



The Crittenden Press

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023

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

AN INDEPENDENTLY-OWNED, LOCAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1879

ONE DOLLAR

Get Your Christmas On! Nativity at Deer Creek

Deer Creek Church near Sheridan in rural Crittenden County will be hosting its annual Live Nativity from 6-8 p.m., nightly Dec. 9-12.

Community Christmas

Teen gifts are needed for Community Christmas. Find out on page 10 what other assistance the program is looking for and where you can contribute.

Grinch at Rehab Center

Breakfast with The Grinch will be held at 9 a.m., Saturday, Dec. 9 at Crittenden County Health and Rehab Center.

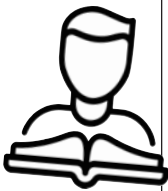
Marion Parade Champs

Chosen as the top float during Saturday's Marion Christmas Parade was the 4-H Club. First United Bank was second and Freedom General Baptist was third. The parade, which can be viewed in its entirety at The Press Facebook Page, was coordinated by Partners Insurance Agency and sponsored by Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce.

Religious ID in America

Based on how people identify themselves, if American religion could be represented by a group of 100 people, this is what the group makeup would look like, according to Nationscape from 2020 data:

- 40 Protestants
- 24 Catholics
- 18 Nothing in Particular
- 5 Agnostic
- 4 Atheist
- 3 Jews
- 2 Muslims
- 1 Mormon
- 1 Orthodox Christian
- 1 Buddhist
- 1 Hindu



County office dedication

At 5:30 p.m., Thursday there will be a building dedication and open house at the Crittenden County Office Complex. There will be a formal blessing of the building with addresses from local leaders and state dignitaries.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Crittenden County Fiscal Court will meet in special session at 3:30 p.m., Friday, Dec. 8 at the county office complex.
- Crittenden County Local Emergency Planning Committee will meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 12 at the county office complex.
- Crittenden County Board of Education meets at 5:30 p.m., Tuesday Dec. 12 at Rocket Arena.
- Marion City Council will meet at 5 p.m., Monday, Dec. 18 at city hall.
- Fredonia City Council will meet at 7 p.m., Monday, Dec. 18 at city hall.
- Salem City Council will meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 19 at Deer Lakes meeting room.
- Crittenden County Fiscal Court will meet at 8:30 a.m., Thursday, Dec. 21 at the county office complex.

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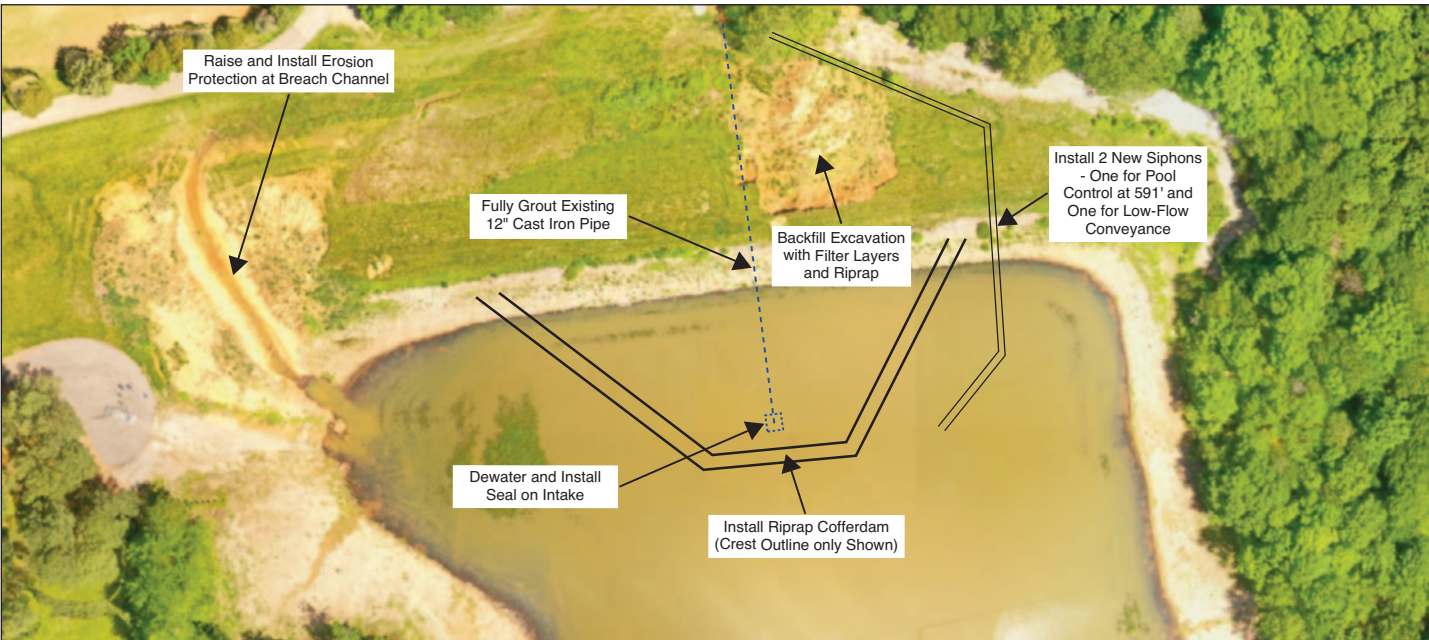
The Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260 / Marion, Ky.



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Provided by the City of Marion, the aerial image above illustrates work that is getting ready to be done at Lake George to shore up its levee, which was deemed unsafe more than a year ago. These repairs are only a temporary fix, say city leaders.

Patch Work to Begin at Lake George

WATER CRISIS UPDATE | Options, Costs

BY CHRIS EVANS
PRESS EDITOR

Within days, work is expected to begin on a significant project to stabilize the levee at Lake George, which has been deemed unstable by inspectors.

To pay for the repairs, up to \$4 million has been formally promised to the City of Marion by Kentucky Emergency Management under an Emergency Order first issued by Gov. Andy Beshear in the spring of 2022 and twice extended.

That emergency declaration runs out at the end of this month. Once the ensuing stabilization project is complete, the emergency order will no longer exist, according to a letter of acknowledgement on the matter sent to Marion Mayor D'Anna Browning Nov. 17 and signed by the director of Kentucky Emergency Management.

By now, most readers know the history of the crippled levee. It began to weep in April 2022, triggering an emergency response by local and state officials. The levee was intentionally cut to relieve pressure on

the earthen dam because it was feared that a dam failure would jeopardize human and property assets downstream along Crooked Creek.

By cutting a relief ditch in the levee, Lake George's water level was lowered by about 10 feet, and that's where it remains today as the city's drinking water plant continues to draw raw water from the half full reservoir.

The upcoming multi-million-dollar levee repair, local leaders have said, is only a stop-gap. The temporary fix will last no more than three to four years, say Marion's water crisis consultant Tim Thomas.

Meantime, Marion must determine a path forward toward long-term water security.

Many questions remain. Some of them will need to be answered relatively soon.

Among the questions are:

1. What is beyond the upcoming Lake George stabilization project?
2. Is there an agreement in place now, or even an option for one be-

tween Marion and CLWD that would fortify the town's water needs generations into the future?

3. If not, what the options?

4. If it is determined that Lake George will not be a long-term raw water source for Marion, does an appetite exist among local leaders to rebuild it solely as a recreational asset for fishing, kayaking and aesthetic enjoyment?

The clock is ticking and while there has been a great deal of discussion about possible answers for all of those questions, so far there is no outright path.

Mayor Browning has made it clear that the city desires to become a full-fledged, wholesale customer of Crittenden-Livingston Water District (CLWD). Without expansion, however, the two-county water district can right now only supplement Marion's water needs. At times, that's been difficult enough. Without increasing its ability to make, store and transmit a higher volume of water, CLWD cannot be a player

See **WATER**/page 8



Pictured are CCHS Principal Rhonda Callaway, McDonald's representative Kathy Counts, Elizabeth Rodriguez and Crittenden County Schools Superintendent Tonya Driver.

CCHS Teacher Painted Popular Murals

McDonald's says Rodriguez is its Outstanding Educator

Degrees in psychology and paramedicine were the brush strokes that led Elizabeth Kirby Rodriguez to the classroom.

Art was a stress reliever for her while taking rigorous math and science classes in high school, followed by premed curriculum at Lindsey Wilson College, where she graduated in

2014.

Her professional pallet brought her back to Crittenden County High School where she was honored last week as a McDonald's Outstanding Educator.

She was chosen from 1,750 nominations received by McEnaney Family McDonalds for

See **TEACHER**/page 10

Feds provide contract boost to county jail

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Detention Center is getting an \$8 increase in its daily housing allowance from the U.S. Marshals Service, plus a hike in its transportation reimbursement for moving federal prisoners.

Jailer Athena Hayes recently completed negotiations with the Marshals Service, which turned out more finically beneficial than she had originally anticipated.

The jail's budget, which was finalized last summer, will need to be amended now, Hayes said, to reflect a greater increase in anticipated housing dollars. The jail is on a fiscal budgetary year that begins each July.

On Jan. 1, the housing per diem will increase from \$49 to \$57. Additionally, the county jail will receive an increase in the hourly fee Uncle Sam pays it for transporting

those federal prisoners to and from court appearances. The new rate will be \$32 an hour, up from \$23. Those dollars supplement the wage of transportation officers, help the jail purchase and maintain its fleet of transport vehicles and offset other expenses related to moving federal inmates, Hayes said.

Federal inmates housed in Marion are either awaiting trial, awaiting final sentencing or on hold for probation violations.

The federal contract is good for 36 months, through June 2026. When Hayes began working as a deputy at the jail in 2014, the federal inmate per diem was \$35 and transportation reimbursement \$10 per hour. Former Jailer Robbie Kirk secured renegotiated contracts in



Hayes

2016 and 2020 with increases each time.

Over the past four years, federal inmates have made up between 30 to 40 percent of the Crittenden County Jail's population. Revenue from the U.S. Marshals Service is important to the jail's bottom line, providing more than \$1 million annually. The jail received \$1.6 million from its federal contracts in 2021, but last year was less, down to around \$1.3 million. With one month to go in 2023, it appears federal housing dollars for the calendar year will be somewhere close to 2022's figures.

Hayes says that "a comfortable" level of federal inmates inside the local facility is 60 to 70, or about 35 percent of the entire population. Figures beyond that, she said, can lead to issues that are not favorable to behavior and other factors inside the jail.

"I appreciate the interest

that has been expressed about the renegotiation of the federal contract and understand the importance of what it brings to the county," Hayes said. "While I am disappointed in the delay due to the freeze on negotiations that occurred, I am happy with the outcome and that I was able to accomplish it within my first year in office," added Hayes, who became the county's first female jailer when she was elected in November 2022.

Hayes said that maintaining a solid, professional relationship with the federal districts it serves is a top priority. Those districts are Kentucky, Tennessee and Missouri.

The jail also has a contract to keep state inmates which pays it \$35.34 per day. Other counties that use the Marion facility to house their inmates pay between \$32 and \$36 per day.



Training complete
Crittenden County Volunteer Firefighter Taylor Crabtree this week was recognized for completing the Kentucky Firefighter Basic 1 training hours. She is one of about 30 volunteers – and several women – who serve on the the local department. A total of 115 training hours are required to complete the program. Making the formal presentation of her fire helmet is chief Scott Hurley.

Extension events

• Two chances to create an evergreen wreath are offered at 2 p.m., and 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 7 at the Crittenden County Extension Annex. Take the free wreath home and enjoy for Christmas. Call

(270) 965-5236 to register.
• A meal prep class will be held from 6-8 p.m., Monday, Dec. 11 at the Extension Annex. Learn essentials to meal prepping, plan a menu, get shopping tips, cooking techniques and easy recipes. To register, call (270) 965-5236 or 270-704-1871.

Deaths
Helmcamp

Arrangements are incomplete for Phyllis Ann Helmcamp, 83, of Marion, who died Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023 at Mercy Health Hospice Paducah. Gilbert Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Head

Frank G. Head, 74, of Henderson, died Friday, Dec. 1, 2023.

He was born June 13, 1949 in Webster County to the late Frank and Cecil Felker Head. He attended Murray State University



where he played football from 1968 to 1972 and was inducted in 1996 to Murray State University Hall of Fame. He is also a member of the Farmers Bank Marion-Crittenden County Athletic Hall of Fame. After college, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in the



Vietnam War from 1972 to 1974. He was a coal miner for more than 25 years at Costain Coal Company and Pyro Mining Company.
Surviving are three children, Amy D. Greenwell of Henderson, Chris (Rachael) Head of Lexington and Margaux Head of Henderson; two sisters, Donna Smith of Georgia and Alger Prow of Clay; a brother, Randy Head of Henderson; four grandchildren, Will Stone, Ivy Greenwell, Veronica Head and Johnny Head; several nieces and nephews; and dear friend, Debbie Summers of Dixon.
In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his wife of 42

years, Mary “P.C.” Markwell Head in Feb. 17, 2018; a sister, Mary Ayers; four brothers, Jerry Head, Kenneth Head, Gene Head and infant brother Elmo Head.
Services are 1 p.m., Friday, Dec. 8 at Rudy-Rowland Funeral Home.

Full military rites will be performed by American Legion Worsham Post No. 40. Visitation is at 11 a.m., Friday at the funeral home.
Memorial contributions may be made to St. Anthony’s Hospice.



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Greetings



The holiday season is upon us and for those who have lost a loved one, it is not an easy time of year. For those grieving, what used to be a joyous, festive and happy time may now be extremely straining and it might be difficult to get into the “mood” of Christmas.
Here at Boyd Funeral Directors, Cremation Services, and Monuments we are very aware of the pain and sadness the holiday season can bring to those who have lost a loved one. The void is great.
As a token of remembrance, we have specially designed Christmas ornaments with loved one's names that have passed away in the year 2023. We will be MAILING THESE ORNAMENTS to our families.

There will be one ornament per family provided at NO COST, but additional ornaments may be purchased, with proceeds going to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. Additional ornaments are \$25 each, and may be ordered by calling the funeral home, or emailing andy@boydfuneraldirectors.com.

As always, we deeply appreciate the confidence and trust families have placed in us over the past 121 years. We believe we serve the best families in the world and are honored that they chose Boyd Funeral Directors, Cremation Services, and Monuments for their needs.

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Warmest holiday greetings



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Food Service • Industry • Medical
Volunteer

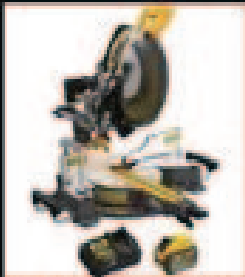


2021 Inagural class of The Crittenden Press 10 Under 40
Ann Moore, Dylan Crabtree, Katie Wheeler, Nathan Ratley, Dr. Jonathan Maddux, Rhett Parrish, Cecil Henry, Adam Beavers, Andy Hunt & Shanna West

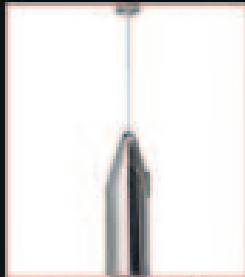
Ten deserving community members will be recognized through The Crittenden Press’ 2024 10 Under 40 Community Recognition Program.

SELECTION BASED ON
Expertise, Competency, Integrity, Courteousness and Achievement
A bi-annual recognition program of The Crittenden Press

DEAL PREVIEW:



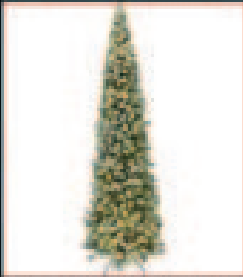
DEWALT 60V
SLIDING MITER
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SAVE \$300
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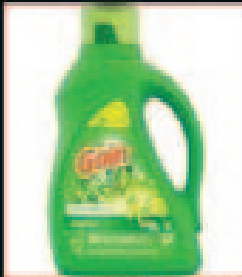
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Farm Bureau recognized for program achievement

Crittenden County Farm Bureau was recognized during the 104th Kentucky Farm Bureau (KFB) annual meeting in Louisville for its outstanding membership and program achievement in 2023. The award honors county Farm Bureau offices that meet the company's profitability requirements and whose insurance policy growth meets or exceeds its annual growth goal.



Hill

Stephen Hill, president of Crittenden County Farm Bureau, was acknowledged as the award recipient by Mark Haney, president of Kentucky Farm Bureau, and other Farm Bureau leaders, during the organization's awards program on Dec. 1.

Fohs Hall makes formal bid for \$500,000 grant

Fohs Hall Inc., made a formal presentation last week of its grant application for the Fohs Hall Rotunda Park Project to the Advisory Board of the Kentucky Department of Local Government Land and Water Conservation Fund. Fohs Hall President Alan Stout made the presentation, which was done electronically from Marion. The project is sponsored by Fohs Hall, Crittenden County Fiscal Court, Marion Tourism Commission and Crittenden County Tomorrow. The presentation was made on the online TEAMS Platform. Also represented in the presentation were Judge-Executive Perry Newcom, Mayor D'Anna Browning, City Admin-



istrator Diane Ford-Benningfield, PVA Todd Perryman, Tourism Director Michele Edwards and Pennyryle Area Development District grant specialist Jared Nelson. The presentation was brief as there were a total of 30 presentations made for project applications across Kentucky. The grant application is for a total of \$500,000 with \$250,000 in local matching resources. The project encompasses an outdoor pavilion, a colonnade, restrooms, landscaped green space and a walking trail.

Civics Bee application will be due next month

Regional competition of the 2024 National Civics Bee will be held in Paducah April 20. Students in Ballard, Caldwell, Calloway, Carlisle, Christian, Crittenden, Daviess, Fulton, Graves, Henderson, Hickman, Hopkins, Livingston, Logan, Lyon, Marshall, McCracken, McLean, Muhlenberg, Todd, Trigg, Union and Webster counties may apply. The National Civics Bee aims to encourage young Americans to engage in civics and contribute to their communities. All sixth, seventh and eighth grade students in public, private and home schools in Kentucky are invited to apply by submitting a 500-word essay online at <https://bit.ly/3MLa5PN>. Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce was selected by the U.S. Chamber to host the regional competition. Deadline for essay submission is Jan. 8.

After the application portal closes, essays will be reviewed by a panel of judges and the top 20 students in western Kentucky will be selected to test their civics knowledge and compete in the regional, live quiz competition in Paducah. Finalists and top winners will receive various prizes, including \$500 cash for the first-place student. The top three winners at the western Kentucky competition will have a chance to compete against other middle school students from across the state at the state level competition in Louisville.

Sheriff collects 76% of county taxes in November

During November, Crittenden County Sheriff's Department collected payment for 5,759 tax bills. That amounts to 76 percent of the entire 2023 tax collection sum. "We want to say a big thank you for everyone's patience during the month of November for our two percent discount tax collection period while we worked out some kinks with the new location, computer problems, and new taxing system," Sheriff Evan Head said in a post on social media. Tax bills are due at face amount through Dec. 31. Beginning in January, a late penalty will be assessed.

Suspect eludes sheriff, authorities post reward for arrest of local man

Crittenden County authorities are seeking the public's help in locating Mitchell Peek, 36, of Marion who is wanted on an indictment warrant from Crittenden County and two warrants out of Lyon County. Peek eluded apprehension Friday night following a police chase through two counties that was initiated before 10 p.m., by Sheriff Evan Head on US 60 just east of Moore Hill. Peek was operating a motorcycle and had a female passenger. The sheriff attempted to make a traffic stop when Peek was observed allegedly operating the motorcycle in a reckless fashion. The bike sped away and turned onto KY 1668, then westbound onto KY 135. The chase, which never exceeded 55 mph on a foggy night, went through Tolu and into Carrsville in Livingston County before Peek crashed. He fled on foot,

but the female was taken into custody. Peek is believed to be at large in Crittenden, Lyon or Livingston counties. He is wanted in Crittenden County in connection to a case involving Brian Fitzgerald, who is now in custody and facing a federal indictment. During the Fitzgerald investigation, authorities say evidence was ascertained indicating that Peek was in possession of a handgun (as a convicted felon) and possession of drug paraphernalia. The Crittenden County Grand Jury handed down an indictment against Peek last month in those accusations. In Lyon County, he's wanted for various alleged crimes, including fleeing or evading police, possession of methamphetamine, probation violation, tampering with physical evidence and wanton endangerment. Peek is described as a white male, 6-foot tall and weighing 210 pounds. Anyone with information about his whereabouts is asked to call 270-965-3500.

The female passenger on the motorcycle, Christina Robison, 30, of Marion was cited for possession of methamphetamine, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia. She refused treatment following the crash. A reward for information leading to his capture is being offered by Crittenden County TipLine.

Vehicle tax year reminder

Crittenden County Clerk reminds drivers that if you own a car on Jan. 1, you will owe 2024 property taxes on the vehicle, even if it has not yet been titled in your name. For instance, if you purchase a new automobile on Dec. 26, but don't title it until mid-January, you will be responsible for next year's taxes. Likewise, if you sell a car on Jan. 2, you will owe 2024 taxes on it. Residents should plan appropriately for registering a vehicle as the new year approaches. "Our office will be closed Dec. 29 to Jan. 10 due to a statewide shutdown and revamp of Kentucky's motor vehicle registration system," said Crittenden County Clerk Daryl Tabor.

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for breaking news.
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50 YEARS AGO

December 6, 1973
■ More than 4,000 people lined the streets of Marion to view the Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce's Christmas Parade. Bright sunshine combined with the pageantry of the floats and bands made the parade the most successful in the county's history. "It was without a doubt one of the most rewarding events the chamber could have sponsored," stated Chamber President Paul Mick.
■ The prospect of a new industry coming to Marion was the major item of discussion at the December 1973 Marion City Council meeting. Trail-Mite of California Inc., a manufacturer of small travel trailers indicated its interest in establishing a subsidiary company in Kentucky and that it would like to settle in Marion. The company was interested in using the old Potter and Brumfield factory building for its plant facilities. It estimated that Trail-Mite would employ 125 people and work two eight-hour shifts. An annual payroll of more than \$700,000 was projected.
■ Pumpkins on the rooftop? Carrie Childress had pumpkins on her roof due to the overgrowth of the vine from her front yard. She got three pumpkins from the vine with the largest weighing over 10 pounds.
■ Jeff Binkley and David Hamilton rehearsed their lines for the Crittenden County High School Drama Club's presentation of "The Importance of Being Earnest." There were two presentations of the comedy, both dinner theaters held in Marion, and the play was under the direction of CCHS drama teacher Eric Larue.



From the winter of 2000, Crayne Postmaster Roseanne Bebout takes a photo of tornado damage to the post office.
■ Six senior members of the local FFA chapter competed in the Regional FFA Welding Competition at Murray State University. The arc welding team composed of Evita Harris, Angie Curnel, Bradley Adams and Brain Kirk earned an excellent rating. Corey Payne competed in mig welding and was rated excellent while Justin Sutton was rated superior third on oxygen acetylene welding.
■ Ronnie Heady was sworn in as the Crittenden County Property Valuation Administrator Monday by County Clerk Danny Byford. Heady won the election over Ronnie Ordway, replacing long-time PVA Maurice Corley.

10 YEARS AGO

December 12, 2013
■ What ranks as the worst winter storm to hit the area since the ice storm of 2009 paled in comparison to that catastrophic event but caused its own share of problems just the same. As winter struck early, Reagan Hodge attempted to clear a car after a storm dumped over six inches of snow and ice onto Crittenden County.
■ Crittenden County Farm Bureau was recognized for outstanding membership and program achievement during the 94th Kentucky Farm Bureau annual meeting. Stephen Hill accepted the award from Kentucky Farm Bureau.
■ Cash Express and Marion Police Department helped support Community Christmas by filling the department's humvee with toys donated by individuals within the community. Individuals that contributed to the collection efforts included Nancy Hunt, Lorie Curtis, Phelicity Yesh, Jerry Parker and Ricca Guess.
■ Pam Champion, a clerk in the Crittenden County Property Valuation Administration office, earned the coveted Certified Kentucky Assessor endorsement. She was the only clerk in PVA Ronnie Heady's office to have earned the designation since retiree Pat Collins.

25 YEARS AGO

December 10, 1998
■ For 52 years, R.C. Hamilton peered out of the windows of his Main Street clothing store and watched parades march by. For decades Hamilton, grand marshal for the 1998 Christmas parade, had been a fixture at the corner of Main and Bellville streets. He spent that time as an employee and later owner of Hunt's Department Store. He was selected by the Chamber of Commerce to lead the parade down the streets of Marion for families, friends, neighbors and guests that chilly winter afternoon.
■ Sasha Sabates poured dirty water into a filtration system in Julia Poat and Judy Easley's classes at Crittenden County Elementary. The science project, part of a unit the two teachers taught on Growing and Changing, showed students how charcoal and gravel filter dirt to leave only clean water to travel through the bottle. Student Olivia Adams led the participation in the project for the class.

The Crittenden Press

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LIVINGSTON COUNTY, KY 118.1 - \$299,000 - This property has the right habitat for deer and turkey hunting, with the added bonus of a rustic one-room hunting cabin located in a qdm neighborhood and has plenty of deer sign throughout! **SOLD**

LIVINGSTON COUNTY, KY 91.99 - \$236,869 - Property has a diverse mix of habitat types and a good water system, numerous entry points along road frontage, hunter-friendly topography, a creek, and planted pines. **SOLD**

CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KY 55.78 - \$255,000 - This tract has the right blend of habitat types for deer, turkey, and grow and hold big bucks with the added bonus of a fully furnished pole barn cabin! Includes a Redneck hunting blind and feeders! **PENDING**

LIVINGSTON COUNTY, KY - 113.44 ACRES - \$269,422 - All timber hunting tract. This tract is located in an area known for big bucks and has timber diversity.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY, KY - 119.44 ACRES - \$235,906 - Mostly timber hunting tract geared toward turkeys and whitetails. This tract has a diverse topography with dynamic terrain features and timber diversity.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY, KY - 189.63 ACRES - \$501,265 - All timber hunting tract. This property is a timbered ridge top with food plots and a natural saddle.


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

CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KY - 201.98 ACRES - REDUCED! \$759,000 - This property has a diverse blend of habitat types and topography with a home, outbuildings and a proven history of big bucks. The home has 2,025 square feet of living space with three bedrooms and two bathrooms.

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

CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KY - 265.67 ACRES - \$742,500 - Diverse hunting tract with waterfowl potential! This tract has the ideal habitat types for deer, turkeys and waterfowl hunting! This river bottom farm has approximately 1.5 miles of frontage along the Tradewater River.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY, KY - 139.95 ACRES - \$318,386 - Great hunting tract with dynamic hunter friendly topography, mast producing timber, security cover, open areas for food plots and a good trail system.



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Find simplicity this season

It is the season of Advent for Christians. It is a time of hopeful and watchful waiting for the celebration of the arrival of the Messiah. It can also be a time of busyness and unnecessary stress. The further our focus shifts from thankfulness and gratitude the more likely we are to miss the beauty of this season.

For some there will be disappointment because the new car they got was not the one they wanted. For some there will be heartbreak because they cannot afford to give their children the coat that they need. There will be some who spend more than necessary, only to reap the difficulty for the first few months of the next year.

There are always those who are experiencing this time of year without a beloved family member as well as those who are welcomed for the first time. Often it is both at the same time. It is a season of light through darkness. It is a season of joy and sorrow. There are moments of noise and laugh-

ter. There are all-too-rare late-night conversations from the heart with family that we may not see often enough. Memories and dreams, giving and receiving, hopes and fears, all converge around a tree, a table, or a church service.

It is a good time to be reminded of the importance of simplicity and keeping the important things primary and the lesser important in the background. This is not a time to compare or compete with gifts. It is not good for the givers or the receivers. This is a time to be thoughtful and quiet. Give yourself permission to relax. Do not fear the expectations of others but do what can be done with joy.

It is a time to prepare yourself for God to act. There will be moments this holiday season that God will do surprising things. It is for us to be ready to see them and, when necessary, act. There will be opportunities for forgiveness and reconciliation. There will be opportunities to ex-

press gratitude. There will be chances to act graciously in difficult circumstances. Relationships can be complicated by our expectations and memories. Events in the world can make us anxious.

Jesus, in the Sermon on the Mount, reminds us that what we serve determines our attitudes and reactions. Notice that his teaching to not be anxious about our lives immediately follows a statement about what we serve.

“No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon. “Therefore I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you shall eat or what you shall drink, nor about your body, what you shall put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And which of you by being anxious can add one cubit to his span of life? And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they

neither toil nor spin; yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O men of little faith? Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the Gentiles seek all these things; and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well. “Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Let the day’s own trouble be sufficient for the day.” (Matthew 6:24-34)

It is hard for me to stop chasing what others expect of me. It is hard for me to not bow to the god of consumption. It is hard for me to stay focused on the simplicity of faith and service to God and his creation. Keeping it simple is not easy, but it brings peace.

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



Sean NIESTRATH
Faith-based columnist

Guest Columnist

Ask the Pastor

By Bob Hardison

God’s holiness sets him apart, yet He is near

Question: My pastor proclaimed in a sermon, “God is holy.” What does it mean that God is holy? How can we honor His holiness and, at the same time, experience His love?

Answer: Certainly, God is holy. The Bible clearly states that truth, “I am the LORD your God; consecrate yourselves and be holy, because I am holy” (Leviticus 11:44) and 1 Peter 16 reiterates it, “Be holy, because I am holy.”

God is holy meaning He is perfectly righteous. God of the Bible is unique from

all the other so-called gods of the world. He is set apart from His creation and worthiness of our worship. He is the one true God.

He is without sin and we are sinners. He is high above us. At the same time, God is “imminent.” He comes near to us and we can come near to Him. Moses, Aaron and Samuel “called on the LORD and he answered them” (Ps. 99:6). He loves us and we honor Him as our holy, just and righteous God.

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

Community Events & News

■ 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.

■ 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 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in Coleman Hall of the church.

■ The clothes closet at Mexico Baptist Church is open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each Monday.

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

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Marion Baptist Church

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Rodney Phelps, Pastor
(270) 704-2400
emmausbaptistsalem@outlook.com
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St. William Catholic Church

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

Mexico Baptist Church

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

DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

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
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Bro. Jamie Baker

Emmanuel Baptist Church

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

Tolu United Methodist Church

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: 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Sunday Night Service: 6 p.m.
Bro. Ken Suits, pastor
Barnett Chapel Rd., Marion, Ky.
Barnett Chapel... where everyone is welcome.

Freedom General Baptist Church

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

Marion Baptist Church

College & Depot streets, Marion • (270) 965-5232
Pastor: Bro. Aaron Brown • Children's & Youth Pastor: Bro. Shawn Holeman
SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES: 9 a.m. & 11 a.m., ONLINE 11 a.m., SUNDAY SCHOOL: 10:05 a.m.
WEDNESDAY: BIBLE STUDY/PRAYER 6 p.m., AWANA FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH GROUPS 6 p.m.
CHOIR PRACTICE: 6:45 p.m., PRAISE TEAM: 7:30 p.m.

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.
- 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 Worship 9 a.m.

FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

growing in grace

2 Peter 3:18
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.
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Sun. Evening 6 p.m. • Wed. Evening 6 p.m.
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PINEY FORK

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Sugar Grove

Cumberland Presbyterian
585 Sugar Grove Church Rd., Marion, Ky. (270) 704-2455
Pastor Jesse Thornton (618) 200-0884
Sun. School: 10 a.m. | Sun. Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m.

Marion United Methodist Church

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

Frances Community Church

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

Hurricane Church

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

Unity General Baptist Church

4691 Mott City Rd. • Marion, Ky.
Bro. David Perrymann, Pastor
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

Marion Church of Christ

546 West Elm Street • (270) 965-9450
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
- The end of your search for a friendly church -

Pearl Harbor claims life of Marion man

We remember and honor that day, December 7, 1941, 82 years ago, a date which will live in infamy. President Franklin D. Roosevelt declared this in an address to Congress and the nation the day following the unprovoked attack on U.S. military installations at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

As you know if you read my articles, I gather most all our local historical information from the archives of The Crittenden Press. During this much important time in our history there were very few issues of The Press available for microfilm, thus there are several years that most of this local personal history has been lost. It so happens with the years 1941-1942.

Headline on December 12, 1941

Only one short article was available on the bombing of Pearl Harbor, and it appeared in the Friday, Dec. 12, 1941 edition of The Crittenden Press. Its headline read: Germany and Italy Declare War Against U. S. Thursday Morning - Japan Launches Surprise Attack In Pacific Sunday Morning. Long War Seen - Japs Claim Aircraft Carrier Lexington Sunk Off Hawaii - 100 Jap Planes Downed in Manila Battle - Air Raid Alarms In Los Angeles, San Francisco and New York - Central American Countries Join U. S. In War With Nippon.

Washington, Dec. 11 - Congress passed legislation yesterday authorizing expeditionary forces to any part or portion of the world. The measure followed shortly after declaration of war against Germany and Italy. Germany and Italy declared a state of war to exist against the U. S. early Thursday morning and in retaliation Pres. Roosevelt's message was before the Congress before noon yesterday.

Japan staged a surprise attack on American territory in the Pacific Sunday, attacking Pearl Harbor, Hawaii and Manila. Great Britain and Canada declared a state of war existing against Japanese Empire before U. S., which was declared shortly after President Roosevelt addressed the Congress in joint session



Crittenden County's first casualty in World War II was stationed at the Naval Base at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Monday morning. Dutch East Indies, South Africa, China and Central American republics also declared war on the Nipponese during the Monday and Tuesday legislative session.

The Japanese attack is believed result of German's loss of 2,500,000 men and vast amounts of war material, guns and planes in Russia. Hitler's strategy was that of distracting attention of U. S. from aid to Great Britain and Russia.

Japanese reports that U. S. aircraft carrier Lexington has been destroyed off the coast of Hawaii while another report of the same origination placed the site as off coast of Malaya, both reports are said to have come through German sources. The Lexington carried 2,100 men and officers and had lane capacity of 81.

In Manila battle, 100 Japanese warplanes were reported destroyed and invasions of Luzon repulsed with exception of northern coast. The Nipponese are attacking U. S. ships about 100 miles off the coast of Honolulu with fierce battle reported raging at late hour yesterday.

Japanese forces occupy Thailand and are concentrating there for an attack against the British naval base of Singapore. Many raids on the Singapore base have been repulsed during the past three days but Britain reports loss of the battleship Prince of Wales and destroyer Re-



Nearly six years after his death at Pearl Harbor, Seaman Thomas W. Collins' remains were returned home and was given a military funeral at his family home on Chapel Hill Road. Pall bearers were Ray Hopkins, Herschel Love, Randell Walker, Charles Condit, Thomas Nunn and G. C. Fuller. American Legion Auxiliary flower girls were Mrs. Thomas Tucker, Mrs. Carson Davidson, Mrs. Calvert Small and Miss Dorothy Franklin.

pulse. British gunboats launched on a counter attack against Japan on Malaya peninsula and Dutch ships are reported northward bound to join the British.

In the Dec.26, 1941 edition these two short items were found.

Wilbur K. Hunt Is Reported Safe . Wilbur K. Hunt, son of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Hunt, and member of the U. S. Air Corps, Honolulu, Terr. of Hawaii, is reported safe. Mrs. W. S. Lowry, aunt, reports receipt of messages Dec. 14 and Dec. 21.

Ernest James Reported Safe In Pacific. Ernest James, U. S. Navy, is reported safe in the Pacific area. A cablegram announcing the fact was received by relatives last Friday. Locations, names of ships that members of the Navy are assigned or attached, is withheld under censorship of the Navy, as likewise is similar information by the U. S. Army.

Doubtless the death of Marion's Thomas W. Collins would have been written about in The Press, and we could have learned more and grieved

for the family those many years ago.

Of all places, we learned a little about his death that December day in the Chicago Tribune, dated July 1, 1942.

It tells of a visiting reporter from the paper getting views of the smaller towns during the war and how it affected their thoughts. She visited Marion to talk to Thomas' parents, Tom and Sarah Collins.

Tom Collins' youngest son, Thomas, 20, was the first war casualty of Marion. Young Thomas was a member of the crew, a fireman on the U.S.S. Downes, which went down at Pearl Harbor. Thomas had done two years in the CCC then he joined the Navy. He was a fireman, third class, on ship number 375.

Next information Oct. 17, 1947

Remains of First World War II Dead Arrives In States. In a telegram received from the War Department last week, Mrs. Sarah Collins was notified that the remains of her son, Thomas W. Collins, had arrived in the United States, and further information would be sent soon giving more

details as to arrival date in Crittenden County.

Collins was the first Crittenden County serviceman to lose his life in World War II, having been among the casualties suffered by United States forces at the treacherous and disastrous Japanese attack upon the Pearl Harbor Naval Base in the Hawaiian Islands on Dec. 7, 1941.

November 7, 1947 - Thomas W. Collins Given Military Funeral

In a solemn and impressive ceremony, the remains of Thomas W. Collins, the first Crittenden County serviceman to lose his life while in service during the last great war, were laid to rest in the cemetery at the Rock Springs Church in Webster County, on Sunday, Nov. 2, at 2 p.m.

Collins was born Aug. 8, 1921, and enlisted at Louisville in the United States Navy on Nov. 8, 1939 as Apprentice Seaman. He was sent to the Great Lakes Naval Training Station for seamanship instruction and later transferred to the USS Downs. He was

stationed at the U. S. Naval Base at Pearl Harbor in the Hawaiian Islands, and was listed as Fireman 3rd class, while attached to the Downs. He was killed on Dec. 7, 1941 in the Japanese attack on the Hawaiian base.

Collins is survived by his mother, Mrs. Sarah J. Collins; two brothers, Marvin and Eugene; and a sister, Esther.

The body of Collins arrived in the United States a few weeks ago, and was received in Marion last Friday afternoon, accompanied by Chief Petty Officer William C. Herndon. The body was taken to the home of his brother, Eugene, until Sunday afternoon when the funeral cortege left for the cemetery near Wheatcroft. (The Eugene Collins family lived on Chapel Hill Road)

The funeral cortege was escorted from Marion by the City of Marion police car. A large crowd attended the funeral rites at the church, with a large delegation present from Crittenden County. Military rites were conducted at the funeral with Lt. Col. Calvert Small of Marion in charge. At the graveside, the final salute to the dead was given by a squad of men of Ellis B. Ordway Post 111 of the American Legion.

After nearly six years, young Thomas's remains were at last back home in the United States and laid to rest in his home soil which he gave his life for. May we never forget.

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

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Dr. Cara Hammonds
Rheumatologist

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Thank you to my loyal patients and staff.

I will continue to practice at Marshall County Hospital in Benton, KY.

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public notice

Public Notice: Crittenden County Local Emergency Planning Committee (CCLEPC), pursuant to Section 324, Title III (3) of the 1986 Federal Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA) of 1986, 42 U.S.C. 11001 ET,SEQ., the following information is provided in compliance with the Community Right to Know requirements of the SARA

Law and the Open Meetings and Open Records Provisions of KRS 61.800, 61.805, 61.810, 61.823, 61.826, 61.835. Members of the public may contact the Crittenden County Local Emergency Planning Committee (CCLEPC) by writing Mr. Jason Hurley, Chairman of the Crittenden County Local Emergency Planning Committee (CCLEPC) at, 200 Industrial Dr., Ste. A, Marion, KY 42064 or contact by phone at (270) 965-5251. The Crittenden County Local Emergency Planning Committee (CCLEPC) conducts meetings at 200 Industrial Dr., Marion, KY or at other locations as advertised, in accordance with the KY Open Meetings Law. Members of the public may request to be notified of regular or special meetings as provided in KRS 61.820. Records of the planning committee, including the county emergency response plan, safety data sheets, and inventory forms, or any follow-up emergency meeting notice may subsequently be issued, are open for inspection, and members of the public who wish to review these records may do so 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., CST, M-F, at 200 Industrial Dr., Ste. A, Marion, KY 42064 as required by the KY Open Records Law. The local 24-hour telephone number for purposes of emergency notification, as required by SARA Law, is (270) 965-3500. (1t-49-c)

legal notices

I, Melissa Guill, Clerk of Crittenden County District Court f, KY do certify that the following has filed notice of Final Settlement: Michael Stephen Conger, administrator of Lillie Ann Conger, deceased, whose address was 249 North Maple St., Marion, KY 42064. The foregoing settlement is to be heard at the regular session of Crittenden District Court on January 3, 2024. All persons having exceptions to said settlements are to file same at once. Melissa Guill, Clerk Crittenden District Court (1t-49-c)

bid notice

INVITATION FOR SEALED BID FOR REAL ESTATE LOCATED AT 400 EAST DEPOT STREET The City of Marion, Kentucky, a City of the Home Rule Class, has declared as surplus property the real estate located at 400 East Depot Street consisting of .71 acres and identified as PVA Parcel Map 058-20-44-005.00 and being the same property conveyed by Stephen M. Arnett, Special Master Commissioner, by Deed dated August 17, 2016 and of record in Deed Book 231, at Page 663; Also see Deed from Mary F. Plunkett, a widow, dated June 4, 2013 and recorded in Deed Book 222, at Page 633. All references to the Crittenden County Court Clerk's Office.Sealed bids will be accepted in person at City Hall or by US Mail, postage prepaid, at 217 South Main Street, Marion, Kentucky 42064. Sealed Bids must be received at City Hall no later than noon Central Standard Time December 19, 2023. The bid opening shall occur in public at 12:05 P.M. Central Standard Time same date. Bidders or an authorized representative must be present at the bid opening. In the event the bidding is successful, the prevailing bidder must be prepared to deposit no less than 20% of the bid to the City on December 19, 2023 and to close and present balance of funds in full to the City by January 19, 2024. The prevailing bidder is responsible for all closing costs, including deed preparation, transfer tax, and recording fees and should have a title examination performed at their own expense prior to closing. The City of Marion reserves the right to reject any and all bids. (1t-49-c)

BID FOR HVAC: The Livingston County Cooperative Extension Office in Smithland, KY is accepting bids to replace the current

HVAC system. Bids will be accepted until January 31, 2024. Job can be seen/assessed on-sight at the Livingston County Cooperative Extension Office located at 803 U.S. 60 East, Smithland, KY 42081 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Job must be started within 15-30 days of the time the bid is accepted and agreed upon by both parties. Detailed, itemized bids should be delivered in-person or by mail (Livingston County Extension District Board, P.O. Box 189, Smithland, KY 42081) no later than January 31, 2024 by 4:30 p.m. For questions, please call 270-928-2168 or email Joni Phelps at jkbarr3@uky.edu. The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is an Equal Opportunity Organization with respect to education and employment and authorization to provide research, education information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to economic or social status and will not discriminate on the bases of race, color, ethnic origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and other related matter should be directed to Equal Opportunity Office, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, University of Kentucky, Room S-105, Agriculture Science Building, North Lexington, Kentucky 40546. (4t-50-c)

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WATER

Continued from page 1 in the long-term solution for Marion.

The six-member CLWD board of directors has during recent meetings discussed a need for expansion. State dollars have already been pledged to replace a filter at the water district's plant in Pinckneyville on the Cumberland River in Livingston County. A request for \$1.7 million from Congress has been presented by Rep. James Comer as part of HR 4821 Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act and another \$2 million has been applied for through a Kentucky Community Development Block Grant. Marion's water crisis consultant has been active in helping CLWD position itself for those last two pending sources of funding.

To fully meet its own future needs and take Marion on as a wholesale customer, CLWD would need additional financial backing in the form of grants or loans in excess of \$35 million. Preliminary work has been done to determine what that expansion would look like, but the wheels of progress are moving slowly.

A few months ago, Marion and CLWD entered into an agreement that allows Marion to buy a limited amount of water, which it has done periodically since the water crisis began almost a year and a half ago. Marion has not drawn any water from CLWD since July 22. Adequate rainfall has allowed Marion to produce enough water to fulfill its daily demand by drawing raw water from Old City Lake and a half-full Lake George.

Almost a year ago, Marion made a formal commitment supporting growth at CLWD that would double the size of its plant from 2 million gallons per day to 4 million. Marion and every other area community (e.g. Salem, Ledbetter, Grand Rivers and Smithland) that buys wholesale water from CLWD passed joint resolutions supporting a broad plan for renovation and expansion at CLWD. The resolution pledged involvement in helping CLWD seek financial support from state and federal sources.

The mayor said that city leaders this month

may take even further action to officially pledge its commitment to becoming a long-term, high-volume CLWD wholesale customer, which would assure the district an additional revenue stream to bank on when it seeks additional financing for expansion.

Without some sort of a long-term relationship with CLWD, Marion's options are likely much more complicated. The city would almost certainly need to sign on with another reliable regional provider. A few of those options were already explored to some degree during the emergency response phase. New infrastructure would be necessary in every scenario. Marion could also opt to upgrade its plant and make permanent repairs to Lake George. Yet, that idea has never gained much traction. It would be incredibly costly and financial assistance would likely be scarce. Based on rough estimates from state and local leaders, the city's water treatment plant on Chapel Hill Road would need around \$7 to \$10 million in upgrades.

State agencies have indicated to local leaders that repairing the plant and reservoir as a long-term solution is not a favorable path. There are several reasons that idea faces opposition (e.g.) its raw water sources are drought-susceptible, pouring millions of dollars into a plant that serves one small city is generally not looked upon as a prudent use of state and federal dollars and recruiting and retaining certified plant operators is difficult and projected to become even tougher and more expensive.

"We will not supply our own water as we have in past because of the costs to upgrade the plant and because of PFAS issues. We just can't do it. We won't do it," Mayor Browning said.

PFAS is an acronym for a family of laboratory-made chemicals known as perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances. Some of these chemicals have been in commercial use since the 1940s, and in recent years they have begun showing up in drinking water in concerning levels. Unsafe amounts in water may result in health effects including developmental affects to



This undated photograph from the Save Lake George Facebook Page was taken looking northward at the lake from a point where lakeshore homes are located.

fetuses during pregnancy, cancer, liver effects, immune effects and thyroid effects. Efforts to curb consumption of those chemicals will include regulatory changes that will demand expensive filtration processes at water manufacturing facilities large and small. Tackling that issue alone would be highly challenging for Marion, even without its current raw water problems.

That is bad news for those who want to see Lake George restored to its former glory.

Going forward, Marion has all but chiseled in stone its determination to buy water from a regional provider, and CLWD appears to be its chosen partner. That will leave Lake George vulnerable to all sorts of regulatory and structural viability challenges beyond its duty as a raw water source. The stabilization project that's getting ready to take place is only a temporary patch. Lifespan of the emergency mitigation work will be four to five years. After that, the dam would need further improvements in order to remain viable from a regulatory standpoint, whether it is used as a source of raw water for the city or simply a recreational body of water. Estimates for a long-term fix are around \$5 million. That figure, however is far from conclusive.

Mayor Browning says she would like to engage other possible investors to help shore up the lake for its long-term recreational and aesthetic value. She suggested that Marion Tourism and Recreation Commission, Crittenden County Fiscal Court and/or other agencies might be potential partners.

It appears unlikely that there would be an appetite for direct, significant financial assistance from county or state gov-

ernment, particularly if longterm renovation of the lake is solely for its recreational value.

The mayor says she is currently exploring a \$1 million USDA Rural Development Grant. Prerequisite environmental and cultural studies necessary to secure the grant would cost the city around \$40,000. She has ordered the work to move forward. If secured, that grant could help offset the cost to rebuild Lake George, even if only for its recreational value.

The tourism commission receives annual tax revenue in the neighborhood of \$290,000 from a three-percent prepared meal and lodging tax. It has numerous financial obligations already, and it remains unclear how much financial support the tourism directors would be willing to commit unless the lake doubled as a raw water source. Those same directors, however, serve at the pleasure of the mayor and city council.

No matter how it's sliced, the financial obligation would almost certainly fall on city taxpayers in some shape or form to restore Lake George back to normal pool for the long haul. Grants or any other so-called "free money" are not likely.

Amortization of a \$4 million low-interest, government loan at current rates would cost Marion about \$7.4 million over a



This is a photo taken from about the same point as the one on the left. This was taken after the levee was purposely breached, draining more than half of the lake.

30-year term. Annual payments would be almost \$250,000. There has been no discussion by the Marion City Council about the source for such funding.

The city could consider selling the reservoir and surrounding property to a private investor, which might find lake-building regulations less onerous than a municipality. Permits would still be required, but with perhaps less red tape and cost if privately developed.

Chapter 151 of the Kentucky Revised Statutes and related regulations require approval by the Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Cabinet prior to the construction or reconstruction any dam. A dam, according to one definition provided on the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources' website, is an impounding structure that is at least 25 feet in height, measured from the downstream toe to the crest, or has a maximum impounding capacity of 50 acre-feet of water at the top of the structure.

It is unclear if other hurdles and/or regulatory issues would impede an idea of private redevelopment of the lake. Reclamation of the current basin and levee would certainly have to be addressed.

While challenges remain, Marion appears to have a solid plan for its

short-term water needs – so long as there is not another serious drought. It has also chosen a path forward for the generational future of the town's drinking water. It wants to buy potable water instead of making it, preferably from CLWD.

In addition to securing the source of its water, Marion also has great need for millions of dollars in distribution system repairs. Those are absolutely necessary to solve costly leaks that are partly the result of poor maintenance and replacement schedules over the past.

None of Marion's problems are insurmountable, but every solution requires mountainous sums of money.

Cost of the initial stabilization work will be covered by the state. The first signs of that project will be construction of a temporary creek crossing near the water plant for trucks that will be hauling material to Lake George.

Beyond the upcoming emergency work at Lake George, the cost – however large or small – of fixing these problems in the longterm, will be borne by local residents, who are already railing about expensive water and sewer bills.

Depending on the path chosen, some federal and state assistance is possible to curb the financial blow to local residents.



Office Staff: Krystal Weatherly, Daelynn Hardin, APRN Kristen Bannister, APRN Beverly Jones, Barb Arflack

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Bannister holds bachelor's and master's degrees in Nursing-Family Practice Nurse Practitioner from Northern Kentucky University. She is a graduate of Lyon County High School and has been practicing medicine since 2017.

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BASKETBALL

CCMS post-season

Crittenden County Middle School will host the 7th Grade District Basketball boys' and girls' tournaments Saturday at Rocket Arena. On Saturday, Dec. 16, the 8th Grade District Tournament will be held at Caldwell County.

7th Grade Boys Thursday
Crittenden at Livingston County
7th Boys Saturday at Rocket Arena
Crittenden/Livingston vs Trigg, 10am
Lyon County vs Caldwell Co., noon

Fifth District Standings

Here are the Fifth District standings after all league games have been played for this season.

GIRLS			
Team	Dist	Overall	
Lyon County	1-0	3-1	
Livingston Central	1-1	1-2	
Crittenden County	0-1	2-1	
Trigg County	0-0	2-1	

BOYS			
Team	Dist	Overall	
Lyon County	1-0	2-0	
Crittenden County	0-1	0-3	
Trigg County	0-0	0-3	
Livingston Central	1-1	2-1	

Round the 5th District

TUESDAY'S RESULTS	
Girls	
Lyon County 44, Livingston Central 28	
Trigg County 60, Ft. Campbell 16	
Boys	
Lyon Co. 109, Livingston Central 58	
Caldwell County 62, Trigg County 51	

UPCOMING GAMES	
Girls	
Friday: Trigg Co. at Crittenden Co.	
Tuesday: Trigg Co. at Lyon County	
Boys	
Friday: Trigg Co. at Crittenden Co.	
Tuesday: Trigg Co. at Lyon County	

CCHS 1,000-Points Club

Here is a list of Crittenden County basketball players who have scored 1,000 or more points during their careers.

ROCKETS		
1,822	Tim Hill	2000-2005
1,596	Bennett Smith	1968-1972
1,545	Gabe Mott	2016-2021
1,413	Travis Champion	2022-Present
1,326	Don Brasher	1950-1953
1,279	Preston Morgeson	2018-2023
1,205	Greg Thurman	1983-1987
1,191	Aaron Owen	2009-2014
1,175	Preston Turley	2016-2021
1,090	Casey Oliver	2007-2011
1,063	Lige Shadowen	1955-1958
1,030	Tom Wring	1953-1956
1,024	Spencer Cozart	1975-1979

LADY ROCKETS		
2,643	Taylor Guess	2017-2023
1,825	Cassidy Moss	2013-2017
1,628	Jeanne Hinchee	1973-1978
1,534	Shannon Collins	1979-1985
1,448	Jessi Hodge	2006-2011
1,333	Morgan Doods	2000-2004
1,291	Chelsea Oliver	2011-2015
1,123	Vanessa Gray	1981-1984
1,065	Jessie Mathieu	2001-2006
1,017	Madison Champion	2014-2018

OUTDOORS

Hunting Seasons

Here are some of the most common hunting opportunities currently in season or coming up:

Deer archery	Sept 2 - Jan 15
Turkey archery	Sept 2 - Jan 15
Deer crossbow	Sept 16 - Jan 15
Racoon hunting	Oct 1 - Feb 29
Turkey crossbow	Nov 11 - Dec 31
Squirrel	Nov 13 - Feb 29
Quail	Nov 13 - Feb 29
Rabbit	Nov 13 - Feb 10
Racoon trapping	Nov 13 - Feb 29
Gray or red fox	Nov 13 - Feb 29
Beaver	Nov 13 - Feb 29
Bobcat	Nov 18 - Feb 29
Dove	Nov 23 - Dec 3
Canada goose	Nov 23 - Feb 15
Turkey shotgun	Dec 2-8
Deer late muzzleloader	Dec 9-17
Dove	Dec 23 - Jan 14
Deer free youth hunt	Dec 30-31
Coyote	Year Round
Ground hog	Year Round

FOOTBALL

State finals results

State Championship Results

Friday at Kroger Field, Lexington

1A Pikeville 21, Paintsville 0

2A Mayfield 53, Owensboro Catholic 48

4A Boyle County 41, Covington Catholic 0

Saturday at Kroger Field, Lexington

Christian Academy Louisville 41 Bell Co. 16

Bowling Green 28, Cooper 14

Louisville Trinity 41, Bryan Station 20

Crittenden swept in DH at Livingston

STAFF REPORT

Not since January of 2018 had Crittenden County been swept at Smithland, but on Friday the Lady Rockets and Rockets were both taken to the mat in a Fifth District doubleheader at Livingston Central.

The Rocket girls took Livingston to overtime before bowing 52-49 as the Lady Cardinals snapped a 17-game losing streak against CCHS.

Livingston missed 9 of its 12 foul shots in the overtime, but still managed to hang on to win as the Lady Rocket offense sputtered down the stretch and turned the ball over far too many times.

"We had a chance to win the game in regulation," Crittenden coach Shannon Hodge said. "Our offense was just stagnant and we were very insecure with the ball."

Anna Boone, who fouled out in overtime, led the Lady Rockets with 18 points and eighth-grader Jordyn Hodge came off the bench to score a dozen. Otherwise, there wasn't too much cooking on that end of the floor. Meanwhile, Livingston junior Victoria Joiner scored a game-high 20.

CCHS led by five at the half and by four early in the fourth period.

Crittenden lost for the first time in the young season. The



Crittenden County senior Travis Champion was injured on this play in the third quarter at Livingston Central on Friday.

girls were 1-1 overall and 0-1 in the league after the loss at Livingston, which improved to 1-1 on the season. Crittenden will host Trigg County Friday in another district matchup.

The boys also jumped out to a lead then stumbled in the second half at Livingston. Their unraveling actually began late in the second period when Livingston took the

lead for good just before the break and held a one-point advantage at halftime.

Tough around the basket, Livingston scored 27 points at the free throw line in a game that saw 50 fouls. LCHS went to the stripe 41 times while Crittenden got 24 chances there.

Crittenden, which had not lost to Livingston Central in nine straight games dating

back to 2019, got in a real bind in the third period when senior Travis Champion was injured driving with the ball down the lane in front court. He left with 16 points and never returned.

Sophomore Bryson Walker led CCHS with 27 points and Logan Wring paced the Cardinals with 30 as Livingston improved to 2-0 on the season.

The Rocket boys will also play Trigg County on Friday at Rocket Arena.

GIRLS SUMMARY	
Crittenden Co.	16 30 42 47 49
Livingston Central	19 25 42 47 52
CRITTENDEN – Boone 18, Evans 4, Holeman 3, Federico 6, Rushing 4, Stewart 2, Hodge 12. FG 17. 3-pointers 2 (Holeman, Hodge). FT 13-21	
LIVINGSTON – A.Leahy 11, B.Collins, Jennings 4, Joiner 20, Downey 7, T.Leahy, Ramage 10. FG 20. 3-pointers 2 (Joiner, Downey). FT 10-26.	

BOYS SUMMARY	
Crittenden Co.	19 36 44 63
Livingston Central	15 37 57 80
CRITTENDEN – Champion 16, Belcher, Walker 27, Hatfield 3, Sharp 4, Keller, Reddick 11, Jones, Travis 2, Poindexter, Candelario. FG 21. 3-pointers 6 (Walker 4, Champion, Hatfield). FT 15-24.	
LIVINGSTON – Thomason 16, Hargrove 2, Davidson 6, Hosick 10, Wring 29, Zaim 10, Meyers 7, Taraskiewicz. FG 25. 3-pointers 3 (Davidson 2, Meyers). FT 27-41.	



This Week's Results

Lady Rockets knock off Tigers, Trojans get boys

STAFF REPORT

Four Lady Rockets broke into double figures to give coach Shannon Hodge a glimpse of what a well-rounded offense could look like as Crittenden County beat Caldwell County 58-51 at Princeton's Butler Building Tuesday.

The game was very close with Caldwell leading much of the first half by two to four points until the Lady Tigers took a one-point edge into the break.

Crittenden's shooting improved in the second half and the Lady Rockets dashed ahead by 10 points with four minutes left in the game. From there, Caldwell never got closer than seven points.

Sophomore Elliot Evans led Crittenden scoring with 17 points and classmate Anna Boone got 16. Sophomore center Bristyn Rushing had 10 before fouling out in the fourth period and eighth-grader Jordyn Hodge came off the bench with another 10 points.

After a leg injury Friday against Livingston, Rocket senior Travis Champion was cleared just hours before Crittenden's boys played at Webster County Tuesday.

He didn't start, but came off the bench to score three points in the first half before leaving the game with further issues, and not returning in a 72-40 loss.

GIRLS SUMMARY				
Crittenden County	13	26	41	58
Caldwell County	12	27	39	51
CRITTENDEN- Boone 16, Evans 17, Holeman, Federico 3, Rushing 10, Stewart 2, Hodge 10, Munday. FT 17. 3-pointers 1 (Hodge). FT 25-31.				
CALDWELL - Clark 6, M.Thomas 7, Butts 4, Sykes 6, Thompson 17, Copeland, Aiken 3, Williams 8. FG 18. 3-pointers 1 (Thomas). FT 14-18.				
BOYS SUMMARY				
Crittenden County	10	20	29	40
Webster County	17	39	58	72
CRITTENDEN – Champion 3, Belcher, Walker 8, Hatfield, Sharp 12, Keller 10, Reddick 7, Poindexter. FG 15. FT 6-12.				
WEBSTER – McDyer 5, Starks-Scott 10, Austin 20, Hardison 2, Michalek 13, Davis 3, Garrard 9, Phelps, Cardwell, Oreutt 7, Whitsell 3, Alstadt, Wright, Harkey. FG 25. 3-pointers 9. FT 13-20.				



Crittenden County sophomore Anna Boone (far left) is leading the team in scoring early this season as expected. Center Bristyn Rushing and Livingston Central's Taylor Leahy collide during a scramble for the ball during last week's CCHS loss at Smithland.

GOOD LUCK ROCKETS!

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MEMBER FDIC

Night delivery of packages common during holidays

BY ALLISON EVANS
THE CRITTENDEN PRESS

Late-night mail deliveries in rural Crittenden County are becoming commonplace, the result of an overwhelmed U.S. Postal Service bogged down by Amazon package deliveries.

Local residents say their mail is arriving as late as 10:30 or 11 p.m., as some mail carriers work more than 12 hours a day, making up to three trips during their normal route back to the Marion Post Office to refill delivery vehicles that are unable of holding all of the day's deliveries at one time. By late afternoon, carriers are rushing to get rural customers' outgoing mail back to the Marion Post Office so it can be sent to processing facilities as quickly as possible.

Marion Post Office began delivering Amazon packages earlier this year and volume has picked up due to customer convenience of Prime shipping. However, the increase in seasonal packages and late hours is creating disgruntled customers, confused outdoor pets and exhausted



carriers, say those involved in the process. The problem isn't unique to Crittenden County. Rural post offices across the country are singing a similar tune. Carriers in Minnesota protested "unsustainable conditions," last week due to the inundation of Amazon packages. Marion Postmaster Adam Graham provided head lamps to his carriers, who are working a good portion of their routes in the dark. "We would rather our carriers to be delivering packages to residents' front doors in the dark than be on the side of the road servicing a mailbox with the possibility of being rear ended. All I ask of my carriers is to be safe every day because I need them going home to their families," the postmaster said.

Daily, Amazon sorting

centers drop packages at Marion Post Office, where they are sorted and prepared for carriers. It is not uncommon for Crittenden County carriers to have upwards of 200 packages during the holiday season. Extra packages cause routes to be longer due to carriers needing to drive into residents' driveways to safely deliver packages. "I urge everyone to please be patient with your mail carriers as they are under a lot of pressure to ensure you get proper on time delivery every day," Graham added.

Simple things like making sure porches and sidewalks have a clear walkway help carriers coming to doors. Also, be sure that mailboxes are clear of impediments.

In addition to dispersing packages through the USPS, Amazon's Hub Delivery service is hiring local private contractors to help get packages delivered during the holiday season. So, don't be surprised if a mail carrier shows up after dark, or a contractor you may not recognize is delivering your Christmas package.



All Smiles on Santa's Knee

Four-month-old Avery Jo James was dressed for the occasion and found Santa to be a jolly old elf worth smiling about, particularly after mom asked for one. Avery Jo's parents are Amy and Ryan James of Marion.

How to Help Community Christmas Teens lead holiday effort's needs

STAFF REPORT

Gifts for teens are among the greatest needs for this year's Community Christmas event. Four dozen teens are included in the annual charitable holiday project to distribute food and gifts throughout the community.

Ideal gifts for teens include bath and shower products, ear buds and age-appropriate gift sets. To date, just over \$7,000 has been raised for Community Christmas. The goal is \$10,000, which will supply gift and food vouchers to 56 families and five senior adults who ap-

plied for assistance in 2023. All 97 children ages 12-under have been sponsored. Crystal Wesmoland, Crittenden County Schools' family resource center coordinator, said anyone who would like to make a financial contribution can do so at any Farmers Bank location, where it will be deposited into the Community Christmas account. All gifts should be dropped off at Marion Baptist Church between 9 a.m., and 1 p.m., Thursday, Dec. 14. Families will pick up Community Christmas gifts

between 9 a.m., and noon, Friday, Dec. 15. Stuff the Bus continues at Crittenden County Middle School through Dec. 13. Between 9 a.m., and 1 p.m., Wednesday, Dec. 13, citizens can drop off gifts for teenagers at Crittenden County Middle School to be distributed through the Community Christmas program. Some items to be collected are lotions, perfumes, phone chargers, hats, toboggans, books, journals, jewelry, athletic socks, make-up and nail polish among other things teenagers enjoy.



A demolition contractor last week completed efforts to cut up and remove sections of the steel truss of the old Smithland Bridge from the Cumberland River. The truss of the 92-year-old structure was dropped into the river by explosive demolition last Thursday. The river is now clear and normal traffic has returned on it and the new Smithland Bridge. Two additional blasts are planned to take down remnants of the old bridge, including the concrete piers and concrete abutments. Weather permitting, the next blast would be around Dec. 15. The old U.S. 60 Cumberland River Bridge, also known as the Lucy Jefferson Lewis Memorial Bridge and the Smithland Bridge, was originally opened to traffic in 1931. It was named in honor of former U.S. President Thomas Jefferson's sister, who had settled nearby in Livingston County close to what is now Birdsville.

TEACHER

Continued from page 1

fostering a love for learning and creating an environment that encourages students to excel. "She is an inspiration to other students," one nominee wrote, and "is very dedicated to her students."

Rodriguez strives to offer the same artistic release to her students that she benefited from as a teen and young adult. The need to be near her ill mother, retired Crittenden County teacher Kay Kirby, brought her home

shortly after college. Her father, Brian, is the maintenance director in the school district. "I'm enjoying what I'm doing. I like being home," explained Rodriguez, who spent seven years as a paramedic before taking a step back after the COVID-19 pandemic and pursuing a teaching degree from Murray State University. "My daughter is growing up here, and we want to stay in the area."

Rodriguez is thankful to be "in the art environment with amazing kids," who she will reward with "Pay It Forward" McDonald's coupons to honor

her students' work in the classroom. She was also presented a \$100 Visa gift card for her selection. Rodriguez's artistic abilities are recognizable inside Crittenden County School's cafeteria and on the Veterans Wall of Honor in Rocket Arena. She also recently developed a more public display of art, an American flag mural on a Marion Main Street building. "I am very grateful to come here every day to do this, to connect with kids, and it is nice that people recognize that."

Rodriguez is in her third year at Crittenden County High School.

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