

### See Who's Ducking | Page 3

THURSDAY, AUGUST 1, 2024

ONE DOLLAR



## **Boone Fair Queen**

University of Kentucky sophomore Natalie Boone of Marion was crowned Miss Crittenden County during Lions Club Fair pagents Tuesday night at Fohs Hall. See more winners on page 9.

## Fair breakfast Friday

The annual 4-H Lions Club Fair Breakfast will begin at 7 a.m., Friday at the Agriculture Building at the fairgrounds. In addition to breakfast, the event features inductions to the Agriculture Hall of Fame, Lions Club and 4-H awards presentations and fair exhibits.

## 60 Closed this Week

As a reminder, US 60 will be closed through Saturday or Sunday this week at multiple points from near Airport Road just west of Marion to the bottom of Moore Hill at the intersection with KY 297. The closure began Wednesday at 6 a.m., so work can be done to replace cross drains between Crittenden Springs Road and KY 297. Phase 2 of the work will close the highway further east near Airport Road. Additionally, there will be a three-day closure next week of KY 2123 (Glendale Church Road) from Wednesday, Aug. 7 through about 4 p.m., Friday, Aug. 9 to replace a culvert at Little Hurricane Creek. which is about halfway between Glendale Church and KY 1668 (Crittenden Springs Road).



## Presidential blood line alive in community

#### BY CHRIS EVANS PRESS EDITOR

Echoes of America's third president and his blood line last week provided a backdrop to one self-described activist's re-examination of local history, and a new twist to the telling of a two-century-old story about Thomas Jefferson's family and a 19th century murder in frontier Livingston County. Several writings and resources have documented tale of Jefferson's the nephews and the alleged killing of an enslaved 17year-old African American named George. One of the more contemporary, and per-

### Documentary of filmmaker's personal heritage brings Crittenden, Livingston history in focus

haps best known sources on the subject is the late Boynton Merrill's book "Jefferson's Nephews: A Frontier Tragedy' published in 1976. Merrill, who lived in Henderson County, spent a great deal of time in this area researching his book, which included excerpts from an 1880 issue of The Crittenden Press citing a narrative by then Marion resident Matilda Threlkeld. In newspaper article, that Threlkeld recounts her life's story, starting with her birth

2024

\$51,597,093

\$53,872,049

\$54,819,194

\$55,728,792

into slavery in Virginia then a forced move westward with the members of the Lewis family, who were closely tied to early American icons such as President Jefferson and renown explorer Meriwether Lewis.

scendant's Journey.'

Smith, who grew up in Chicago, says research has defined her personal lineage as part of the Jeffersonian bloodline as the great-greatgreat-granddaughter of Matilda (Lewis) Threlkeld. She claims that Matilda is the biological granddaughter of Lewis Jefferson Lewis, sister to Thomas Jefferson.

Matilda was transferred to Aaron Threlkeld in 1818 as part of Rudolph Lewis's estate sale. She was freed at some point and lived out the remainder of her life in Marion. She was 79 years old in

## Pop-up license center

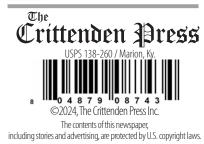
Crittenden County will have a Pop-Up Driver Licensing Center starting at 9:30 a.m., Tuesday, Aug. 6 at the county office complex. Online appointment registration is reguired. Go to the state site at www.drive.ky.gov.

## Marion water flushing changed to next week

City of Marion has postponed the scheduled hard flush of its drinking water distribution system, which had been planned for this week. Now, the flush will run Sunday through Friday of the coming week. It will begin at 9 p.m., Sunday. Flushing will be done overnight each day with the operation ceasing around 5 a.m.

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!





Documentarian Pam Smith, along with a sound and film crew, was in Crittenden and Livingston counties last Thursday videoing segments for content in a threepart series being produced by Smith called "Current: A De-

See FILM/page 3

## Property values continue to rise, tax rates set this month

19	98		20	2
\$1	89 mill	lion	<b>\$</b> 4	2
-	tenden Count <b>Residential</b>		erty Assessm Commercial	ent
2018	\$153,908,309	\$155,826,502	\$39,751,099	\$
2019	\$157,028,856	\$155,972,472	\$45,173,946	\$3
2020	\$160,429,732	\$158,098,904	\$50,615,793	\$;

\$164,856,605 \$160,174,763

\$173,647,027 \$161,237,302

\$187,666,955 \$178,768,413

\$178,485,536

<b>22 mi</b> l	lion	123% Increase
Total	Tax Rate	Tax Receipts
\$349,485,910	12.2	\$426,372.81
\$358,175,274	12.2	\$436,973.83
\$369,144,429	12.2	\$450,356.20
\$376,628,461	11.9	\$448,187.87
\$388,756,378	11.6	\$450,957.40
\$395,326,185	11.8	\$466,484.90
\$422,164,160	TBD	To Be Determined

Source: Crittenden County PVA

#### STAFF REPORT

Value of real estate in Crittenden County has risen 123% over the past 25 years, including a strong 6.8% increase over the past 12 months.

That strong growth in assessed value could affect your property tax rate, which will be set this month by local leaders.

A review of property valuation figures, based on records in the Crittenden County PVA office, indicates a marked increase

since 1998 when all real property was assessed at \$189 million. Today, the assessed value of real property in the county has swollen to \$422.1 million.

Real estate is land, homes, buildings, barns and other permanent improvements. The county PVA routinely evaluates and updates values based on a variety of factors, including the price when a

See VALUE/page 10

## New face for Mexico pulpit for first time in more than 20 years

\$162,021,455

#### STAFF REPORT

2021

2022

2023

2024

Among his plans for ministry at Mexico Baptist Church will be a defined effort of evangelism, and a primary target will be young people and families. Morgan Smith, the newly named pastor at one of Marion's oldest and largest Baptist congregations, believes current culture – what he calls both the good and bad - has its power of influence sighted on winning over youth of America with help from the entertainment industry and on university campuses.

Smith, 28, wants his ministry and church to focus on spreading the gospel with similar enthusiasm. He will be Mexico Baptist's first new minister in more than 20 years.

"We want to give them a dose of something real, something that will help them under-stand the truth of the gospel," he said.

Smith will be in the pulpit at Mexico Baptist for the first time as its minister on Aug.



Morgan Smith and his wife Maryanna were at Mexico Baptist Church a few weeks ago for a trial sermon. He is originally from Virginia and she is a native of Benton, Ky. His first official Sunday in the pulpit at Mexico will be Aug. 18.

## **Deaths**

## Tabor

2

Sheila Diane Tabor, 62 of Marion, died Tuesday July 23, 2024 at Baptist Health Paducah.

She worked as a secretary and receptionist and

enjoyed making cakes and cupcakes for many special occasions. She was a member of

Life in Christ Church where she played keyboard as part of the Praise Team.

Surviving are her husband, Michael Anthony "Tony" Tabor of Marion; her mother, Carolyn (Joe) Broussard of Winchester, Tenn.; two sons, Chris (Heather) Penn of Marion, and Ryan Tabor of Paducah; three grandsons, Gage Campbell, Gavin Penn and Christian Penn: a sister, Shari (Craig) Cox of Tullahoma, Tenn.; two brothers, Mark Smiley of Manchester, Tenn., and Mike (Lisa) Smiley of Marion; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her father, William Smiley.

Funeral services were Saturday, July 27 at Life in Christ Church with burial in Mapleview Cemetery.

## Williams

Louise Adams Williams, 77, of Salem, died Thursday, July 25, 2024 at her home.

She worked as a cook at Living-

ston Hospital Healthcare Services and as a substitute teacher. Surviving

are



а

daughter, Jeana Columbus of Salem,; two sons, Jeremiah (Raschel) Adams of Benton and Nunzio (Kelly) Columbus of Michigan; three sisters, Josephine Ruth, Marilyn Sue and Eleanor Kay; two brothers, Garie Lee Chrismer and Dennis Paul Chrismer; five grandchildren, Nikole, Isabella, Devin, Dani and Harvey; and her ex-husband, Samuel Columbus.

She was preceded in death by her husbands, Danny Adams and Jerry Williams; and her parents, Charles and Nona Ruth (Hupe) Chrismer.

Funeral services were Monday, July 29 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services. Bro. Jim Greer and Bro. Jerry Merritt officiated.

Donations may be made to Starfish Orphan Ministries, 1000 Broadway St. Paducah, KY 42001 or Livingston Hospital Auxiliary 131 Hospital Drive Salem, KY. 42078.

### Swager

Virginia L. Swager, 89, of Murray, died Sunday, July 28, 2024 at Oakview Nursing Home in Calvert City after a long battle with COPD and dementia.

She was born and raised on the family farm in Crittenden County until she graduated and met her husband Robert at Camp Breckinridge and married in 1953. She was a devoted homemaker most of her life along with being devoted wife, mother and grandmother while standing by her husband as he served 30 years in the United States Army.

Surviving are a daughter, Karen Stacy Shupe Roach; three grandsons, Haydn, Kenneth and Kyle Shupe; a granddaughter, Alexa R. Swager; and great-grandson, Tobias K. Shupe.

She was preceded in death by her parents, George H. and Aileen Stacy Nunn Roberts; her husband, Retired SGM Robert L. Swager; a son, Steven L. Swager; a L. daughter, Diana Hutchings; five siblings, Austin Roberts, Glen Roberts, Corinne Brantley, Leonard "Jim" Roberts and Blondell Behrendt; and several inand laws, nieces nephews.

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

Memorial donations may be made to the following organizations: Murray/Calloway County Animal Shelter, 81 Shelter Lane, Murray, KY 42071 or Ulrich Veterinary Clinic, 6980 SR Buncombe, 146. IL 62912 (checks made to clinic must have Howlin 4 Hope in the memo line), which funds rehabilitation, transport and network.

#### Fulkerson

Candi Lynn Fulkerson, 55, of Marion, died Wednesday, July 24, 2024 at her home.

Surviving are three children, Brandi (Allen) Mitchell, James Mitchell II and David (Jamey) Mitchell; 10 grandchildren. Jayden McKnight, Tyler Tillberry, Autumn Tillberry, Haylee Reed, Just i n

C 1 e m mons, Mason Mitchell, Madison Besaw, Lillian Besaw, So-

Jr.; three sisters, Beth Burney, Melissa Fulkerson and Connie Smith

and a brother, Michael Fulkerson.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Guy Fulkerson and Betty Gregolunas; her first husband, James Mitchell, Sr; her second husband, William Mason; and a brother, Guy Fulkerson, Jr.

Services are at 1 p.m., Saturday, Aug. 3 at Gilbert Funeral Home. The family will receive visitors from 10 a.m., until service time at the funeral home.

## Gregg

Paula Miller Gail Gregg, 71, of Dycusburg, died Friday, July 26, 2024 at Salem Spring Lake Health Center. She was a retired corrections officer having served in both Kentucky and Mississippi.

Surviving are a daughter, Amy Eloise (Paul) Martin of Dycusburg; a step daughter, Donna (Mike) Harper of McCar-

ley, Miss.; two and grandchildren, Lincoln Oliver Martin and Ethan Thomas Martin.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Dwight Gregg; her parents. Paul Oliver Miller and Charlotte Faye Breazeale Miller; and a sister, Brenda Edmonds. There will be no visitation or services. Lakeland Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

#### Belt

Jerry Keith Belt, 78, of Marion, died Saturday, July 27, 2024 at Livingston Hospital and Health Care Services.

He was a self-employed entrepreneur, a member of Salem Masonic Lodge #81, and attended Salem United Methodist Church.

Surviving are his wife, Nora Belt of Marion, KY; a daughter,

DeeDee (Mike) Griffin of Peoria, Ill.; a son, Tony (Kellie) Jackson of Marion;



four grandsons, Duston and Zachary Griffin, Brandon and Chad Jackson; five great-grandchildren, Harper, Levi, River, Daryl and Charlee; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Jewel and Marie Winters Belt; a daughter, Wendy Jo Belt; and a brother, Jimmy Belt.

Funeral services were Wednesday, July 31 at Myers Funeral Home with burial in Whites Chapel Cemetery.

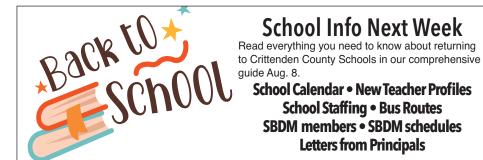
## Work ethics seal returns; board says no to medical cannabis

#### STAFF REPORT

A resurrection of Crittenden County's Work Ethics Certification program on the back burner since the COVID 19 pandemic returns this fall.

Originally only for high school students, now students can begin learning the value of service learning in kindergarten.

Holding a work ethics certification upon high school graduation will indicate to future employers that students had good attendance and behavior and participated in community service activities. Officials say that while students work to achieve the certificate, they create good habits to take into the workforce.



community service for which they are not paid by the end of second grade and an additional four hours by the end of fifth grade. Students grade 3-5 must maintain C average.

Grades 6-8 – Maintain 96 percent attendance: no more than two minor discipline events; perform six hours volunteer

School Staffing • Bus Routes SBDM members • SBDM schedules

> rounding school districts to help develop a stronger certificate locally.

> The Crittenden County Board of Education approved the following action at its July 16 meeting:

•Second reading of school policy updates, one of which is required by the Kentucky Department of Education conto prohibit the use of medicinal cannabis at school.

•Read to Achieve grant in the amount of \$124,000 grant from July 1, 2024-July 30, 2026.

•Renewal of property, liability, fleet, umbrella and earthquake policies from Higgins, Chubb and Church Mutual insurance companies at a cost of \$150,180, up from \$120,757 in 2023-2024.

•Memorandum of agreement with the Crittenden County High School greenhouse to return a percentage of net profit to the Crittenden County Board of Education.

•Virtual Learning with West Agreement Kentucky Educational Cooperative for the Commonwealth Academy for the 2024-2025 school year. The Commonwealth Academy is a virtual platform offered to current homeschool students, making them eligible to participate in extra-curricular activities within the school district.

•Worker's Compensation insurance from KEMI at a cost of \$24,747.98, at а \$5,970.54 cost savings over the policy in 2023-2024.

phia Mitchell and David Mitchell,

Scharlene

Requirements vary by grade, including:

K-5 - Maintain 96 percent attendance, complete two hours

service; participate in two sports or extra-curricular

activities, complete an internship or service learn-

ice; and maintain C average.

age.

CCHS Principal Josh Cook compared work ethics criteria with sur-

ing; and maintain C aver-

tain 96 percent atten-

dance; no more than two

minor discipline events;

participate in two sports

or extra-curricular activ-

ities, maintain part-time

employment for at least

two months; complete 10

hours community serv-

Grades 9-12 – Main-

cerning the use of medical cannabis on school property. The board voted unanimously

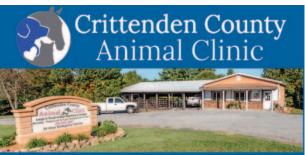
## Whitetail makes JHF donation

Mark Williams (right) of Whitetail Properties made a \$9,157 donation to the Jake Hodge Foundation from funds raised during the real estate company's first Southern Illinois/Western Kentucky Land Conference. Pictured with Williams are Turner Sharp and Jordyn Hodge. The Jake Hodge Foundation Wiffle Ball Tournament will be held Friday, Aug. 2 and Saturday, Aug. 3 at Little Busch Stadium, 1301 S. Jefferson St., Princeton. The Jake Hodge Foundation, organized in 2009, has provided thousands of dollars worth of college scholarships to area high school seniors. Wiffle Ball action concludes with a single elimination tournament Saturday night.

Western Kentucky Regional Blood Center

**BLOOD DRIVE** at CRITTENDEN COMMUNITY HOSPITAL MONDAY, AUG. 5 • 12-6 p.m.

BLOODMOBILE LOCATED IN THE HOSPITAL PARKING LOT



Dr. Elizabeth A. Maddux • Dr. Michelle Hughes 3841 US Hwy. 60 West, Marion, KY 42064 (270) 965-2257

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Rhonda Dunn even has a duck to match her Jeep's color.

# Dunn's duck dashing part of national fad

#### BY ALLISON EVANS

THE CRITTENDEN PRESS

It's been a couple of years since Jeepers first got duck whimsy, but the trend continues.

Once a bathtub toy or floating carnival game gadget, the rubber duck is now a universal way to spread cheer among Jeepers. The tradition of Jeep Ducking began in Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic when a Jeep owner bought a rubber duck at a convenience store, put a "Have a great day!" note on it and left it on another Jeep.

Rhonda Dunn has been getting ducked – and ducking – ever since the tradition reached western Kentucky. Her first one was from a friend, a fellow Jeeper.

The dash of her 2018 Mango Tango Pearl orange Jeep is filled with 39 ducks from around the region. Many came from the Great Smoky Mountain Jeep Club Invasion, others from Walmart parking lots, the hair salon and just about anywhere Dunn has parked her Jeep.

The best laugh came when she emerged from Vacation Bible School to find a wood duck – not a rubber duck – on the hood of her Jeep. Her pastor, Bro. Tim Burdon, thought he'd share his love of hunting with his Jeep-loving congregant in a clever twist on the ducking phenomenon.

Dunn has her first duck centered on the dash, flanked on each side by a multitude of colors and styles, one containing the logo of a national restaurant chain that got behind the trend.

She keeps a bag of new ones in her Jeep to leave for others when the opportunity arises. A memorable ducking came when she christened a friend's Jeep before it ever left the car lot.

Some people initial their ducks, others put the originating state or town name and some tie notes around their necks.

"I get excited when I get one, but some people don't like them," Dunn said. "If I see a Jeep with none on the dash, it tells me they don't like them – or it could have been someone who just recently got a Jeep."

Dunn said ducks aren't limited to the dash. Pictures she has seen in a female Jeepers Facebook group show nets hung from the ceiling of the vehicle holding a plethora of multicolored ducks.

Soon she'll run out of room on her dashboard, so she's contemplating the next move.

"A lot of people re-duck, but I'll probably bag them up," she said. "To me, re-ducking is disrespectful. So, I probably won't do that."

# Biden's late withdrawl will not pose ballot issue here

#### By DARYL K. TABOR

CRITTENDEN COUNTY CLERK Despite a tumultuous 2024 presidential race, Kentucky voters will have clear choices at the top of the General Election ballot.

"The ballot will be plain and direct," said Crittenden County Clerk Daryl Tabor. "Ballots will not be printed until September, so there's plenty of time to figure out who the presidential candidates will be."

President Joe Biden's recent withdrawal from seeking re-election, despite having earned enough Democratic electors in state primaries and caucuses, occurred early enough that the party's new nominee's name will appear on the fall ballot. Vice President Kamala Harris is the presumptive Democratic nominee, but at press time, it was still uncertain.

And more names could be added. Third-party and independent presidential candidates have until Sept. 6 to meet qualifications to appear on Kentucky's ballot. Those requirements are 5,000 signatures and \$500. Robert F. Kennedy Jr., a prominent independent, is expected to meet filing requirements. Kentucky, Goy, Andy

Kentucky Gov. Andy Beshear has been discussed as a potential running mate for Harris, should she be nominated. If that Democratic ticket were to be successful in the 2024 presidential race, Kentucky's Lt. Gov. Jacqueline Coleman would ascend to the Governor's Mansion. If so, she would become Kentucky's second female governor.

Assistant Secretary of State Jennifer Scutchfield told election officials at last week's Kentucky County Clerks Association summer conference that according to Secretary Michael Adam's interpretation of the state constitution, Coleman would finish Beshear's unexpired term without a special election. However, Scutchfield added, that would likely be challenged in court.



About \$1,000 was raised Friday by the Marty McKenney Memorial Foundation and Marion Methodist Church to support scholarships for Crittenden County High School track and field athletes. A 5K race and walk were held at Marion-Crittenden County Park. Winners of the race were (from left) Tom Crider, first place senior male; Presley Potter, overall female champion at 24:33; Misty Bivens, second place adult female; Avery Bivens, first place youth male; Tracy Courtney, second place senior female; Laura Warren, first place senior female; Beth Cesario, third place adult female; River Rogers, overall male champion at 22:11; and Chris Evans, first place adult male. Not pictured were adult female top three finishers Samantha Grau and Tiffany Roberts, and youth female first place Aubrey Grau and second place Sarah Grau.

#### MEXICO Continued from page 1

18. He plans on moving into the parsonage this week. His wife, Maryanna, has been hired as a special education teacher at Crittenden County Elementary School. They have two children, ages 3 and 1.

Mexico Baptist began its search for a new pastor more than a year ago when Tim Burdon announced his plans to retire. Burdon has served

and around 150 typically in pews for morning worship.

Smith comes from Scottsville and a church of similar size where he has for the past year and a half been minister of youth and discipleship.

After receiving an undergraduate degree in commercial real estate from Virginia Tech University, Smith began attending seminary at The Southern Baptist Seminary in Louisville about the time COVID hit. Since hunting, fishing and golfing – hobbies he enjoys to this day. His wife enjoys outdoors activities such as gardening, and baking. They met while the two were working for the National FFA organization soon after high school. Both had held state leadership roles in FFA.

Besides his role at Scottsville Baptist Church, Smith also previously served as an intern at First Baptist Church in Mayfield in 2010

## FILM

Continued from page 1 1880 when the article was published on Dec. 22. Matilda was transferred to Aaron Threlkeld in 1818 as part of Rudolph Lewis's estate sale. She was freed at some point and lived out the remainder of her life

#### Crittenden Press, Marion, 1954 HISTORY OF CRITTENDEN COUNTY

This Story is the 16th in a series of The History of Crittenden County Published through the courtesy of The Marion

through the courtesy of The Marion Woman's Club. A NIECE OF THOS. JEFFERSON

(A Copy from The Crittenden Press of December 22, 1890). In the quiet little village of Marion, where he eyes of the people have never fallen upon a President from father Washington down to Jas were Eli Moss, Marley Phelps, Allie Beard and Kyonna Ross.

Smith hopes to one day create a lasting memorial in Livingston County to George and Matilda's family. While the area's ties to the Jeffersons has been greatly trumpeted for generations there is virtually nothing known

of the alleged murder vic-

in Marion. She was 79 years old in 1880 when the article was published on Dec. 22.

Local historian Brenda Underdown has done her own research into this story's connections to what is now Crittenden County and has written about them periodically over the past several years. Crittenden County was until 1842 part of Livingston. Underdown's research found that another former historian Bob Wheeler had once recounted that Matilda had lived on West Bellville Street where today sits Marion Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Underdown also suspects that Matilda, who likely died in the late 1800s, is buried in an unmarked grave in what's known as the "Colored Section of Mapleview Cemetery."

Underdown was interviewed on camera last week by Smith and her crew as were various other locals, including history teacher Kim Vince, County Clerk Daryl Tabor, Press Publisher Chris Evans and a handful of local high school students.

Production of the film is a work in progress. Part 1 focuses on Virginia, and includes commentary by local artists, teachers, students, lihistorians. brarians. family historians, faith leaders, social justice advocates and others. Shot in Richmond, Charlottesville and Arlington, Smith plied rivers and walked land that brought enslaved people to the shores of Virginia. She also visited places of their bondage and resistance. In the first segment of her documentary, Smith explores the lega-



This excerpt from a 1954 article in The Press recounts the 1880s interview with Matilda.

cies of enslavement and what it will take for Americans to fully repair and heal from those troubling times.

In Part 2, the documentary traces footsteps of Matilda from Virginia to the Lewis farm on the Ohio River and then to Marion. It documents what her experiences were at the intersections of major U.S. episodes. The third part will feature Sierra Leone, West Africa as Smith explores Matilda's African heritage.

Smith says her project is one African Americans' continuing quest for a more complete history. The story of Matilda and George, the victim of a murder in Livingston County in 1811 helped spawn Smith's own journey of discovery.

She and the crew braved the Livingston outback last Thursday morning, climbing the bluffs above Birdsville to locate the Lewis home place known as Rocky Hill. That afternoon filming was done at Crittenden County Historical Museum. Smith videoed a lengthy interview with a number of recent Crittenden County High School graduates, all of whom are either college or college-bound. They

tim nor his family. As the story goes, George had broken a water pitcher that belonged to Lucy Jefferson Lewis, who was no longer living at the time. Her sons were accused of hacking George to death with an ax. About two weeks later, following a death investigation, Lilburn and Isham Lewis were implicated in the killing. They hatched a plot to commit double suicide, but something went wrong and Lilburn was killed. Isham was jailed in Salem, but later escaped and is said to have died about four years later at the Battle of New Orleans. A monument at the Birdsville Y on US 60 memorializes Thomas Jefferson's sister Lucy. The old 1930s era bridge recently replaced across the Cumberland River at Smithland was named for Lucy Jefferson Lewis.

"It's about historical truth telling," Smith said when discussing the impetus for her documentary. As she explains, her work looks at both sides of the historical context and sheds new light on the plight of George, Matilda and the other enslaved people who belonged to the Lewis clan.

"It incorporates Matilda as a human dimension and not just some piece of abstract history," Smith said.

Matilda told The Crittenden Press in 1880 that she was 12 years old when George was murdered by Jefferson's nephews on the American frontier in Livingston County. Her grandson, Valentine Threlkeld, later worked as a pressroom operator at The Crittenden Press from the late 1800s to around 1928. Mexico for almost 21 years. In more than 50 years, the church has had just six ministers. Mexico is a church with more than 200 members to wrap up his degree in theology.

A native of Bristol, Va., in the Southwest part of the state, Smith grew up 2019.

Smith says he plans to be very active in the community and is looking forward to his ministry here.

# Annual public tax bill sale yeilds more than \$35,500

More than \$35,500 in overdue 2023 property taxes were collected in the Crittenden County County Clerk's office Friday through the annual delinquent tax sale, which is statutorily required.

Six registered thirdparty purchasers bought 34 certificates of delinquency, satisfying the respective amounts due in local taxes.

The amount owed on the purchased delinquencies, which includes additional lien fees, penalty

## Hummingbird Weekend LBL

Friends of Land Between the Lakes will host the 28th annual Hummingbird Festival at the Woodlands Nature Station this weekend (Aug. 3-4) from 10 a.m., to 4 p.m.

Hummingbird lovers will delight in a natural spectacle as hundreds of Ruby-throated hummingbirds migrate through the Nature Station backyard. Hummingbirds will fuel up at native gardens and feeders as they prepare for the next leg of their long journey south to Central America.

Visitors can learn how

and interest, are now payable by the property owner to the companies or individuals who purchased the certificates. If not paid, the lienholder can eventually foreclosure on the property and force its sale.

Last year's tax sale yielded only \$27,000 in collected overdue taxes on 30 bills.

This year's collection will be distributed at month's end to the respective local taxing districts. Those amounts include more than



to bring beautiful birds, butterflies and plants to their own backyard with this year's festival theme, Backyard Beauty. Rain or shine, the event will go on so make a day of it, bring a picnic lunch, and stay awhile. A full event schedule can be found on the Land Between the Lakes website www.landbetweenthelakes.us.

Festival programming includes:

-Hummingbird banding and release demonstrations with Southeastern \$3,530 to the county's general fund, almost \$14,070 to Crittenden County Schools, more than \$1,350 to the public library, \$1,170 to the Extension Service and \$815 to the health district. These are operational funds depended on by the districts that may otherwise have not been collected.

This month alone, Crittenden County Clerk's office has collected almost \$50,000 in delinquent property taxes.

Avian Research

-Seminars on hummingbirds, butterflies, and native gardening

-Annual photo contest award ceremony and photo display

- -Live animal programs -Kids' crafts and games
- -Local artisans
- -Native plant sale with Ironweed Nursery

-Backyard habitat educational booths

Woodlands Nature Station is located within Land Between the Lakes National Recreation Area at 3146 Silver Trail Road, Cadiz, Ky. Admission price is \$9 for ages 16 and up, \$7 for ages 5-15 and free for ages 4 and under.

For more information, call 270.924.2299 or visit the website.



## Marion receives grant for safety

City of Marion has received a small Safety Grant from Kentucky League of Cities (KLC) and used the funds to purchase walk traction cleats, safety gloves and high visibility vests for employees in the maintenance, water and sewer departments.

Marion received just under \$300 and was required to match the same amount in purchasing the new safety equipment.

KLC provides services and programs that reduce liability and create safer communities, it said in a news release about the grant. Since 1999, KLC has awarded more than \$6.5 million in liability and safety grants to its members.

"The City of Marion is very grateful for this Safety Grant. It is a wonderful support system to help a smaller municipality like ours in keeping our employees safe," City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield said. "We are grateful for every penny we can receive. Mayor D'Anna Browning and I are very supportive of KLC's efforts for cities of our size when many times we are overlooked."

## **Veteran claims clinic**

Kentucky Department for Veterans Affairs will have a claims clinic from 9 a.m., until 5 p.m., on Monday, Aug. 12 at Henderson County Public Library. Veterans and their families will have an opportunity to file claims for disability, non-service connected pensions, survivor benefits, healthcare and educational benefits. Documents to bring include DD214, medical records, marriage license and Social Security numbers.

# Back-to-School events set for Caldwell County

Caldwell County students will be back in school for the fall term starting on Wednesday, Aug. 14.

Caldwell County sixth graders and their parents can attend help from local craftsmen and experts.

## **Union GOP Lincoln Dinner**

Union County Republican Committee is hosting a Lincoln Dinner on Tuesday, Aug. 13 at Camp Breckinridge Museum and Arts Center. Doors open at 6 p.m. with dinner at 6:30. Tickets are \$50. Guest speaker will be Riley Gaines. For information or to purchase tickets, contact Rachel Wells 270–952–4900 or Dickie Nally 270–952–2300.

## Student earn degrees

A couple of area students recently graduated from the University of Maryland Global Campus along with 14,000 students worldwide.

They are Samantha Mitchell of Ledbetter, who earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and psychology and Daniel Kitchens of Smithland, who earned a degree in digital media and web technology.

## Morganfield hosting BBQ, bourbon event

Morganfield Tourism Committee presents BBQ & Bourbon on Saturday, Aug. 24 from 4 to 8 p.m. This fun event will be held on Court Street and will feature a cooking contest with live music and food trucks. For more information, email morganfieldtourism@gmail.com or visit Morganfield Tourism Committee on Facebook.

## Educational leadership honors Dr. Meinschein

Livingston County School Superintendent Dr. David Meinschein is being recognized for his part in working to solve Kentucky's teacher shortage. Meinschein was recently chosen as recipient of the William T. Nallia Educational Leadership Award.

The annual award is presented by the Kentucky Association of School Administrators to recognize educational leaders and their work to improve Kentucky's public education system.

Two other Kentucky educators were also honored with the award: Hardin County Schools Superintendent Terrie Morgan and Jim Allen of Louisville.

Meinschein and Morgan cochaired the Coalition to Sustain the Education Profession. Allen has also worked to combat the shortage of teachers in Kentucky by developing strategy for recruitment and retention of teachers. Meinschein and Morgan helped to produce a report with 17 proposals for legislators, who have put some of those ideas into action during recent sessions. other recent action magistrates appointed Jeff Deweese to the Grand Lakes Fire Board. They also approved a change to the Convenience Center hours on Saturdays, providing for an earlier opening. The center's Saturday hours are now 7 a.m., to 4 p.m.

## EKU grads, Dean's List

Two area students are recent graduates of Eastern Kentucky University.

Crittenden County High School graduate Lili Newcom earned a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice and Rheanea A. Doom of Lyon County earned a bachelor's degree in farm and consumer science teaching.

EKU said that 39 percent of the university's spring graduating class are first in their families to attain a higher education degree. The degree programs with the most graduates included psychology, nursing, criminal justice, aviation and occupational science.

Additionally, Newcom was named to the Dean's List, as was Kady Ann Parrish of Marion, who his enrolled in police studies.

# Special Olympics meeting on Aug. 5

An informational meeting for Crittenden County Special Olympics will begin at 5:30 p.m., Monday, Aug. 5. Parents and guardians interested in registering their young adult should meet Serena Dickerson at the pavilion by the baseball fields at Marion City-County Park.

## Todd retiring from KY transportation

Longtime Kentucky Transportation Cabinet spokesperson Keith Todd of Marion is retiring, effective Aug. 4.

Todd served as the media and

Todd

public information contact for the transportation's First District.

"I have had a blast in my almost 20 years here. From the Christmas week

snowstorm in 2004 to the Great Ice Storm of 2009, the Eggners Ferry Bridge Incident, the construction of five long-span river bridges, the Mayfield tornado response and more, it's been great to have a front-row seat on history being made," Todd said in a memo sent to local media partners. "I plan to spend some time with my grandkids and maybe spend some extra time hunting and fishing," he added. "Miss Beth (his wife) and I are planning some epic road trips. I'm sure somewhere along the way she'll get tired of having me hang around the house and tell me to go get a job... it won't take long." Todd, 71, said he has always tried to understand the importance of sharing the story of people in transportation who essentially risk their lives at times to keep things safer for others. "I wanted to help put a value on good road maintenance," he said.



## **50 YEARS AGO**

#### August 1, 1974

■ Twenty-four teenage girls were preparing to compete for the title of Miss Crittenden County, including Diana Robertson, Debbie Reed, Vicki Stallions, Tina Travis, Sherri Perryman, Gail Campbell, Markeata Brown, Tracy Jay, Janet Patmor, Debbie Fritts, Gayle Perryman, Teresa Winders, Valetta Little, Carol Secor, Vickie Perryman, Wanda Priest, Vicki Brookshire, Rhonda Kirk, Jayne Clark, Teresa Brown, Michele Ramage, Jennye Nunn and Pam Beavers.

■ Part of Kentucky's bicentennial celebration in Marion consisted of the recreation of Jockey Lot Day, a common occurrence in the county's history that included sales by merchants and individuals of handcrafted items and antiques.

Margaret Jane Alvis and Steven Douglas Fritts received bachelor's degrees and Linda Lee Frazer a Master's Degree from Murray State University.
 Marion's Pony League team won the Tri County Pony League championship. Team members were Carlos Travis, David Crider, Clifton Etheridge, Jimmy Wallin, Daryl Sherer, Greg McCord, Randy Belt, Tony O'Neal, Teddy Frazer, Daryle Temple, Ricky Lanham, Bobby Tinsley, Terry Jenkins, Mike Harris and Pat Taylor. James O'Neal was the manager.

■ Baron Guess won fourth place in the FFA tractor driving contest at Hardinsburg.

## **25 YEARS AGO**

#### July 29, 1999

■ Contestants for Miss Crittenden County were Mary Ann Schaibley, Angela Crowell, Chrystal Campbell, Andrea Workman, Patti Johnson, Heather Herrin, Brodi Travis, Sheena Weldon, Natalie Fletcher, Ashley Myers, Tashena Belt, Keri Kemper, Miranda Smiley, Rachel Jackson, Andrea Belt, Brandi Travis and Beth Howard.

■ A two-year-old Arabian colt from Lapco in Crittenden County was donated to the 4-H Horse Club. Members of the club were Misty Wallace, Dustin Fox, Jackie Robertson, Madison Hadfield, Winnie Wallace and Brandon Wagoner. They were assisted by 4-H agent Gayle Singleton and leaders Connie Wallace and Lori Robertson.

■ Some of Marion Swim Team's top finishers were Whitney Johnson, Dustin Harris, Bethany Heaton, Vicki Kelley, Amy Graham, Tom Courtright, Dillon Courtright, Elaine Roberts, Susan Towery and Elizabeth Guess.

## **10 YEARS AGO**

#### July 31, 2014

■ Amber Wright was crowned Miss Crittenden County. Daelyn Hardin was Miss Crittenden County Teen; Raina West Miss Crittednen County Pre-Teen; and Anna Boone and Jett Reddick Little Mr. and Miss Crittenden County.

Caldwell County Middle School Orientation from 4–6 p.m., on Monday, Aug. 5. There will be parent information sessions, schedules, school tours, locker practice and fees and trans– portation information available. Online registration must be completed ahead of time for students to receive their sched– ules.

Other school kickoff events in Caldwell County are as follows:

Caldwell County Middle School Open House for seventh and eighth graders will be 4–6 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 6.

Caldwell County Elementary School Open House will be from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 8.

Open House for Caldwell County Primary School students will be 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., Thursday Aug. 8.

# Fredonia exploring plan to bring library

While it is only in the most infant stages of development, plans are being drawn up for a Fredonia library, says its mayor Jim Seibert, and it will be named in honor of the late Dean Akridge.

The proposal has only recently been launched, the mayor explains, with the idea of making it an extension of the George Coon Library in Princeton. Books would be rotated from Coon to the Fredonia extension library. The facility would also include public-use computers and free internet access.

Initial plans call for a 1,400square-foot expansion of Fredonia City Hall, which would provide space for the library. The concept will largely hinge on successful application of a T-Mobile grant for about \$80,000. Seibert believes construction costs could be curbed with some

# KY 135 highwya to be paved north of Burna

Livingston County expects to receive \$1.07 million this year from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet as part of the Rural Secondary Road Program.

The county has a \$120,699 carryover from last fiscal year to spend in 2024-25.

Proposed maintenance for Fiscal Year is expected to be just over \$537,000. In the flex fund account will be \$161,184 and 5.4 miles of paving will be done on KY 135 between Burna and Joy.

## Livingston sets tax rate, cannabis issue for November ballot

Livingston Fiscal Court approved a plan last week to put the medical cannabis question to voters in November. Like Crittenden County and Marion, Livingston voters will have a chance to decide whether they want to allow medical marijuana dispensaries in their community.

In other action last week, Livingston Fiscal Court purchased a new pump for emergency management and a new coroner's vehicle. Magistrates also voted to keep property taxes the same for 2024 at 11.9 cents per \$100 of assessed value.

The court hired Roberta Harris as a part-time librarian and in

## Living Christmas Tree looking for men to join choior

Needed are performers and staff to be part of the Living Christmas Tree roster. Community Arts Foundation is reviving the Christmas tradition after an 18-year hiatus. There will be an adult and children's community Christmas choir for five dates in early December at Fohs Hall. In addition to vocalists, crew members are also being recruited. Visit the Community Arts Foundation Facebook page to find a link to register or call Kim Vince at (270) 704–1446.

> Between Printed Editions Tune in to The Press Online for breaking news. We also ask that you subscribe to our YouTube Channel. It's a Free Service to Our Readers!

■ Marion's Junior Babe Ruth baseball team, finishing the season 15-4. Team members were Payton Riley, Ethan Hunt, Nick Castiller, Alex Cosby, Maeson Myers, Ethan Dossett, Jared Lundy, Paxton Riley and Seth Birdwell. Coaches were Brian Hunt and Todd Riley.

■ Greg Rushing retired from local law enforcement after 25 years service. He worked for the City of Marion and Crittenden County Sheriff's Department.

> Read Brenda Underdown's Forgotten Passages column at The Press Online between newspaper issues.

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> Newsprint is a renewable resource. Recycling bins are located at the county's convenience center on U.S. 60 east of Marion.

# Soldiers, Night Riders unnerve residents

During the Night Rider period in our history, fear and intimidation ran high among all the people in the city and county. Any stranger was someone to be suspicious In February 1908 of. Marion had several unknown visitors walking

around town seemingly watching or waiting for someone or something to Who happen. were these strange men coming into town, and what was their business here? An interesting article from the ar- Underdown chives of The County Historian Crittenden Record-Press, Forgotten dated Feb. 20, Passages 1908 tells about this era in our past.

Brenda

#### Visitors in Marion

Marion is now the home of about 30 soldiers, members of the Kentucky State Guards. She never had guests of this character before; there never was occasion for it before and it is hoped that the necessity for their remaining here is imaginary rather than real.

However that maybe, they are welcome guests at present, and from their gentlemanly hearing and deportment, there are no reasons to believe that there will be any change in that phase of the situation. It is easy enough to explain that they are here, but as to why they are here, an explanation presents some difficulties.

Heretofore the depredations of the Night Riders have been confined to other sections of the state, and it has been the understanding of the people here that it was the policy of the Night Riders to visit only such places whose affairs concerned them and to right only such grievances as seemed to them sufficient to warrant a visit for that purpose.

As Crittenden County is not in the Dark Tobacco District, and as the work of the Night Riders has been confined to the territory of that association and the people here never having been antagonistic to the purposes of the Dark Tobacco Association, it has always been the opinion of the citizens here who have been conversant with the situation, that there was not the slightest danger of a visit or attack upon this place from the organization commonly known as "Night Riders.'

tion and the county judge was appealed to, to apply to the governor to have a company of troops sent here that night by a special train.

It was presumed that the purpose of the reported visit of the Night Riders was to destroy the property of Mr.

R. H. Kemp, who, until the Satbefore, urdav had been an independent buyer of tobacco, but on Saturday had retired from the buying of tobacco and had pooled his 1908 crop with the stemming district, and it was assumed that the night riders coming in ignorance of Kemp's changed attitude towards the association.

#### **Condition Eliminated**

On Tuesday it was known in Marion that information as to Kemp's alliance with the pool had been received in all those portions of the Dark Tobacco Districts that had been affected by his operations as a tobacco buyer, thus eliminating the only condition that could possibly be construed as inviting a visit from the Night Riders, and all of our people recognized and accepted the fact that there was no further danger from that source, and the fright vanished as quickly as it came upon us. All means taken for protection were abandoned and no further efforts were made to secure troops.

**Strangers In Town** On Wednesday following, some of our discern-

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ing and ever observant citizens noticed strangers on the streets and as each train came in during that and the next day they noticed the number of strangers seemed to grow and their presence soon became the talk of the town.

Some who were more than wise let their suspicion grow to conviction that they were Night Riders in disguise, especially as the number of strangers continued to increase with each incoming train from that direction. But the leader, or at least the gentleman who claimed to be in charge of these strangers 20 or 30 in number, soon took the people into his confidence and explained that he was here with his men, a party of engineers, to make several hurried surveys of a possible and feasible route of a line for the L&N Railroad from Providence to Paducah. This served to sufficiently explain their presence as the coming of like parties for such purposes has been a common occurrence in Marion for the past several years.

It is a fact, however, that while the citizens were at first mystified and finally satisfied as to the identify of these gentlemen, the county judge was aware of their identity from the time of their arrival because Capt. Kriger, who came with the first party, and as the law required, immediately reported to him the presence of soldiers in disguise.

The county judge at once called Mayor Blue into his confidence and explained to him the situation and after going over all the facts and ex-

the Krieger, agreed with them that there was no need whatever of the retention of troops in Marion and upon the advice of the mayor and county judge he made immediate application to the Adjutant General for orders to withdraw, in due course of mail these orders came and on Saturday morning the troops were at the depot to take the train, with their baggage.

Each day during the week seemed to be striving to present a sensaexcelling the tion preceding day; Saturday was not be outdone, and its sensation was the climax. When Judge Blackburn came to the courthouse that morning he found a letter, painfully but carefully scribbled, threatening him

that several other citizens had received letters of similar character and purpose. These notes bear numerous signs of having a home origin and it is the opinion of the county judge and all who have seen them that the author or authors of the notes has a residence in Marion or hereabout. He, upon advice of citizens and authorities, immediately sent a messenger to the depot. causing Capt. Krieger to postpone the departure of himself and men and by communication with the governor and adjutant general procured permission for the troops to remain in Marion and in uniform, and they are now here and their stay is indefinite.

Home Guards for Marion

In a few days the scare of Marion and vicinity being attacked by the Night Riders had passed, and the state militia left for eastern Kentucky. Capt. Kriger remained in Marion to train the "home guards" as the new company organized in Marion was called. After about a week the new local home guards were trained, and Capt. Kriger left. Marion would be protected by her own guards who had received their arms.

Members of the home guard included First Sergeant Chastain Havnes. Second Lieutenant C. V. Franks, Lester Paris, Curtis Pickens, Fred Moore and J. A. Farmer.

(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.)

with a skull and cross plaining them to Capt. captain bone finish and signed "Night Riders." It was soon discovered

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#### **Factories Burned**

At present, there is not a tobacco buyer in Crittenden County. Nearly all of the 1907 crop of tobacco was polled and disposed of through the stemming district of the American Equity Society, and it is thought every acre of the 1908 crop is already pooled with the stemming district.

Notwithstanding all of these facts, there is no denying that Marion never experienced such a fright as she had Monday night a week ago. Within the two or three days before that time Night Riders, presumably from Trigg, Christian and Lyon counties, had burned the tobacco factory of Bennett Bros. at Dycusburg and A. H. Cardin of the View community, and said publicly at those places, as was reported here, that they intended to visit Marion.

On Monday an unsigned and undated telegram was received here, confirming the intended visit of the Night Riders and saying that they would be here that night. The citizens were insisthat immediate tent steps be taken for protec-

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Nestled in the heart of "Big River Country," this enchanting country home on sprawling acreage offers the perfect blend of comfort and opportunity. Includes a 3,720 S.F., 5 BR, 1.5BA home built in 2005 with multiple shops and sheds.



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# Religion The Crittenden Press

# They don't care but you should

Institutions do not have a conscience. Institutions, even our best ones, have a reason to exist and a job to do. Institutions have

rules and governing principles that must be adhered to, or they will lose their integrity. The best ones have leaders that are kind, compassionate. concerned and about people. If you want to see what an institution is like, look at who it chooses to be its leader. That leader's personality and character will infuse through the whole system.

Institutions are also made up of people. I have talked to representatives of many institutions in my life (businesses, churches, governments, social services). I can tell when I am speaking to someone human being to human being or human being to institution.

I was recently listening to a Freakonomics podcast (595. Why Don't We Have Better Candidates for President?) and it gave words to something I have believed for a good while now. There is one huge business duopoly that has a vested interest in keeping their customers fired up and stirred up. Social media makes it possible for us to see these customers and which of the two they have chosen. What is interesting is that they are both selling the same thing. The

Question: Recently, I re-

ceived Christ as my Savior.

Now, I have confidence I am

rescued from hell. Is this the

in saving you is much great-

er than just your deliverance

from going to hell. His purpose

in saving you is transformation

not just deliverance. His pur-

pose is to move you toward

conforming "to the likeness of

The Apostle Paul prayed

his Son" (Rom. 8:29).

Answer: God's purpose

end goal for a Christian?

mantra for the past twenty years has been – "Washington is broken." We might add for all of them – "And our team knows how to fix

> \_ it." Here is a short list of examples: Washington is broken. I know

what it takes to get this country back, and will work with good Democrats and good Republicans to do that. – Mitt Romney, Third Presidential Debate, 2012.

"Washington is broken. My whole campaign has been premised from the start on

the idea that we have to fundamentally change how Washington works." Barak Obama, Sept. 11, 2008, at a ServiceNation summit.

"Washington is horribly broken. I think we stand on a precipice," Rand Paul said in his victory speech at a country club in Bowling Green. "We are encountering a day of reckoning, and this movement, this Tea Party movement, is a message to Washington that we're unhappy and that we want things done differently." A quote from an article by Jack Brammer in the Lexington Herald-Leader, April 15, 2011.

"They shouldn't take the money and take credit for building something, and then say the federal government spends too much money," Landrieu said. "That's why Washington is broken." Mitch Landrieu,

After receiving Christ, we are to grow in Christ

"Why Washington is Broken, Nik Popli, Time Magazine, April 29, 2023.

It is the major political parties that have a vested interest in keeping more centrist views at bay. They decide who gets on the debate stage. They set the rules for who gets on the ballots (local and state legislatures are partisan as well). They move the lines of congressional districts. They are the epitome of what so many of the framers of our constitution feared. Neither one must satisfy even a quarter of us, so long as they can convince enough of us to continue voting for the least horrible candidates.

What has changed in recent years has been governing based on management of resources and taking care of each other to governing based on morally divisive issues. The former can be argued about. The latter, in the hands of those seeking to hold on to power, require condemnation of the "enemy."

They don't care about relationships with your your family or friends. They care about survival as an institution. They will continue to claim that the other side is a "threat to democracy" and enough of us will fear it to keep the flames burning hot. They will continue to denigrate the other side as stupid, uneducated, and immoral. They know none of what they say is true, they just need for an approximately equal number of us to believe each side.

Believers already have a king. That king teaches us

to love others as we love ourselves. That king tells us to love our enemies and forgive them. I would like to offer a few reminders to all of us who feel the need to engage in social media or regurgitate newstainment.

1. If you were not at an event, you do not know what happened. Likely, the person who shares the story wasn't there either. And it is certain that they have a biased viewpoint.

2. Is what you are about to share backed up by evidence that you know to be accurate?

3. Is what you are about to share or say likely to cause a rift in a relationship?

I am thankful we live in a place that allows such speech. Because we can doesn't always mean that we should. We live in a nation of laws. We live in a nation where, despite its problems, citizens can still make a difference. I am not suggesting that politicians do not care about our nation. I am suggesting that they care more about keeping the status quo than listening to those who are willing to work to solve serious cultural and moral issues. I am not cynical. I am always hopeful. Care about your relationships more than you care about the party lines. That will change America and "fix" Washington.

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.

#### ■ Community prayer ser- Mexico ce will be held at 10 a.m., open f

CrittendenPress.Blogspot.com

vice will be held at 10 a.m., c Saturday, Aug. 2 at the gazebo on the Crittenden County Courthouse lawn. Everyone of welcome to attend.

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.

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

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

Religious Outreach

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

■ 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.



## **REPTON CEMETERY ASSOCIATION INC.**

will hold its annual meeting SATURDAY, AUG. 10 at 1 p.m. at the Repton Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, 6289 US Hwy 60 East, Marion (Mattoon).

EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

Due to decreased donations and increased maintenance expenses, donations are needed.

Make donations payable to: Repton Cemetery Association, Inc. c/o Donna Starrick 5109 US Hwy 60 East Marion, KY 42064



this for the believers in Colossae, "We have not stopped praying for you and asking God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all spiritual wisdom and understanding, and we pray this in order that you may live a life worthy of the

Lord and may please him in every way: bearing fruit in every good work, growing in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:9, 10).

His prayer was for their spiritual growth. We are to continually transform ourselves to act, talk, and think less life our old, unredeemed selves and to become more like Jesus. Spiritual maturity is not about rule keeping or earning God's approval with good deeds. It's about living out a love relationship with Jesus by imitating Him in every way. We live to please God not to earn His forgiveness but out of gratitude because He has already forgiven us.

Salvation is both an event and a process. Turning from our sins and trusting in Jesus as our Savior is an event, but growing into mature followers of Christ is a continual process.

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com



Faith-based columnist

Guest

Columnist



# Classifieds The Crittenden Press

## The Crittenden Press

125 E. Bellville St., P.O. Box 191 Marion, KY 42064 (270) 965-3191 information@the-press. com

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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 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.

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#### HALL OF FAME Nominations sought

Nominees are being sought for consideration by the Farmers Bank Marion-Crittenden County Athletics Hall of Fame. The 2024 class of inductees will be recognized in early 2025. Send nominations to thepress@thepress.com.

#### COACHING New assistants named

Three new assistant coaches have been hired at Crittenden County Schools for fall sports. Aaron Brown will be a paraprofessional coach for boys' middle school basketball, Travis Fitzgerald will be a paraprofessional high school football coach and science teacher Jody Porter will be assistant volleyball coach.

#### BASKETBALL I FLAG Tournaments in Princeton

There will be a basketball tournament and 5 on 5 flag football tournament during Dotson Day Aug. 4 in Princeton. For more information, call 270-625-0274.

### SOCCER Youth league registration

Crittenden County Youth Soccer is registering participants age 4-under through 14-under on three dates for its fall recreational league. Participants must sign up on one of the following dates: Aug. 6 at CCMS Back to School Night; from 9-11 a.m., Aug. 10 at Dairy Queen or Aug. 13 at CCES Back to School Night. Cost is \$55 to \$65 depending on age. Family discounts apply for households with more than one child participating.

#### BASEBALL I SOFTBALL Fall registration ends

Crittenden County Dugout Club's registration for fall baseball and softball ends Friday, Aug. 9. Cost is \$40. Practice begins Aug. 19 and games start Sept. 3 and end by fall break. For more information, see the Dugout Club Facebook page or contact Tanner Tabor at 859-333-9751.

#### GOLF QB Club fundraiser

The annual Crittenden County Quarterback Club Pippi Hardin and Ronnie Myers Memorial Golf Scramble will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday, Aug. 24 at Deer Lakes Golf Course. Cost is \$300 per team with proceeds benefiting the high school football program. Contact Darrick Myers at 270-704-1225 to reg-



Top finishers in the annual Ironman Competition as part of preseason football practice are (front from left) Eli Lovell, Tyree McLean, champion Caden Howard, Camron Belcher, Dakota Sosh, (back) Kaiden Travis, Brayden Poindexter, Tray Taylor, Brayden Mahnke and Noah Byford.

## **IRONMAN COMPETITION** Pre-season competition kicks off 2024 football practice

STAFF REPORT

For more than 25 years, Crittenden County football players have been starting the season with an individual strength, speed and agility competition called the Ironman.

Almost 40 players competed in this year's pre-season competition and junior Caden Howard came out on top, collecting his first Ironman championship. Howard is a returning starting receiver and defensive back. Howard placed seventh in the 2023 Ironman event. He is the only top 10 finisher this season that placed among the best 10 last year in preseason.

The competition aims to encourage a well-rounded athlete, combining speed and strength to perfect a player. This year's weightlifting figures were markedly higher than last year, a tribute to work in the weightroom, says the coaching staff.

While the running and agilities part of the contest tends to favor the skilled-position players, those husky linemen play catchup in overall points by dominating in the weight room.

As much as anything, the

competition is a way for the coaching staff to get players geared up for pre-season practice and to reward those who have worked hard during the offseason.

Rocket football season begins on Aug. 23 against Webster County. Crittenden will have two scrimmage games during the preseason.

The first scrimmage is Aug. 9 at home against Marshall County and second is Aug. 16 at home against Madisonville.

This will be Coach Gaige Courtney's fourth season as head coach. CCHS will compete in Class 2A.

#### IRONMAN EADERS **Overall Points** 1. Caden Howard Jr 2. Tyree McLean Sr 3. Camron Belcher Sr 4. Brayden Mahnke Sr 5. Kaiden Travis Sr 6. Trae Taylor Jr 7. Dakota Sosh Jr 8. Noah Byford So 9. Brayden Poindexter Jr

10. Eli Lovell Fr

#### **QUICKNESS / AGILITY** 40 Yard Dash 4.67 Camron Belcher Caden Howard 4.68 Tyree McLean 4.82 Dakota Sosh 5.02 Noah Byford 5.08 **Verticle Jump** Tyree McLean 31" Caden Howard 30" **Quinn Summers** 27' Camron Belcher 27' Trae Taylor 26" **Pro Shuttle** Camron Belcher 4.39 Caden Howard 4.44 4.50

Caden Howard4.44Noah Byford4.50Tyree McLean4.58Jacob Carder4.60

#### WEIGHT LIFTING Bench Press

Brayden Mahnke	225
Braydin Brandsasse	225
Michael Counts	225
Jacob Carder	205
Carson Yates	195

#### Power Clean

Brayden Mahnnke225Caden Howard200Braydin Brandsasse195Tyree McLean195Brayden Poindexter185

#### Squat

oquut	
Brayden Mahnke	360
Braydin Brandsasse	350
Jake Rich	345
Tyree McLean	335
Michael Counts	335

For Complete List of Individual Results See Rocket Football Online

## Perfect Summer

Crittenden County's 12under all-star baseball team went 12-0 in three tournaments this summer, averaging 16 runs a game while giving up just four per game. The club won tournaments at Marion, Eddyville and Greenville. Pictured are (front from left) Colton James, Grayson Congenie, Bray Brown,

# Legion is runnerup

Lyon County's American Legion Post 103 baseball finished run-

nerup to Owensboro in the Legion's state baseball tournament, which ended Monday. A handful of



ister. A meal will be provided following 18 holes of play.

## **Orange Jacket new dates**

The annual Deer Lakes Golf Course Orange Jacket Invitational, originally scheduled for last weekend, has been postponed until Sept. 14-15. Entry fee is \$125, which includes cart and play each day, a free practice round and a meal after Sunday's round. Tee times are available for 8 a.m., or 1:30 p.m. This tournament is individual stroke play. To register, call 270-988-4653.

## **CCHS** fall golf schedule

Below is the golf schedule for Crittenden County High School.

July 25 at Union Co. Invitational Aug 5 at Calvert City CC Aug 13 All A at Deer Lakes Aug 15 at Drake Creek Aug 19 Deer Lakes Aug 20 at Madisonville CC Aug 22 at Providence GC Aug 26 at Pennyrile SP Aug 27 at Deer Lakes Aug 29 at Deer Lakes Sept 9 at Deer Lakes Sept 10 at Princeton CC Sept 12 at Mineral Mounds Sept 16 at Breckinridge GC Sept 17 Deer Lakes Sept 23 Regional Tournament Sept 24 Regional Tournament

#### OUTDOORS Hunter Ed Course here

Hunter Education Safety Course will be available Saturday, Aug. 24 at Crittenden County Extension Park (former gun club) on Ky. 91 North. Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources requires anyone born after Jan. 1, 1975 and currently age 12 or older to have completed the hunter education course before legally hunting. Enrollment can be done online at www.fw.ky.gov. Go to the Education button to register. John Robertson will be the instructor and course is from 9 a.m., to 4 p.m. local players competing with the American Legion team in Eddyville this summer were from the immediate area. From Crittenden County were outfielder Jaxton Duncan and pitcher Asa McCord. From Livingston County were Drew Barrow, Daniel Ramage and Skylar Padon.

Boone Tabor, Maddux Harris, Koleson Tinsley, (middle) Chase Winders, Drew Bryant, Ayden Oliver, Sawyer Bock, Jagger Renfro, (back) Scottie Brown, Casey Oliver, Bryce Winders and Josh Renfro. Not pictured: Coach Tanner Tabor.



Winners in the middle school division of Marion Baptist Church's summer golf league at The Heritage are (from left) third place Landon Roper, first place Mitchell Brown and second place Bentley Rushing.



Winners in the 3-5 grade division of Marion Baptist Church's summer golf league at The Heritage are (from left) first place Cutler Hunt, second place Rex Boone and third place Barrett Brown.



Winners in the 1-2 grade division of Marion Baptist Church's summer golf league at The Heritage are (from left) third place Brighton Guess, second place Knox McDonald and first place Brantley Sunderland.





## **County Fair** Queens

Queens of the Crittenden County Lions Club Fair pageants crowned Tuesday night are (from left) Miss Teen Crittenden County Caroline Martin, Miss Crittenden County Natalie Boone and Miss Pre-Teen Crittenden County Paige Tinsley. Boone, a 2023 graduate of Crittenden County High School and a sophomore at the University of Kentucky, is the daughter of Nathan and Lee Anna Boone. Martin is the daughter of Jason and Stephanie Martin and is an eighthgrader at Crittenden County Middle School and Tinsley is the daughter of Matt and Tabby Tinsley and is a fifth grader at Crittenden County Elementary School. The fair continues this weekend with Enduro Derby on Friday night and Demolition Derby on Saturday night.

# Horse sense makes for good therapy

Words, sounds, smells especially smells - they all evoke memories. Sometimes these memories are very special and we enjoy the nostalgic trip down Memory Lane.

Occasionally, however, the memories are not nearly as pleasant. For some of you, last month's article on the subject of my Jersey milk cow brought back painful memories of an era in which you had to milk multiple cows the oldfashioned way – by hand - in order to survive. For others, the memories may have been much more pleasant as you remembered summer trips grandma and grandpa's house where vou tried your hand at milking their cow as part of your fun-filled week on the farm. While we're mentioning farm animals, let's note another one that may evoke even emotions: stronger Horse(s).

Although I love my horse, I realize that some of you may have had an absolute disaster with a horse at some point in your past, causing you to totally avoid horses to this day. Some of you may even remember trudging along behind a horse and plow during those long, hard days of productive toil. Many others, however, have had absolutely wonderful horse experiences as a child and teenager, causing you to continue feeding your horse habit today. In fact, horses can have a very positive effect on an individual physically, mentally, emotionally and socially. How can a person benefit from a horse in so many ways? We ran our equestrian ministry out of a horse barn for 12 years. Part of our program involved giving riding lessons to children and adults. I had a saying ... "Every hour your child spends with us at the horse barn is an hour that your child will not be sitting on the couch in front of the TV eating candy and potato chips and drinking soda." Physically, the impact of a horse is both immediate and effective. The element of eating junk food due to boredom is greatly reduced, while the added component exercise makes time spent with horses a big win-win! Consider this quote: "The outside of a horse is good for the inside of a man." There are various versions of this adage, along with uncertainty regarding its source. The most common source of the quote is Sir Winston Churchill, who seems to have said it this way:



man." Others Chris have also **CLARKE** been credited Press Columnist Happy Trails with the saying, includ-

Will Rogers and ing Ronald Reagan. Those who know about this stuff much better than I do have actually traced these words of wisdom back to Lord Palmerston (ca. 1890), who said it this way: "There's nothing so good for the inside of a man as the outside of a horse." He was actually speaking in support of the rigorous workout one receives when mounted on a fine steed while participating in the British tradition of fox hunting. Make no mistake, riding atop a horse while chasing a wily fox is quite the workout for the equestrian.

However, physical exercise is only one aspect of this wonderful horse

after time I have observed someone who is having various issues - physical, mental. emotional, and/or social issues and have seen an amaz-

ing transformation occur after a few weeks of regular interaction with a horse. Spending time with a well-behaved horse can be a very rewarding, life-changing experience.

Personally, I'm looking forward to seeing Jesus return to earth riding the great white horse. What a

glorious day that will be!

Author Chris Clarke grew up in this community. He has a equestrian ministry, Happy Trails. You can email him at wcclarke1@gmail.com.

## LIVINGSTON COUNTY SCHOOL CALENDAR

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#### 2024-2025 School Calendar Livingston County Schools

840 Cutoff Rd/P.O. Box 219 Smithland, KY 42081 270-928-2111 (Fax) 270-928-2112

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28	29	30	31	-	-		Aug 1 Flexible Professional Day - No classes
					L		Aug 2,5,6 Flexible Planning Days (G) - No Classes
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	-		-	1	2	3	Aug 8 First Day of Classes for Students
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Sep 2 Labor Day Holiday-No Classes
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	Oct 7-11 Fall Break - No Classes
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	Oct 14 Required Planning Day for Certified Staff-NoClasses
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	Nov 5 Election Day-No Classes
_							Nov 25-29 Thanksgiving Break-No Classes
~	12.12	Septe	10 C 10	Contract of Contra			Nov 25 Flexible PD Day - No Classes
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	Dec 23-Jan 3 Christmas Break-No Classes
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8	9	10	11	12	13	14	Jan 6 Students first day of second semester
15	16	17	18	19	20	21	Jan 20 MLK Jr. Holiday - No Classes
22	23	24	25	26	27	28	Feb 17 Flexible PD Day - No Classes
29	30			_			Mar 10 Required Planning Day for Certified Staff-NoClasse
	-				-		April 7-11 Spring Break No Classes
			ober	and the second second	-		May 15 Last Day of Classes for Students
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19	TEST DATES
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-		-	-	-	1	2	2nd Nine Weeks Friday, December 20th (43 days)
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	3rd Nine Weeks, Friday, March 7th (43 days)
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	4th Nine Weeks, Thursday, May 15th (43 days)
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relationship. human Horseback riding also exercises your mind, particularly if you are receiving riding instruction and are working hard to improve your horsemanship skills. Also, the powerful impact of the emotional component is equal to - if not greater than - the physical and mental advantages. The emotional and social support one gets from engaging with horses (even if simply grooming the horse) is absolutely amazing. Many notable studies have provided irrefutable evidence regarding the effectiveness of utilizing horses in various therapy situations. We often refer to Jesus as The Great Physician. Before Jesus walked the earth, the Greek physician, Hippocrates (aka the Father of Medicine), wrote about the therapeutic potential of horseback riding. More recently, utilizing horses in therapy (hippotherapy) became more popular in the U.S. in the 1950s and 1960s. Today, there are various organizations such as PATH (Professional Associational of Therapeutic Horsemanship) which provide direction and certification for these programs and their personnel.

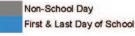
In fact, the fastest growing segments of equine-assisted therapy are the various programs working with military veterans, particularly those with PTSD. Again, the outside of a horse is good (REALLY good) for the inside of a man, woman, boy or girl. Time

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Holidays (4)

Opening/Closing Day



Planning (no school for students) (5) Professional Development (4)



# Public hearing this month to roll out Livingston expansion

STAFF REPORT

Livingston Hospital, a Deaconess Affiliate, is inching closer to a groundbreaking event for its planned \$70 million expansion, targeted to get underway early next year.

Coming up quick, however, is a public hearing at 5 p.m., on Aug. 21 Deer Lakes Golf Course's meeting room where residents can learn more about the project.

"We will have renderings, financing plans and be able to answer questions that the public might have," said CEO Shane Whittington.

"A public hearing is one of the steps USDA requires so the project can be presented to the public and public comments can be taken. This is a community-oriented project," said Alan Richman, president and CEO of InnoVative Capital, the Pennsylvania-headquartered financial advisory firm usher-Livingston Hospital ing through the federal loan process. "The great thing about this project is some components of the hospital will be utilized so the whole thing will not be razed. The new design will have a very community look to it and will fit in really nice.'

The entire project is being financed through a federal loan, and repayment will be supported by the facility's critical access hospital reimbursement



Livingston Hospital staff (from left) Beverly Belt, Alex Jones, Glenda Jones, Savanah Curnel, Debbie Hearell, Shana Geary and Dr. William Barnes examine the mock up of the proposed new surgical area planned as part of the expansion project. The simulated operating room is located inside the Livingston Hospital's Marion clinic.

methodology.

Richman suggests that Livingston Hospital is uniquely positioned for this landmark expansion because of regular income it receives from Kentucky's Hospital Rate Improvement Program (HRIP), cost-based reimbursement for Medicare and Medicaid patients, its new relationship with Deaconess Health System and Livingston's quality leader-ship.

Richman helped orchestrate a very similar project in southern Illinois six years ago, he said. In Eldorado, Ill., Ferrell Hospital entered into an agreement with Deaconess Illinois in December 2015, and in 2016 it launched a \$35 million expansion, Richman said.

Costs, he points out, have

risen tremendously over the past six years.

"That project at Ferrell Hospital would be \$70 million now," he said.

Last week, Livingston Hospital staff were able to walk through and review life-sized cardboard mock ups of proposed operating rooms. The simulated surgical areas provide an early look at where everything from electrical outlets and medical equipment to storage cabinets and trash cans will be placed in the new facility. The mock ups allow doctors, nurses and other staff to make suggestions about placement of those fixtures so that final construction meets appropriate needs. Simulated patient rooms were reviewed earlier this year.

Expansion of the hospital will be mostly in front of the current structure, which will require a great deal of dirt fill work. About 10 acres of hospital campus is under development in this broad expansion and renovation project, some of which is already underway just east of the hospital. The community building is close to being finished and dirt work is about done so additional facilities can be built for a physical therapy center and clinic.

"The value that Livingston Hospital brings to our community is immense and this expansion could be transformative for the Salem community and Livingston County as a whole," said Livingston County Judge-Exe-Teris Swanson. cutie "Supporting this effort is not just an investment in the hospital; it's an investment in the health and future of Livingston County."



Speed reduction signs are posted at the intersection of Depot and College streets in Marion.



10

# Speed reduction first step to improve safety on Depot St.

STAFF REPORT

At the behest of citizens, the City of Marion has posted a reduced speed limit at a potentially hazardous intersection in town.

New 25 mph caution signs with orange pennants posted above them are now on display along Depot Street at the intersection of South College Street.

Marion City Council discussed visibility issues at the intersection during its July meeting. Councilman Dwight Sherer, who has been on the council for about two decades, said city leaders had at one time discussed putting a large mirror at the intersection so traffic crossing Depot Street could see both ways without pulling partially into the street.

City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield said that option is not available because the street doubles as a state highway, KY 506, inside the city limits.

The city administrator said she plans to meet with residents near the intersection that might need to cut back greenery on their lawns to improve sight for crossing traffic.

If local efforts to improve safety at the intersection fail, the city plans to seek further assistance from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet.

## VALUE

Continued from page 1 parcel sells on the open market. Assessed land values are typically lower than market prices as they are based partially on soil types and hypothetical production values.

Marked growth in value of property began here around 1997 largely because of an influx of property investors pushed out by sprawl in metropolitan areas of the South, and the trend continues as retiring Baby Boomers from the North begin returning to their ancestral roots or looking for cheaper places to live.

Furthermore, sportsmen have driven the price of raw land and recreational interests in Crittenden County and real estate continues to be very strong. Among the attractive points for real estate ownership here are relatively low taxes and an affordable cost of living.

Crittenden County's property tax rate was above 12 cents per \$100 of assessed value in the 1990s. Over the past couple of years it has been about six percent lower thanks largely to rising values. Meanwhile, local government is taking in more tax dollars because of the increased value of property.

Crittenden County Fiscal Court will be discussing the 2024 tax rate during its Aug. 22 meeting. Property tax bills are mailed in the early fall and due by the end of the year. Exthibits viewing

## Thursday, Aug. 1

11 a.m.-3 p.m. 4-H Exhibits, Open Garden Exhibits and Open Family Consumer Science Exhibits viewing 5 p.m. 4-H Poultry Show 6 p.m. Dummy Roping (\$1 Throw)

### **Friday, Aug. 2** 7 a.m. • Fair Breakfast

Contact 270-965-5236 4-H Sweepstakes Awards Presentation, 4-H Open Exhibits, Open Garden Exhibits and Open Family Consumer Science Exhibits checkout directly following the Fair Breakfast until noon.

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