly open opinion about abortion, but I have come to the firm conviction that it is contrary to the teaching of God's holy Word. The Bible teaches the sanctity of every life.

Our culture has shifting definitions of when a person is alive. It's debated in politics, over social media platforms and in classrooms, but God makes it clear in His Word that hu-

man life begins at conception.

Notice how God affirmed Jeremiah long ago: "The word of the LORD came to me, saying 'before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations'" (Jer. 1:4, 5). Like Jeremiah, God knows each of us. He forms us in the womb.

No one happens by ac-

cident. Almighty God crafts each person with great care from his or her conception and each one is of value to Him and to mankind.

Even in the earliest embryonic stages when life is fragile and dependent on the mother, every life is known and valued by God and should be valued by each of us.

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

Ask the Pastor By Bob Hardison

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MIDWAY MINI FARM...This property has approx. 10.6 acres w/3 stocked ponds, a large barn w/stables. Home was constructed 2018 w/4 BR,3 BA, large living room, den, study/nursery. Gorgeous Kitchen & den overlooking the farm. Master Bedroom has large private bathroom w/garden tub & full walk in Closet. Farm consist of fenced areas for horses, livestock.

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Sunday Mass 11 a.m. 860 S. Main St. Marion, Ky. (270) 965-2477

Father John Okoro

Mexico Baptist Church

175 Mexico Rd. (270) 965-4059 MexicoBaptist.org

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.

DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor: Bro. Chris Cummins "Whatever It Takes"

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

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.

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Bro. Alex Kirby, Pastor We invite you to be our guest

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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.

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 Join us for praise & worship

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Pastor: Bro. Aaron Brown • Children's & Youth Pastor: Bro. Shawn Holman

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

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Sun. Worship: 11 a.m., 6 p.m. • Wed.: 7 p.m.
Bro. Austin Weist, pastor
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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

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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

PINEY FORK CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor Junior Martin

SUNDAY School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Bible study 6 p.m.

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Sugar Grove Cumberland Presbyterian

585 Sugar Grove Church Rd, Marion, Ky.
(270) 704-2455
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Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Marion United Methodist Church

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Bro. David COMBS

WED.: Bible Study 5:30 p.m.
SUN: Sun. School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 p.m.

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 a.m. • 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
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Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.
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for sale

GE front load washer, white 4.6 cu. ft., model GFW430, bought August 2019, asking \$250. Text (270) 969-8887. (2t-16-c) ds

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Garage sale, Sat., April 17, 8 a.m.-noon, 41 Airport Rd., girl's, ladie's & men's clothing, jewelry, shoes, purses, frames, household décor, games, books, DVDs, Christmas items, exercise equipment, Porter residence. (1t-15-p)

wanted

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real estate

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This link will show all available positions at LHHS.
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EEO



Top finishers for Marion's Inside Out archery team at last weekend's Lake Barkley Resort shoot are (from left) Max Clements, Emory Orr and Tucker Boudro.

Rocket Way Employees of the Month

Employees receiving Rocket Way recognition in March are (above left) classified employee Marlee Lanham, praised for her eagerness to help and learn technology troubleshooting at CCES; and Shannon Hodge, who co-workers describe as having a heart of gold and holding students and athletes to high standard. Pictured with the award recipients is Crittenden County Schools' public relations director Tiffany Blazina.

Marion archers start season with two wins

Nine members of Marion's new archery team, Inside Out Archers of Kentucky, competed in a 3-D shoot at Lake Barkley Resort April 10. It was the first-ever competition for five team members. Three competitors finished on the podium, including the following:

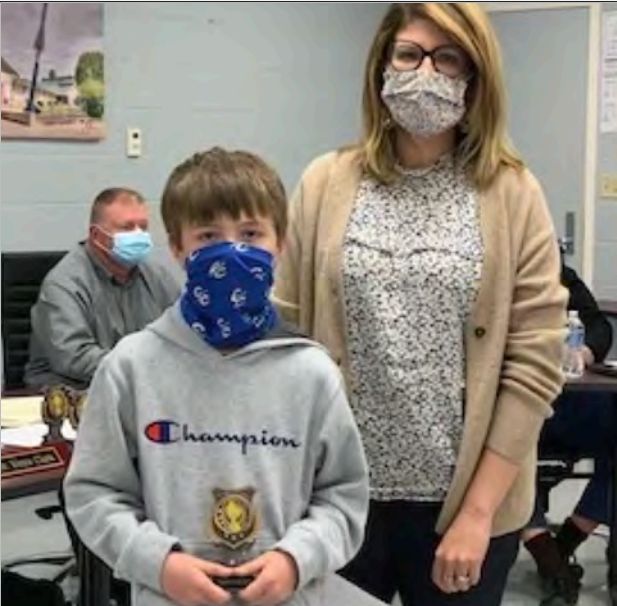
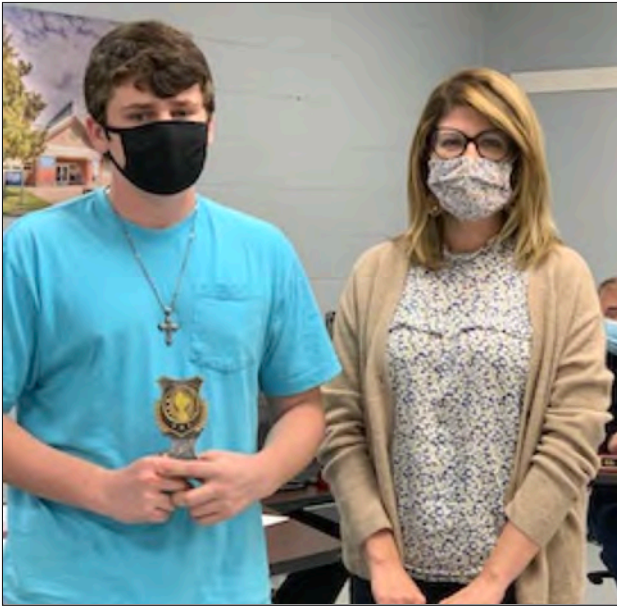
- Tucker Boudro, youth male open first place and overall high boys score
- Max Clements, youth male open second place
- Emory Orr, eagle girls open first place.

Coach Josh Orr will share information about

Informational Meeting

Inside Out Archers of Kentucky will have an informational meeting at 6 p.m., Monday, April 19 at Bigham Lodge across from Henry & Henry Monuments in Marion.

the club at an informational meeting April 19, including requirements, opportunities and a schedule of competitions.



Rocket Way Students of the Month

Rocket Way students of the month for March were (clockwise from left) Peyton Lanham was recognized for his friendliness, responsibility in the classroom and friendliness to his classmates; Chaun Tramel's teachers describe him as hard-working, kind and encouraging; Caden DeBoe's teacher Talley Joyce called him responsible, respectful, resourceful and humble; Gage Adamson's teacher said he is a model student and natural leader.

In Loving Memory
Atler Bunk Perryman
August 30, 2016—April 19, 2017

"Like branches on a tree,
we may grow in different directions,
yet our roots remain as one."

Love, Trail & Hatti Mae



Local groups benefit from Woman's Club photography contest

The Woman's Club of Marion held a photography contest on its Facebook page in March, drawing 33 entries in four classes. Class topics included winter, people, animals and happiness. From March 11-17, the public was invited to vote for one photo in each class. Votes were determined by the number of Likes a photo received. Class winners were: Winter-Libbi Robinson People-Melissa K. Hunt Animals- (Tie) Libbi Robinson and Joy Ringstaff

Happiness-Joy Ringstaff Each of the first-place winners selected from a list of local groups the Woman's Club supports to receive a \$50 donation in their honor. Groups selected to receive contributions included the Crittenden County Animal Shelter, Community Arts Foundation and the Crittenden County Public Library. Photos are available for viewing on the Woman's Club of Marion Facebook page.

Hinton Scott Co. DOSE

Kim Lanham Hinton, formerly of Marion, has been named Director of Special Education for Scott County Schools. Hinton has served as assistant director since 2017. She was a special education teacher for 13 years serving at Lemons Mill Elementary, Paris Elementary and Hanson Elementary. "It has been my pleasure to serve as Assistant Director and I am thrilled to be selected as the Director of Special Education for Scott County Schools," Hinton said. Hinton earned a bachelor of arts in special education from Murray State University. She holds a master's degree in special education from the University of Louisville and Director of Special Education certification from University of the Cumberlands. She is the daughter of Joe and Nancy Lanham of Marion.



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LOCAL SPORTS

SPRING SPORTS Upcoming events

THURSDAY, April 15
Baseball hosts Caldwell County

FRIDAY, April 16
Baseball at Trigg County
Softball at Trigg County

SATURDAY, April 17
Baseball hosts Mayfield

MONDAY, April 19
Baseball hosts Lyon County
Softball hosts Lyon County

TUESDAY, April 20
Softball at Calloway County
Track hosts Quad Meet

OUTDOORS Hunting Seasons

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

Coyote Nighttime	Dec. 1 - May 31
Wild Turkey	April 17 - May 9
Coyote	Year Round
Groundhog	Year Round
Turtles	Year Round

Turkey season opens

For the first time in two years, Kentucky is open to spring turkey hunting for everyone. Last year, due to the pandemic shutdown, out-of-state hunters were not allowed to hunt spring turkeys in Kentucky unless they had purchased a license prior to March. Field reports from hunters doing pre-season scouting have been mixed. Hunters here harvested 341 turkeys in the spring of 2020, that was down slightly from the previous year, but higher than a 20-year record-low harvest of 288 in 2018. There was a period in the 2000s and early 2010s when Crittenden hunters regularly bagged more than 500 birds a season.

BASKETBALL Mott verbally commits

Rocket senior Gabe Mott has verbally committed to play basketball at Centre College in Danville. Mott finished his high school career last month with 1,545 points, which is third on the Crittenden County boys' all-time scoring list. Mott visited the liberal arts college over spring break. There will be a formal signing later at the high school. Centre is where CCHS girls' coach Shannon Hodge was a Division III Basketball All-American.



Marshall runnerup

First Region girls basketball champion Marshall County finished runnerup in the Sweet 16 last weekend at Rupp Arena. The Lady Marshals defeated Second Region champion Henderson County in the semifinals then lost 49-47 to Sacred Heart in the championship game.

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National Federation of High Schools Sports Network



Junior Maddox Carlson went into Tuesday's All A Classic semifinal game having not given up a single run in 11 innings this season.

BASEBALL Rockets beat UHA to advance to All A title game on Thursday

Crittenden County beat University Heights 10-5 Tuesday to advance to the All A Classic Second Region championship game for the first time in nearly a decade.

The Rockets scored eight runs in the pivotal fifth inning, giving them a berth in Thursday's title game against Caldwell County at Dawson Springs. CCHS last played in the small-school championship game in 2012.

Maddox Carlson pitched 5½ innings for the win and Ben Evans closed it out on the mound for CCHS. Carlson struck out four and Evans two.

Carlson also drove in three runs on two hits. Logan Bailey, Evans and Gabe Mott each had two hits.

Tyler Boone and Caden McCalister had the Rockets' only extra-based hits, a pair of doubles. Boone drove in two runs with his two-bagger in the fifth when CCHS broke the game open. UHA led 3-1 going into that inning.

An interesting sidebar to the Rockets' run this season is that coach Devin Belt pitched a no-hitter in the opening round of the All A regional tournament the last time CCHS reached the championship game. Crittenden has never won a regional All A title.

CCHS homers twice in Invitational opener

The Rockets started last Thursday off with a bang to open the Warren County Invitational Spring Break Tournament at Bowling Green. They got things going in the bottom of the second inning against Edmonson County with a two-run homer from freshman Hunter Smith. Then the Rockets exploded for nine runs in the third, including a grand slam from senior Trace Adams.

Crittenden County went on

Baseball District Standings

	Overall	Dist
Lyon County	5-2	1-0
Crittenden County	5-2	0-1
Trigg County	2-2	0-0
Livingston County	2-6	0-0

Softball District Standings

	Overall	Dist
Lyon County	4-3	1-0
Crittenden County	1-3	0-1
Livingston County	6-2	0-0
Trigg County	1-2	0-0



Freshman Jeremiah Foster delivers a pitch against McLean County during last week's spring break tournament at Bowling Green.

to win 15-0 behind a three-hit, complete-game shutout from junior Maddox Carlson.

Crittenden totaled 10 hits. Carlson and sophomore Case Gobin each had multiple hits. Carlson led the way by going 3-for-3 at the plate.

CCHS beats McLean

Crittenden County started off by scoring twice in each of the first two innings against McLean last Thursday in its second game at the Warren County spring break tournament. A home run by Carlson in the first gave the Rockets a quick lead. The game was tied at four apiece in the bottom of the fifth when Braxton Winders singled on a 3-2 count, scoring one run. That would give the Rockets an edge en route to a 10-4 victory.

CCHS had eight hits in the game. Adams, Carlson and junior Ben Evans all collected multiple hits.

Freshman Jeremiah Foster started the game on the mound for the Rockets. He surrendered four runs on two hits over 4½ innings, while striking out three. Evans came on in relief and got the win for the Rockets. He pitched nearly two full innings, allowing no hits and no runs. Junior Logan Bailey threw the final inning.

CCHS runs out of steam in final game at Warren

The Rockets fell behind early as Breckinridge scored eight runs in the bottom of



Crittenden County third baseman Trace Adams makes a play across the infield during Crittenden's win over Edmonson County last week at the Warren County Invitational spring break baseball tournament in Bowling Green.

the second on Friday in their final game at the Warren County Invitational.

Breckinridge, a state semi-finalist in 2019, came in with a high-powered offense and scored 13 runs. That was the most given up in a single game by the Rockets all season. In fact, the CCHS defense had allowed just 18 runs in their previous five games before Breckinridge.

Crittenden, however, closed the gap in the middle innings, scoring three in the fifth inning. Adams, Evans and senior Gabe Mott each had RBIs in that big inning.

The Rockets pulled to within four at one point, but lost 13-5 despite racking up 10 hits.

Adams, Mott and Winders each had two hits to lead Crittenden County.

Bailey took the loss for the Rockets. He allowed seven hits and seven runs in less than two innings. Mott came in and got two outs in the second inning before Gobin and Smith closed it out on the mound.

SOFTBALL

Quarantine idles girls; wipes out All A hosting

Crittenden County was scheduled to host this week's All A Classic Second Region Girls' Softball Tournament, but COVID-19 wiped out the opportunity.

Public health officials notified the team last week that it would have to quarantine through Monday of this week due to contact tracing protocol.

The girls were to have played Lyon County at Marion-Crittenden County Park on Monday then hosted the semifinals and championship rounds of the small-school tournament Tuesday and Thursday.

"I hate it for our seniors, but there's just nothing you can do about situations like this," said softball coach Stephen Smith.

The softball girls should be ready to return to the field on Friday when they're scheduled to play a Fifth District game at Trigg County.

TRACK | FIELD Keller breaks own mark in 1600 meters

Crittenden County senior Kate Keller on Saturday broke



Senior Kate Keller finishes strong to set a new school record in the 1,600 meters.

a school record she had previously set herself.

Keller ran the 1,600-meter race at Calloway County in 5:32, which was just over two seconds faster than her previous best in the one-mile race. She finished second in the race.

Following are local results from others at the Laker Invitational at Calloway County.

**April 10
At Calloway County
Laker Invitational
BOYS**

100 Meters 4. Eli Moss (12.24).

1600 Meters 16. Jordan Hardesty (6:32.55).

400 Meters 5. Kaleb Nesbitt (58.57); 12. Noah Perkins (1:00.59); 16. Noah McGowan (1:02.67).

800 Meters 8. Rowen Perkins (2:26.75); 16. Cole Swinford (2:37.91).

200 Meters 4. Eli Moss (24.88); 13. Noah McGowan (27.01).

Long Jump 5. Noah Perkins (17' 7.50); 14. Rowan Perkins (15' 5.50).

Discus 11. Sammy Impastato (75' 8"); 12. Lane West (73' 11").

Shot Put 1. Noah McGowan (41' 11"); 16. Lane West (25' 2"); 17. Sam Impastato (25' 1").

GIRLS

100 Meters 24. Karsyn Potter (15.33); 30. Payton Maness (15.78).

Freshman 1600 Meters 2. Mary Martinez (6:38.75); 9. Jayden Duncan (7:52.56).

1600 Meters 2. Kate Keller (5:32.85).

400 Meters 15. Kara Fulkerson (1:13.47); 18. Karsyn Potter (1:16.88).

300 Hurdles 7. Kara Fulkerson (1:01.15).

800 Meters 5. Kate Keller (2:48.06); 19. Jayden Duncan (3:37.38).

200 Meters 19. Karsyn Potter (32.13).



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County averaging about 2 cases per day

Crittenden County continues to stay on a pace of about two COVID-19 cases per day. The virus began to slow here in late February after a wintertime peak, yet there remains a steady number of cases confirmed each week. There were a couple of new cases confirmed here on Monday, bringing the county's seven-day total

to 15 during period of April 6 through April 12. Through Monday, there have been 25 cases diagnosed in Crittenden County this month, an average of 2.08 cases per day. Most of the confirmed new cases in April have been young adults, and several teens. Just four have been age 60 or older. The case total for the

county since the pandemic began has grown to 675 with 22 deaths. Vaccine is readily available to almost anyone age 16 and over, but Kentucky has stopped using the single-dose Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine after the CDC recommended a "pause" to investigate reports of potentially dangerous blood clots due to the shot.

Emerald ash borer found in Crittenden

BY KATIE PRATT
UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY
The emerald ash borer is slowly making its way into Western Kentucky after spending the past decade largely in the eastern half of the state.

The tiny, dark-green metallic beetle was first found in Central Kentucky in 2009. Due to the "Slow the Spread" campaign and quarantines that encouraged Kentuckians not to move firewood, the bugs' westward movement was greatly slowed. However, it has been recently found as far west as Crittenden County. "Western Kentuckians need to know if they have an ash tree. If they do, they need to start preparing to make some hard decisions," said Jonathan Larson, an entomologist with the University of Kentucky College of Agriculture, Food and Environment. "Those decisions are whether to remove the tree now and pay that money upfront or to invest some money and treat the tree to keep it

around." Advanced stages of an emerald ash borer infestation include D-shaped exit holes, splitting bark and larvae tunnels through the tree. (Photo by Katie Pratt, UK Ag) Over the years, ash has been a popular tree for Kentuckians to plant. It is commonly found in neighborhoods, backyards and woodlands across the state. The emerald ash borer attacks all species of ash. Adult borers feed on a tree's leaves. The larvae burrow into the tree to feed on the bark, destroying the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients to its canopy. This can cause loss of the entire canopy within a year or two. Susan Fox is Lyon County's agriculture and natural resource extension agent. With the emerald ash borer only a county away, she is encouraging her clients to be aware of their ash trees, the insect and its effects. "I want people in my county to start watching

for symptoms of the emerald ash borer," Fox said. "As the insect pressure grows, they will have to make some decisions about their trees. If they have a lot of ash in their woodlands, they may want to log it now. Once the borer is found in a tree, it loses all value." Early symptoms of the emerald ash borer appear as leaf dieback and leaf drop in the top one-third of the tree. An increase in woodpeckers visiting the tree is also a tell-tale sign of an infestation since the birds love to eat emerald ash borers. Trees with an advanced infestation will have D-shaped exit holes and splitting bark from adults emerging from the tree. "Western Kentuckians may begin noticing leaf dieback in the top third of the tree canopy," Larson said. "You can treat and save a tree if it still has at least 50 percent of its canopy." UK Department of Entomology's emerald ash borer website offers tree



FIVE-COUNTY AREA					
Most info in this graphic current as of April 9. *Updates with April 12 data.					
County	Confirmed Cases Ever	Currently in Home Isolation	Currently Hospitalized	Recovered Cases	Deaths
Caldwell	1,202	12	1	1,162	27
Crittenden	675*	15	3	626	22
Livingston	786	24	1	743	18
Lyon	1,535	10	0	1,507	18
Trigg	1,179	32	1	1,136	10
Total	5,368	93	6	5,174	95

Source: Pennyrile District Health Department



Contact your local Extension service at 270-965-5236 to have an agent help you determine if the emerald ash borer is active on your property.

identification resources online to help landowners and homeowners identify their trees and the insects at entomology.ca.uky.edu. "Ash trees have diamond-shaped patterns in the bark that look kind of like alligator skin and nice, compound leaves on the plant," Larson said.

If landowners decide to remove the ash and replace it, the UK Department of Horticulture offers an educational publication to help people decide on the replacement tree that would work best in their environment and personal preference. The publication ID-241: After Your Ash Has Died-Making an

Informed Decision on What to Replant is available at www2.ca.uky.edu or local extension offices. UK Cooperative Extension Service agents can help landowners determine if they have an ash tree and if their trees are showing early symptoms of the emerald ash borer.

Circuit Judge hears monthly pleadings in Marion courtroom

STAFF REPORT
Crittenden Circuit Court Judge Renee Williams was on the bench last Thursday in Crittenden County and handled a number of cases on the regular monthly docket. Outcomes were determined in the following cases. •Thomas M. Jepsen, 56, of Marion was formally sentenced after pleading guilty to a Class C felony charge of second-degree assault and an amended charge of misdemeanor second-degree criminal simulation

- which was originally a felony charge of tampering with physical evidence. Jepsen was sentenced to five years on the felony and 12 months on the misdemeanor with the time to run concurrently. He will be required to serve at least 18 months before being eligible for probation, and also will be required to complete a treatment program. Jepsen pleaded guilty to grabbing a female around the neck during an altercation July 8, 2019 at a residence on West Elm Street. The vic-

tim suffered bruising, lacerations and a cut on her head, according to the police report. •Tyquarius Stubbs, 18, of Hopkinsville was given a two-year probated sentence on an amended charge of sexual misconduct, a Class A misdemeanor. He was originally charged with felony possession of matter portraying a sexual performance by a minor. •Leslie Ann Yeakel, 51, of Princeton pleaded guilty to two counts of theft of identity and will be formally sentenced on May 13.

Rushing's championship gives CCMS second place
Crittenden County seventh-grader Chloe Rushing, who is a member of the middle school speech team, lifted her CCMS team to a second-place finish in the Murray regional. Rushing competed in the middle school regional tournament, which was conducted virtually a few weeks ago. She was selected as regional champion in Prose Interpretation, and by virtue of her first-place finish, Crittenden County collected enough points to win second place in the region. Team finishes are based on individual student sweepstakes points and Rushing's championship gave CCMS all of its regional points. The trophy was received in the mail last week at CCMS.



GUARD

Continued from page 1
Sarah Riley said hardly anyone knew about it until the last minute. "We didn't tell the teachers until about 30 minutes before it happened," she said. A couple of classes - those including Duncan's two youngest children - were called outside under the pretense of learning how to win prizes as part of a fundraising campaign. The biggest prize was hidden under a large cardboard box. When teachers unveiled what was in the box, Duncan's

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our video coverage of the

soldier's reunion with family.

children quickly raced to him for an emotional embrace. "To see the love a family has for their father and the respect our students showed them was a great experience," Riley said. Duncan's wife, Breann, and his oldest son, Keifer, were also in on the surprise and hiding a few feet away when Duncan was revealed in his full

military dress. Duncan, who is also a local policeman and ordained minister, will be back to work on the streets of Marion in a few weeks. During deployment to Poland for Operation European Deterrence Initiative, Duncan and his troops provided medical support for American soldiers in Poland and other nearby countries. "In 10 months we did over 1,000 COVID swabs, treated and monitored over 250 COVID positive patients and had about 4,800 total medical encounters," he said.

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