

## STATE SECRETARY TO BE AT CHAMBER TUESDAY

Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a visit from Kentucky Secretary of State Michael Adams at 9 a.m., Tuesday, May 4. Adams will be outlining provisions of Kentucky’s election reform laws. This forum will be open to the public and light refreshments will be served. It will be held at the Lions Club’s new Agriculture Education Building at the fairgrounds. Adams, who is from Paducah, is a Republican who began serving in January 2020.



## NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

National Day of Prayer is set for Thursday, May 6. The first Thursday in May has been formally set aside by Congress as the United States’ observance of a national day of prayer. Although earlier in American history there were days of fasting and prayer observed, this date was officially recognized beginning in 1952.

## PROM’S COMEBACK WILL BE IN A TENT SATURDAY

Crittenden County High School will have its prom Saturday. The school canceled the event last year amid early days of the pandemic. Coordinators have decided on an outdoor event with large tents on campus. Prom-goers can start arriving at 7:30 p.m. The event ends at 10 p.m.

## DO-OVER DEADLINE MAY 1

Crittenden County students have until Saturday, May 1 to apply for a so-called “do-over” year under the pandemic-prompted Senate Bill 128 that allows students to retake a year in school. Application forms are available at the school district’s central office between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. Per state law, Crittenden County School District has until June 1 to decide whether to approve all or none of the requests. School districts are not allowed to decide on an individual basis. The supplemental year allows students to participate in athletics and extra-curricular activities, thus giving them a fifth year of high school sports eligibility.

## OUTDOOR MASKS NO MORE

Gov. Andy Beshear has relaxed mask requirements for Kentuckians. As of earlier this week, face coverings are no longer necessary for outdoor gatherings of fewer than 1,000 people.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS

•Crittenden County Fiscal Court will meet in special session at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, April 29 at the courthouse.

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# Taxpayer input scarce at two public forums

County judge considers turnout to indicate community’s approval

**STAFF REPORT**  
The general public’s relative silence with regard to a few taxpayer projects is sending a green light signal to local officials, says Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom.  
“We’re taking it as affirmation that we’re making the right decisions and moving on,” Newcom said after turnout was very light for two public forums. Most of those who attended the public presentations last Thursday and Tuesday at Marion’s Ed-Tech Center were city or county officials who

are already well advised on details of the projects, which include implementing a 911 fee to fund the emergency dispatching center, a courthouse project that will likely include a new justice center downtown and county offices moving to the Ed-Tech Center in Industrial Park South.  
“Judge Newcom had a very good presentation, but it was like preaching to the choir,” said Marion City Councilwoman Phyllis Sykes. She, too, believes the lack of input from the com-



Crittenden County Sheriff Wayne Agent and Judge-Executive Perry Newcom go over blueprints and plans with architects for the proposed new county offices that will be inside the Marion Ed-Tech Center.

munity is a declaration of general approval.  
At last Thursday’s meeting where only one person in the audience was not associated with a local government or civic agency, Judge Newcom proclaimed his desire for more locals to be present so they might fully understand the entire picture the community is facing with decisions on projects that could affect it for years to come. A handful more showed up for Tuesday’s meeting, but still a small fraction of the community has been represented at the forums.  
Newcom considers the lack of interest in

the projects as an endorsement of plans which have been developed over the last several months and presented in a variety of forms, including through local media coverage.  
The Press received one response on its social media with re-

See **FORUM**/page 10

# A-Maz-ing plans planted for fun

**STAFF REPORT**  
Seeds for a Community Corn Maze have been planted and are incubating in the soil on a strip of property at Industrial Park North off Pippi Hardin Boulevard. By late summer or early fall, the site should be ready for fun-seekers of all ages.  
Plans for the project were recently developed by Korey Wheeler, a member of the Marion Tourism and Recreation board of directors. Local farmer Matthew Hardesty provided equipment. CCHS graduate Will Tolley and other college students majoring in agricultural have helped design the maze with digital instruments. They will also have a large role in maintaining the area through its growth and harvest, earning college credit during the process.  
Wheeler said the only cost to the community is liability insurance, which will be paid by Marion Tourism, Recreation and Convention Bureau.  
Local volunteers and organizations wanting to raise money for their specific groups can apply to work the admission gate at the corn maze this fall. Profits will be shared with those participating organizations.

# Three gifted local students earn summer program appointments

**STAFF REPORT**  
Three local students have been chosen for prestigious summer learning programs.  
Crittenden County High School student juniors Dane West and Samantha Tinsley were chosen from about 2,000 statewide applicants for the Kentucky Governor’s Scholars Program (GPS) for outstanding high school students.  
GSP is a five-week program held at multiple colleges across Kentucky. It is designed to enhance

Kentucky’s next generation of civic and economic leaders. Recipients were chosen through a highly competitive selection process. An academic profile, history of extracurricular activities, community service and other community work was submitted with their applications along with an original writing entry and teacher and community letters of recommendation.  
Those accepted are assigned one

See **SCHOLAR**/page 3



Coming soon will be a turning lane that is beleived will help alleviate traffic congestion in front of schools.

# Governor infuses cash into turn lane plan

**STAFF REPORT**  
Crittenden County School Superintendent Vince Clark says safety will be improved when the state completes a project to add a turning lane to the highway in front of the high school and middle school campus.  
The \$700,000 project calls for widening U.S. 60 East (West Gum Street), providing a turning lane and replacing entrances to the school and Crittenden Community Hospital. The entrances to the school and hospital, which are now offset, will be redesigned to be directly across from one another allowing for more seamless traffic flow.  
“It will be safer,” said Supt. Clark, who noted that it is unclear what impact the changes might have on future building projects that are currently in

the planning stages and will affect the CCHS/CCMS campus.  
Additional right of way will be required on both to make room for widening the road. A handful of parking spaces could be impacted.  
As planned, a center turn lane will extend from the intersection at Country Club Drive to the eastern entrance to the school parking lot. The project would realign the western entrance to the hospital so it will match with the main school entrance. This will allow the turn lane to be used for both entrances, further reducing congestion.  
The turning lane should improve the safety of bus traffic between the middle and high school campus and nearby Crittenden County Elementary school off Country Club Lane, said Keith Todd,

spokesman for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.  
Design work should be completed this summer.  
“A big item will be the number of utilities that will have to be moved along the right of way,” Todd explains.  
Construction would not be ready to begin until late this summer or early fall, which may prompt consideration for waiting until school is out for summer vacation in 2022 to start the work.  
Waiting until next spring would avoid construction congestion while school is in session. Schools are set to restart in August for the new academic year.  
“The turn lane is designed to reduce congestion and improve safety during

See **LANE**/page 3



## Deaths Campbell

Jeanette Campbell, 57, of Marion, died Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at her home in Marion.

Surviving are her father, Robert Campbell, a son; Malik Ali; a sister-in-law, Dana Knight Campbell; three nephews, Daniel Campbell, Michael Campbell and Conner Campbell; an aunt, Card Kellough; and an uncle, Lester Sudoth.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Lela Marie Suddoth, and brother, Robert Campbell.

Memorial services will be held at a later date. Gilbert Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## Crowell

Ruth Mae Crowell, 79, of Bradenton, Fla., formerly of Marion, died Sunday, April 18, 2021 at the Life Care Center of Sarasota. She was a member of Bayshore Baptist Church.

She was born April 12, 1942 in Crittenden County, Kentucky to the late James Oakley and Loamie Travis.

Survivors include a son, Sean Crowell; a daughter, Sandy Pence; six grandchildren, Brittni Barnett, Bayley Thomas, Hunter Thomas, Liberty Pence, Cameron Crowell and Kendall Crowell; three great grandchildren; two brothers, J.T., Carlos and Butch Travis; a sister, Judi Smith; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by two sisters, Ina and Juanita Travis; and a brother, Roger Travis.

Graveside services will be at 11 a.m., Friday, April 30 at Sugar Grove Cemetery in Marion.

Memorial contributions may be made to the ALS Association. Gilbert Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## Gipson

Charles David Gipson, Jr., 55, of Marion, died Tuesday, April 20, 2021 at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville.

Surviving are his wife, Susan Gilland of Marion; three children, Shawn Gipson of Booneville, Ind., and Cody and Wyatt Gipson, both of Murray; three grandchildren, Blaze, Aubrie and Olivia Gipson; his father, Charles David (Linda) Gipson, Sr.; his mother, Mary Wilma Nicholson; three brothers, Robert Gipson, Charlie and James Duncan; a sister, Jenny Duncan; a special niece, Nikki

Atwell; and a special nephew, Jamie Atwell.

He was preceded in death by his step-father, George Nicholson.

Private services will be held at a later date. Gilbert Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

## Humphrey

Muriel Humphrey, 81, formerly of Marion, died Thursday, April 22, 2021 at the Christian Care Center in Kuttawa.

Surviving are her children, Gerald (Evelyn) Elder of Fredonia, Ricky (Barbara) Elder of Marion; two grandchildren, Lisa (Kyle) Barker of Evansville and Chris (Emily) Elder of Russellville; two great-grandchildren, Blake Elder and Alexander Barker; and a brother, Bill Hinchee.

She was preceded in death by her first husband William G. Elder; her second husband, Richard Humphrey; a sister, Lorene Henderson; two brothers, Norman Hinchee and Charles Hinchee; and one grandchild, Melinda Elder.

Services were Sunday, April 25 at Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion with interment in Pythian Ridge Cemetery

## Davidson

Lois Ann Davidson, 49, of Salem, died Thursday, April 22, 2021 at Mercy Health Lourdes Hospital in Paducah.

She was born Sept. 19, 1971 to James Wayne and Lois Carolyn Householder Davidson in Livingston County. She enjoyed decorating and planting flowers, and her two boys were greatly loved by her.

She is survived by her fiancé, Lynn Whitley of Burna; two sons, Russell Wayne Vasseur of Marion and Scottie Dalton Vasseur of Lola; three brothers, Dwayne Davidson of Marion, Bobby (Jacqueline) Davidson of Burna and Jammie Davidson of Grand Rivers.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Memorial services were Monday, April 26 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services, in Salem, KY. Burial was in Pleasant Grove Cemetery.

## Girten

Marion Douglas "Doug" Girten, 85 of Morganfield, died Sunday, April 25, 2021 at Lucy Smith King Care Center in Henderson. He was born Nov. 2, 1935 to the late Claude

and Lorene Girten. He was a member of St. Agnes Catholic Church in Uniontown. He was a superintendent in road construction and enjoyed watching NASCAR and was an avid Cincinnati Red's baseball fan. Doug was also a Kentucky Colonel.

Surviving are his wife, Mary Catherine Girten of Morganfield; a daughter, Tammy (Ken) Cummins of Princeton; two sons, Mark (Donna) Girten of Marion and Wayde (Angel) Girten of Morganfield; two brothers, Steve (Agnes) Girten of Morganfield and Ronnie (Patsy) Girten of Paducah; a sister, Debbie (Tim) Corbin of Cadiz; six grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; two brothers, Jerry and Bill Girten; three sisters, Rita Duncan, Nola Thompson and Barbara Thomas.

Services are at 1 p.m., Friday, April 30, at St. Agnes Catholic Church in Uniontown. Fr. Randy Howard will officiate. Burial will be in St. Agnes Cemetery. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until service time on Friday at Whitsell Funeral Home in Morganfield.

Memorial contributions can be made to John Paul II Catholic School or Lucy Smith King Care Center.

## Atwell

Steven Ray Atwell, 57, of Marion, died Monday, April 26, 2021 at Crittenden County Health and Rehab.

Survivors include his children, Ashley, Jamie (Kaitlin) and Nikki Atwell, all of Marion; a brother, Ross (Devon) Atwell of Marion; a sister, Kelly (Brian) Croft of Marion; and five grandchildren, Kayson, Hayden Ross, Kailee and Kyler Atwell.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Donald and Katie Atwell.

Services were Wednesday, April 28 at Gilbert Funeral Home. Memorial contributions may be made to the Mary Hall Ruddiman Canine Shelter.

## Online Condolences

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# Local kids benefit from AT&T internet grant

See a grant, write it.

That was the philosophy behind an AT&T grant that crossed Tonya Driver's Twitter feed.

The Crittenden County School District received word from AT&T in March that it was one of three Kentucky school districts to receive a grant for internet service in areas currently unserved by service providers.

AT&T collaborated with non-profit Connected Nation to offer the AT&T K-12 Connected Learning Program, which offers free wireless internet service and mobile Wi-Fi hotspots.

Crittenden County qualified for 351 hotspots which it expects to arrive in July. The grant includes 12 months of paid internet that the district will utilize in the 2021-22 school year, with some summer access to follow, according to Driver.

"Mrs. Driver, our grant writer, saw a tweet from AT&T offering hotspots for kids and she and FRYSC coordinator Crystal Wesmoland wrote it, got Technology Coordinator Ben Grainger involved and we are very proud," Superintendent Vince Clark recently told the board of education.

There are 124 school districts benefitting from AT&T's \$10 million investment supporting the country's most vulnerable students who don't have adequate internet

access.

"This allows a level playing field for so many of our kids," said board chairman Chris Cook.

According to a 2018 survey, there are an estimated 17 million public K-12 students who don't have access to the internet to support online learning. The AT&T K-12 Connected Learning Program was designed service for students disproportionately impacted when the pandemic forced schools to close.

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## KY STATE FAIR WILL BE HELD IN AUGUST

The 117th Kentucky State Fair will return August 19–29 after a vote by the Kentucky State Fair Board at the April 22 meeting. Kentucky State Fair staff have begun programming more than 1.2 million square feet of space and more than 300 acres of outdoor space with health and safety of everyone top of mind.

“The Kentucky State Fair is an important event for thousands of people around the Commonwealth and the economic activity created by the Fair will help Kentucky’s recovery. While we will need to make adjustments to respond to COVID–19, we plan to produce as much of the Fair as safely possible. We look forward to once again being where Kentucky comes together,” said David S. Beck, President and CEO of Kentucky Venues.

Tickets go on sale in July. Specifics about events, artists and competitions will be announced at a later date.

## LAST WEEK’S SNOW SETS AREA RECORD

Last week’s snow, was a record setter, according to the National Weather Service in Paducah. Meteorologists said six–tenths of an inch of snowfall fell at its observatory west of Paducah. There was 1.3 inches that fell in Evansville. Crittenden County’s total was likely somewhere in the middle based on local observations.

In both cases, it was the latest measurable snow ever recorded at the official regional climate station.

Paducah’s records date back to 1937, with the previous record set at half an inch of snow measured on April 18, 1983.

Evansville’s record was also set on April 18, but in the year 1953, when 1.8 inches fell. Evansville’s record–keeping began in 1948.

Even more rare was the fact that it was over 65 degrees that same afternoon. That combination has only oc–



curring once before in Paducah, on December 5, 2013.

Marion Policeman Ray O’Neal said that he mowed his grass in springlike attire a few hours before it began snowing and accumulating on his back deck.

There was a measurable springtime snowfall in Marion as recent as April 7, 2018.

## UTILITIES REMIND CUSTOMERS OF RELIEF FOR BILLS

Louisville Gas and Electric Company and Kentucky Utilities Company are encouraging customers with outstanding utility bills accumulated during the pandemic to take advantage of assistance designed to help customers get back on their feet. The reminder comes as the utilities prepare to bring their suspension of disconnects for residential customers, which has been in place for more than a year, to an end in June.

At the onset of the pandemic, in March 2020, LG&E and KU suspended service disconnections for non–payment for residential customers. In addition, the utilities waived new late payment charges and third–party payment fees, offered extended payment arrangements, and provided information and resources for financial assistance available through the many COVID–19 Relief Funds.

Customers with outstanding balances will begin receiving disconnection notices during the May billing cycle indicating that disconnections will resume in June. Customers who are behind can set up a payment plan that best fits their situation and spreads out their past due balance over installments. Once a disconnection notice is received, customers can sign up for a payment plan through any of the following op–

tions: LG&E and KU mobile app – available in the App Store and Google Play Store MyAccount – available through the LG&E and KU website, lge–ku.com LG&E and KU automated phone system – press 1–2–2–1 at any time. Customers can also visit an LG&E and KU business office in person or speak to a Customer Care representative by phone.



## KU, LG&E REACH AGREEMENT, RATES COULD RISE JULY 1

Louisville Gas and Electric Company, Kentucky Utilities Company and more than a dozen parties to the utilities’ current rate review, have reached an agreement that helps the utilities continue to provide safe and reliable energy at some of the lowest costs in the nation. The agreement was filed last week with the Kentucky Public Service Commission for its consideration in resolving the review.

The agreement addresses almost all of the issues in the review including a reduction in the rate increase requested by the utilities; the Economic Relief bill credit proposed by the utilities that will mitigate the impact of the increase for one year; no change to the current residential basic service charge; the rollout of advanced meters without a rate impact; and a commitment by LG&E and KU to not increase base rates for at least four years.

LG&E and KU also agreed to increase contributions to certain agencies that assist low–income customers in paying their utility bills, by the same percent as the KPSC–approved rate increase. The agreement does not address the net metering proposal including the amount utility customers should pay for the excess energy created by private generation.

The utilities requested the increases based upon investments that help con–

tinue safe and reliable service. Key investments include upgraded distribution and transmission lines; replacing aging wooden poles with steel and aging steel natural gas lines with plastic; new circuit breakers and substation equipment; cycle–based vegetation management; and advanced technology that immediately pinpoints the location of power outages, and in many cases, limits the impacted area and automatically restores service for all other customers.

KU residential customers using an average of 1,120 kWh per month would see an increase of \$7.87 in their total monthly electric bill for the first 12 months after the ruling. When the relief credit expires in mid–2022, a KU residential customer using the same amount of energy would see their monthly bill increase approximately 76 cents.

If approved by the KPSC, new rates and the Economic Relief bill credit would take effect July 1.

## LBL FACING MAJOR BUDGET REDUCTION

Regional leaders are crying foul over major budget cuts facing Land Between the Lakes National Recreation area.



Just a few years ago, LBL’s spending plan within the U.S. Forest Service’s budget was \$2.5 million. Last year, it was cut to \$1.8 million and more trimming is in place this year. A report by WPSD TV last week says LBL will be eliminated from the Forest Service budget in 2022 and become a self–sustaining entity. When that happens, the welcome centers, Energy Lake Campground, picnic areas, firearm shooting areas, The Homeplace, Brandon Springs, Woodlands Nature Station and other trails and campgrounds could be jeopardized with no maintenance funds.

Lyon County Judge–Executive Wade White is among area leaders working to keep money in the LBL budget. He told WPSD that there is

no explanation as to why the recreation and heritage budget will be cut to zero dollars for the 2022. He said surrounding counties and beyond in west Kentucky will feel the ripple effect of lack of tourism.

"At the start of Fiscal Year 2021, we transitioned to a new budget structure designed to improve how we manage our funds. As with previous budget structures, this new structure does not affect the overall level of funds appropriated by Congress. The new structure provides greater transparency to Congress and all Americans in how we manage their national forests and grasslands. We will continue to work with our partners and the public to ensure we accomplish our mission–critical work," the U.S. Forest Service said in its response to the budget situation.

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

# THROW BACK THURSDAY

## OUR MEMORIES GO BACK TO 1879

## 50 YEARS AGO

### April 29, 1971

■ The Crittenden County Chapter of the Future Homemakers of America was represented at the District meeting at Reidland High School. Sherry Tinsley, Debbie Doelman and Marilyn Wade, with advisors Barbara Roberts and Marjorie Yandell, attended and participated in a presentation during the meeting.

■ Tandy Clarke of Salem and Felicia Mitchell of Burna appeared with the Kentucky Federation of Music Clubs on a TV program featured on WPSD. They won the right to appear by making Superior at the Deration Festival in Paducah and playing in the State Festival in Louisville, where they were both selected to perform on TV.

■ The Crittenden County Chapter of FFA elected new officers at its April meeting. Richard Newcom was elected president, Joe Walker was elected vice–president. Danny Belt secretary. Mike Walker was elected reporter, Larry Dennis treasurer and Larry Hearell sentinel.

## 25 YEARS AGO

### May 2, 1996

■ Leigh Browning and Robert Holloman of Blast Off Blues 4–H Club and Zachery Belt and Amanda Alvis of the Crayne Crew 4–H Club were all recognized as 4–H’s kings and queens at the county 4–H Demonstra–

tions Event on April 16 at Crittenden County Elementary School.

■ The first Paducah Symphony Orchestra League Father–Daughter Dinner Dance was held at the Paducah Country Club. The ball was attended by 70 father/daughter couples including Marion residents, Dr. Scott Graham and daughter Amy and Alan Stout and daughter Katie.

■ The CCHS girls’ track team tied for first place with Webster County in a four–team meet. The 400 meter relay team of Kristen Hunt, Keri Kemper, Jessica Berry and Misty Hinchee took first place with a time of 57.63.

■ A Crittenden County farm family won an Earth Day Award for long–term effort to protect and sustain the environment. Rose and Easley Hill accepted the Environmental Quality Commission award at a ceremony in Frankfort.

## 10 YEARS AGO

### April 28, 2011

■ Winners of the Peoples Bank annual Easter egg hunt were Tori Harris, Brynn Porter, Dawson Jones and Kionna Nesbitt. Each winner was gifted a basket.

■ Crittenden County High School senior Kaitlin Maynard, 17, was selected as the Murray State University Teen of the Week in The Paducah Sun.

■ Members of the Crittenden County Rocket 4–H Club took a field trip to Yoder’s Trading Post General Store and Farm.

# J-Center’s May 3 public hearing set

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Project Development Board has scheduled a public hearing for a proposed Kentucky Court of Justice Facility for Tuesday May 4 at 4:30 p.m.

The hearing will be held in the Crittenden County Courthouse in the upstairs circuit courtroom.

Details of the proposed project are available for examination at the Office of the Crittenden County Judge Executive between 8:30 a.m., and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday until May 3.

Interested property owners should submit plats of property to be considered, asking price, and statements of any know historical or environmental concerns. Individuals who wish to submit proposals or comment on the proposed facility may present oral or written statements at the public hearing.

This hearing is part of a process to determine exactly where the proposed new \$12 million courthouse/justice center will be built.

## SCHOLAR

Continued from page 1 of three colleges, namely Centre College, Morehead State University or Bellarmine University. The first GSP summer session begins on June 20 and ends on July 24. Kentucky colleges and universities offer a variety of scholarship opportunities for students who complete the five–week

## LANE

Continued from page 1 those peak travel periods at the start and end of the school day,” said Keith Todd.

State highway engineers have been in talks with school and hospital officials for several months about making the changes, and plans will be expedited after an announcement last week by Gov. Andy Beshear, making a total of \$23 million available across the state to improve highway safety near public schools. The project in Marion will come from that allocation.

Gov. Beshear has charged the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet with prioritizing and targeting safety projects near school sites using money set aside in the 2020 Highway Plan. Nearly 70 safety improvement projects in 44 counties across the state

program.

Alyssa Bozeman, a junior at CCHS, was selected as a participant of the Commonwealth Honors Academy. The academy is a summer enrichment program that offers challenging academic coursework for high–achieving students who have completed their junior year.

The enrichment program is offered at Murray State University.

are included in the plans.

“These projects merge two key areas I’ve been committed to investing in since day one as Governor: education and infrastructure,” said Gov. Beshear. “Once completed, these projects will ensure safe access to and around our schools, as well as improve quality of life for the thousands of Kentucky families that drop off and pick up children every day.”

Over the next two years, funding will be used to design and/or construct projects, ranging from new turn lanes and crosswalks to pavement markings and new entrances. Counties across the state will benefit from upgrades to existing school flashing lights, pedestrian crosswalk beacons and roadside signs encouraging distraction–free driving. The new projects are also expected to create contracting and design jobs.



## Ben E. Clement Museum Curator Victoria BLAINE

*Vitoria Blaine is the new curator at the Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum on North Walker Street in Marion. It features a one-of-a-kind rare mineral collection of Ben E. Clement, a giant in Kentucky mining. The collection is comprised of thousands of fluorite crystal specimens. Also preserved in the museum is an extensive collection of journals, photographs, mining tools and artifacts related to fluorspar mining, an industry that flourished during the 20th century.*

**Q:** What are your job duties at the Mineral Museum?



**A:** I am the curator. I give guided tours, research the minerals and oversee day–to–day operations.

**Q:** How did you get involved with the mineral museum?

**A:** I got involved through some friends who loved the museum and enjoyed seeing all the different minerals. I had no idea what it had to offer until I went and saw for myself. Now I am hooked.

**Q:** Why is the mineral museum important for the

community?

**A:** It is truly one of the most unique attractions this community has. We have a world–class display of minerals right in our hometown. People travel from all over the world just to come here and view our collection.

**Q:** Do you have anything coming up on the museum schedule?

**A:** Starting May 1, our summer schedule begins. We will be open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m., to 3 p.m.

**Q:** Is there anything those in our community can do to help?

**A:**We are always looking for volunteers and donations of any kind. We would love to see more from the community view one of Marion’s hidden treasures.



# Big Harp’s final stand lands head in tree fork

*This is the last article in a three-part series about the notorious Harps and a wake of crime they left in pioneer western Kentucky. The story picks up where it left off last week with the murderous criminals being tracked down by a posse of local individuals.*

**BY THOMAS BLACK**  
SPECIAL TO THE PRESS

The other six men took up the trail and after a couple of miles, they saw the Harps in the distance. Shouting at them to drop their guns and surrender, the Harp men dashed off, leaving their families to fend for themselves. Little Harp, traveling by shank’s mare, turned and like a wraith, disappeared into the forest.

Tompkins and Lindsey apprehended the women and children without trouble and were left in charge of these prisoners. Leiper, the first to fire, narrowly missed Big Harp, who was on horseback. While reloading his rifle, to his great frustration, Leiper found his wiping stick (ram rod) had swollen from being exposed to the rain and was lodged fast within its channel.

Since Tompkins and Lindsey didn’t really need but one rifle to guard their prisoners with, he hurriedly traded weapons with James Tompkins. He then spurred his mount forward and gave chase.

In rapid succession, Christian, Grissom and Stegall all fired at Big Harp. Grissom was the only one to draw blood when the ball from his rifle tore through the soft flesh of Micajah’s leg.

With Leiper closing in, Big Harp, furious with pain, wheeled his horse around. Thumbing the



**This photograph is taken from the mouth of the cave at Cave in Rock, Ill., looking up the Ohio River. It was here that bandits and ill-doers like the Harps hid out and found fellowship with other like-minded criminals.**

hammer back, he aimed his rifle at the center of Leiper’s chest and pulled the trigger. Instead of an ear splitting blast, the only sound he heard was the metallic thud of the frizzen as it pivoted forward from being struck by a dull flint. Swearing a blue streak, he threw the now useless gun to the ground, jerked his tomahawk from his sash and before galloping off, threatened to kill Leiper if he followed.

Leiper, seeing that Harp was in the open, pulled hard on the reins, with hooves skidding in the dirt and leaves, he quickly brought his horse to a bone jarring halt.

Dismounting at once, Leiper cocked his weapon before either feet hit the ground. In the blink of an eye, he then shouldered the borrowed rifle, drew a fine bead on the back of the most dangerous man on the continent... and carefully squeezed off his shot.

This time, he didn’t miss.

With a meaty wallop, the heavy lead ball, propelled by powder once belonging to Micajah, shattered the big man’s spine. As blood poured from his gaping wounds, hemorrhagic shock soon set in. Mortally wounded yet clinging to life with the tenacity of a bear, he somehow managed to ride another half mile to the base of a low hill, at which time, Leiper and Christian roughly dragged him from the saddle.

To this very day, this ridge is known as Harp’s Hill.

As he laid on the damp forest floor, encircled by the posse, the dying man begged for something to drink. Feeling obligated to help, Leiper removed one of Big Harp’s shoes, filled it with water and held it to his mouth. Harp was asked by Squire McBee if he wished to atone for his

sins before he died, he received only a sullen stare for an answer.

Finally, the grief stricken Moses Stegall lost it. In a fit of blind rage, he lunged forward, withdrew Harp’s belt knife from its leather sheath and grabbed him by the hair of his head. With the two men cussing one another, Stegall proceeded to slowly decapitate Big Harp.

In his irrational state of mind, I’m gonna go out on a limb and wager not a single man was foolish enough to try and stop him.

Since their meager food supply was now totally exhausted, this grotesque trophy, with eyes still wide open, was placed inside of Stegall’s wallet (a type of haversack) and secured behind his saddle. Unworthy of a proper Christian burial, the headless body of Big Harp was left in the woods for the buzzards,

**PART 3 of 3**  
**Three-Part History Series**  
*The Harps were among the most notorious outlaws during pioneer days and their savagery touched Crittenden County in more ways than one. More information about the Harps and their ties to this community can be found at the Historical Museum in Marion.*

red wolves and maggots to consume.

As a gruesome warning to the criminal element of what was in store for them, the posse agreed, unanimously, that Big Harp’s head would be displayed in the fork of a large oak tree (in what is today Webster County) at the crossroad near the Stegall farm.

It remained there for decades. Legend has it, an elderly woman who dabbled in witchcraft removed the bleached out skull and ground it up for use in her potions.

Surprisingly, after 220 years, this highway is still called Harp’s Head Road. Often, I have wondered, of the countless people that drive it, how many of them know the grisly story behind the name?

On the long ride back, the men, ravenous with hunger, stopped at a cornfield and ate their fill. Each man then gathered several ears of unshucked corn and placed them within the only means of conveyance available to them; the blood-soaked linen wallet containing Big Harp’s head. That evening, in camp, only one of them refused to eat the corn.

You will have to admit, these old Kentucky frontiersmen were a tough breed.

Before the posse returned to their homes, the trio of women was escorted to Red Banks, where they were briefly incarcerated. No charges were filed against them.

With the arrival of the new century, increased pressure from the law forced the Mason gang to disband and scatter to the wind like a covey of quail. At Cave-in-Rock, their leader, Samuel Mason boarded a stolen flatboat bound for Natchez, Miss.

In the autumn of 1803, with a price on his head, Mason’s skull was cleaved and then chopped off with a tomahawk wielded by the hand of one John Setton.

If you have endured my little story thus far, you are bound to be thinking that my last sentence sounds oddly familiar. There is a perfectly good reason why it does. When Setton went before the judge to collect the reward, he was identified by several people as being none other than Little Harp. At a trial by his peers, he was found guilty and sentenced to death by hanging.

Wiley swung from the gallows on the afternoon of Feb. 8, 1804, near Greenville, Miss., thus ending the reign of terror spawned by America’s first known serial killers.

**References**  
•*The Outlaws of Cave-in-Rock*, by Otto A. Rothert, A.H. Clark Publishing Co., Cleveland, Ohio 1924.  
•*Satan’s Ferryman*, by W.D. Snively Jr. & Louanna Furbee, Frederick Ungar Publishing Co. Inc. 1968.

# Senator pleased with session’s accomplishments

It was a privilege to serve you and our district at the Capitol during the 2021 Regular Session. At this same time last year, no one could have predicted just how drastically our lives would change amid the COVID-19 pandemic. As the 30-day session closed on March 30, we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel.



**Robby MILLS**  
KY STATE SENATOR  
*Guest Commentary*

Going into this year’s legislative session, we knew we had a pressing responsibility to address the budget and issues related to the pandemic. Constitutionally, we were required to pass a continuing budget following last year’s decision to pass only a one-year budget instead of the traditional two-year budget. Through cautious and conservative planning, along with federal stimulus funds, I am happy to say the General Assembly invested taxpayer dollars in Kentucky to ensure we get the most out of every penny.

This year’s budget invests \$300 million in federal funding to expand broadband access to areas of the state most in need and advance economic development. While reliable internet connectivity is essential to our state’s financial future, so is improving our state’s infrastructure. To improve that, we must include access to quality water and wastewater systems for Kentuckians. The General Assembly allocated \$200 million for county water and sewer projects and grants. Billions of dollars have been placed into highway appropriations, with nearly \$700 million for revenue sharing to help county and rural and secondary roads.

Additional budget appropriations showcase the General Assembly’s

commitment to building a better Kentucky. Over 40 percent of the state’s approximate \$12 billion budget is dedicated to education. That number is well over 50 percent when including higher education spending. Additionally, our Family Resource and Youth Services Centers program’s funding was maintained in this year’s budget, with \$20 million being appropriated to help our rural hospitals. Finally, the General Assembly met our moral and legal obligation to fund state employees’ pensions fully.

Looming over every legislative decision was COVID-19 and its various impacts on our economy, health, education, and more. Knowing how important it is to get our state back on track, the General Assembly passed liability protections for businesses and legislation to allow companies to operate within safety guidelines that are less restrictive so that they can get their employees back to work. For parents fortunate enough to remain employed but have found child care options limited following state-mandated shutdowns, the legislature passed a bill to reopen our child care centers. For those still struggling with unemployment-related issues, we enacted legislation to require the state to reopen regional offices for in-person services. The budget also included \$575 million to pay down the state’s \$800 million federal loan to refund the unemployment trust fund. Doing this will make sure small businesses do not see a significant tax increase.

In response to the multitudes of calls from the unemployed, parents in need of child care, those concerned with their children’s education, and families unable to visit with their loved ones in long-term care facilities,

the General Assembly began to review what its role should be when these life-altering decisions are made. We passed priority measures reforming statute to give the General Assembly oversight over the extension of states of emergencies, administrative and emergency regulations, and allow the voters of Kentucky to decide if the legislature may reserve legislative days to return to Frankfort beyond the current constitutionally required session deadlines.

Legislation that garnered overwhelming support included bills to protect our children by strengthening the statute of limitations on abuse-related crimes and enhancing penalties for those found guilty. We addressed health care costs by capping the out-of-pocket cost of insulin for people with diabetes at \$30 per 30-day supply. We continued to improve criminal justice by ensuring accountability within law enforcement, providing pregnant inmates with the dignity of time with their child, and lessening recidivism by helping connect former inmates with job opportunities.

We continued to show our commitment to pro-

tecting the life of the unborn in passing the “born-alive infant protection act,” which provides that an infant born alive must be given the appropriate medical treatment and care to preserve life. We also sought to improve government transparency and efficiency by providing the State Treasurer oversight of state contracts and improving Kentucky’s agriculture industry by rightly placing related offices and boards under the Kentucky Agriculture Commissioner’s jurisdiction.

With approximately 200 bills passed by the General Assembly, the governor signed into law 158 of them (79 percent) and allowed 12 others to become law without vetoing them (85 percent total). Within these three months, there was a significant amount of great work done to build a brighter future for Kentucky.

Information on legislation passed during the 2021 Regular Session can be found at [www.legislature.ky.gov](http://www.legislature.ky.gov).

I would also like to thank you for your continued support, questions, and comments. Although the session is over, we will participate in interim committee

meetings throughout the remainder of the year to prepare and discuss new legislation. If you have any thoughts or questions regarding the work we accomplished during this past session, I certainly want to hear from you.

I am happy to be home, reunited with loved ones. I hope to see you out and about in the coming year. Stay safe, and God bless.

*Sen. Robby Mills represents Crittenden and five other counties – Caldwell, Henderson, Livingston, Union, Webster – in the Fourth Senate District. If you have any questions or comments about these issues or any other public policy issue, contact him toll-free at 1-800-372-7181 or email [Robby.Mills@LRC.ky.gov](mailto:Robby.Mills@LRC.ky.gov).*

**LOVE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION**  
*will have its annual meeting*  
**Saturday, May 8**  
**2 p.m. at the Cemetery**

People who have loved ones buried there are urged to attend.  
Donations are needed and can be made at Farmers Bank or People's Bank or mailed to  
Charlene Armstrong, Treasurer  
261 Country Dr., Marion, Ky. 42064.  
*Thank You*

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2 Bed 1 1/2 Bath w/Pool - 4516 US 60 W.....	\$109,000KL
3 Homes on 94+- Acres - Hoover Spur Rd.....	\$279,000 CH
3 Bed, 1 Bath - 701 E Depot St.....	\$24,900 JM
4 Bed, 2 Bath - 6531 St. Rt. 1943 West, E.....	<b>PRICE REDUCED</b> \$6,500 ST
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Cave-In-Rock Island - 160+- AC.....	\$359,900 AE
15+- AC - McMican Rd Marion, KY.....	<b>SOLD</b> \$54,900 TC
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# We need more friends

I can't remember exactly how I met him, but we connected pretty quickly telling fishing stories. He did not have any from the last five years because he had only recently been released from state prison in Jackson, Mich. He helped me with a few projects, and I helped him move a few things into his new house.

He showed up at our house for a group Bible study and prayer time – twice. Then he stopped. When I asked why, he said it was because he had never been in a house like that (a typical three-bedroom ranch with a picture window; nothing special). He said that it made him nervous. Neither of those quite made sense to me, but I believed him, and he was telling the truth.

I also learned he had no ability to ask for help. No trouble asking for money or time to do something he didn't have the resources to do. But great trouble asking for help with relationships and life skills. He was determined to do it on his own. "I've never had anyone I could count on, so I have to do it by myself."

He is not the only person I have met who could not seem to get

on the right side of life who believed that asking for help was a sign of weakness. One of the greatest challenges that many people have is the false belief that independence is better than interdependence.

A friend of mine who had a cocaine addiction (he passed away about five years ago) said he learned the difference between acquaintances and friends when he landed in jail for a few months. All his party friends disappeared. Those

whom he had turned his back on showed up, sent cards and called. Of course, when he got out, his party friends were already at his house with necessary supplies. That turned him around. He got his spiritual life together and made great progress otherwise. His hobby was leatherworking. I still wear the belt he gave me.

Proverbs 18:24 says, "There are friends who pretend to be friends, but there is a friend who sticks closer than a brother." Now, you may have a friend like that, and you may be a friend like that, but I believe in a God like that. I know it can get complicated – Babylonian captivi-

ty, the cross, genocide, and the general wretchedness that falls on us from time to time – but the statement holds.

There are people who cross my path who need help. Some need help getting stabilized after too many unexpected blows. Others just need a few dollars to get over a minor crisis. Some need emergency housing. However, there are others who we could give half the national budget and it would do no good whatsoever. What they need are friends.

They may have a social worker and a counselor. They may have access to the walk-in clinic. There may be public assistance and rent-subsidized housing. All of these are good and most who need them use them, but for some that will never be enough. What they need is a friend. A friend who will not try to change them but help them, not with money but with friendship.

This is hard. This is risky. I do not do it enough. Too many of us are too busy, too protective or too frightened to get too close to "some people." We want to help, but on our terms. I have always found it easier to go buy groceries than spend an hour over a meal for someone. I can also say that when I have taken time for the meal, I came away knowing I had done the right thing, regardless of outcome.

Jesus said, "The Son

of man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Behold, a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!' Yet wisdom is justified by her deeds." He was criticized for being a friend to the friendless and outcast. He also reminded us that it is not what we say that matters most, it is what we do.

He also said to his disciples, "No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends." (John 15:16). Friends. The God of the universe in the flesh called us his friends! And what a challenge it must be to be our friends. We think we can do it on our own, but we can't.

When we see someone who is lost... Not "church lost" where all we ask is for them to show up and satisfy our process. I mean lost, friendless, in pain, thinking friendship is weakness. When we see someone who is lost...be a friend.

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

## THE GREATEST CRIME IN AMERICA!

In the next 24 hours (in America alone), 2,400 children will be "hunted down" and merclessly put to death because of the crazed inhumanity and selfishness of their own mothers. Standing ready and eager to assist them and aid in this slaughter are: doctors, nurses, assistants, clinics, politicians, lawyers, judges and the list goes on and on. Killing infant children is BIG business and makes tons of money for those involved! From 1973-2020 (47 years), it is estimated that more than 62 million, 505 thousand unborn children have been sacrificed at the altar of "unwanted pregnancies" and "financial gain." What a perversion of righteous behavior! By nature itself, people know it's not right to take another's life! God HATES those who shed innocent blood. (Proverbs 6:17). By the time it takes you to read this paragraph, three little children will be brutally tortured to death by being poisoned, burned, ripped to shreds and

sucked out in pieces from their mother's womb — discarded in a trash can as if they were tumors. Does not their blood cry out from the ground? How long can or will such continue? Thomas Jefferson once said, "The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction is the first and only legitimate object of good government." Brethren, work and pray that such slaughter of innocents will not continue!

Do you lend your voice (vote) and support to those who provide their services to kill multiplied millions of little babies? Do you lend your hand and promotion to politicians who support and defend it be so? Remember, there's a judgment day coming and you will stand before the judge of all the earth and answer for your deeds. Whatever you say to explain yourself won't make it right. "Sin is a reproach to any people." (Prov. 14:34) Printed with permission from Editor Garland Robinson

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## Happenstances can not take your joy away

**Question:** I have always thought happiness and joy were about the same things. My Christian friend tells me there is a lot of difference. She says that joy is a much deeper emotion than happiness. What's the big difference?

**Answer:** Most people see little distinction between happiness and joy. They feel joyful when they're happy.

The distinction between happiness and joy is significant. Happiness is found in happenstance (what happens to us). It is associated with coincidence, chance and good luck. Happiness

## Ask the Pastor

By Bob Hardison



comes and goes according to whether or not our friend calls, the sun is shining for our picnic, or our soccer team wins.

Christian joy is independent of outside events. Even though, our friend doesn't call, it rains on our picnic and our soccer team loses, we can still experience joy. Joy is wrapped up in one's relationship to God. Circumstances change, but

God's love and care for His children never changes.

When we look to God for our needs, we are drawn to Him in deep trust that leads to an inner abiding joy. Jesus promised His followers joy amidst sorrow. "Now is your time of grief, but I will see you again and you will rejoice, and no one will take away your joy" (Jn. 16:22).

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

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### WORSHIP

with us this week

Visit one of our area churches for worship and fellowship

### St. William Catholic Church

Sunday Mass 11 a.m.

860 S. Main St. Marion, Ky (270) 965-2477

Father John Okoro

### Mexico Baptist Church

Minister of Music Mike Crabtree  
Pastor: Tim Burdon

Sunday Worship Services: 10 a.m., 7 p.m.  
Sunday Bible Study: 9 a.m.  
Sunday Discipleship Training: 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Worship Service: 7 p.m.

### DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor: Bro. Chris Cummins

Sunday Bible Study: 10 a.m. • Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Approx. 5 miles from the intersection of Hwy. 60 & Hwy. 297  
Phone: (270) 965-2220

### Emmanuel Baptist Church

108 Hillcrest Dr., Marion | (270) 965-4623

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.  
Sunday Worship: 10:45 a.m., 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Adult Bible Study, Children and Youth Activities: 6 p.m.

### Tolu United Methodist Church

Bro. Alex Kirby, Pastor

We invite you to be our guest

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The People of The United Methodist Church

Sunday School 10 a.m. • Service 11 a.m.  
Wednesday Night Youth 6:30 p.m.

### Barnett Chapel General Baptist

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m.

Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.

Wednesday Night Bible Study: 6 p.m.

Barnett Chapel...where everyone is welcome.

### Freedom General Baptist Church

Pastor: Ross Ahtwell

87 Freedom Church Rd., Marion (about 1 mi. from Marion off Ky. 91)

CHURCH TIMES:  
Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Evening 6 p.m.  
Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Wed. Bible Study 6 p.m.

### Marion Baptist Church

College & Depot streets, Marion • (270) 965-5232

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

SUNDAY CHURCH TIMES:  
8:30 a.m. Coffee Juice Fellowship • 8:45 a.m. Sunday School • 10 a.m. Morning Worship  
6 p.m. Youth Bible Study • 6 p.m. Evening Worship

WEDNESDAY CHURCH TIMES: 6 p.m. Prayer/Devotional Service • 6:45 p.m. Adult Choir Practice

### SEVEN SPRINGS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

219 Seven Springs Rd., Marion, Ky. 42064

Sun. School for all ages: 10 a.m.  
Sun. Worship: 11 a.m., 6 p.m. • Wed.: 7 p.m.

Bro. Austin Weist, pastor

- We are an Independent Baptist Church seeking to know Christ and to make Him known to the community around us -

### Crayne Community Church

Crayne Cemetery Road, Crayne, Ky.

Bro. James Driver, Interim Pastor

Sunday School 10 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

### FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

224 W. Bellville St., Marion, Ky.

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.  
Sunday Worship 10:45 a.m.

### growing in grace

2 Peter 3:18

### PLEASANT GROVE General Baptist Church

Located on Ky. 723, 4 miles north of Salem

Sunday School 10 a.m. | Sunday Worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m. | Wed. 7 p.m.

### Marion Church of God

334 Fords Ferry Road, Marion, Ky.

Sun. School 10 a.m. • Morning Service 11 a.m.  
Sun. Evening 6 p.m. • Wed. Evening 6 p.m.

"Where salvation makes you a member."

Lucy Tedrick, pastor

### PINEY FORK

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor Junior Martin

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

It's 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

Sun. School: 10 a.m. | Sun. Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m.

### Marion United Methodist Church

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors.

The People of the United Methodist Church

WED: Bible Study 5:30 p.m.

SUN: Sun. School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 p.m.

Bro. David COMBS

South College St.

### Frances Community Church

Bro. Butch Gray

Wed. night prayer meeting & youth service: ..... 6:30 p.m.

Sunday school: ..... 10 a.m.

Worship service: ..... 11 a.m.

### Hurricane Church

Hurricane Church Rd. off Ky. 135 West

Pastor: Bro. Danny Hinchee

Sun. School, 10 a.m. • Worship, 11 a.m.  
Sun. Evening services, 6 p.m.  
Wed. Evening services, 7 p.m.

### Unity General Baptist Church

4691 U.S. 641 • Crayne, Ky.

Barry Hix, pastor • (270) 365-5836 or (270) 625-1248

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

### Marion Church of Christ

546 West Elm Street • (270) 965-9450

Sunday Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.

Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.

- The end of your search for a friendly church -








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Prepaid ads of 20 words or less are \$6 for one week, with a 10-cent charge for each word over the initial 20. Run the same ad for consecutive issues for only \$4 each week. Now, all regular classified ads are placed on our Web site, www.the-press.com, at no extra charge. You can also reach more than one million readers with one call! Contact the classified department for more information about placing a 25-word classified in 70 newspapers for only \$250. It is the policy of The Crittenden Press Inc., to fully comply with the Fair Housing Act and to never knowingly publish advertisements that discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or family status. If you believe an advertisement published in this newspaper is discriminatory, please contact the publisher immediately at (270) 965-3191. All phone numbers listed for ads on this page are within the 270 area code unless otherwise noted.

**yard sales**

Saturday only, starting at 8 a.m., Repton Baptist Church in Mattoon. Clothes, building supplies, multiple families participating in this fundraiser for the church's youth. (1t-17-p)

Yard Sale: 5380 U.S. 60 East, Friday and Saturday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. (1t-17-p)

4 family yard sale Friday and Saturday, 759 Butler Rd., Salem. Watch for signs. Lots of toys, women's and kids clothes up to 3x, some men's clothes; lots of new stuff, coffee tables, too much to list. (1t-17-p)

Yard sale at 257 Country Drive near City-County Park Friday and Saturday, 22 hp 54" cut riding mower, power tools, 17" tires, household items. (1t-17-p)

**wanted**

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

**real estate**

For sale: Buildings and 2 acres. House has 30x34 basement; main floor has one bedroom and one bath; main floor has total of 1,446 sq. ft. Second floor has four bedrooms and one bath with total of 1,020 sq. ft. Pole shed barn is 34x60 with another shed attached that is 24x30 with a 10' overshot on the front. \$145,000. Located at 1262 Mt. Zion Church Rd., Marion, KY 42064. (4t-20-p)

Property for sale: 2 BR, 1 bath house on 1.7 acres on Shady Lane in Marion, living room, kitchen, enclosed back porch; commercial lot on Spar Mill Road inside Marion city limits; corner lot in Carrsville. For questions on any property, call (270) 704-1292. (4t-17-p)

**employment**

Summer help wanted, part-time, good job for high school student, yard work, weedeating, tree trimming, odd jobs, no mowing. Send your information with phone number and email to P.O. Box 28, Marion, KY 42064. (2t-18-p)

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING**

The Kentucky Public Service Commission will hold a hearing on Tuesday, May 18, 2021, at 9:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time (8:00 AM Central Daylight Time), in the case of *In the Matter of: An Electronic Examination of the Application of the Fuel Adjustment Clause of Big Rivers Electric Corporation from November 1, 2018 through October 31, 2020*, Case No. 2021-00058, 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.

**services**

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**bid notice**

The Crittenden County Board of Education invites you to submit sealed bids for trash pickup and

pest control services for the 2021-2022 school year. Please submit bids to: Crittenden County Board of Education, 601 West Elm, Marion, KY 42064, attention Vanessa Shewcraft. Bids will be received until May 14th, 2021 at 1:00 P.M., at which time they will be opened. Any interested party may attend; however, no immediate decisions will be made. Please contact Vanessa Shewcraft with any questions or bid specifications at 270-965-2281. (1t-17-c)

**notice**

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**legal notice**

Public Notice for Public Hearing related to the Crittenden County Judicial Center Project The Crittenden County Project Development Board has scheduled a public hearing for a proposed Kentucky Court of Justice Facility for Tuesday May 4th, 2021 at 4:30pm Central Time. The hearing will be held in the Crittenden County

Courthouse, in the Circuit Courtroom, located at 107 S. Main St., Marion, KY 42064. Details of the proposed project are available for examination at the Office of the Crittenden County Judge Executive, 107 S. Main St., Suite 208 Marion, KY 42064, between 8:30am and 4:30 pm Monday through Friday until May 3, 2021. Interested property owners should submit plats of property to be considered, asking price, and statements of any know historical or environmental concerns. Individuals who wish to submit proposals or comment on the proposed facility may present oral or written statements at the public hearing. (1t-17-c)



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

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

LIVINGSTON COUNTY, KY - 132.73 ACRES - \$238,914 - Great hunting tract with dynamic hunter friendly topography, mast producing timber, security cover, open areas for food plots and a good trail system.

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

CALDWELL COUNTY, KY - 30 ACRES - Solid hunting tract with smaller acreage. **SOLD** of habitat types and topography. Small lodge with finished living quarters.

LIVINGSTON, KY - 99.954 ACRES - Hunting tract with a large creek, open ground for food plots, mast producing hardwoods and numerous funnels and pinch points! \$199,909.

CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KY - 239.27 ACRES - \$376,900 - This farm has a diverse blend of habitat types that provides excellent deer, turkey and waterfowl hunting opportunities. This area is known for producing big bucks!

CALDWELL COUNTY, KY - 257.32 - \$599,900 - Prime hunting tract with an excellent mix of habitat types. Diverse blend of habitat types and topography. Well-managed property that is ready to hunt.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY, KY - 118.16 ACRES - Topography is a mix of semi-flat creek bottoms and timbered ridges. An established food plot on the main ridge is a hot spot for big bucks. Excellent hunting! Reduced \$209,751.



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# Virtual chess nets 2nd, 4th Anniversary

The state team championship looked a little different this year for the Blue Knights Chess Team. Much like everything else, in person tournaments were suspended due to the pandemic. However, that didn't stop the Kentucky state and regional coordinators from trying to find a viable solution to keep kids involved and playing in tournaments to keep their chess skills progressing.

"Thanks to the coordinators at Chess Performance and ICC (Internet Chess Club), chess players across the state were able to play in online tournaments throughout the year," explained coach Don Winters.

On March 27, Crittenden County's Blue Knights competed in the first ever State Team



Senior Cole Swinford

Championship online. "We have had to wait two weeks so that each game could go through a fair play analysis to make sure there was no cheating done among all the players participating," Winters said of the process to verify results. Usually the state team

format is played team against team with the best out of four games earning the win for the team. With the tournament being done online, it was impossible to pair team against team, so the tournament acted like a normal tournament in which the top three players from each round determine team points.

Crittenden County's K5 team of Alex Hewitt, Eli Lovell, Wyatt Cartwright and Brooklyn Lovell held their own against some of the top public and private schools such as Lexington Latin and Brandeis Elementary. They played four rounds and came up two points shy of the state title, bringing home second place.

The K12 team of Cole Swinford, Dennon Wilson, Isaac Sarles, Trey Swaggirt and Tyler Swaggirt jumped out to an

early lead over Christian Education Consortium, North Bullitt, Seneca and Morgan high schools. That lead dwindled and in the end, the Blue Knights ended up with a respectable fourth-place finish.

Coach Winters was proud of all his players. "I was able to watch each game played at the same time from my computer screen while sitting at my kitchen table," he said. "It was different having to communicate via Zoom with my players between rounds, but at least I could encourage them and give them tips after seeing their games."

Winters said the tournament was played at a much faster pace than normal, forcing players to adapt and hold their own against some of the toughest teams in the state.



# Gymnasts claim titles

STAFF REPORT

Five Marion residents are state tumbling champions, and six are heading to nationals.

Coaches BJ Minton and Stacey Summers' team from Tumble Extreme placed third in the advanced and elite categories of the United States Tumbling Association (USTA) State Championship April 24.

Representing Tumble Extreme at this summer's nationals event will be Riley Summers, Nora Hollis, Aubrey Hollis, Alivia Caudill and Grier Crider.

Summers, competing as a senior in her last USTA state event, won first place and was recognized as high point competition in all three events, including tumbling, double mini and

trampoline.

Other individual results are as follows:

Alivia Caudill, first and high point in tumbling, second double mini and eighth trampoline.

Lily Barlow, second tumbling, third double mini and third trampoline.

Grier Crider, fourth tumbling, sixth double mini and sixth trampoline.

Colton Duncan, first tumbling, second double mini and second trampoline.

Nora Hollis, first tumbling, fourth double mini and fourth trampoline.

Aubrey Hollis, first and high point on tumbling, fifth double mini and fourth trampoline.

Allie Hollis, fourth tumbling, third double mini and second trampoline.



Above is 3-time state gymnastics champ Riley Summers.

line.

Payton Maness, fourth tumbling and third trampoline.



## Scout thanks

Girl Scouts in Troop 1771 visited Marion United Methodist Church earlier this month to share information about their activities and to thank the congregation for allowing Scouts to utilize the church for monthly meetings. Pictured (from left) are leader Emily Guess and scouts Emma Guess, Sophie Watson, Skylynn Brown, Melina Keller, Sydney Keller, Presley Herrin and WillaBeth Brown.

## Library class at CCHS

An adult skill-building class will be held on the front lawn of Crittenden County High School at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, May 6.

The literacy event is sponsored by the Crittenden County Public Library and Crosswalk Learning Center. Participants will learn about programs at the public library. Coffee, tea and cookies provided.

Bring a lawn chair and email [jeff.hughes@crittenden.kyschools.us](mailto:jeff.hughes@crittenden.kyschools.us) for more info.

# Mays celebrate 70 years together

Mr. and Mrs. Billy Joe May of Marion are celebrating 70 years of marriage. Billy Joe and the former Louise Edwards were married April 29, 1951 in Burna. Donald May and Millie Simpkins were their attendants.

The couple has two daughters, Pat Waddell and Donna Johnson, both of Marion; three grandchildren, Sandie Waddell, Scotty Johnson and Troy Johnson; five great-grandchildren; and two great-great-grandchildren.



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## LOCAL SPORTS

### SPRING SPORTS Upcoming events

**THURSDAY, April 29**  
Baseball hosts Trigg County  
Softball hosts Trigg County  
Track at Murray Relays  
**FRIDAY, April 30**  
Softball hosts St. Mary  
Fresh Baseball hosts Lyon  
**SATURDAY, May 1**  
Softball hosts Fort Campbell  
**MONDAY, May 3**  
Baseball at Dawson Springs  
Softball at Hopkinsville  
**TUESDAY, May 4**  
Track hosts Quad Meet for Lung Cancer Awareness

### OUTDOORS Hunting Seasons

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

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

### Turkey season figures

Although field reports from hunters are mixed, it appears a good number of wild turkey gunners are finding success. As of early this week, Crittenden County had given up 291 wild turkeys during the shotgun seasons. There were 23 taken during the earlier youth hunt. The balance has been harvested since the statewide season opened nearly two weeks ago. Livingston hunters have taken 187 birds. There were more than 100 birds harvested in Crittenden County on opening weekend. Last year, hunters here took 341 birds during the entire season. In 2018, the county's total harvest was just 288 and in 2014 it was 233.



**Tucker Owen, 6, harvested his first gobbler on a friend's Crittenden County farm in Panther Hollow April 18.**

### FOOTBALL Webster game is home

Rocket football coach Gaiге Courtney has made a minor change to the 2021 football schedule. The Webster football game on Aug. 27 will now be at home instead of away. The Rockets currently have a nine-game schedule because Warren Central backed out of playing CCHS a couple of months ago. Courtney says finding a 10th opponent at this point will be difficult. See the entire schedule at The Press Online.

### BASKETBALL After-school clinics

Boys and girls at Crittenden County Elementary School can attend an after-school basketball skills development program that will include competition. The program will be held right after school until 4:45 p.m., every Thursday until school is out. It is being coordinated by the high school basketball coaches. There is a \$20 fee and players will each receive a T-shirt. Registration forms are available at the school.

### LITTLE LEAGUE Fredonia sign ups

Fredonia Little League is now registering players for the summer season. The league will include T-Ball, Minor League and Major League baseball divisions for players age 4-13. Registration is at Buddy Rogers Park on the following dates: 9-11 a.m., May 1; 6 p.m., May 8; 9-11 a.m., May 15 and 9-11 a.m., May 29. Cost for all ages is \$35 with discounts for multiple family members. Registration forms will be available next month at participating Fredonia businesses. Season will start in mid June and games will be played on Tuesdays and Thursdays. For more information call 270-601-0973.



**Rocket third baseman Ben Evans takes a late throw in an attempt to catch this Owensboro Catholic base stealer during Saturday's state quarterfinal matchup at Chautauqua Park in Owensboro.**

### BASEBALL Rockets' All A run ends against O'boro Catholic

Crittenden County's deep run into the All A Classic State Tournament ended on Saturday after an eight-hour rain delay. The Rockets were defeated 15-1 in the state quarterfinal by Owensboro Catholic, which hosted the small-school state tournament's Final Eight in Owensboro. The Aces are ranked No. 13 in Kentucky's latest statewide poll.

Owensboro scored five runs in the first and CCHS got its only run of the game in that frame as Maddox Carlson smashed an RBI double.

Carlson, the team's ace all season, went into the contest with an unblemished 4-0 pitching mark and had just settled in, getting the Aces out scoreless in the second, when he pulled a groin muscle and was removed from the game with Crittenden down 5-1. Tyler Boone and Jeremiah Foster finished up on the mound for CCHS.

The Rockets, who are among the state's batting leaders with a greater than .350 team average, could not get their bats going against O'Cath pitching. Gabe Mott and Trace Adams had the team's only other hits.

Owensboro went on to win its semifinal game and will play Walton-Verona in the All A championship at a later date.

### Rockets calm Storm

Logan Bailey and Trace Adams combined to throw a two-hitter as Crittenden beat Hopkins Central by the mercy rule 11-1 on Monday.

The Storm committed seven errors and CCHS made them pay for nearly every one. Bailey had two of Crittenden's five hits in the game. Adams, Ben Evans and Tyler Boone also had hits. Boone, Evans and Tyler Belt each drove in runs as Crittenden improved to 11-3 on the season.

### Rockets roll past Union

The Rockets started off strong, scoring two, one and three times in consecutive innings last Thursday. Logan Bailey singled and scored in the first inning. The Rockets put up four runs in the sixth inning with Ben Evans, Braxton Winders, Hunter Smith and Bailey all getting RBIs. CCHS won the game 10-4.

The Rockets had 14 hits in the game. Bailey, Gabe Mott, Tyler Boone and Smith each managed multiple hits. Bailey led the way with four.

Freshman righthander Jeremiah Foster led Crittenden to victory on the mound. He allowed no runs on one hit and struck out one. Trace Adams, Case Gobin and Evans all put in work in relief.

### TRACK | FIELD New school record

CCHS competed in the Chuck Gullo Twilight Relays at Marshall County Friday night. Senior Kate Keller won the 800 and 1,600 races, setting a new school record in the 1,600 at 5:31.97. Tristan Davidson and Nate Faith were second in a tandem jump and the spring medley of Davidson, Sammy Impastato, Rowen Perkins and Eli Moss was second. The Rocket 4x400 team with Noah Perkins, Rowen Perkins, Kaleb Nesbitt and Moss was third, and in a throwers relay, Isaac Sarles, Lane West, Impastato and Noah McGowan took fourth. McGowan was also fourth in the shot put with a new personal best of 44 feet and 9 inches.



**Rocket junior Maddox Carlson legs out an infield grounder during last week's win over Union County. Carlson was injured in Saturday's All A Classic game at Owensboro and will be out of action until at least early next week.**



**Crittenden County's Nate Faith heads to the exchange point during a relay event last week at Marion-Crittenden County Park.**

<b>Marshall County Relays April 24 2021 GIRLS</b>	
<b>800 Meters</b>	1. Kate Keller (2:40.04).
<b>1600 Meters</b>	1. Kate Keller (5:31.97).
<b>BOYS</b>	
<b>1600 Meters</b>	23. Jaxon Hatfield (5:48.99); 25. Gabe Keller (6:05.10); 31. Cole Swinford (6:55.05); 32. Dennis Wilson (6:56.28).
<b>400 Relay</b>	4. Crittenden County (55.37).
<b>400 Relay Varsity</b>	5. Crittenden County (47.71).
<b>1600 Relay</b>	3. Crittenden County (3:52.67).
<b>3200 Relay</b>	7. Crittenden County (10:41.71).
<b>5600 Relay</b>	6. (25:45.42).
<b>800 Sprint</b>	2. Crittenden (Tristan Davidson, Sammy Impastato, Rowen Perkins, and Eli Moss, 1:44.36).
<b>Distance Medley</b>	5. Crittenden County (14:23.24).
<b>High Jump</b>	2. Tristan Davidson (5-06.00); 7. Nate Faith (5-02.00).
<b>Long Jump</b>	15. Noah Perkins; 16. Rowan Perkins.
<b>Shot Put</b>	4. Noah McGowan (44-09.00); 29. Isaac Sarles.
<b>Discus</b>	18. Sam Impastato (88-02); 19. Isaac Sarles (88-02); 23. Lane West (79-06)

<b>April 20 Crittenden County Meet Marion-Crittenden Co. Park GIRLS</b>	
<b>3200 Relay</b>	1. Crittenden County (12:26)
<b>300 Hurdles</b>	1. Ella Geary (59:31); 3. Aerie Suggs (1:15.45)
<b>800 Meters</b>	1. Kate Keller (2:38); 2. Mary Martinez (3:06); 4. Jayden Duncan (3:30).
<b>200 Meters</b>	2. Karsyn Potter (31.24) 3. Laycee Lynn (31.44) 7. Aerie Suggs (40.83)
<b>1600 Relay</b>	2. Crittenden County (5:26.04).
<b>High Jump</b>	1. Ava Pickett (0.25).

<b>Baseball District Standings</b>		
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>Dist</b>
Lyon County	9-3	2-0
Crittenden County	11-3	1-1
Trigg County	5-6	1-2
Livingston County	3-10	0-1
<b>Softball District Standings</b>		
	<b>Overall</b>	<b>Dist</b>
Lyon County	14-6	4-0
Livingston County	8-5	1-1
Crittenden County	5-4	2-2
Trigg County	4-7	0-3



**Crittenden County seventh-grader Anna Boone winds up for a pitch during a game at Calloway County last week where she threw a two-hitter.**

**1600 Relay** 1. Crittenden County (4:27.47).  
**High Jump** 1. Tristan Davidson (5-06.00)  
**Long Jump** 1. Noah Perkins (16-04.00); 2. Rowan Perkins (15-11.00); 5. Gabe Keller (13-10:00).  
**Triple Jump** 1. Gabe Keller (27-11:00).  
**Discus** 1. Sam Impastato (83-03); 2. Lane West (83-00); 4. Isaac Sarles (81-01); 7. Quinn Templeton (50-02).  
**Shot Put** 1. Noah McGowan (38-03.00); 4. Sam Impastato (27-05.00); 5. Isaac Sarles (24-08.00); 8. Lane West (22-01.00); 10. Quinn Templeton (21-01.00); 11. Glenn Starkey (13-05.00).  
**100 Meters** 3. Tristan Davidson (12.53), 5. Isaac Sarles (14.17).  
**400 Meters** 1. Kaleb Nesbitt (59.27); 3. Noah Perkins (1:02.27).

### SOFTBALL Hicks knocks in 5 to help beat Webster

Leadoff slugger Ashlyn Hicks drove in five runs and Kalli Champion knocked in three as Crittenden County beat Webster County by the mercy rule 13-1 in five innings Tuesday at Marion-Crittenden County Park.

Hicks and Champion each had three hits. Hicks had two doubles and Jada Hayes and Chandler Moss also doubled.

Moss went the distance in the circle, striking out six and walking one as CCHS won for the fifth time in six games.

### Moss fans 13 in win at Ballard Memorial

Crittenden's softball girls scored four runs in the second inning Friday at Ballard Memorial and went on to win 11-0. Hadlee Rich hit an inside-the-park homer and collected four RBIs.

The Lady Rockets finished with 17 hits as Jessie Potter, Jada Hayes, Ashlyn Hicks, Chandler Moss and Riley Smith each had more than one. Potter led the way by going 4-for-4 at the plate.

Senior Chandler Moss was the winning pitcher for the Lady Rockets, going six innings, allowing three hits and striking out 13.



**CCHS senior Jada Hayes drives off of third base toward home during a recent high school girls' softball game at Trigg.**





Pictured in front of the restaurant during the Chamber’s recognition ceremony are (front two rows from left) Flavio Alvarez, Kina Matthews, Addie Faughn, Elizabeth Tosh, Hanna Collins, Hannah Faughn, Southern Pate, Brilee Crittendon, Angel Ontiveros Jr., Melissa Ontiveros, Albert Ontiveros, Jezra Ontiveros, Mia Ontiveros, Angel Ontiveros, Greg Perryman, Gracie Bruce, Chamber President Elizabeth Floyd, Chamber members MaryAnne Campbell, Staci Blackburn, Madison Qualls, Kayla Maxfield and Wynne Wallace, (back row) Manuel Vazquez, Sebastian Valesquez, Sebastian Aguilar and Carlos Aguilar.

# La Delicia earns honor as restaurant sales soar here

STAFF REPORT

Restaurant sales continue to break records in Marion and part of that rise is being attributed to the new Mexican restaurant that opened during the height of the pandemic last year in Darben Plaza.

Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce last week recognized La Delicia restaurant with its periodic Chamber Spotlight Award.

Local leaders are somewhat amazed by a clear increase in restaurant sales despite pressures from the pandemic, which have limited seating and prompted a couple of the local national franchise restaurants to close their dining areas and provide drive-through service only.

An owner of one of those national chain restaurants said keeping the dining room area open would not be cost prohibitive during the pandemic because of additional labor and material costs to maintain

proper protocol.

Restaurants sales broke a fourth-quarter record, eclipsing \$2 million for the first time since Marion has had a hotel and restaurant tax. The city first imposed the tax in 2004 and of the 17 fourth-quarter sales reports, 2020 was the highest ever.

The city collected \$61,460.19 in taxes from the months of October, November and December of last year when virus figures were at their peak in Crittenden County.

Additionally, 2020 set a new record for restaurant and motel sales with gross receipts at an estimated \$7.98 million. The previous highest sales year was 2015.

Michele Edwards, tourism director for Marion, said tax receipts from overnight lodging is fractional compared to the amount taken in on restaurants sales.

All of the tax money collected from restaurant and lodging facilities is dedicated to promoting

tourism and recreation in the community.

Surrounded by a large support group of Chamber members, family and employees, La Delicia owner Gracie Bruce accepted the Chamber’s award, recognizing her business for customer service and community support.

Edwards said the big increase in restaurant sales in 2020 can be attributed in part to the addition of the Mexican restaurant joining a lineup of about a dozen ready-to-eat meal providers in the community. Also, she said the city’s new regulations allowing liquor sales at restaurants has likely had an impact on gross receipts.

Bruce told the Chamber that she truly loves and cares for all her loyal customers. She proclaimed it an honor to earn the Chamber’s recognition, and pledged to continue a spirit of excellence in her restaurant.

## City of Marion Tourism & Recreation Tax Receipts

Receipts derived from 3% tax on prepared meals and lodging.

YEAR	1ST QUARTER	2ND QUARTER	3RD QUARTER	4TH QUARTER	YEAR TOTAL
2004	\$31,977.81	\$41,051.70	\$39,446.99	\$36,793.47	\$149,269.97
2005	\$36,596.00	\$40,640.00	\$42,404.00	\$40,040.26	\$159,680.26
2006	\$38,720.09	\$43,803.14	\$42,497.38	\$40,484.06	\$165,504.67
2007	\$38,124.15	\$42,092.93	\$42,904.40	\$39,975.98	\$163,097.46
2008	\$35,871.35	\$46,452.21	\$48,474.99	\$45,208.14	\$176,006.69
2009	\$39,199.50	\$49,308.92	\$47,820.92	\$44,334.88	\$180,664.22
2010	\$37,000.04	\$46,200.67	\$48,397.48	\$44,073.83	\$175,672.02
2011	\$41,919.60	\$46,122.82	\$49,816.74	\$47,134.00	\$184,993.16
2012	\$46,614.93	\$51,678.96	\$50,703.15	\$48,803.15	\$197,800.19
2013	\$44,484.73	\$52,617.51	\$50,751.37	\$50,809.27	\$198,662.88
2014	\$48,339.19	\$58,027.15	\$58,762.67	\$56,104.15	\$221,233.16
2015	\$49,475.65	\$62,093.69	\$58,456.53	\$59,120.57	\$229,146.44
2016	\$51,079.32	\$59,955.13	\$61,104.05	\$55,853.26	\$227,991.76
2017	\$54,886.51	\$59,388.31	\$56,715.18	\$51,944.88	\$222,934.88
2018	\$48,007.80	\$56,779.95	\$55,909.70	\$51,337.00	\$212,034.45
2019	\$48,591.59	\$56,062.80	\$55,665.35	\$51,865.46	\$212,175.20
2020	\$54,361.73	\$58,903.75	\$64,692.00	\$61,460.19	\$239,417.67

## FORUM

Continued from page 1

gard to the subject matter. Joey Fletcher said the threat of the COVID-19 virus might have kept some folks away from a public forum, and suggested that the new courthouse and county offices be better equipped to meet Americans with Disabilities Act.

“I just hope the new courthouse has better restroom access,” he said. “I haven’t been to the courthouse in a while but the last time I went, I remember them not having any handicap stalls for people in wheelchairs or even any assist rails to make transferring from a wheelchair easier, not to mention a better system to bring people upstairs.”

Based on proposals, it appears county government will be vacating the downtown courthouse soon and moving its administrative offices to the Ed-Tech Center. The cost could approach \$1 million to make the move and renovate the Ed-Tech Center to accommodate county offices for the judge, clerk, PVA and sheriff. Judge Newcom says the cost of that move should not affect tax


rates. Had the county chosen a different path, such as staying downtown in the proposed new courthouse, the price tag would have been three-fold and taxpayers would have almost certainly been asked to carry the added weight.

“We have some jail debt that will roll off soon,” Newcom said. “If things go like we think they will we should be able to make do with the funds we have, things might just be a little tighter for a while.”

Crittenden County will be receiving almost \$12 million to build its new courthouse or judicial center. The money has been budgeted through the state’s judicial branch for the Administrative Office of the Courts to replace the existing courthouse. A number of local sites are being considered for the new courthouse, but it appears tentative plans are for keeping it downtown.

As for the 911 dispatching center, the county and city have reached an agreement for future funding of the service. Plans are to attach a \$36 fee to property tax bills for commercial enterprises and private dwellings.

Judge Newcom also presented information about the county’s plans to continue reforming the former National Guard Armory into a community recreation center.



# FIVE-COUNTY AREA

Most info in this graphic current as of April 23. \*Updates with April 26 data.

County	Confirmed Cases Ever	Currently in Home Isolation	Currently Hospitalized	Recovered Cases	Deaths
Caldwell	1,208	2	1	1,177	28
Crittenden	693*	15	1	654	22
Livingston	802	8	3	773	18
Lyon	1,558	10	3	1,527	18
Trigg	1,236	30	0	1,196	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>5,496</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5,327</b>	<b>96</b>

Source: Pennyryle District Health Department

## Local COVID cases down markedly

Over the past few days new cases of COVID-19 in Crittenden County dropped to levels not seen since early last summer.

During the seven-day period from April 20-26, Crittenden had reported just four new cases. Three were females and all were age 46 or older.

As of early this week, Crittenden County had reported 693 cases of the virus since the pandemic began. That means almost eight percent of the county’s residents have been infected in the past 13 months.

The county has seen 22 deaths related to the virus, but none in the past couple of months.

Vaccine is readily available for anyone wishing to get a shot. Call your local health department to schedule an appointment. There is no charge.

## New equipment at Riverview Park

STAFF REPORT

Some new amenities have been installed at Riverview Park on the Ohio River in rural Crittenden County.

New grills and picnic tables have been added just in time for the summer camping season.

There are seven modern campsites available with power, water and

sewer. At this time, reservations are not taken; however, there is some discussion about moving toward digital payments and advanced reservations. For now, campsites are available on a first-come, first-served basis. Campers should be on site and call 270-965-5015 for a combination that will

unlock power pods and water hydrants.


Cost is \$20 per day and that fee can be left in the dropbox on site.

Because demand for sites is growing, campground managers are looking for a suitable online application to manage credit card payments and reservations.


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