



The Crittenden Press

Spring Home Improvement Time | Page 11

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THURSDAY, APRIL 18, 2024

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

AN INDEPENDENTLY-OWNED, LOCAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1879

ONE DOLLAR

Delinquent taxes have 14 weeks before sale

Crittenden County's delinquent tax bills have been processed and transferred to the county clerk from the sheriff's department. They are now certificates of delinquency, and a lien is recorded against the property. Bills are available at the clerk's office at the Crittenden County Office Complex for examination by registered third-party purchasers. They are also viewable at the county clerk's website at Crittenden.clerkinfo.net. All delinquent bills will go on sale in 14 weeks. Property owners have just more than three months (it is more than 90 days) to pay those bills, plus fees and interest. The certificates of delinquency will go on sale July 26, at which time registered third parties may purchase them and assume the lien. If purchased, delinquent taxpayers will be required to make payment to the third-party owner in order to satisfy the lien. On Monday, 228 certificates of delinquency representing \$66,215.50 in late taxes and fees were delivered to the clerk's office. Typically, about two dozen of them will be purchased by third parties, if not previously satisfied by the property owner. Payment of delinquent taxes in the county clerk's office cannot be made by check. Additionally, the 911 service is not payable in the clerk's office; it must be paid separately to the county treasurer.

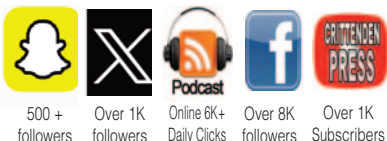
Three already file to seek re-election in November

Candidates seeking election to non-partisan posts such as city council, school board or conservation supervisor have until June 4 to register. Last week, incumbent city councilman Bobby Belt filed to seek re-election; Chris Cook filed to seek re-election for District 3 Board of Education; and Larry Duvall has filed for another term as a member of the Crittenden County Soil and Water Conservation District board. There are six city council positions, three school board seats (districts 1,3 and 4) and three conservation district posts available during the November general election.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Crittenden County Fiscal Court will meet at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, April 18 at the county office complex.
- Crittenden County Board of Education will meet at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, April 18 at Rocket Arena.
- Crittenden County Conservation District will meet at 6:30 p.m., Thursday, April 18 at its office on East Bellville Street.
- Crittenden-Livingston Water District will meet at 4 p.m., Monday, April 22 at Deer Lakes meeting room.
- Livingston Fiscal Court meets at 5 p.m., Tuesday, April 23 at the county office complex in Smithland.

No matter your generation 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

USPS 138-260 / Marion, Ky.



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Stage Coach Director Corey Crider (left) coaches rehearsals with Abigail James (kneeling) and Greer Crider, characters in Matilda JR., which will be presented later next week at Fohs Hall. Admission is free, but tickets are required for entry.

CAF's spring play reeks of rebellion

Marion's streets will be filled by the smell of rebellion when the Community Arts Foundation presents Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical JR.

Based on the beloved book "Matilda" by Roald Dahl and adapted from the award-winning full-length musical, Roald Dahl's Matilda, The Musical JR tells a story of an

extraordinary girl who, armed with a vivid imagination and a sharp mind, dares to take a stand and change her own destiny.

The play features 26 local youth and is directed by professional singers and performers Corey and Michelle Crider.

Community Arts Foundation will host performances

at 7 p.m., April 26 and 27 and May 3 and 4 at Fohs Hall.

Doors open at 6:15 p.m., for each show.

Admission is free, but a ticket is required. To reserve tickets, go to <https://buytickets.at/communityarts-foundation>.

The show is adapted from the full-length musical which

was based on the book by Roald Dahl, and features a book by Dennis Kelly and music and lyrics by Tim Minchin.

The show opened on the West End in 2011 and made its Broadway premiere in 2013. The musical earned seven Olivier Awards, includ-

See **PLAY** /page 2

No one shows for Lake George restoration hearing

STAFF REPORT

Local leaders are not too concerned that no one showed up last Wednesday at city hall for a public hearing aimed at discussing the future of Lake George. However, they did expect a bit more interest than they got.

As part of Marion's application for a \$1 million grant to help put the crippled lake back together, a public forum was

required to gauge support and to provide information for a potential multi-million-dollar complete restoration of the levee that was purposely breached two years ago to prevent a possible complete failure. A nearly \$5 million project is underway at the lake to make temporary repairs, but a long-term plan has not been developed. A permit for the coffer dam that's helping currently holding

back water is only good for three years. Beyond that, Marion will need to decide if it wants to spend about \$4 to \$5 million more to completely redo the earthen levee to state standards.

"I am disappointed no one showed up. I thought we had interest in this," said City Administrator Diane Ford-Benning-

See **LAKE** /page 3

Over \$456K locally in opioid settlement

Opioid Settlement Funds		
COUNTIES	Payout Received	Estimated Future Payout
Crittenden	\$99,267.99	\$291,652.03
Livingston	\$109,306.17	\$357,034.14
Caldwell	\$76,609.06	\$250,233.36
Webster	\$126,061.71	\$411,763.89
Union	\$127,872.38	\$388,978.20
Lyon	\$58,969.54	\$133,784.21
MUNICIPALITIES		
Marion	\$7,602.96	\$57,427.83
Sturgis	\$6,694.71	\$50,567.35
Princeton	\$55,518.41	\$181,343.51
Morganfield	\$57,527.61	\$187,906.29
Eddyville	\$9,718.45	\$73,406.84
Kuttawa	\$4,004.96	\$30,250.83

Year-By-Year Settlement Payments

MARION		CRITTENDEN	
Year	Payout	Year	Payout
2022	\$5,497.05	2022	\$89,366.71
2023	\$2,105.91	2023	\$9,901.28
2024	\$3,357.39	2024	\$15,785.29
2025	\$3,357.39	2025	\$15,785.29
2026	\$3,357.39	2026	\$18,449.35
2027	\$3,357.39	2027	\$18,449.35
2028	\$4,524.33	2028	\$24,657.69
2029	\$4,524.33	2029	\$25,582.62
2030	\$4,524.33	2030	\$25,582.62
2031	\$3,803.16	2031	\$22,191.91
2032	\$3,803.16	2032	\$17,881.13
2033	\$3,803.16	2033	\$17,881.13
2034	\$3,803.16	2034	\$17,881.13
2035	\$3,803.16	2035	\$17,881.13
2036	\$3,803.16	2036	\$17,881.13
2037	\$3,803.16	2037	\$17,881.13
2038	\$3,803.16	2038	\$17,881.13

Payouts continue coming throughout next 15 years

BY CHRIS EVANS
PRESS EDITOR

Marion and Crittenden County have already received a portion of more than \$456,000 it is due as part of the national opioid settlement, but so far none of it has been spent or earmarked for specific use.

State and local governments across the country are receiving billions of dollars in settlements from companies that made, sold or distributed prescription painkillers and were accused of fueling the opioid crisis. More than a dozen companies will pay the money over nearly two decades. As of early this year, more than \$4.3 billion had landed in government coffers, including almost \$107,000 in Marion and Crittenden County.

Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom says there are restrictions on the funds and plans are being developed how the money will be spent locally.

The settlement spells out some detail of how the money can be used, including to address misuse and abuse of opioid products, to treat or mitigate opioid use or related disorders or to mitigate other alleged effects of, including on those injured as a result of, the opioid epidemic.

Newcom said there are some community programs already in place that should qualify as beneficiaries of the funds, but further exploration and discussions are necessary to make sure it is being spent wisely and properly. He mentioned possible qualified programs such as Crittenden County Drug-Free Coalition, MBC Outreach



and Recovery Services, Celebrate Recovery and Agency Substance Abuse Program (ASAP).

Jack Easley, a peer support specialist and case manager for those local programs, believes decision makers from a cross section of the community should be charged with determining how the nearly half million dollars will be spent. He said a similar makeup exists on what's known as the Champions for a Drug-Free Community board of directors. That, or a similarly created committee, would be well suited to examine options for spending the local payout.

Easley's outreach spends almost \$250 every week drug testing individuals in cases he oversees across the Fifth Judicial District, which includes Crittenden, Union and Webster counties. Of course, each of those counties will be receiving its own share of the opioid settlement.

"More drug testing is needed," Easley said. He explains that testing is among the greatest deterrents for

See **OPIOID** /page 4

Deaths

Fox

Lillian Mae Fox, 82, of Marion, died Saturday, April 13, 2024 at Livingston Hospital and Healthcare Services.

She was a member of Lola Baptist Church. She was a fabulous cook, especially her chicken and dressing. She loved the beach, and she dearly loved all of her family.

Surviving are her husband of 64 years, Eddie Coleman “Coley” Fox; four daughters, Tammy (Roger) Croft of Salem, Teresa (Billy Bob) Bebout of Salem, Sherry Williams of Marion and “Debbie” (Matt) East of Lawrenceburg; seven grandchildren, Heather Hape, Brittney Smith, Coleman Bebout, Jenny Orange, Emily Coriell, Jessica Pierson and Jordan Croft; 12 great-grandchildren, Keira, Bryan, Paysen, Taylyn, Ayla, Arya, Beckett, Sawyer, Rawley and Branch, Reed and Frances Grace; several nieces and nephews and very close friends Edna and Paula.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Walter Wesley and Ila Mae (Brown) Holloman; and a brother, Eugene Adrian Guess.

Services are at 2 p.m., Thursday, April 18 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Service. Burial will follow in Salem Cemetery.

Friends may visit with the family from noon until the funeral hour in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services.

Todd

Carrie Ann Todd, 49, of Marion, died Friday, April 12, 2024 at Crittenden Community Hospital.

Surviving are her husband, James Todd of Marion; five children, Dalton Stormoen, Kea-

gan Hicks, Shiann Kirk, Joshlyn Kirk and Aidan Smith; nine grandchildren, Fiona Ritchie, Clint Ritchie, Coulson Kirk, Hayden Baker, Rylynn Renner, Willow Lawless, Tora Smith, Rhemis Smith and Maverick Stormoen; her mother, Bonnie Taylor; and a brother, Robert Nennig.

Private services will be held at a later date.

Gilbert Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Hastings

Linda L. Hastings, 77, of Benton, died Sunday, April 14, 2024. She was born June 6, 1946 in Detroit, Mich., to Fred and Ruby Lanhams Stinnett. They moved to Crittenden County when Linda was 2 years old. She always considered Kentucky her home. She worked in the secretarial field for some wonderful companies and made many friendships through the years.

Surviving are her husband and best friend of 35 years, Richard Hastings; a stepson, Cole (Jael) Hastings; two step grandchildren, Asher and Emilie; a sister-in-law, Brenda Stinnett; and eight nieces, Cynthia, Debbie, Lisa, Kim, Jennifer, Kathy, Chase and Julia.

She was preceded in death by her parents; three brothers, Bob, Mark and Clifton Stinnett; a nephew, Bill Adams; a sister-in-law,

Clara Stinnett and two brothers-in-law, Harold Adams and Monroe Butler.

Services are at 1 p.m., Thursday April 18 at Gilbert Funeral Home with burial in Mexico Cemetery. The family will receive visitors from 11 a.m., until service time Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Humane Society or the charity of your choice.

Brantley

Jo Ann Brantley, 77, of Marion, died Monday, April 15, 2024 at Baptist Health Madisonville. She was a member of Marion First Christian Church.

Surviving are a daughter, Kimberly Jo Koscinski of San Antonio, TX; a sister, Barbara Butler; two grandchildren, Sydney and Jacob Koscinski of San Antonio; a two nephews, John Hamilton of Marion and Jason Brantley of Iowa; and a niece, Nari Hadden of Iowa.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Bennie and Mary Brantley; a brother, Bennie Brantley, Jr.; and a sister, Mary Fritts.

Services are at 2 p.m., Saturday April 20 at Gilbert Funeral Home with burial in Mapleview Cemetery. The family will receive visitors from noon until service time at the funeral home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, 13770 Noel Road, Suite 801889, Dallas, TX 75380.

Montgomery

Billie L. Montgomery, 70, died Sunday, Feb. 4, 2024 in Paducah.

She was a registered nurse and U.S. Air Force veteran.

Surviving are a sister, Mona Kirk of Paducah; two cousins, Thomas George and Marilyn Long; special friends Mikey Weitlauf and Sandy Giving; and special best friend, Maggie Mae.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Arlin and Eva Lee (Gil-land) Ramage; a sister, Bonnie Lee Guess; and a brother, Vernon Guess.

There will be no visitation. Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services was in charge of arrangements.



Community Calendar

Call (270) 965-3191 to share your organization's meetings in this free, weekly community calendar.

Thursday, April 18

- Line dancing class is at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Citizens Center.
- “Positive Employability,” a Community Christmas class, is at 6:30 p.m., at the Extension Annex. Register by calling 270-965-5236.
- Crittenden County Public Library's Friends of the Library meets at 6 p.m.

Saturday, April 20

- All-you-can eat breakfast is from 7-10 a.m., at Salem Masonic Lodge #81. Lodge is located at 237 W. Main St., Salem. Cost is \$6.

Monday, April 22

- Small ruminant training is at 6 p.m., at the Extension Annex. Call the Extension Office to register at 270-965-5236.

Tuesday, April 23

- UK Extension Service will join the staff of Bowtanicals to present a flower arranging class at 5:30 p.m. Register by April 15. Cost is \$25 and includes flowers and a vase for arrangement.

Thursday, April 25

- Homemaker Cooking Club meets at 1:30 p.m., at the Extension Annex.
- Crittenden County Public Library Board meets at 5 p.m..

PLAY

Continued from page 1
ing “Best New Musical,” and five Tony awards.

Matilda is a little girl with astonishing wit, intelligence and psychokinetic powers. She lives with cruel parents who find her to be a nuisance, a lousy little worm and a

bore.

When Matilda enters her first term at school, she captures the attention of Miss Honey, a kind teacher. The two form a wonderful friendship. Unfortunately, the school is ruled by a tempestuous and mean headmistress named Miss Trunchbull, who

hates children and delivers cruel and unjust punishments to all her charges.

Matilda is determined to change her story, but will her cleverness and courage be enough?

Find out by attending this locally-produced play at Fohs Hall.



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Kayson Wagoner pictured in a recent roping competition. He’s currently ranked No. 1 in the country in his division.

Crittenden 6th grader heads up national team roping rankings

STAFF REPORT

Kayson Wagoner comes by his roping ability honestly, but his refinement of a natural talent has led to a lofty ranking on the national team roping leaderboard. Wagoner, a sixth-grade student at Crittenden County Elementary, is hte No. 1 heeler in the National Little Britches Rodeo Association points standing for team roping after five event championships and two runner-up performances this season.

Wagoner lives in Union County and commutes to Marion daily with his mother, Kara Thomas, who works in the loan department at Farmers Bank. After school, he practices for at least 30 minutes on a dummy steer in his backyard.

Helping with his technique is Wagoner’s step-father, Scott Thomas, a farmer and former top-ranked steer wrestler when he was on the Murray State rodeo team in the early 2000s. Wag-



Roping teammates Cameron Thomas and Kayson Wagoner.

oner’s father, Brandon, was also a champion in the Kentucky Junior Rodeo years ago.

“In rodeo competition, it’s a real steer,” Wagoner says, but practicing on the dummy helps with his timing and accuracy. “The rope is about 30 to 35 feet long. I have to swing it over my head and throw it.”

Only halfway through his school career, Wagoner wants to rope in college and even professionally.

His recognition on the National Little Britches Circuit is a great start toward those goals, his mother says.

Most of his competitive events are held at Murray State’s Cherry Exposition Center. His cousin Cameron Thomas, 13, is the header.

Founded in 1952, Little Britches Rodeo is a youth organization for ages 5 to 18. Wagoner was also All-Around Cowboy in Kentucky Junior Rodeo last year and a state champion roper. He also competes in breakaway roping, ribbon roping and goat tying.

In July, the young rodeo star will be heading to the Lazy E Arena in Guthrie, Okla., to participate in the Little Britches national finals. He is currently selling raffle tickets and T-shirts to help support the nationals appearance.

Fohs project tweaked a bit, playground pavilion coming

A number of local projects and events were discussed at Marion Tourism and Recreation Commission’s monthly meeting on Tuesday.

Tourism directors approved spending around \$12,000 for a new pavilion that will be located inside Marion-Crittenden County Park’s big playground near Old Morganfield Road.

Plans are for a 16 x 24 foot covered structure with a concrete floor and electrical outlets. Construction is planned to be done this summer. Jent Construction was the only bidder on the project.

Fohs Hall’s big plan to build a rotunda, pavilion and develop a walking trail remain in place, but the work will be done in different phases.

Alan Stout, president of Fohs Hall, Inc., gave a presentation to the tourism commission, defining the project’s first

steps. Development is planned across North Walker Street from Fohs Hall on the former Hayward House property, which it recently bought.

Stout said a grant application for \$250,000 to the Land and Water Conservation Fund was denied. Plans were to use that money to build a rotunda similar to one at My Old Kentucky Home State Park in Bardstown.

Undeterred to complete the project by 2026 when Fohs Hall will celebrate its 100th anniversary, Stout said a new \$250,000 trails grant is now being sought.

“This project was going to be done in phases,” Stout said. “We’re just starting with a different phase now.”

A walking trail that will start on the Hayward property and wind around behind the Crittenden County Senior Citizen Center will be moved to phase one, he

explained. That part of the overall \$1 million project was originally going to be last. Restrooms will also be included in this first phase.

The commission also provided \$1,500 to David Fritts, who is planning his third annual Sugar Creek Off-Road Racing event on May 18 in rural, eastern Crittenden County. Fritts asked for help paying for promotional tools and portable restrooms for the rock-bouncer races next month.

It was reported that 73 golfers from at least seven states participated in last weekend’s disc golf tournament at Marion-Crittenden County Park.

The commission also continued to discuss the desire to build pickleball courts either at the park or near the former armory.

LAKE

Continued from page 1

field, who was there to moderate the forum.

Only The Press and another member of city administration attended and signed a registration sheet of interested individuals.

“I thought property owners from around the lake would show up, even if no one else did,” the city administrator said.

The meeting, scheduled for 12:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 10, was publicized online and in the newspaper. Citizens were invited to attend for the purposes of gathering information about a possible restoration project and to comment on issues such as economic and environmental impacts and alternatives to the project or any other pertinent issues.

Additionally, citizens were allowed to submit comments in writing or by

emailing Layten Croft at lcroft@marionky.gov up until the time of the hearing. No correspondence was submitted, city officials said.

Marion’s water crisis consultant Tim Thomas doesn’t believe the lack of interest in the meeting at a somewhat inconvenient time for many – in the middle of a typical work day – should not have a negative effect on obtaining the grant. It’s simply a procedural part of the grant application process.

“That’s really not surprising as these things go,” Thomas said.

Mayor D’Anna Browning echoed a similar response to the lack of turnout.

“I’m not overly concerned. My hope is that people understand what all is involved with the USDA grant. I would like to host a town hall meeting in the fall to discuss ideas about the future of Lake George. Hopefully by then, we will have a better idea of our options,” she said.

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Crittenden Press Letters to Editor Forum for Public Commentary

Development group praises Sen. Howell

To the Editor:
Crittenden County Economic Development Corporation sends a heartfelt, community-wide thank you to state Sen. Jason Howell for his work in securing funding benefitting Crittenden County in the new biennium budget. Working with other members of the Kentucky legislature representing both Crittenden and Livingston counties, Sen. Howell spearheaded the effort to include \$10 million for Crittenden-Livingston Water District’s (CLWD) expansion phase 1 project. This appropriation will fully fund the initial phase of an eventual three-phase project estimated to cost \$40 to \$50 million, and will allow overall design as well as construction of a new clear well to proceed at the earliest opportunity.
While not from Crittenden County,

Sen. Howell is committed to our success, and understands the critical timing of this assistance. These monies will ensure the water district can continue to serve hospitals, manufacturers, schools, restaurants and recreational facilities of its multi-county service area. Expanding the CLWD facilities is critical for growing as a region, allowing our existing businesses to expand and attracting new residents.
As a champion for regional solutions, Sen. Howell’s work underscores the partnership approach of reaching across county lines for collaborative progress. His efforts epitomize the spirit of solidarity necessary for addressing shared challenges and advancing our collective prosperity.
Thank you again Sen. Howell for your support and dedication to Crittenden County.

Amanda Davenport,
Executive Director
Board of Directors
Crittenden County
Economic Development Corp.

Concerned about complex motivation

To the Editor:
I am writing in regard to what is known as the McMican Road complex. As a county resident and taxpayer for more than 40 years, my concern is only in the best interest of Crittenden County and the City of Marion. When I read in our local newspaper that a private investor using HUD funding is planning to build a 48-unit, multi-family apartment complex in our county, I couldn’t help but wonder what incentives would a private investor along with the federal housing authority have in choosing this location. We are not exactly having a population explosion. Employment opportunities are limited, and right now there isn’t even enough water and sewer for the current residents. Why here and almost 50 family units?

I am very much in favor of help for those who are in need and the city and county may indeed be short of affordable housing. However getting the federal government involved with moving people into our area should be carefully, openly and thoroughly investigated.
After all, the federal government is illegally flying or busing thousands of illegal aliens all across our country and even paying for relocation and housing with our tax money. Additionally, several very wealthy private individuals, groups or companies are making lots of money aiding and abetting this illegal activity for profit. This should not be allowed to happen in Crittenden County.
If this is good for the people of the city or county then great, but please let’s keep our heads out of the sand and make sure.

Daniel Rieke
Marion, Ky.

Chamber Alliance leadership group is coming to Marion

Representatives from 15 counties will be in Marion on Thursday, April 25 as part of the West Kentucky Regional Chamber Alliance’s Leadership Program.
Those enrolled in the leadership program will tour various locations in both Livingston and Crittenden counties. Buses from Crittenden and Livingston school districts will provide transportation during the visit. An itinerary of the full-day excursion will include stops at Pine Bluff rock quarry south of Salem, Livingston and Crittenden hospitals, Siemens in Marion, James Johnson Airport in Marion, Fohs Hall, Clement Mineral Museum and meals at Mulligan’s and Game Day in Marion.
Government officials, management at those operations and leaders from the Chamber of Commerce and Crittenden County Economic Development Corporation (CCED) will lead discussions about the community.
“We are excited about hosting this event to highlight our community,” said Chris Cook, chairman of the CCEDC and a member of the West Kentucky Chamber Alliance.
Leadership West Kentucky as a regional program seeking to build a network of informed citizens connected across community lines.
Founded in 2008, West Kentucky Regional Chamber Alliance provides a unified voice for local businesses in the region and to serve as a catalyst for regional leadership and action, bringing together resources for legislative, educational, infrastructure and economic development advocacy.

Manufacturing leaders from KY will tour Par 4’s plant during May

Kentucky Association of Manufacturers will be in Marion on Thursday, May 16 to meet and tour Par 4 Plastics.
Tim Capps, president of Par 4 Plastics, said the rendezvous of 30 to 40 executives from across Kentucky’s manufacturing sector is quite rare for a small, rural community. Previous venues for this event have included Toyota in Georgetown, Ashland Corporation, Woodford Reserve Distillery and the Corvette plant at Bowling Green.
“It’s an honor to have the association tour our plant and visit our community,” Capps said.
Crittenden County School District will host a meeting of the association while the leaders are in town.

Fredonia Cemetery killer convicted in federal court

A convicted killer who left his wife’s body in a remote cemetery near Fredonia on June 13, 2020 has been sentenced to 30 years in federal prison.
A groundskeeper for Hill Cemetery off KY 91 between Fredonia and Princeton discovered a suspicious shallow grave while mowing. An investigation revealed a murder victim had been crudely buried there, launching a multi-state investigation that eventually led to an arrest in Colorado of Lawrence J. Florentine, 56, of Rock Hill, S.C.
Last week, a federal judge sentenced Florentine, who pleaded guilty to interstate domestic violence resulting in the death of his wife, Nicole Zahnd Florentine; use of a firearm during a crime of violence; obstruction of justice; and use of fire to commit interstate domestic violence.

The investigation, which involved multiple agencies across Kentucky and South Carolina, revealed that beginning in December 2019, police in York County, S.C., responded to multiple 911 calls by Nicole Florentine, during which she reported that her husband had physically abused her and threatened to kill her, burn her and bury her. The husband was twice arrested. In May 2020, the couple’s Rock Hill home was destroyed by fire. During the fire, Lawrence Florentine sent angry text messages and photographs that showed he intentionally set the property on fire to destroy Nicole’s belongings. Arson charges are pending in South Carolina state court.
When Nicole’s body was found in rural Caldwell County, it was determined that she had been shot, burned and buried in a shallow grave near where a gas can was found. An autopsy determined that Nicole’s death was a homicide, and the cause of death was a .22 caliber bullet wound to the head.
Nicole and Florentine were traveling by car together in North and South Carolina in the days leading up to the discovery of her body in Kentucky. Eyewitnesses reported seeing a vehicle matching the description of Florentine’s around the Caldwell County cemetery before the body was discovered. Florentine had purchased the gas can and a shovel at Akridge’s in Fredonia. Video at Fredonia Store caught Florentine filling the gas can a short time later.
Florentine’s sentence included a 10-year consecutive sentence because he used fire during the commission of interstate domestic violence. In 2022, two years after his arrest, Florentine moved to dismiss



the murder charge in Caldwell Circuit Court, arguing that Kentucky did not have jurisdiction to prosecute him because the crime was committed in South Carolina. Prosecutors in Caldwell County and homicide investigators with the Greenville (South Carolina) County Sheriff’s Office asked federal authorities to prosecute the case. Domestic violence is primarily a matter of state and local jurisdiction; however, federal laws provide tools for prosecuting domestic violence offenders in certain situations involving firearms and interstate travel or activity.
United States District Judge Donald C. Coggins sentenced Florentine to 360 months in prison, followed by five years of supervised release. Florentine was also ordered to pay \$5,800 in restitution.

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our YouTube Channel.
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OPIOID

Continued from page 1
addicts who might face incarceration if caught using drugs while on probation or enrolled in one of his programs.
Over the past nine years, Easley has managed cases for more than 5,000 men and women in the three counties. There are currently 63 enrolled in on-site rehabilitation centers and 32 in out-patient programs.
Payouts from defendants of the lawsuit, major pharmaceutical companies, will be delivered to communities through 2038 in a proportionate share. The money is being distributed to local governments based primarily on a formula that takes into account population, impact of the opioid epidemic, the number of opioid-related deaths that occurred, the number of people who suffer opioid use disorder.
Crittenden County has received \$99,267.99 together in 2022 and 2023 and will get around an estimated \$291,652 over the next 15 years. Marion received more than \$7,500 in 2022 and 2023 and will see more than \$57,400 more over the payout period.
“Opioids caused a lot more damage than that here,” said Commonwealth Attorney Zac Greenwell.
He points to human suffering and economic consequences. The services deployed to fight the years long opioid crisis “were not cheap,” Greenwell said.
Gains have been made in the fight against widespread opioid abuse and dependency thanks to legislation that created the Kentucky All Schedule Prescription Electronic Reporting System (KASPER) to track prescriptions dispensed within the state and greater awareness within the medical community of dangers associated with painkillers and their abuse.
Greenwell said the number of criminal drug cases involving opioid-based painkillers has diminished remarkably, but methamphetamine and more recently fentanyl have become quite prevalent.
He believes investing in substance abuse programs offered in Crittenden County is a responsible way for the

money to be spent.
Judge Newcom agrees. Like Easley, the county judge is inclined to allow the drug-free coalition authority to develop a spending plan for settlement money. Newcom says additional opioid settlements will send even more cash to the community.
“The money we’re getting now is from the manufacturers,” Newcom said. “There is more coming from the distributors like Walgreens and CVS.”
Marion Mayor D’Anna Browning said the city, like the county, has yet to spend any of the settlement money.
Intervention, treatment and recovery services are some of ways it can be spent.
Training for counselors, transportation to treatment or recovery programs or services, educational and preventative programs, law enforcement, first responders and some administrative expenses are allowed under the state’s guidelines for settlement dollars.
“We have much better resources now to help addicted people than we have ever had,” Greenwell said.
With tens of thousands of dollars coming this way annually for the next decade and a half, there’s reason to expect those resources to grow further and become more available to those in need.

50 YEARS AGO

April 18, 1974
■ Livingston County was in the process of buying Salem Community Hospital which, since its inception in 1954, had been owned by Community Medical Center, Inc. The county paid \$130,000 in federal revenue-sharing funds for the 30-bed facility.
■ Even in the of giant machines and prefabricated foundation walls, a little manpower is still necessary as was evidenced by Speed Rab concrete workers and Philip English as they leveled the foundation for one of the stores to be located in English Manor. The steel reinforced concrete walls were set in place and their steel frames welded. Once completed the shopping center at the intersection of Main and Depot streets would house a Sears store, a jewelry store, a grocery store and a drive-in branch of The Peoples Bank.
■ Dr. Nan Ward, a physical education instructor and coach at Murray State University, told those attending the Crittenden County High girls’ basketball banquet at Marion’s Rustic Inn that they were making history. She saluted the Crittenden County School administration for having the insight to get a girls basketball team going before the state law requires that schools offer a basketball program for girls



the following year.

25 YEARS AGO

April 22, 1999
■ A variation of a proposed new route between Marion and Eddyville was proposed to bring interstate traffic north along a new corridor near Fredonia and through Marion. Commercial traffic would be able to connect to a proposed U.S. 60 Bypass around Marion with a southwest extension connecting U.S. 60 to U.S. 64. This step was suggested to improve chances of new industry locating in the county industrial park because of improved access for large trucks.
■ The Lady Rocket softball team broke loose and captured its first win of the season, defeating visiting Dawson Springs 11-3. The offensive surge was led by Beth Brantley, Christie Aull and Ashley Gass, who each collected two hits. The hosts hit the Lady Panthers with eight runs in the first inning and were never headed after that outburst.
■ Kelly Grady accepted a Kentucky Colonel award from Kentucky District State Representative Mike

Cherry during a ceremony at Crittenden County High School.

10 YEARS AGO

April 17, 2014
■ Crittenden County Middle School teacher Ben Thompson and Crittenden County Historical Museum curator Roberta Shewmaker demonstrated how QR codes located on the museum’s walls activated videos created by CCMS Student Technology Leadership Program Students.
■ Local farmer Donnie Corley was named Master Conservationist by the Crittenden County Conservation District. The district held its annual awards banquet and honored Corley. Several other honorees were the Leroy Hodge Family Farm, which received the Friend of Wildlife Award.
■ Turner Sharp harvested a gobbler during the spring youth turkey hunt, and his brother Tucker followed suit by bagging a whopper of a tom during the youth season.

*Read Brenda Underdown’s
Forgotten Passages column
at The Press Online*

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Press

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The hanging of Greenberry Ritch (Part 2)

Hanging by association with William Goode

Who did the deed is of course unknown; nobody hazards a guess and even the surmises are few and unsatisfactory. For the past year or two things have been occurring in that section that have harassed and tormented the people greatly, and about these things they would never talk, and now they will not talk.

There are no better people on earth than many in that part of the county, while some actions of the past months prove that there are some bad characters also. Residences have been burned, barns have been destroyed by fire, hay and wheat stacks consumed while the good people have been absolutely afraid to even discuss the matter. There was a general feeling in the community that these depredations were chargeable to a certain party, but there was not sufficient evidence to convict anyone, and if a man even hinted at what he thought was the truth, it would not be long until he felt the hand of the miscreants.

William Goode, Bad character

The man whose name was connected most prominently with these various arsons and other petty crimes was William Goode, who for two years has been the keeper of the county poor house. Whether he was guilty of them or not most of the people thought his hand was behind them all, and they regarded Berry Ritch as associated, to a greater or less extent, with him. Some weeks ago a number of men disguised went to Goode's house, in the night, and searched the place for him, but he was gone, and no one could or would tell his whereabouts.

A few days later, according to reliable reports, he sent to a citizen of that section and requested an interview, the meeting to take place on Heath Mountain. That citizen went and found Goode and a number of other men in camp, armed and provisioned sufficiently to endure a long siege, and so situated as to command the situation against even a large body of men. Goode wanted to arrange an armistice, he wanted hostilities suspended until he could get his stock and farming implements and household goods away, proposing to leave the county as soon as possible and he wanted the citizen to act as an ambassador in patching up a truce.

The citizen did not know Goode's enemies and told him he could not bear the message, because he did not know where or to whom to take

it. Goode, it is said, gave the information, stating that he knew who they were. A few days later the stock was driven out and everything indicated the speedy departure

of Goode. His family was, however, still in charge of the poor house.

On Sunday night, according to Mrs. Goode's statement the mob was there again in search of her husband, the place was again ram sacked, but Goode was nowhere to be found. The men were disguised. Some wore masks while others had blackened their faces and all were strangers to the woman; they told her that they would hang her husband if found.

It is some four or five miles from Goode's to Ritch's and a few hours after the visit to the former, Ritch was called up and out, and went to his death.

Goode is evidently a bad man, and he is also a shrewd one. It is said he drove out 40 or 50 head of cattle and that perhaps he owned a hundred head of hogs, three or four yoke of oxen and log wagons, all of which he moved over into Union County, when the situation got so uncomfortable in this county.

Ritch's association with Goode evidently led the mob to believe that he knew where Goode was, that he was connected with him in the unlawful acts; hence the mob's actions.

Crittenden Press - October 25, 1894

The Berry Ritch affair is deeply regretted by the citizens of Crittenden County. It does not add to the good name of the county; to strangers it will appear that we are not a law abiding people. No mater how provoking



The tombstone of Greenberry Ritch in Mt. Zion Cemetery tells nothing of the terrible and unnecessary way he died. By recalling the old history, we know the rest of the story.

or exasperating the conduct of a few lawless fellows, the shameful death of Berry Ritch is totally inexcusable.

Human life is too sacred a thing to be thus ruthlessly taken. Every man is entitled to meet his accusers face to face in the courts of his country. No man gets so high and none sink so low, that he is not entitled to a fair hearing before a jury of his peers. There are times, when revolting in human crimes arouse the human soul to such righteous indignation that forbearance is almost impossible, and the demand for speedy justice, coupled with intense excitement, blunt the reasoning faculties, and blind the eyes of men to all other considerations, but this was not one of them, and we are happy to say that the good people of Bells Mines, condemn and deplore the affair.

Berry Ritch's home was a poor one, and his life may not have been valuable to the world, but that home was his castle and should not have been

at from 50 to 100 men. The scene of the lynching is in a remote part of the county.

Martin was called upon at his home after midnight and asked to get up and help put out a fire that was raging in the neighborhood. Opening the door, he was seized by a dozen or more masked men, who asked for information of Bill Goode, the lawless pauper commissioner of Crittenden County. He was also asked about his crimes, especially that of horse-stealing. The mob told him that they had come to hang him, but if he would turn state's evidence upon Bill Goode he would be spared.

"If these are the only terms, let the hanging proceed, Bill Goode has been my friend and I will shield him," was the answer.

The mob quickly did its work and left the dead body swaying from a limb upon a lone country road. The hanging is the result of the Goode-Ritch gang in Crittenden County and their lawlessness

committed there. Goode, the leader, has been visited three times by a mob, but escaped each time. Berry Ritch was hanged about two weeks ago, and the mob made a raid again last week, but failed to find their men with the exception of Burt Currier and A. T. Coper, whom they horsewhipped severely and warned to leave the county.

The crimes with which this gang is charged are horse and stock sealing and arson. Goode had collected a desperate gang around him for this purpose and Martin was supposed to be one of them. Martin formerly lived in Caldwell County and is of good family. He deserted his wife and children four years ago, and has not been heard of since until this episode.

(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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LIVINGSTON COUNTY, KY - 427 ACRES - \$918,237 - Timbered ridge top hunting tract! This tract has the ideal blend of habitat types for mature whitetails and wild turkeys.

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CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KY - 0.9 ACRES - REDUCED! \$105,000 - This rustic cabin with storage buildings provides the ideal base camp for your hunting adventures! This cabin has 1,192 square feet of living space with three bedrooms and one bathroom, a spacious living area with a fireplace, a full kitchen with plenty of cabinet space, a full bathroom and laundry room.

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Stay connected to others

Most people reading this column will have experienced the solar eclipse last Monday. Many will have experienced the totality, which is amazingly different than 98%. I did not brave the roads last Monday but did experience the total eclipse in 2017. One of the more surprising, yet common, reactions is the emotions that are unleashed in that moment. It is two or three minutes that stays with us for a lifetime.

In 2017 there was a young man staying with us. He was unaware of what an eclipse was and didn't know about it (somehow) until the day before. A few of us gathered in our back yard and watched it together. This twenty-something man started laughing and jumping. He did not know what he was feeling, but it burst out of him nearly involuntarily. For those that watch in larger groups there is always someone crying. There is always someone laughing. There is always shouting and cheering. Such is our reaction to something so beautiful, so unusual, and so far out of our control.

Listen to those who have witnessed an eclipse or read what people have written. There is a theme: connected. What an amazing creation we have

been given to inhabit. We have these opportunities often, but they must be intentional, thunderstorms, a heavy snowfall, sunsets, waterfalls, autumn color, spring flowers. There are events that cannot be ignored. A solar eclipse is one of those rare ones that pulls us together without an accompanying disaster. When we focus outside of ourselves and observe something we have been given we feel connected – not just to each other but to something greater than we are.

There are so many ways that we can feel connected with others if we can suspend our agendas and prejudices long enough to do so. If only we could press a “reset” button during these times of connectedness perhaps we could have better discussions about our very real differences. If we could remind ourselves that the same earth, moon, and sun that aligned to put on such a spectacular show are with us every day, keeping us alive by doing what they were designed to do, maybe we could realize how connected we are.

I recall when I was a child, probably elementary school, our family would join several others and venture to the lakes

for camping trips. In the evening, we would gather around a fire and sing devotional songs. On one of these trips there was a woman there who I didn't know. I remember her sobbing as we sang. It confused me how something that I enjoyed so much could make someone cry. In hindsight I would attribute that to connection. Connection to God and to others who believed.

Psalm 19 is a song that connects creation with the law. It is easy to have a negative reaction to the word “law” in a religious context. However, in Psalm 19 the law is a blessing and a grace from God. It is consistently viewed that way in the Bible. In praise of the heavens and of God's law.

Psalm 119 (RSV)
The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;
yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.

In them he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes forth like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.
Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them;
and there is nothing hid

from its heat.
The law of the LORD is perfect,
reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure,
making wise the simple;
the precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is pure,
enlightening the eyes;
the fear of the LORD is clean,
enduring for ever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true,
and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold,
even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.

Moreover by them is thy servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can discern his errors?

Clear thou me from hidden faults.

Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins;
let them not have dominion over me!

Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.
Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart

be acceptable in thy sight,
O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

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



Sean NISTRATH
Faith-based columnist

Guest Columnist

We can trust God to protect our family in times of danger

Question: I'm extremely anxious about my teenage daughter's safety ever since she got her driver's license recently. When she's out there on her own, can I depend on God to protect her?

Answer: We can call out to God when we are anxious. The psalmist describes God's protection as that of a mother hen taking care of her chicks. "He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge, his faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor

Ask the Pastor

By Bob Hardison



the plague that destroys at midday: (91:4-6).

Sometimes we wonder if God is with us and with our children. The Holy Bible teaches us God is all-knowing, and He clearly understands the dangers we face. Also, God is all-present and He is with us no matter what we face. Further, God is all-powerful, and He exercises authority over all creation

and works on behalf of His children.

A relationship with God is based on faith. If we can trust Jesus with our eternity, we

can trust Him to take care of us now. Ultimately only God can protect your daughter and keep her safe. Ask her to be alert as she drives. Pray for her safety and put her in God's protective angel's care (Ps. 91:11). As we trust Him with our children's lives, we can have peace of mind.

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

Religious Outreach

■ An open mic community singing will start at 6 p.m., Saturday, April 20 at Tyners Chapel, 5379 Ky. 855 between Salem and Marion off U.S. Hwy. 60. Fingerfood will follow.

■ Suicidal thoughts? Stop! Email dbrantpc@tds.net and request a video link that hopefully will change your mind.

■ Old Salem Baptist Church has a Blessing Box located next to the church at 117 Old Salem Church Rd. Everyone is welcome to take items or place them in the box for others to enjoy.

■ Salem Baptist Celebrate Recovery meets Monday's 5:30 p.m. with a meal at 6 p.m., at 209 Highland Street, opposite side of the building from the Thrift Store.

■ Salem Baptist Church Thrift Store is open 9 a.m.-1 p.m., Tuesday and Saturday at 209 Highland St., Salem.

■ The Clothes Closet of the First Baptist Church in Fredonia is open to serve the area with free clothes. The Clothes Closet is operated from 1-3 p.m. each Thursday. 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 4-5:30 p.m., third Wednesday 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.

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Mexico Baptist Church



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MexicoBaptist.org
Minister of Music Mike Crabtree
Pastor: Tim Burdon
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Sunday Bible Study: 9 a.m.
Sunday Discipleship Training: 6 p.m.
Wednesday Worship Service: 7 p.m.

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Pastor: David Brown
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Wednesday Night Youth 6:30 p.m.

Barnett Chapel General Baptist



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Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Sunday Night Service: 6 p.m.
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Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Wed. Bible Study 6 p.m.

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Pastor Justin Miller

Crayne Community Church



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Bro. James Driver, Interim Pastor
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH




224 W. Bellville St., Marion, Ky.
Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.
David LeNeave, Pastor

growing in grace




2 Peter 3:18
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Marion Church of God



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Sun. Evening 6 p.m. • Wed. Evening 6 p.m.
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PINEY FORK CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



Speaker: Greg Rushing
SUNDAY School 10 a.m.
Worship 11 a.m.
Bible study 6 p.m.
A new beginning, going forward and looking to the future
Ky. 506 | Marion, Ky.

Sugar Grove Cumberland Presbyterian




585 Sugar Grove Church Rd., Marion, Ky. (270) 704-2455
Pastor Jesse Thornton (618) 200-0884
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.
Steve English, Interim Pastor
South College St.

Frances Community Church



Bro. Butch Gray
Worship service: 11 a.m.
Children's Church ages 3 & up ... 11 a.m.
"The little church with a big heart"

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 Mott City Rd. • Marion, Ky.
Bro. David Perryman, Pastor
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

Marion Church of Christ



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Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
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Classifieds

The Crittenden Press

The Crittenden Press

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wanted

Wanted: Someone to iron women's clothes. Call (270) 969-2704. (2t-17-c) rr

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Furnished 1 BR apartment in Marion, \$600/month, basic utilities included. Call (270) 952-5391. (1t-16-c)

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legal notices

Notice is hereby given that on April 10, 2024 Roy Dale Wood of 773 Hollow Hills Rd., Mt. Washington, KY 40047 was appointed administrator of Deloris June Wood, deceased, whose address was 255 Wilson Farm Rd., Marion, Ky. 42064. Cobie Evans, agent for Service of Process. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the agent for process on or before the 10th day of October, 2024 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-16-c)
COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
CRITTENDEN CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 23-CI-00037
LARRY HEARELL
PLAINTIFF
v.
THERESAA. HODGE
OCOTLAN COLE
Guardian of Burnie Austin
Edwin Bradford
JOHN BRADFORD
CRITTENDEN COUNTY,
KENTUCKY
And unknown, husbands, wives, widowers, widows, heirs, grantees, devisees, personal representatives, successors, and assigns; and any unknown owners, heirs, devisees, legatees, representatives, assigns, and all other persons claiming any right, title or interest in or lien upon any of the lands described; and generally all persons whom it may concern.
Any and all unknown occupants of 6006 U.S. Highway 60 West Marion, Kentucky 42064
DEFENDANTS
NOTICE OF SALE
Pursuant to an Amended Judgment and Order of Sale and to satisfy the judgment of the Plaintiff in the above styled action, the Commissioner will offer for sale on or about the hour of 10:20 a.m., Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at public auction to the highest bidder at the Crittenden County Office Complex at 200 Industrial Drive, Marion, Kentucky, the following described property:
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 6006 US 60 West, Marion Kentucky, 42064
PARCEL NO.: 034-00-00-014.00
FOR COMPLETE LEGAL DESCRIPTION SEE THE JUDGMENT AND ORDER OF SALE.
THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY CONVEYED HEREIN WAS PROVIDED TO THE DRAFTSMAN BY THE PLAINTIFF AND THE DRAFTSMAN DOES NOT CERTIFY THE ACCURACY OF THE SAME NOR ANY EXISTING EASEMENTS
Terms: The following terms are in effect unless otherwise mentioned above:
At the time of sale, the successful bidder shall either pay full cash or make a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price with the balance on credit for thirty (30) days. If the purchase price is not paid in full, the successful bidder shall execute a bond at the time of sale with sufficient surety to secure the unpaid balance of the purchase price. The bond shall bear interest at the rate the judgment bears, from the date of sale until paid. In the event the successful bidder is the plaintiff, then in lieu of the deposit the plaintiff shall be allowed to bid on credit up to the judgment amount. To the extent applicable, the property will be sold subject to the statutory right of redemption. The purchaser shall be responsible for ad valorem taxes for the year 2023 and subsequent years. The sale may be canceled and any announcements made at the sale take precedence over printed matter contained herein. The Master Commissioner does not have access to the inside of any property and does not warrant title. The Master Commissioner only conveys pursuant to the Amended Judgment and Order of Sale. The successful bidder has 10 days after the sale to examine title and file exceptions. Dated this the 25th day of March, 2024.
REBECCA J. JOHNSON
MASTER COMMISSIONER
217 WEST BELLVILLE STREET
P.O. BOX 415
MARION, KENTUCKY 42064
270-965-2222 (1t-16-c)

ful bidder is the plaintiff, then in lieu of the deposit the plaintiff shall be allowed to bid on credit up to the judgment amount. To the extent applicable, the property will be sold subject to the statutory right of redemption. The purchaser shall be responsible for ad valorem taxes for the year 2023 and subsequent years. The sale may be canceled and any announcements made at the sale take precedence over printed matter contained herein. The Master Commissioner does not have access to the inside of any property and does not warrant title. The Master Commissioner only conveys pursuant to the Amended Judgment and Order of Sale. The successful bidder has 10 days after the sale to examine title and file exceptions. Dated this the 25th day of March, 2024.
REBECCA J. JOHNSON
MASTER COMMISSIONER
217 WEST BELLVILLE STREET
P.O. BOX 415
MARION, KENTUCKY 42064
270-965-2222 (1t-16-c)

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
CRITTENDEN CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 23-CI-00036
LARRY HEARELL
PLAINTIFF
v.
DAVID BELT
CRITTENDEN COUNTY,
KENTUCKY
And unknown, husbands, wives, widowers, widows, heirs, grantees, devisees, personal representatives, successors, and assigns; and any unknown owners, heirs, devisees, legatees, representatives, assigns, and all other persons claiming any right, title or interest in or lien upon any of the lands described; and generally all persons whom it may concern.
Any and all unknown occupants of 1172 Zion Cemetery Road Marion, Kentucky 42064
DEFENDANTS
NOTICE OF SALE
Pursuant to an Amended Judgment and Order of Sale and to satisfy the judgment of the Plaintiff in the above styled action, the Commissioner will offer for sale on or about the hour of 10:10 a.m., Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at public auction to the highest bidder at the Crittenden County Office Complex at 200 Industrial Drive, Marion, Kentucky, the following described property:
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 1172 Zion Cemetery Road, Marion, Kentucky, 42064
PARCEL NO.: 022-00-00-013.00
FOR COMPLETE LEGAL DESCRIPTION SEE THE

JUDGMENT AND ORDER OF SALE.
THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY CONVEYED HEREIN WAS PROVIDED TO THE DRAFTSMAN BY THE PLAINTIFF AND THE DRAFTSMAN DOES NOT CERTIFY THE ACCURACY OF THE SAME NOR ANY EXISTING EASEMENTS
Terms: The following terms are in effect unless otherwise mentioned above:
At the time of sale, the successful bidder shall either pay full cash or make a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price with the balance on credit for thirty (30) days. If the purchase price is not paid in full, the successful bidder shall execute a bond at the time of sale with sufficient surety to secure the unpaid balance of the purchase price. The bond shall bear interest at the rate the judgment bears, from the date of sale until paid. In the event the successful bidder is the plaintiff, then in lieu of the deposit the plaintiff shall be allowed to bid on credit up to the judgment amount. To the extent applicable, the property will be sold subject to the statutory right of redemption. The purchaser shall be responsible for ad valorem taxes for the year 2023 and subsequent years. The sale may be canceled and any announcements made at the sale take precedence over printed matter contained herein. The Master Commissioner does not have access to the inside of any property and does not warrant title. The Master Commissioner only conveys pursuant to the Amended Judgment and Order of Sale. The successful bidder has 10 days after the sale to examine title and file exceptions. Dated this the 25th day of March, 2024.
REBECCA J. JOHNSON
MASTER COMMISSIONER
217 WEST BELLVILLE STREET
P.O. BOX 415
MARION, KENTUCKY 42064
270-965-2222 (1t-16-c)

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
CRITTENDEN CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 22-CI-00088
WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY
PLAINTIFF
v.
STEVE R. HACKNEY,
ADMIN. ET AL.
DEFENDANTS
NOTICE OF SALE
Pursuant to an Amended Judgment and Order of Sale and to satisfy the judgment of the Plaintiff in the above styled action, the Commissioner will offer for sale on or about the hour of 10:00

a.m., Tuesday, April 30, 2024, at public auction to the highest bidder at the Crittenden County Office Complex at 200 Industrial Drive, Marion, Kentucky, the following described property:
PROPERTY ADDRESS: 176 Zion Cemetery Road, Salem Kentucky, 42078
PARCEL NO.: 022-00-00-006.00
FOR COMPLETE LEGAL DESCRIPTION SEE THE AMENDED JUDGMENT AND ORDER OF SALE.
THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY CONVEYED HEREIN WAS PROVIDED TO THE DRAFTSMAN BY THE PLAINTIFF AND THE DRAFTSMAN DOES NOT CERTIFY THE ACCURACY OF THE SAME NOR ANY EXISTING EASEMENTS
Terms: The following terms are in effect unless otherwise mentioned above:
At the time of sale, the successful bidder shall either pay full cash or make a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price with the balance on credit for thirty (30) days. If the purchase price is not paid in full, the successful bidder shall execute a bond at the time of sale with sufficient surety to secure the unpaid balance of the purchase price. The bond shall bear interest at the rate the judgment bears, from the date of sale until paid. In the event the successful bidder is the plaintiff, then in lieu of the deposit the plaintiff shall be allowed to bid on credit up to the judgment amount. To the extent applicable, the property will be sold subject to the statutory right of redemption. The purchaser shall be responsible for ad valorem taxes for the year 2023 and subsequent years. The sale may be canceled and any announcements made at the sale take precedence over printed matter contained herein. The Master Commissioner does not have access to the inside of any property and does not warrant title. The Master Commissioner only conveys pursuant to the Amended Judgment and Order of Sale. The successful bidder has 10 days after the sale to examine title and file exceptions. Dated this the 21st day of March , 2024.
REBECCA J. JOHNSON
MASTER COMMISSIONER
217 WEST BELLVILLE STREET
P.O. BOX 415
MARION, KENTUCKY 42064
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notice

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er Kentucky newspapers including The Paducah Sun, Kentucky New Era (Hopkinsville), The Sturgis News, The (Princeton) Times Leader, The (Providence) Journal-Enterprise, The Union County Advocate, The Henderson Gleaner, The Livingston Ledger and The (Madisonville) Messenger and for only \$250. Save time and money by making one call for all! For more information, contact the classified department at (270) 965-3191 or email us at advertising@the-press.com.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Kentucky Public Service Commission will hold a hearing on, Wednesday, May 1, 2024, at 9:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time (8:00 AM Central Daylight Time), in the case of *In the Matter of: Electronic Tariff Filing of Big Rivers Electric Corporation and Kenergy Corp. to Revise the Large Industrial Customer Standby Service Tariff, Case No. 2023-00312*, for the purpose of cross-examination of witnesses. The hearing will be held in the Richard Raff Hearing Room (Hearing Room 1) of the Commission's offices at 211 Sower Boulevard, Frankfort, Kentucky. This hearing will be streamed live and may be viewed on the PSC website, www.psc.ky.gov. Public comments may be made at the beginning of the hearing. Those wishing to make oral public comments may do so by following the instructions listed on the PSC website, www.psc.ky.gov

LEGAL NOTICE
Commonwealth of Kentucky
Crittenden Circuit Court
Marion, KY 42064
Case No. 24-CI-00001

KENTUCKY HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff v. JAMES R. HUNTER, DECEASED; UNKNOWN DEFENDANT, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF TRESA F. HUNTER; ANDREA SHEMWELL; ASHLEY SORIANO; BRIAN SHEMWELL; UNKNOWN DEFENDANT, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ANDREA SHEMWELL; UNKNOWN DEFENDANT, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ASHLEY SORIANO; UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF BRIAN SHEMWELL; UNKNOWN DEFENDANT, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF TRESA F. HUNTER; UNKNOWN DEFENDANT, UNKNOWN SPOUSES OF UNKNOWN HEIRS OF TRESA F. HUNTER; UNKNOWN DEFENDANT, ANY PERSON OR ENTITY WHO MAY BE CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE PROEPRTY LOCATED AT 325 STURGIS ROAD, MARION, KY 42064; Defendants;

Notice is hereby given that an action has been filed against JAMES R. HUNTER, DECEASED; UNKNOWN DEFENDANT, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF TRESA F. HUNTER; ANDREA SHEMWELL; ASHLEY SORIANO; BRIAN SHEMWELL; UNKNOWN DEFENDANT, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ANDREA SHEMWELL; UNKNOWN DEFENDANT, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF ASHLEY SORIANO; UNKNOWN DEFENDANT, UNKNOWN SPOUSE OF BRIAN SHEMWELL; UNKNOWN DEFENDANT, UNKNOWN HEIRS OF TRESA F. HUNTER; UNKNOWN DEFENDANT, UNKNOWN SPOUSES OF UNKNOWN HEIRS OF TRESA F. HUNTER; UNKNOWN DEFENDANT, ANY PERSON OR ENTITY WHO MAY BE CLAIMING AN INTEREST IN THE PROEPRTY LOCATED AT 325 STURGIS ROAD, MARION, KY 42064, Defendants. The subject of this action is the following tract of land situated in Crittenden County, Kentucky, and more specifically described as follows:

Being a small parcel of land lying and being in Crittenden County, Kentucky, and on the approximate North side of Highway U.S. 60, bounded and described as follows:

BEGINNING at an iron pin on the North edge of U.S. 60 and corner between Oakley Hughes and Ben E. Clement; thence N 20 W 161.5 feet to a scaly bark hickory; thence N 31-1/2 W 360.5 feet to an iron pin in old line; thence with said line N 60 E 86.0 feet to an iron pin; thence S 29-1/2 E 519.0 feet to a pin on North edge of U.S. 60; thence with said Highway S 60-1/2 W 69.0 feet and then S 57-1/2 W 41.0 feet to the beginning, containing 44,914 sq. feet, more or less.

LESS AND EXCEPT: that part of the above described property included in a Deed from Carlos O. Hughes, et ux, to Paul Jepsen III and wife, Kristi Jepsen by Deed dated June 1, 1979 and recorded in Deed Book 131, at Page 298, in the Crittenden County Court Clerk's Office.

SOURCE OF TITLE: This being the same property conveyed to James R. Hunter and his wife, Tresa F. Hunter, by the estate of Mildred K. Dickerson; by Betty Sue Williams; Executrix, by Deed dated September 15, 2006 and recorded in Deed Book 206, at Page 383, Crittenden County Court Clerk's Office.

Anyone interested in this action should contact Cobie D. Evans, Attorney at Law, P.O. Box 99, Smithland, Kentucky (270) 928- 4620.

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Circuit Court Proceedings

Accused burglar denies video evidence; infuriates judge with courtroom language

STAFF REPORT

Coy J. McDowell presented an unwavering denial in court last week that he was the individual on video surveillance cameras burglarizing Marion Pit Barbecue in January.

Appearing before Circuit Judge Daniel Heady last Thursday in Marion, McDowell denied burglarizing the restaurant, claiming that video evidence exonerates him. Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Wes Hunt disagreed, claiming that the video and other proof, including recovered clothing, provides strong evidence for the prosecution.

McDowell, 27, was indicted by the grand jury last week on a charge of third-degree burglary and possession of burglary tools. He was charged in the case in late February and arrested March 12. Since then, he has been held at Crittenden County Detention Center on a \$5,000 bond. However, Circuit Judge Daniel Heady doubled the bond to \$10,000 cash after reading the indictment and reviewing McDowell's criminal record.

The defendant was released from prison in November after serving about seven years of a cumulative 33-year sentence on multiple cases from Union and Crittenden counties, including burglary.

McDowell infuriated the judge by making comments as jailers were leading him from the courtroom back to jail. "This is retarded," McDowell said.

The judge called McDowell back to the bench and gave him a verbal reprimand.

McDowell followed with more vulgarity-laced comments before the judge charged him with contempt then ordered him back to the detention center where he will remain until McDowell's next court appearance on Oct. 10, after serving six months for contempt of court.

•Edward F. Piper III, 32, of Marion pleaded guilty to a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), second offense; and misdemeanor charges for second-degree fleeing or evading police (on foot); resisting arrest; and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Court and police records indicate that on Feb. 19 officers were attempting to serve a parole violation warrant on the suspect. When approached, Piper fled into a nearby field. Sheriff Evan Head and other lawmen later found Piper hiding partially submerged under water in a ditch and dozer pile.

Piper had his probation revoked and is currently serving a lengthy sentence for a 2019 trafficking conviction in Union County. Circuit Judge Daniel Heady sentenced Piper to one year on the new felony charge in Crittenden County and 365 days on the three misdemeanors with the time to run concurrently. However, the sentence will be consecutive to Piper's current jail term.

•James M. Pigg, 43, of Marion pleaded guilty to an amended felony charge of first-degree wanton endangerment and misdemeanor alcohol intoxication. He was sentenced to five years on the felony and fined for the drunkenness charge. The sentence will be probated for five years under the conditions that Pigg complete an in-patient substance abuse program, continue with an after-care program and meet other court-ordered requirements.

Court records reflect that the original charge was second-degree assault, a Class C felony,



Video posted online by the barbecue restaurant in January is part of the state's evidence.

which would have carried a sentence of five to 10 years. The case stemmed from a June 12, 2023 incident where Pigg attacked the woman with a small one-pound propane tank, striking her on the forehead.

•Timothy G. Adams, 38, of Marion pleaded guilty in two drug cases that stem from an investigation last summer by Sheriff Evan Head. The total sentence for both cases will be five years. He received individual five-year sentences on felonies for an amended charge of first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance (more than 2 grams); possession of a handgun by convicted felon; and convicted felon in possession of a firearm. He received one year for a second offense of possession of a controlled substance and 365 days for misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia. All time runs concurrent.

•Jacob Mooney, 22, of Marion pleaded guilty to two Class D felonies for third-degree rape and third-degree sodomy. An indictment was handed down last fall after an investigation by Kentucky State Police found evidence that Mooney had committed the offenses against a victim under the age of 16 and that the encounter took place on May 7, 2023.

The commonwealth attorney has recommended a sentence of five years on each charge to run concurrently, plus a lifetime obligation for the defendant to register as a sex offender and five years of post-sentence supervision.

Judge Heady will formally sentence Mooney on June 13.

•Christopher Scott Sexton, 47, of Paducah pleaded guilty to a felony charge of first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine); and misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia and DUI.

A Marion Police Department citation indicates that on Feb. 18, the defendant was involved in an automobile accident. A subsequent investigation at the scene led to the charges.

Sexton was sentenced to a year in prison on the felony charge and lesser time to run concurrently on the other charges.

•Lee A. Adams, 31, of Marion pleaded guilty to a charge of felony first-degree possession of a controlled substance (hydrocodone) and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Adams was charged by State Trooper Darron Holliman who was assisting ATF Task Force in executing a search warrant at a home on US 641 where Adams was at the time.

She was given a three-year sentence and the commonwealth does not oppose shock probation after 30 days so long as Adams goes directly into a long-term, in-patient rehabilitation program. The sentence will be probated for five years.

•Michael J. Clark, 28, of Marion received a seven-year sentence after pleading guilty to felony charges of second-degree (no force) and first-degree unlawful transaction with a minor, both Class C felonies. The judge

sentenced him to seven years for each charge with the time to run concurrent. Three other charges were dismissed.

As part of the conviction, Clark will be required to register as a sex offender for the next 20 years.

An investigation by Marion Police Department led to charges against Clark in 2022 for incidents that occurred in 2021 and 2022 and involved an under-aged female.

•Douglas K. Burke, 62, of Marion pleaded guilty to a felony charge of first-degree, second-offense possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and misdemeanor charges of DUI, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia and violations for reckless driving.

He was sentenced to a year in prison on the felony drug charge and less time for the others. All time will run concurrent and will be probated based on the defendant's agreement to enter a long-term substance abuse treatment program.

•Jessica L. Sherer, 39, of Marion pleaded guilty to a Class C felony charge of trafficking in a controlled substance, first offense (more than 2 grams of methamphetamine) and a Class D felonies for possession of methamphetamine and receiving stolen property (\$1,000 to \$10,000). The judge ordered a seven-year sentence on the trafficking charge, five years for receiving stolen property and one year for possession. Sentences for the drug charges will run consecutive and the other five-year sentence is concurrent for a total sentence of eight years. The commonwealth does not oppose shock probation after 30 days in a long-term substance abuse program.



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Matt Fletcher, APRN
Grand Lakes Clinic



Samantha Samuels, APRN, FNP-BC
Jessica Sigler, PMHNP
Jennifer Johnson, APRN, FNP-BC
Marion Family Clinic



Theresa White, APRN
Eddyville Family Clinic

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When should you take Social Security?

One of your important sources of retirement income will likely be Social Security — but when should you start taking it?

You can start collecting Social Security benefits at 62, but your checks will be considerably bigger if you wait until your full retirement age, which is likely between 66 and 67. You could even wait until you're 70, at which point the payments will max out, except for yearly cost-of-living adjustments. But if you need the money, you need the money, even if you're just 62 or any age before full retirement age.

However, if you have adequate financial resources to meet your monthly needs, whether through earned income, your investment portfolio or a combination of the two, you could have some flexibility in choosing when to take Social Security. In this case,



Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

you may want to weigh these considerations:

- Life expectancy — For all of us, it's one of life's great mysteries: How long will we live? Of course, we can't see into the future, so the question can't be answered with total confidence. But to make an informed decision on when to take Social Security, you don't need to know your exact lifespan — you just need to make a reasonably good estimate. So, for example, if you're approaching 62, you're enjoying excellent health and you have a family history of longevity, you might conclude it's worth waiting a few years to collect Social Security, so you can receive the bigger payments. Conversely, if your health is questionable and your family has not been fortunate in terms of longevity, you might want to start taking your benefits earlier.
- Employment — You can certainly continue working and still receive Social Security benefits. However, if you're under your full retirement age for the entire year, Social Security will deduct \$1 from your benefits for every \$2 you earn above the annual limit of \$22,320. In the year you reach your full retirement age, Social Security will deduct \$1 in benefits for every \$3 you earn above \$59,520. So, you may want to keep these reductions in mind when deciding when to begin

accepting benefits. Once you reach your full retirement age, you can earn any amount without losing benefits. (Also, at your full retirement age, Social Security will recalculate your benefit amount to credit you for the months you received reduced benefits because of your excess earnings.)

- Spouse — Spouses can receive two types of Social Security benefits: spousal and survivor. With a spousal benefit, your spouse can receive up to 50% of your full retirement benefits, regardless of when you start taking them. (Your spouse's benefit can be reduced by the amount of their own retirement benefit and whether they took Social Security before their full retirement age.) But with a survivor benefit, your decision about when to take Social Security can make a big difference. A surviving spouse can receive the larger of their own benefit or 100% of a deceased spouse's benefit, so if you take benefits early and receive a permanent reduction, your spouse's survivor benefit may also be reduced for their lifetime.

When to take Social Security is an important — and irrevocable — decision. So, consider all the factors before making your choice.



Grant Rogers
Financial Advisor

Article 10 – March 25, 2024

Paid content

SPRING SPORTS

This week’s games

THURSDAY
Softball at Union County
Baseball at Community Christian
FRIDAY
Track at Marshall County Relays
SATURDAY
Softball at Calloway County
MONDAY
Softball at Lyon County
Baseball hosts Caldwell County
TUESDAY
Baseball at Heritage Christian
Track hosts Quad Meet

All A Classic Results

AII A SOFTBALL
OPENING ROUND RESULTS
Crittenden County 10, Caldwell Co. 8
Lyon County 15, Dawson Springs 0
Livingston 1, Heritage Christian 0, forfeit
Fort Campbell 11, UHA 5
SEMIFINAL RESULTS
Crittenden Co. 14, Lyon County 4
Livingston Central 19, Ft. Campbell 0
CHAMPIONSHIP
Livingston Central 6 Crittenden Co. 1

AII A BASEBALL
OPENING ROUND RESULTS
Fort Campbell 15, Dawson Springs 0
Crittenden Co. 7, Livingston Central 4
Lyon County 24, Heritage Christian 0
Caldwell County 6, UHA 1
SEMIFINAL RESULTS
Crittenden County 16, Ft. Campbell 1
Lyon County 7, Caldwell County 3
CHAMPIONSHIP
Lyon County 21, Crittenden County 0

DISTRICT SOFTBALL STANDINGS

Team	Overall	Dist
Trigg County	11-10	3-0
Livingston Central	18-3	1-1
Lyon County	6-7	2-1
Crittenden County	9-9	0-4

DISTRICT BASEBALL STANDINGS

Lyon County	10-4	3-0
Livingston Central	8-10	1-1
Trigg County	7-8	1-2
Crittenden County	11-7	1-3

Games through 4-16-24

MISCELLANEOUS

Flag football HS sport?

Popularity of flag football – for boys and girls – has been growing at the youth levels for the past 10 years. In 2023, about 500,000 girls ages 6-17 played flag football – a 63 percent increase since 2019. At a higher level of competition, more universities are beginning to offer flag football for girls, which is creating some interest among National Federation of High Schools (NFHS) about sanctioning it as an official sport. The NFHS rules-writing organization has been asked by its member associations to consider publishing national playing rules for flag football. If sanctioned, flag football would be the 18th sport for which the NFHS writes national playing rules. The sport can be played in any season and it is fast-paced. Costs are also minimal since students need little more than a uniform, pair of cleats or athletic shoes.

BASKETBALL

Pope new UK coach

The University of Kentucky on Friday hired former Wildcat Mark Pope to be its new head basketball coach after coach John Calipari resigned and took the coaching job at Arkansas. Pope has spent the previous five seasons as the head coach at BYU. He has been a head coach in college for nine years, previously serving at Utah Valley. He also previously was as an assistant coach for Georgia, Wake Forest and BYU. Observers say his coaching style lends itself to an up-tempo offense. Pope played at UK in the 1990s and was team captain on the 1996 national championship team. He will make \$5.5 million annually as part of his five-year contract at UK.

OUTDOORS

Turkey harvest strong

Harvest figures have been pretty strong for Crittenden County’s first few days of spring wild turkey season, which opened Saturday and runs through May 5. Local gunners bagged 167 birds over a three-day start to the season. Last year’s entire spring harvest was 413. Among the county harvest figures so far this season are 175 gobblers and 18 jakes. In Livingston County, 157 turkeys have been checked. Its overall harvest a year ago was 341.



Lady Rocket second baseman Morgan Piper attempts to turn a doubleplay during action late last week at Madisonville.



BASEBALL
Rockets 10-run Cardinals
Crittenden County beat Livingston Central 10-0 at home Tuesday, avenging and earlier loss to the Cardinals. CCHS has won 2 straight district games this week after dropping three in a row earlier in the season. Asa McCord and Jeremiah Foster combined to 2-hit LCHS. Foster fanned 6 in 4 innings and walked none. At the plate, Quinn Summers continues to heat up with 2 hits and 3 RBIs. Keegan Pierson had a couple of RBIs and Kaiden Travis had 2 hits and knocked in a run.

Rockets get 1st district win
Crittenden County lefty Chase Conyer pitched all 5 innings as the Rockets blasted Trigg County by the mercy rule 11-0. Conyer fanned 9, walked none and allowed just 3 hits. Quinn Summers led the offense with a couple of hits and 3 RBIs. Jeremiah Foster and Casey Cates knocked in 3 runs apiece as CCHS won its first Fifth District matchup in four tries.

Rockets fall in All A title game
Crittenden County’s bid for its first All A regional championship in four years fell short at Lyon County Friday, way short. The Lyons routed CCHS

21-0 in a no-hit pitching performance by Lyon righthanded hurler Eli Baker. A dozen strikeout against Baker’s high-velocity prevented the Rockets from mounting any kind of a challenge. Baker walked only one and his defense played error free. Meanwhile CCHS tried stop the Lyons with four different pitchers, but Jeremiah Foster, Asa McCord, Jaxton Duncan and Quinn Summers were each met with hits and runs. Ten walks and 3 Rocket errors didn’t help.

SOFTBALL
All A championship game
Crittenden County trailed 2-1 in the sixth inning when Livingston Central erupted for 4 runs to beat the Lady Rockets 6-1 in the All A Second Region championship game Tuesday at Hopkinsville. CCHS Seventh-grade pitcher Brodi Rich threw 5 innings and allowed 3 runs on 3 hits before Anna Boone finished the game, allowing 3 runs on 3 hits. Rich fanned 4 and Boone 3. Crittenden had 3 errors. Andrea Federico hit a home run in the first inning for CCHS’s on score against Livingston’s Addison Tramble, also a seventh grader. She pitched a 3-hitter. Victoria Joiner had 2 hits for Liv-



Crittenden County shortstop Quinn Summers awaits a throw from the catcher on a stolen base attempt.

ington. **Girls fall 7-4 to Trigg**
Crittenden County continues to look for its first official district win after losing 7-4 at home Monday to Trigg County. CCHS is 0-4 in Fifth District play. Anna Boone had 3 hits and 2 RBIs against Trigg and Morgan Piper had 2 hits and drove in a run. Boone also pitched 2 innings in relief of starter Elliot Evans. Only 4 of Trigg’s 7 runs were earned as CCHS committed 5 errors. **CCHS beats Madisonville**
It was 2009 the last time Crittenden County beat Madisonville in high school softball before the Rocket girls knocked off the Maroons 4-3 on the road Friday. Madisonville was ranked No. 25 in Kentucky in the latest coaches’ poll. Anna Boone pitched a gem, using her newly developed screwball to wipe Madisonville out with 14 strikeouts. She walked 1 and gave up just 5 hits, including a first-inning 2-run homer. Andrea Federico and Hannah Jent were productive at the plate, each with 2 hits and an RBI. Morgan Piper also drove in a run on one hit. Others with singles were Elliot Evans and Elle McDaniel. The win was Crittenden’s sixth in seven games and Madisonville’s third loss of the season.

TRACK AND FIELD
Fast Times at Mayfield
Crittenden County had multiple top 10 finishes at the Fast Times at Mayfield

High race last weekend. Following are complete results of CCHS athletes:

GIRLS
100 Meters 20. Shelbi Belt 15:34; 27. Callie Rich, 32. Ruby Peek.
200 Meters 10. Shelbi Belt 32.96, 17. Ruby Peek, 18. Calie Rich.
400 Meters 6. Shelbi Belt 1:13.8, 7. Presley Potter, 9. Callie Rich, 10. Ruby Peek.
800 Meters 5. Presley Potter 3:02.65.
1600 Meters 10. Ella Whitney. 3200 Meters 3. Ella Whitney 16:29.99.
High Jump 5. Presley Potter 4-2.
Discus 11. Layken Gilchrist 56-7.
Shot Put 8. Layken Gilchrist 24-1.

BOYS
100 Meters 26. Gaige Markham 12.97, 35. Noah Byford, 36. Bobby Hazel, 40. Aiden Musser, 41. Matthew Valentine, 46. Jayden Jones, 47. Cameron Nesbitt.
200 Meters 14. Gaige Markham 26.61, 21. Noah Byford, 23. Bobby Hazel, 26. Aiden Musser, 27. Matthew Valentine, 31. Jayden Jones.
400 Meters 8. Meters Gaige Markham 1:01.59, 9. Matthew Valentine, 10. Aiden Musser, 12. Noah Byford, 14. River Rogers, 15. Bobby Hazel, 16. Landon Starkey, 22. Jayden Jones.
1600 Meters 4. River Rogers 5:29.95, 6. Landon Starkey, 11. Noah Martinez.
3200 Meters 7. 6. River Rogers 12:51.42, 7. Landon Starkey.

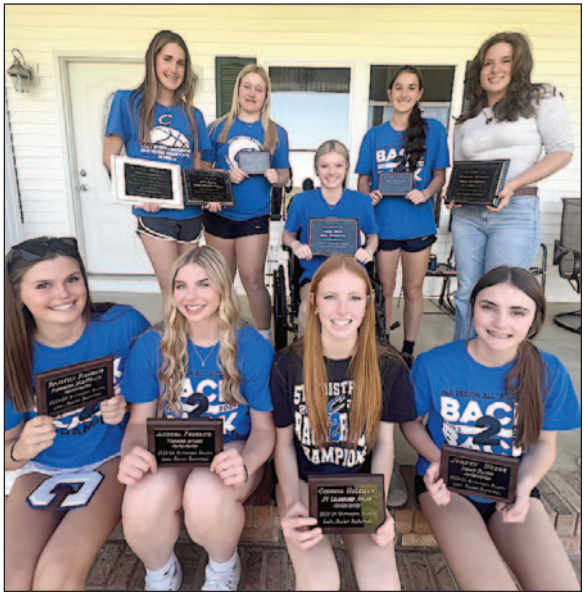
Rich contemplates final stretch of her long softball career

STAFF REPORT
The collegiate softball career of former Lady Rocket Hadlee Rich is winding down just as it is perhaps hitting a peak. A couple of recent homers and a strong batting average for the everyday right fielder at Southeast Illinois Junior College demonstrates that everything is clicking on the diamond. However, Rich is about to say goodbye to competitive softball after playing almost her entire life. With plans to pursue a career in nursing, Rich will transfer to Western Kentucky University next semester and apply all of her efforts toward the classroom. “Going into the nursing program, I just figured it would be hard for me to juggle both,” she said. Rich has enjoyed her time playing with the SIC Falcons, creating what will certainly be fond memories and lasting friendships at the Harrisburg, Ill., two-year college. “You’re with your teammates so much you become really close, like a family,” she said.



Sophomore outfielder Hadlee Rich

A sophomore, Rich is third on the team in hitting this spring with a .347 average and she's second on the team with 13 stolen bases. Rich has hit 2 home runs, scored 23 runs and has a dozen extra-base hits, including 2 homers. As of late last week, she had played in all 37 games. In her freshman season, Rich hit .261 in 92 at bats while playing in 46 games. This spring, Rich’s team is 22-16 overall and 11-7 in conference play. The Falcons have fewer than 20 games remaining, including post-season conference competi-



Lady Rocket Awards

Crittenden County High School’s Lady Rocket basketball team held its annual awards ceremony last weekend. Among those recognized were (front from left) Bristyn Rushing, Rebounding Award; Andrea Federico, Warrior Award; Georgia Holeman, JV Leadership Award; Jordyn Hodge, Impact Award; (back) Anna Boone, Most Valuable Player and statisticals awards for scoring, foul shooting, three-point shooting, blocks, deflections and assists; Morgan Stewart, Most Improved Award; Chloe Hunt, Teammate Award; Elliot Evans, Steals Award; and Madison Walker, Teammate Award. CCHS had a 19-14 season and was Fifth District runnerup in postseason.

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Perry tandem headlines Kentucky-Ohio Battle

To be able to beat Ohio in the annual Battle at the Border, game director Randy Ward knows what kind of roster Kentucky needs.

“To beat Ohio you have got to get the best kids in Kentucky. We only missed on one boy, Trent Noah of Harlan County, because he wanted to go to his prom and I get that. But we have some great players and this year we have size. For a change, we are bigger than Ohio in the boys game,” Ward, a former coach, said.



Larry Vaught
UK Sports Columnist
Vaught's Views

■ The Courier Journal last week named Ryan Perry its Coach of the Year for boys' high school basketball. Perry is a Crittenden County High School graduate. Travis Perry was recently chosen as Kentucky Sports Figure of the Year by the Lexington Herald Leader newspaper. He was also chosen Kentucky Mr. Basketball and is the Gatorade Player of the Year in Kentucky.

sive rebounder at the state tournament,” Ward said. “He hits the boards, takes the ball to the basket and has a good stroke from 3. I was surprised Eastern Kentucky and Western Kentucky did not jump all over him. He can guard bigger players and is very, very physical.”

One player who might surprise fans who attend the game is 6-4 guard Emmanuel Dut of Danville Christian Academy. Ward said he reminds him in some ways of Adou Thiero, who has played the last two years at Kentucky.

“He is a great, great athlete. We heard about him, checked on him and really liked what we saw. He runs, jumps, plays defense. He’s just a great athlete who can change a game in a lot of ways.”

Players on the roster who played in the state tournament are Kade Unsel of Warren Central, Christian Doerr of Evangel Christian and Jeremiah Godfrey of Great Crossing. Others on the roster are Daniel Allen of Larue County, Derrell Bateman of Christian County, Tyler Doyle of Lexington Christian, Ayden Evans of Elizabethtown, Jamison Glass of Todd County Central, Max Green of Oldham County, Quel’Ron House of Seneca, Damone King of Desales and Mason Ritter of Bowling Green.



Photo by Your Sports Edge

Travis Perry (11) has earned a number of state and national honors and he’s pledged to play at UK. His parents are both graduates of Crittenden County High School and played basketball here in the 1990s. Also this week the Kentucky Senate recognized Perry and Lyon’s accomplishments with Resolution 267.

Ohio’s roster is headlined by Mr. Basketball Colin White, an Ohio State signee. He helped Ottawa-Glandorf reach the state semifinals for years and was a starter each season.

He scored over 2,000 points and averaged 24.9 points, 8.2 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 2.6 steals a game last season when Ottawa-Glandorf went 24-4 record. He is his team’s all-time leading scorer and his team went 95-15 in his four seasons.

“He is really a player that I think fans will enjoy seeing,” Ward said.

The Kentucky girls roster is led by Miss Basketball Trinity Rowe of Pikeville. The Southern Mississippi signee scored 2,463 points at Pikeville and had over 1,000 assists — something only four other girls had ever done in Kentucky.



Les Nicholson Photo

Lyon County coach Ryan Perry will coach the Kentucky all-star team against Ohio Saturday. Last month, he guided Lyon County to its first ever basketball state championship.

She averaged 17.1 points, 7.1 assists, 2.7 rebounds and 1.75 steals per game last season and shot 49.9 percent overall from the field and 89.4 percent at the foul line to help Pikeville again win the regional title.

Another familiar name on the roster is McCracken County’s Claire Johnson, a Samford signee.

“She showed again what she could do in the state tourney and I am also surprised some bigger schools did not offer her,” Ward said.

Central Michigan signee Ayanna Darrington, a 6-2 forward, is a “quick, physical player who will be an even better college player than high school player,” according to Ward.

Guard Des Bradley of Hart County is a prolific scorer that Ward says is needed against Ohio.

“The girls’ games are usually really high scoring and she is quick, quick, quick,” the game director said. “In the last 10 minutes of our game, you need a girl who can put the ball in

the hole like she can.”

The Kentucky roster also includes 6-5 Ramiya White of Butler, a Kentucky signee, and teammate Mariah Knight, a 6-1 forward. They led Butler to the state title game.

Some others on the Kentucky roster are Sarah Baker of Ryle, Jeannae Bolin of Pleasure Ridge Park, Quinn Eubank of Ryle, Liz Freihofer of Cooper, Anna Hamilton of Cooper, Destiny Jones of Louisville Central, Jasmine Jordan of Boyd County, Sydney Martin of Pulaski County and Abby Varney of Barren County.

Kylee Bruce and Bree Allen of Fairland High School are both 6-0 forwards on the Ohio roster that have impressed Ward. They helped their team reach the state semifinals.

“The game has been on local TV in northern Kentucky for the last 10 years and people ask why it has not been on TV in Ohio or maybe in eastern Kentucky or western Kentucky,” Ward said. “Friday night’s event is live streamed.”

Little has changed with Crittenden Hospital’s new Rural Emergency Hospital designation

Shared by Crittenden Hospital CEO Shawn Bright

Q. What is the new hospital designation?

A. We recently converted our hospital to a Rural Emergency Hospital, so it’s still a hospital designation; the difference is primarily the way we keep patients in the hospital. The reason to do this is because financially it has a lot more benefit for our community and our hospital under this program.

Q. How long can I stay in the hospital under this designation?

A. It has probably been a little misconstrued how long a patient can stay in the hospital here. It is untrue that you can stay only 24 hours. Other hospitals who have changed to this designation easily keep patients more than three days or longer if needed. If you are very sick and need a higher level of care, we will transfer you just like we always have.

Q. Does the hospital offer the same services?

A. Under the new designation we don’t lose any services. We will actually be able to grow some services. It doesn’t change our radiology, our clinics, our laboratory services, and it doesn’t change outpatient surgery. There are no services that we were offering prior that we can’t offer now. The additional funding will allow us to upgrade some of those services and even expand what we do.

Q. How are surgeries affected under this new designation?

A. We are looking at upgrading some of our surgery equipment to have higher definition with some of the images we provide during procedures. We have added a new general surgeon, Dr. Eric Kivisto. He is an excellent surgeon and he has given us some recommendations on what we can do to grow our services in the future, and we are excited about that.

Q. Is the Emergency Room affected by the new designation?

A. With regards to our Emergency Room, nothing has changed whatsoever. We are even looking at adding staff to help us grow. Our wait times remain very low. We have the same ER providers we have had for years. They are very experienced providers and we are happy to have them in our community. They are an asset to us. I can assure you our ER providers are only doing what is necessary for you to get the best care you can and have the best outcomes, and they will only transfer you to another hospital if that is absolutely necessary. That process has not changed.

Q. What has been lost with the REH designation?

A. The one change is with regards to the Swing Bed program. Swing Bed stays generally lasted 14 days on average and patients received rehab or IV antibiotics. Our current designation does not allow us to provide that; however, they give us an alternative option of opening a Skilled Rehab unit.

Q What is a Skilled Rehab unit?

A. We have the ability to apply for a Skilled Rehab unit. When compared to the Swing Bed Program, Skilled Rehab patients can stay up to 100 days. We do have to go through the state application process to receive licensure. We aren’t there yet, but that is our plan and we will get there.



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Spring HOME IMPROVEMENT

Smith elevates paint career, flips house

BY ALLISON EVANS
THE CRITTENDEN PRESS

After six years as a professional painter, Sharon Smith upped the ante and began a project to flip an old Marion home. “I’ve always wanted to do a flip house but I wanted it to be an old one because of the character in it, the woodwork and fireplaces,” Smith said.

It’s been a natural fit because of her experience revamping and modernizing homes with fresh paint. With the help of her husband Bennett, whose mowing business was dormant over the winter months and her partner Benita Jones, Smith has turned an unappealing, outdated two bedroom on East Bellville into a fresh and inviting home.

“I saw so much potential in this house,” Smith said, despite an outdated kitchen and bath, drab lighting and outmoded kitchen.

She was pleasantly surprised by the shape of the original hardwood floors after she removed red carpet throughout most of the home.

Over the course of the winter months, the Smiths had the roof, plumbing and electrical replaced, painted fireplaces, and had new oak mantles built for the living room and dining room.

She didn’t expect the work to take as long as it did, but she wanted to restore the home to pristine condition, which meant replacing interior doors and all the home’s windows and doing some leveling of the home’s foundation.

“You start fixing one thing, you find something else it needs,” she said.

Two of her favorite upgrades were the kitchen and bath.

After unsuccessful attempts to remove five layers of wallpaper in the kitchen, she opted for a modern shiplap covering for the walls.

The old bathroom was extended a few feet toward a back hallway and updated to transformed



to modern and attractive.

Since she started painting with her dad, the late Frank Catilla, six years ago, the duo dreamed of embarking on a flip house project. Sadly, she said, her dad hasn’t been here to see the impressive set of before and after photos.

As she envisioned ideal furniture for various spaces in the house, she repurposed several pieces and plans to sell them with the house, including a “dumpster find,” chest and an outdated mirrored dresser she got at an estate sale.

The bulk of her project is complete except for tying up loose ends and putting her touch on a utility room at the back of the house.

As she gets close to putting a for sale sign in the yard, she finds herself looking around town for another project house.

At 2,000 square feet, Smith says the house would be ideal for a couple of different types, including a young couple’s starter home or an older couple who wants to be close to town.

She said the flip house has been a lot of work, but one she has been fortunate to do with lots of labor provided by herself and her husband.

“If you do most of the work yourself you can recoup your expenses,” she said.

While it was her first stab at renovating a fixer-upper, it likely won’t be her last.



Sharon Smith said new paint, shiplap and exposing original hardwood floors went a long way toward restoring this tired, older Marion home.



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Two businesses keep Berry busy

BY ALLISON EVANS
THE CRITTENDEN PRESS

Briley Berry started a mowing business before he was old enough to drive a car.

Today the business is 10 times its original size, and he bought a second company when he was 17.

His work ethic as an 18-year-old made him a clear selection in the trade category of The Press’ 10 Under 40 community recognition program.

Berry grew up understanding the importance of a hard day’s work. From the time he was in middle school, he helped on the family farm, and turned to full-time work while attending school virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Soon after his 2023 high school graduation, he bought an established commercial air filter company that services HVAC units in 15 school districts in western Kentucky.

You’d be right to assume he didn’t grow up sitting inside playing video games.

“That was not an option, I was expected to go out and work,” he said.

He credits the examples set by his family and his high school football coach to mold him into a successful young entrepreneur.

Though COVID caused him to miss a good portion of a traditional high school education, it put him on a trajectory to begin saving for retirement before he received a diploma.

He was a tough-nosed linebacker who played some wide receiver his senior year and credits his coach, Gaige Courtney, for instilling in him traits he’s taken with him into business.

“He is a very disciplined person, he has a lot of respect for players and I know if you have respect for people, they respect you,” Berry said. “He taught me how to be a leader, and football teaches you a lot of life skills like respect and responsibility.”



His mom Randa is by his side in both businesses. He gives her the riding mower and he takes the weedeater. When they’re changing air filters in HVAC units for Midsouth Filter Service, he does the climbing and leaves mom on level ground.

“It’s not a business you think about,” he acknowledges. You’d expect the maintenance guys at school to replace filters, but it’s more economical and takes the strain off of maintenance employees to hire an outside company replace them, Berry said.

A couple hundred air filters are replaced in each buildings’ HVAC units every two to three months. For Daviess County, it’s a five-day job.

“Those are long days,” he said. “We leave the hotel at 7-7:30 a.m., and quit at 6 p.m. There are 24 buildings in Owensboro and in the biggest school, Apollo, there are 500-600 filters so it takes all day to do that one school,” Berry said.

He recently acquired the business of the Crittenden County School District, which will only take four or five hours to service.

He took the advice of his dad, Jason, and began saving for his retirement from Day 1. As a financial planner, he’s given his son good investment tips but he’d worked three years before he was old enough to start an IRA.

“He’s always on me about saving for retirement, even since I started three years ago. He said if you start putting

money back now it won’t hurt later,” he said. “Same for tithing at church. That comes first.”

Mowing is peaceful to Berry, and he doesn’t mind to spend hours running a weedeater.

“Nobody is bothering you and you have time to think. I think of different things I can do, different ways to go with the filter business, grow it,” he said.

Randa Berry is proud of her son’s work ethic.

“It didn’t surprise me at all that he didn’t want to do college, but it also didn’t scare me because I knew the kind of work ethic he had that he wasn’t going to sit at home or sit in front of a TV,” she said. “Sometimes he works a little harder than I want to work, and the hardest part about working for an 18-year-old boy is trying to keep up with him. He practically runs everywhere he goes.”

Working side-by-side with her son was an adjustment, but both agree it is a great working relationship.

“It’s interesting going from being mom and son to employee and employer, because the mom in me has to take a step back and try to not boss – and I don’t think he thinks I try not to do that.”

Berry is content with his current situation, mowing on dry days and keeping filters changed on schedule, but his entrepreneurial spirit constantly has him contemplating other



businesses he could get into or other avenues that would expand the filter business. He’s also saving to buy land and hopes to build a house a few years down the road.

“God is always first, and it’s something I pray about every night – if it’s what God wants me to do then that’s what I am going to do,” he said.

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