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The Crittenden Press

The All A Classic

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AN INDEPENDENTLY-OWNED, LOCAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1879

ONE DOLLAR

TWO COVID-RELATED BILLS
WOULD MARK BIG CHANGE

A couple of bills introduced in the Kentucky General Assembly last week would create some big changes. One would ban the governor's statewide mask mandate. The other would give high school students a do-over year.

State Sen. Adrienne Southworth, R-Lawrenceburg, introduced Senate Bill 158 to outlaw face covering requirements in most instances. Gov. Andy Beshear renewed on Jan. 30 his mask mandate for 30 more days. It was first implemented in July. Southworth said "statewide" is the keyword in the bill's language and she believes different parts of the commonwealth need different responses to the pandemic.

A central Kentucky lawmaker believes high school students need a chance to have a do-over for this school year because of the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Sen. Max Wise, R-Campbellsville, says he is sponsoring this measure, after hearing from numerous parents about the impacts COVID-19 has had on their children. He concedes that high school athletes would also benefit from the proposal, but declares that the overall well-being of students is the primary impetus for the bill. The proposal applies only to high schoolers.

CRITTENDEN HAS HIGHEST
DEATH RATE FROM COVID

Here are populations, COVID-related deaths and deaths as a percentage of the population for Crittenden, the other four counties in the Pennyrile Health District and other neighboring counties:

County	Population	Deaths	Percentage
Crittenden	8,806	20	0.23%
Livingston	9,235	17	0.18%
Caldwell	12,702	23	0.18%
Lyon	8,271	13	0.16%
Webster	13,068	17	0.13%
Union	14,638	11	0.08%
Trigg	14,449	8	0.06%

ON THE CALENDAR

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Marion Tourism, Recreation and Convention Commission will meet at 6 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 11 at the Welcome Center.
- Marion Code Board will meet at 5 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 11 at city hall.
- Marion Planning and Zoning Commission will meet at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 11 at city hall.
- Friends of the Crittenden County Public Library will meet at 6 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 18. The meeting will be held in person at the library and also accessible by Zoom. Call the library for a link. Fundraising opportunities for spring will be discussed.
- Crittenden County High School Site-Based, Decision-Making Council meets at 3:45 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 16 in the school library.
- Crittenden County Middle School Site-Based, Decision-Making Council meets at 3:30 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 17 in the principal's office.
- Crittenden County Elementary School Site-Based, Decision-Making Council will meet at 4 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 23 in the school library.



Asst. Police Chief
Bobby West

Remarkable
story marks
one year back

COVID? Maybe, but mystery persists

BY CHRIS EVANS
THE CRITTENDEN PRESS

Telling a remarkable and miraculous story like Bobby West's isn't easy. It's less difficult a full year removed from his release from the hospital. West can now objectively reflect on his survival in the face of uncertain odds. His storyline is varied and would fit most any genre were he writing a book.

It could be one of love, one of faith, one of personal testimony, and even perseverance, timing or perhaps one about a worldwide pandemic.

The narrative began Jan. 23, 2020.

West finished his afternoon shift on the streets of Marion where he serves as assistant police chief. "He came home with a headache and by the next morning he was septic and his organs were shutting down," says Elliot West, his wife of 20 years.

She had gone to work that day, and West, 42, was home alone after their two children, now



Bobby West's wife Elliot never left his side while he was hospitalized last winter with a mysterious illness.

ages 17 and 14, had gone to school. When he awoke, West knew he was deathly ill.

"I just don't ever go to the hospital or take medication. I may be a little overweight, but nothing else was wrong with me," says the 17-year veteran of the local police force.

So for him to head

See **WEST**/page 8

Program helping students

STAFF REPORT

The benevolence of numerous Crittenden County families has helped to kick off a foundation to assist students working to financially bridge the transition between high school and their futures.

Crittenden County Rocket Foundation was developed by Superintendent Vince Clark to make funds available to assist high school students in a number of areas, all related to their academic success. Funds from the foundation can be used for the following purposes:

- Cost of tuition or dual credit courses
- Textbooks for college courses taken during high school
- Work ready certifications and industry certifications
- Scholarships to colleges, universities

How to help in the effort

Tax-deductible donations to the Crittenden County Rocket Foundation can be mailed c/o Diane Winters, Finance Officer, 601 West Elm St., Marion, KY 42064.

and trade schools

Clark kicked off the foundation in December 2020 by sending letters to Crittenden County graduates and community leaders. Since then, 19 school employees have pledged twice monthly deductions from their paycheck. Additionally, the bedrock of the

See **PLEDGE**/page 3

Time quickly
running out
for online test

STAFF REPORT

Time is running out and Crittenden County's participation in an online Speed Test is well below the target officials set for measuring broadband speed here.

Participation is critical to securing funding and other support for improving internet speeds, pricing and availability in Crittenden and surrounding counties, says Amanda Davenport, an economic development specialist for the area.

Deadline to participate in the online speed survey is Monday and as of early this week Crittenden County had just over a 10 percent participation rate. That's about half of the minimum needed to provide a clear perspective of the community's collective broadband capacity, Davenport said.

"The state wants at least 20 percent participating," she explains. "Marion proper has had a decent response rate,

See **TEST**/page 3

Duh moment
leads to plan
for carpet

A few months back we became proud new homeowners. This place has carpet in the living room and it feels like a constant battle to keep it spotless.

I get up on Saturday mornings and try to vacuum before our young daughter, Annie, wakes up. She has a very swift gift in creating messes without an eye on her every move. We also have a giant Schnauzer billed as hypoallergenic. But, I'm not buyin' that.

A couple weekends ago I woke up and shuffled to the coat closet that also houses our standing cleaning devices. Grabbed the vacuum, made my way past Annie's rocking horse that conveniently sat right in the middle of the hallway and plugged it up in the living room.

Mentally preparing for the mission at hand, my eyes scanned some crushed goldfish and a gerbil-looking hairball on the floor. Flipped on the vacuum, but nothing happened. The stupid thing wouldn't turn on.

Everytime I flipped that little switch it made a sound like the spiral metal door-stop I use to flick back and forth as a child at my grandparents' house.

Completely clueless as to what may have been causing this issue, I remembered that the vacuum's warranty packet was tucked away in a cabinet that Kevin had managed to somehow hold onto through his bachelor years. Grabbed the user's guide, found the phone number and called them up. Waited on hold until greeted by a very nice man named James.

Told James my life story, including the morning I had had and how it was extremely crucial that we solve this problem ASAP, because I can't live in a home with Chewbacca shavings in the living room floor without a vacuum cleaner. He laughed and assured me it was probably a simple fix and told me not to panic. He asked if we could video chat, and I agreed. He sent me the link, and I called him up. The future is now.

During our video conference, after proving that the vacuum was plugged in and not starting, he asked me to take it to another outlet to ensure that it wasn't an electrical issue. I loaded it up and went to the hallway. The camera panned to the prongs entering a different power receptacle. Conveniently enough I had forgotten to turn the switch on the vacuum off after our living room demonstration, so the thing instantaneously fired up and started sucking right away.

Quickly turned it off in a nervous laugh and started explaining to James how I am reminded in moments like this that my common sense is pretty much non-existent these days.

Thanked James and after our goodbyes were said, I sat in the floor scratching my head. Why in the world is it working in the hallway, but not the living room?

And like a brick wall, it hit me. I took the vacuum back to the livingroom, plugged it in, turned the switch to the on position and by the front door, flipped on the light switch that some guy back in the 1970s thought would be a great contribution to the lava lamp era. Yes, the switch has to be on for the outlet to work.

Decided to lay back down and start the morning over again.

By the way, my husband doesn't know it yet, but we are ripping this carpet up. Thought I'd announce it to him first in this article for the newspaper.



Kayla
MAXFIELD
Press Columnist
MAX-ED OUT

The Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260 / Marion, Ky.



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Deaths

Ramage

Regina Ramage, 57, of Salem, died Wednesday, Feb. 3, 2021 at her home.

She was born in Chicago on Oct. 15, 1963 to her parents, Richard and Joyce Watson. She had worked in healthcare as an office manager and was a member of New Union Baptist Church.

Surviving are her husband of 22 years, Darrell Ramage of Salem; a daughter, Michaela (Keith) Hill of Marion; a step-daughter, Megan DeBat of Spartansburg, S.C.; a sister, Theresa (Mike) Taylor of Salem; her mother, Joyce Watson of Salem; two grandchildren, Cameron Stone and Dreagen Hill; two nephews; aunts and uncles; family; and friends.

She was preceded in death by a daughter, Makaela Franklin; a stepson, Kyle Ramage; and her father, Richard Watson.

Private services were held with Rev. David Davis officiating. Burial was in Salem Cemetery.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 22478, Oklahoma City OK 73123.

Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services was in charge of arrangements.

Bragdon

Lynette Bragdon, 72, of Anaheim, Calif., formerly of Crittenden County, died Jan. 29, 2021. She was a teacher in Crittenden County and in Anaheim and was employed for decades by General Electric as a veterical engine expert in the West Coast division.

Surviving are a niece, Dana Bailey and two nephews, Mark Jones of Evansville and Kam Bragdon of Gilbertsville.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jim and Evelyn Bragdon; and a brother, David Larry Bragdon.

Hilgenfeld Mortuary in Anaheim was in charge of arrangements.

Patton

Donald C. Patton, 87, of Marion, died Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2021 at Livingston Hospital and Healthcare Services. He was a member of Seven Springs Baptist Church.

Surviving are his children, Ricky (Paula) Patton, Shelia (Bob) Wilkinson and Melissa Asbridge all of Marion; grandchildren, Grant (Amber) Patton, Alicia Wilkinson, Daniel Patton, Rachel Sober and Sharon Parker; great-grandchildren, Braden Patton, McKinley Wilkinson, Cayden Wilkinson, Jenee Allen, Emma Sober,

David Sober, Natalie, Katie, Knighten and Julie Parker and great-great-grandchild, A.J. Allen.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Dottie Blake Patton; a daughter, Mary Elizabeth Patton; his parents, Raymond and Mary Patton; five brothers and one sister.

Services were Friday, Feb. 5 at Gilbert Funeral Home with burial in Dycusburg Cemetery.

Godfrey

Robert Edward Godfrey, 54, of Bloomingdale, Ga., formerly of Crittenden County died Tuesday, Feb. 2, 2021 at his home.

Godfrey was a truck driver by trade, but was also a carpenter. He was a member of the Hardeeville and Faulkville Congregations of Jehovah's Witnesses.

Surviving is his wife, Angela Renea Godfrey of Bloomingdale, Ga.; three children, Arianna Godfrey of McIntosh, Fla., Sealeah Godfrey of Portland, Ore., and Robert Kyle Godfrey of Hardeeville, S.C.; a brother, David (Sherry) Godfrey of Paducah; a sister, Barbara Godfrey of LaCenter; two grandchildren, Frederick Lamar Hester and Benjamin Ryan Hester both of McIntosh, Fla.; and several nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Albert Richard Godfrey, and Kathleen Elizabeth Bromer Godfrey; and one sister.

Funeral services were Saturday, Feb. 6 at Lindsey Funeral Home with Wendell Bradley officiating. Burial was in Smithland Cemetery.

Lindsey Funeral Home of Paducah was in charge of arrangements.

Marshall

Ronnie Clay Marshall, 70, of Marion, died Saturday, Jan. 30, 2021 at Deaconess Hospital in Evansville.

He was a deacon of the Marion Christian Church and had retired from Kentucky Utilities after 28 years as manager of the Marion office. He was a member of Kappa Alpha Order at Murray State University and E.W. Turner Lodge #548 in Earlington. He was the owner of Ron's Sport Shop, past president of the Marion Country Club and served on the Crittenden County Economic Development Corporation. He was an avid sportsman, was interested in nature conservancy and was a true Kentucky Wildcats basketball fan.

Surviving are his wife, Ruth Marshall; and a daughter, Brooke Marshall, both of Marion.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Raymond "Red" and Johnnie Gray Marshall.

Services were Sunday, Feb. 7. Myers Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Lewis

Taunya Kay Lewis, 63, of Marion, died Sunday, Jan. 31, 2021 at her home. She was a member of Seven Springs Baptist Church.

Surviving are her children, Michelle (Jimmie) Wilson of Marion, Heather (Jonathan) Hinsey, Jeremiah Hinsey and Alexis Harlan, all of Evansville, and Justin (Kierston) Gordon of Petersburg, Ind.; her parents, Linda and Marlin Gray of Otwell, Ind.; grandchildren, Jesy (Tangerea) Evits, Rylee (Alisha) Wallace, Zae-breale (Clayton) Oldfield, Jaelyn Oldfield, Tyson Neblett, TeAnna (Marcus) Groves, Marisa Ruschmeier, Dana (Trevor) Ary, Temperence Hinsey, Avery Gordon, BreLynn Gordon, Johnny and Ari and a few extra grandchildren; great-grandchildren, Elizabeth, Draco, Lavon, Ryatt and Rennix; and sisters, Roxi Lamberson and Nicole Besse.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Walter Thomas Lewis.

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

Ray

Janie Brewer Ray, 87, died Thursday, Feb 4, 2021. She was a loving mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother. She loved to make quilts, cross stitch and fish. She was a member of Northside Baptist Church in Morganfield. She loved her family and church family but most of all she loved Jesus.

On Sept. 7, 1949 she married Carl Ray in Crittenden County. They were married 62 years before he preceded her in death in 2011.

Surviving are five children, Kathy and Jim Dailley of Seymour, Ind., Theresa Ray and Jim Gish of Arcanum, Ohio, Deborah and Randy Day of Clay and Nita and Mike Clark of Uniontown, Scott and Maxine Ray of Salem; eight grandchildren; 14 great-grandchildren; one great-great grandchild; a brother, Forest Lee Brewer of Cummings, Ga.; and a sister, Anna Lois Butts of Grangertown.

She was preceded in death by three brothers Leroy, Bill and Bobby; a sister Betty; and a grand-

son Joshua.

Funeral services were Monday, Feb. 8 at Whitsell Funeral Home in Morganfield. Bro. Jimmy Terrell officiated.

Burial was in Mt. Zion Cemetery in Mattoon. Whitsell Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Memorial contributions can be made to Northside Baptist Church.

Davidson

Ricky Allen Davidson, 63, of Marion, died Friday, Feb. 5, 2021 at Baptist Health Paducah.

Surviving are his wife, Barbara Davidson of Marion; three children, Lawrence Allen Davidson, Melissa Rose Allen and Kayla Ann Davidson, all of Marion; two sisters, Wanda Lee Foster of Paducah and Debbie Lynch of Louisville; several grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Clarence Walker and Bessie Davidson; two brothers, a sister and two grandchildren.

Graveside services were Wednesday, Feb. 10 at Deer Creek Cemetery.

Gilbert Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Minton

Donna Kaye Minton, 74, of Marion, died Sunday, Feb. 7, 2021 at the Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Center in Paducah. She was a longtime beautician in Marion.

Surviving are her children, KaDonna Woodall of Cadiz, Stephen (Michelle) Minton and Anthony (B.J.) Minton both of Marion; longtime companion, Franklin R. Hamilton of Marion; grandchildren, Heather (Nick) Woodruff, Jillian Macy Nichols, Cale and

Reed Minton, Brittany (Austin) Edmondson and Belle Minton; great-grandchildren, Brantley and Briley Woodruff and sister, Sandy Newell.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert O. and Corine York; a brother, Doyle Jennings; and two sisters, Regina Woodall and Rose Clark.

Services are at 1 p.m., Friday, Feb. 12 at Gilbert Funeral Home with burial in Maplevue Cemetery. The family will receive visitors from 10 a.m., until service time at the funeral home.

Donations may be made to the Ray and Kay Eckstein Hospice Center in Paducah.

Massey

Willie May (Chittenden) Massey, 104, of Burna, died Monday, Feb. 8, 2021 at Livingston Hospital and Healthcare Services.

She was born May 30, 1916 to J.L. and Lena Tyner Chittenden, at home in Livingston County. She and her husband Leon were founding members of Burna Central Baptist Church. She was also a longtime member of the Livingston County Homemakers.

Massey was a great fan of the American Legion Post 217 where she and her husband were charter members. Massey was a "Rosie the Riveter" in Evansville during World War II helping support the war effort. She also enjoyed flowers, especially roses.

Surviving are two nieces, Cynthia Chittenden of Hampton and Shirley (Mike) Merritt of Benton; three nephews, Douglas (Linda) Black of Hampton, Garry (Sue) Chittenden of Hampton, and Barry (Angie) Chittenden of Hampton.

Massey was preceded in death by her husband of 68 years, Leon Massey; two sisters, Marie Black and Lois May; two brothers, Lucian and Wayne Chittenden; a nephew, Louis Chittenden; and her parents.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m., Friday, Feb. 12 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services. Burial will follow in Bethel Cemetery.

Friends may visit with the family from noon until the funeral hour at the funeral home.

Suits

Connie Jean Suits, 63, of Hampton, died Monday, Feb. 8, 2021 at Ascension St. Vincent Hospital in Evansville.

She was born in Crittenden County Feb. 10, 1957 to her parents, J. W. and Ann Elizabeth (Shouse) Lawrence. She worked at Potter & Brumfield as a factory worker and attended Life In Christ Church. She was actively involved in events for the city of Carrsville where she founded and spearheaded "Cool Connie's Car Show" each year. She enjoyed flower gardening and was very loving of her grandchild.

Surviving are two sons, Justin (Jessica) Suits of Ledbetter and Tyler Suits of Hampton; a sister, Becky (Terry) Croft of Salem; her mother, Ann Elizabeth Lawrence of Hampton; and a grandson, Weston Suits.

She was preceded in death by her father, J. W. Lawrence.

Funeral services will be at 2 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 13 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services. Burial will follow in Bethel Cemetery.

Friends may visit with the family from 11 a.m., until the funeral hour in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services.

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Chamber Swearing

Two new members of the Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce were sworn in last week during the Chamber's regular monthly meeting. Pictured being sworn are Jonathan Gleason, CEO at Crittenden Community Hospital, and Mary Ann Campbell, owner of the Tucker House Lodging bed and breakfast. Swearing in the new members is City Treasurer Layten Croft. In the background attesting the process are Chamber directors Elliot West, Madison Qualls and President Elizabeth Floyd. The Chamber is currently looking for a new executive director. Find more details on the matter at the Chamber's Facebook page.



COUNTY FIRE CHIEF CRITTENDEN COUNTY VOLUNTEER FIRE DPT Scott HURLEY

Scott Hurley has been Crittenden County Volunteer Fire Department's chief since 2018 and he also serves as deputy chief at Salem Fire Department.

Q: What do you do as fire chief?

A: I am responsible for all of our members, ensuring they are trained to the best of our ability, as well as staying safe responding to and operating on emergency scenes. I am also ultimately responsible for the operation of the department itself with the help of our board of directors, our secretary/treasurer and our line officers. We ensure bills are paid, equipment stays operational and updated and the proper paperwork is completed and filed with local and state officials.

Q: How did you get involved in the fire department?



A: My uncle was a member of the Crittenden County Rescue Squad and Fire Department in the late 1970s and 1980s. My mom and stepdad started with the Smith Mills Volunteer Fire Department in Henderson County in the early 1990s. It was something I always wanted to do. While stationed at my last U.S. Army duty assignment at Fort Drum, N.Y., I was able to join the volunteer fire department in the village I lived in during 2014. Once I retired from the Army and moved home in 2016, I joined the Crittenden County Volunteer Fire Dept and Crittenden County Rescue Squad.

Q: What kind of training was involved to become fire chief?

A: There really isn't an established requirement to be chief. I obtained my 150-hour Kentucky Firefighter Certification in 2017 and my 400-hour certification in 2019. I have taken more classes at regional fire schools, including some Advanced Incident Command System classes offered by the Kentucky Emergency Management and Kentucky Fire Commission. I rely a great deal on leadership skills I acquired while serving in the Army for 20 years.

Q: How many departments are you serving now?

A: I currently serve on five community fire departments across Crittenden and Livingston counties, and the Crittenden County Rescue Squad

Q: Why do you think it's important for our county to have a volunteer fire department?

A: It is important to have volunteer fire departments because they benefit the citizens of the county. They help save lives and property for less cost than a full-time, paid fire department. They also help reduce insurance costs to homeowners.



Crittenden County High School student Ricky Alvarez, planing a board in shop class, is like many students who stand to benefit from the Foundation's fundraising.

PLEDGE

Continued page 1

foundation has been a generous donation of \$15,000 from one Crittenden County family and an employer match.

The goal for the Rocket Foundation is to raise \$150,000 by Jan. 1, 2022.

"The goal this year is to generate \$150,000 to support high school kids in college and career readiness efforts including dual credit, textbooks, industry

certification and tests they have to take," Clark said. "I'm happy to report that one month into it, we have 19 staff members donating every pay period, and these are contributions that make a big difference for kids.

"It makes me very happy for our kids who are going to benefit."

Clark said he appreciates a community investing in students' future as they transition from high school to the next step.

"If we get our kids ready,

they will be good citizens for someone's community – and hopefully it's our community," Clark said. "We hope kids won't think twice about landing in Crittenden County knowing people are behind them and supporting them like this."

Tax-deductible donations to the Crittenden County Rocket Foundation can be mailed c/o Diane Winters, Finance Officer, 601 West Elm St., Marion, KY 42064.

Cancer program's lesson 2 next

Nutrition status affects cancer outcomes, tolerance to treatment, and quality of life. Cancer treatment can increase calorie, protein, vitamins, and mineral needs but at the same time cause side effects that make obtaining adequate nutrition difficult. Crittenden County Extension is hosting a five-lesson program Kick Kentucky Cancer.

Lesson Two is Managing Nutrition during cancer, focusing on how to consume adequate nutrition during treatment not only to feel

better but also to contribute to improved health outcomes. Information in this lesson is beneficial for patients and caregivers.

Lessons are offered via Zoom at 6 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 18 and 10 a.m., Monday, Feb. 22. Call the Extension office 270-965-5236 to get the link and lesson materials.

This lesson will specifically cover how each food group con-



tributes to a balanced diet during cancer treatment, how to manage symptoms of cancer treatment while still consuming adequate nutrition, food safety while preparing and storing food and asking health-care providers questions about cancer treatment and management.

Kick Kentucky Cancer program is for anyone whose life has been touched by cancer. You will walk away from this program with practical tips to use right away.

TEST

Continued from page 1 but out in the rural areas of the county it's much lower."

Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom has also been pushing for local participation in the speed test. He has also developed a paper version of the online survey which will also allow local leaders to collect additional data to arm themselves when working with state and federal entities with regard to improving broadband for the community.

A link to the online test is available at The Press Online in the upper right corner of the website. The paper form is available at the courthouse, city hall, schools and The Crittenden Press.

There had been a great deal of hope that Kenergy would be among utilities or other entities that might delve into becoming a new local service provider. Kenergy had even filed a short-term application for the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Rural Digital Opportunity Fund (RDOF), but ultimately decided it was best not to participate. However, the utility company's consultant during the application process appears ready to become a player.

"Kenergy will not be a broadband provider, but there is still good news coming for our members. Conexon, Kenergy's consultant throughout this process, bid in the place of Kenergy in the RDOF auction and was awarded \$21,396,303.60 in the state of Kentucky. Kenergy will work closely with Conexon for the buildout and to acclimate them to the communities they will serve," Kenergy said last week in a news release.

"Several critical changes needed to be made to current state statutes in order for Kenergy to have participated in the RDOF auction. If Kenergy had participated in the auction, been awarded money, and then we were unable to fulfill the obligations from the FCC because of those state statute limitations, we would have been assessed steep penalties and fines," Kenergy President and CEO Jeff Hohn said. "This would have greatly diminished the chance of our members receiving broadband. Due to the short timeframe between the RDOF auction concluding and the legislature convening, Kenergy did not feel comfortable participating in the auction."

"We are excited about the award and look forward to working with members of the Kenergy team to bring the benefits of high-speed fiber internet to the members and communities they serve," Conexon Partner Randy Klindt said.

MPD activity report

Data below provided by Marion Police Department from January 2021 compares figures with January 2020 and reflects year-to-date totals for 2021.

CATEGORY	JANUARY 2020	JANUARY 2021	2021 TOTAL
Miles driven/patrolled	2667	3,110	3,110
Criminal investigations	8	7	7
Domestics	11	6	6
Felony Arrests	47	1	1
Misdemeanor arrests	10	2	2
Non-criminal arrests	5	3	3
DUI arrests	2	1	1
Criminal summons served	1	2	2
Traffic citations	17	29	29
Traffic warnings	10	2	2
Other citations	0	9	9
Parking tickets	0	0	0
Traffic accidents	5	3	3
Security checks/alarms	58	42	42
Calls for service	289	131	131

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CALDWELL COUNTY, KY - 30 ACRES - Solid hunting tract with **PENDING**. Diverse blend of habitat types and topography. Small lodge with finished living quarters.

LIVINGSTON, KY - 277.06 ACRES - This hunting tract generates an excellent income through tillable acreage and a hunt **SOLD**. The property is full of mature whitetail buck and wild turkeys.

LIVINGSTON, KY - 99.954 ACRES - \$204,907 - Hunting tract with a large creek, open ground for food plots, mast producing hardwoods and numerous funnels and pinch points!

CALDWELL COUNTY, KY - 146.78 ACRES - \$322,000 - Great hunting tract with dynamic hunter friendly topography, mast producing timber, security cover, open areas for food plots and a good trail system.

CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KY - 41.74 ACRES - \$115,000 - Highly sought after tract conveniently located about 10 minutes outside of town offering crop yields, building sites, road frontage and a wet weather creek.

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

LIVINGSTON COUNTY, KY - 36.944 ACRES - \$77,584 - Mostly timber hunting tract with softwoods, mast producing hardwood **SOLD**, open areas for food plots, a good trail system and a hunter friendly topography.

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

CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KY - 35.66 ACRES - \$114,900 - Livestock farm with a big and shop with garage doors. Property is close to the Ohio River and has exceptional scenic views.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY, KY - 118.16 ACRES - \$223,913 - Topography is a mix of semi-flat creek bottoms and timbered ridges. An established food plot on the main ridge is a hot spot for big bucks. Excellent hunting!

LIVINGSTON COUNTY, KY - 96.042 ACRES - \$182,480 - Property has a diverse mix of habitat types, good trail system, numerous entry points along road frontage, hunter friendly topography, a creek and planted pines.

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Is it flu? Here’s what to know

What is flu? Is it an infection? Is it a bacteria or a virus? Does it cause pneumonia or is it a stomach and diarrheal illness?

It can be all of these things, that’s why it’s confusing. Here’s why: H e m o -philus Influenza B – nicknamed h.flu, is a bacteria responsible for many childhood illnesses like ear infections, respiratory infections a n d meningitis, which can be fatal. Because of these fatal illnesses we now immunize all children against h.flu with the H1B vaccination.

Gastroenteritis – nicknamed stomach flu, is an intestinal virus which causes low grade fever, nausea, vomiting and diarrhea for 12 to 96 hours.

Influenza – nicknamed flu, is a respiratory virus responsible for causing a high fever, cough, muscle aches, headache and fatigue. Influenza has historically been responsible for epidemic illness, pneumonia and fatalities each year.

Influenza and its most common complication, pneumonia, rank in the top six causes of death in the United States. Influenza causes 20,000 to 40,000 deaths and 4 times as many hospitalizations each year. If you are over 65 your risk of serious illness resulting from the flu increases to over 60 percent. Over 50 million workdays are missed each year because of pneumonia and influenza at a cost of over \$1 billion.

Last year in Kentucky by December there had been 275 cases reported, with 785 cases and 162 deaths reported for the season, according to the Kentucky Department of Public Health. In 1919, influenza caused a death in almost every family in the U.S. and literally wiped out whole towns.

Once exposed to the virus your body should develop a resistance to the illness. However, over time mutations (or genetic variations) in the virus can disguise the virus from the body’s im-

mune system and the new virus can then attack those previous infected. Large changes, called antigenic shift, account for major epidemics Asian Flu in 1957, Hong Kong Flu in 1968 and Russian Flu in 1977.

Vaccination is the best way of preventing illness, complications and death due to influenza, but it is not 100 percent.

Flu shots work best when the vaccine and the current strain are closely matched, but it can be hard to predict what the next flu will look like. Fortunately, Australia and Brazil have their flu season in our summer and we can see if the new strain is significantly different from the current vaccine. That is why new flu vaccines come out every year. Australia’s World Health Organization’s Director states this year’s vaccine has been very effective.

Since the immunization requires 4-6 weeks to stimulate your immune system to peak resistance, it is best to get it now, before the peak of the flu season.

Anyone can get the flu shot. But, if you are in any of the following groups or live in a household with someone who is, CDC recommends that you get the flu vaccine.

- You are 50 years of age or older.
- You have chronic diseases of your heart, lungs, or kidneys
- You have diabetes.
- Your immune system does not function properly.
- You have a severe form of anemia.
- You will be more than 3 months pregnant during the flu season.
- You live in a nursing home or other chronic-care housing facility.
- You are in close contact with children 0 to 23 months of age.

Since a virus causes the flu, antibiotics, which are used to fight bacteria, don’t work for treatment. An anti-viral such as Tamiflu, can help reduce symptoms, but it has to be treated early.

In addition to medical treatments for the flu, there are some measures you can take to stop the spread and recover more quickly:

- Stay home – don’t infect your co-workers.
- Stay in bed – rest

helps the body to regenerate more quickly.

- Drink plenty of liquids.
 - Ibuprofen to control fevers and muscle aches.
- Even though you feel the flu over your entire body, the virus that causes the flu lives primarily in the lungs. Influenza spreads easily from person to person. When an infected person sneezes and coughs, someone else may breathe in the airborne droplets of fluids containing the flu virus. Flu viruses also can enter the body through the membranes of the eyes, nose and mouth.

“We must all work to preserve our state’s hospitals and healthcare workers so they can be prepared for a potential influx of COVID-19 patients. By encouraging everyone to get a flu vaccine, we can reduce the impact of influenza in Kentucky,” Dr. Jeff Reynolds, Medical Director of Kentucky Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield.

Here Are Some Tips For Reducing Your Chance Of Getting The Flu:

- Wash your hands frequently.
- Carefully clean dishes, utensils, and glasses immediately after use.
- Avoid contact with individuals who have flu-like symptoms.
- Maintain social distancing.
- Wear your mask in public.

Because the flu can lead to complications or be confused with COVID-19, it is very important that you talk to your healthcare professional if you believe you have symptoms of the flu.

“If all Kentuckians wear their masks, maintain social distancing and stay home when sick, then Kentucky could suppress both influenza and COVID-19 and keep people healthy and well.” Health Commissioner, Dr. Steven Stack.

Dr. David W. Fairbanks, M.D. is the Chief Medical Officer at Crittenden Community Hospital and a physician at Family Practice Clinic. He is Board Certified in Family Medicine, and a fellow of the American Academy of Family Physicians.

50 YEARS AGO

February 11, 1971

■ Four Crittenden County students were among 448 students to graduate from Murray State University at the conclusion of the fall semester. The students were: Eddie Huston Butler, Dianna Gail Hamlin, John Ashley Hunt and John William Hunt. ■ Susan Phillips was initiated into Alpha Chi Chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi social sorority at Western Kentucky University. ■ Two students from Crittenden County were named to the Academic Honors List for the fall semester at Campbellsville College. The honor was awarded to students who carried 12 or more semester hours and compiled a 3.5 or better average on a 4.0 system. Those named were Deborah Decker and Gail Wilson. ■ Two Crittenden County High School students were awarded a certificate of merit plaque for their nomination in the 4-H Club Award of Excellence program. Selected to receive the awards were Mary Jo Arflack and John V. Sanders.

25 YEARS AGO

February 8, 1996

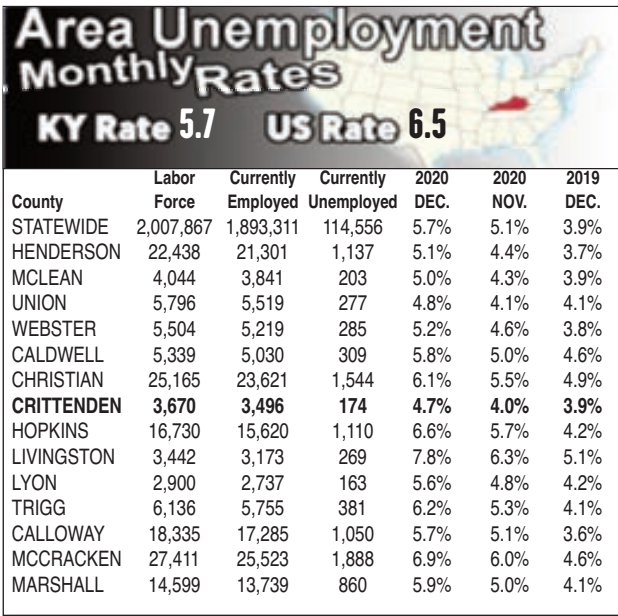
■ The James F. Oliver VFW Post 5486 celebrated its 50th anniversary. The post received its charter on Feb. 14, 1946. ■ Darrick Holloman, Kindra Brisby and Vince Mitchell placed first, second and third, respectively in the annual county-

Jobless rate up in county

Unemployment rates rose in Crittenden and 113 Kentucky other counties between December 2019 and December 2020, according to the Kentucky Center for Statistics (KYSTATS), an agency of the Kentucky Education and Workforce Development Cabinet.

Oldham County recorded the lowest jobless rate in the Commonwealth at 3.9 percent. It was followed by Todd County, 4 percent; Logan County, 4.1 percent; Cumberland, Spencer, Washington and Woodford counties, 4.2 percent each; Shelby County, 4.3 percent; and Green and Monroe counties, 4.4 percent each.

Magoffin County recorded the state’s highest unemployment rate at 14.8 percent. It was followed by Harlan County, 11.3 percent;



Leslie County, 9.9 percent; Carter County, 9.5 percent; Letcher County, 9.1 percent; Elliott, Johnson, Martin and Menifee counties, 9 percent each; and Lewis County, 8.8 percent.

Kentucky’s county unemployment rates and employment levels are not seasonally adjusted because of small sample sizes. Employment statistics undergo sharp fluctuations due to seasonal events such as

weather changes, harvests, holidays and school openings and closings. Seasonal adjustments eliminate these influences and make it easier to observe statistical trends. The comparable, unadjusted unemployment rate for the state was 5.7 percent for December 2020, and 6.5 percent for the nation. Unemployment statistics are based on estimates.

What’s attached to your name?

What you sign is always attached to your name.

Your name protects your bank accounts, the deed to your property, your mailbox and driver’s license. Both of your names are automatically transferred to your child on the instant it is conceived in the womb. Whether you acknowledge it or not, it is true because God passed that law before any of us were conceived.

God and the world holds us accountable for our name. Everything we sign our names to, we are responsible for. When you sign a voting card, you are responsible for everything that person or party stands for. When you put your name with

those who kill innocent human beings, your vote to kill them, too.

When you put your name with those who condone sexual misdeeds, you’re approving that was well. God will hold you responsible.

You *are* your name. God *calls* us by our name. David said to the Lord, “You know my down sittings and my up-rising and my thoughts afar off,” Psalms 139:2.

When God starts to divide sheep from the goats on that last day, will you not be glad He knows which you are?

In that same Psalm, David also said, “There is not a word in my tongue, but, lo, O Lord, thou know it altogether.” David continued saying there was no place he could hide from God, not even in the darkness. So darkening places of

sin by turning the lights down low or darkening the window glass can’t hide it from God.

To God’s faithful, all this knowledge is so wonderful, knowing God is with them every minute of life and will be so even to the end of the world. How wonderful to know that God is ever present in our troubles, hardships, sorrows and needs.

A song was written years ago, “Little things mean a lot,” causes my heart to sing, knowing God is always there.

Knowing that prompts me to repeat a title to a gospel song through my day, “What A Mighty God We Serve!”

Sister Lucy Tedrick is a conservative local pastor who routinely writes an opinion piece in the newspaper.

Clerk digitizes more county records

Crittenden County Clerk’s Office has added hundreds more files to its digital collection of local records. Most notably, plats for the county are now accessible for viewing on the public work stations inside the clerk’s office or online with a subscription to the records database.

Also, six more books of mortgages have been imaged, soon allowing digital access for each year dating back to the early

1960s.

“Scanning these documents, indexing them and archiving them in our digital repository preserves the records in the event the physical documents are somehow destroyed,” said County Clerk Daryl Tabor. “But most importantly to those who regularly look at our records, it offers additional convenience.”

Digitizing the images and making them available to the public cost

the county clerk’s office more than \$10,000, but that was paid for through a \$10 document storage fee collected by statute beginning last year. Tabor is also in the process of applying for a grant to microfilm and digitize more than 100 additional books of deeds and marriage records.

Access digital records by visiting KyCountyRecords.com or stop by the office 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. weekdays.




wide spelling bee held at Crittenden County Elementary School.

10 YEARS AGO

February 10, 2011

■ Winners of the Chamber of Commerce Fall Essay Contest were announced. Madison O’Dell won first place and a \$50 cash prize. Chaylee Wolf won \$25 for second place. ■ Senior Casey Oliver became the eighth player in Crittenden County boys’ basketball history to score over 1,000 points for a career. ■ Crittenden County Public Library’s Board of Trustees elected new officers. Officers were Brandi Rogers, president; Angel McDonald, vice president; John May, treasurer; Dulcie Hardin, secretary. ■ Bowditch owners Caryn Steele and Elliot West attended the Atlanta International Gift Market where they visited with vendors and selected merchandise for their Main Street business. ■ Zach Sizemore of Marion was recognized for achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. ■ Morgan Lynn of Marion was named to the Dean’s List at Centre College in Danville.

Crittenden County Detention Center Census



DETENTION

CENTER REPORT

JANUARY 21, 2021

The Crittenden County Detention Center report is provided monthly to magistrates during Crittenden County Fiscal Court meetings. The inmate count was accurate for the day the report was created.

JAIL CENSUS	Jan. 21, 2021	Dec. 17, 2020	2020 Average
State Inmates	98	88	95.2
Federal Inmates	75	80	73.9
Other County Inmates	15	18	14.2
Crittenden County Inmates	13	13	13.7
TOTAL INMATES	201	199	196.9
Weekenders	5	6	3.3
Work release	0	0	0.0
Out to Court	0	0	0.5
Actual Inmate Bed Count	206	205	117.0

The Crittenden County Detention Center report is provided monthly to magistrates during Crittenden County Fiscal Court meetings. The inmate count was accurate for the day the report was created.

Last Month	REVENUE	December 2020	November 2020	Month Avg. 2020
	State Housing Payments	\$84,743.36	\$85,464.18	\$93,241.73
	Federal Housing Payments	\$127,442.83	\$119,862.60	\$108,338.85
	Federal Transport Payments	\$11,263.83	\$9,710.60	\$9,105.68
	Other County Housing Payments	\$18,504.00	\$17,784.00	\$16,278.00
	Weekend/Work Release	\$0.00	\$1,184.00	\$7,226.67
	TOTAL HOUSING	\$0.00	\$576.00	\$392.00
			\$224,870.78	\$217,337.41

The Crittenden County Detention Center report is provided monthly to magistrates during Crittenden County Fiscal Court meetings. The inmate count was accurate for the day the report was created.

Last Month	ANALYSIS	December 2020	November 2020	Month Avg. 2020
	Cost of Crittenden Inmates	\$15,488.00	\$17,440.00	\$13,107.83
	Numbers of Co. Housing Days	\$484.00	545	407.8
	Daily Housing Rate	\$32.00	\$32.00	32.0
	Avg Daily Population Co. Inmates	\$15.61	18.16	13.4

- Federal Inmates \$49 Per diem
- State Inmates \$31.34 Per diem
- Lyon County Inmates \$36.00
- Other County Inmates \$32.00

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Writings and memories from the area of Deanwood

Sometime in your life there will be something that holds a fascination for you. One for me was the Dean family and their wonderful home known as Iron Hill and later Deanwood. The old white two-story house on the curve of Ky. 120 about 6 miles east of Marion has called me back many times just to drive by and look at it and imagine what it was like to have lived there all those many years ago and to know the Dean family.



Brenda Underdown
County Historian
Forgotten Passages

The writings of Thomas Marion Dean and his brother Joseph Nathan, who once lived there, were wonderful, and they wrote of the all interesting places in the Deanwood area that made it so special. They also wrote personal family memories and short stories of the times that they lived there. In later years, Miss Ruby Dean wrote several interesting and historical articles about the area for The Crittenden Press. Here are a few of their writings.

April 24, 1910

We awoke this morning and found that it was snowing like real winter. The trees, which owing to the warm weather in March and the first of April were in almost full foliage, were bending with the weight of the snow. The trees with full grown leaves were mingled with white and green about half and half. Those not so forward were nearly white.

The woods presented a beautiful sight and one rarely ever seen here. The plowed fields were solid white – the wheat fields solid green, owing to its height (about 12 or 14 inches high). A great many fields that were planted in corn looked white, and the sickly looking corn showed in rows above the snow.

When the sun was well up the snow began to melt, but it kept snowing right along, nearly constantly all day, at times as hard as I ever saw it. And had the ground not been too warm I think it would have been at least 6 inches deep. (T. M. Dean)

February 29, 1920

This is the 5th Sunday in February, the first

one since 1880 – the next will be in 1948. This day finds myself – age 48 – wife 42 – and five daughters living at our farm home Deanwood. Reva age 22, Rosalie 19, Robbie 16, Minnie 13, Ida Marian 4 years. All at home today except Rosalie who is at Bowling Green College. The ground is white with snow and the day is cold. We own our home of 127

acres of land, 4 horses, 11 head of cattle, 6 hogs and about 100 chickens, a fair equipment of farm tools, a saw mill and corn crusher and a Ford car. Our home is fairly well provided with comforts of life and we are an unbroken family. I do my own farm work except the help of the girls, and operate the mill personally.

These are the days of “reconstruction: and the whole world seems to be in an unsettled “ condition, the results of the World War. Living is high – labor high – prices high on most everything necessary to living in comfort. Farm products have been the first to take a downward trend. Hogs have fallen from \$23.50 per 100 to \$15; tobacco from \$20 to \$14 – cattle have also slumped. Mules are still from \$200 to \$300 for good ones; corn \$1.75 per bushel; hay \$30 per ton, chickens 28 cents – eggs 40 cents – butter 45 and 50 cents.

How will this look the next 5th Sunday in February? (We have had three 5th Sundays in February since this story was written, 1948, 1976, 2004.), but Mr. Dean’s 5th Sunday was special because he took the time to write down his own personal events of the day. (T. M. Dean)

Watch Charm Found After 70 Years. This interesting little article was written by J. N. Dean in July of 1956.

The following piece just goes to prove that nothing in this old world is ever really lost no matter the circumstances – somebody will find it.

Late one afternoon in the year 1880 (when Mr. Dean was 12 years old), a government official, who was taking the U.S. Census for that year, called



This picture of the Deanwood store and home was painted by a Dean descendant, Judy Smith, in 1994.

at Madison Dean’s home nine miles east of Marion, now known as the Turner farm, to take my father’s census list and spend the night.

At supper our visitor told us that as he rode down Piney Hill, one mile east of us, his watch charm in some way came loose from the chain and fell to the ground in a rocky, sandy place. He got off the horse and searched for some time but failed to find it.

Early next morning, at his request, two of my older brothers went to the hill with him and searched with no luck. If I remember correctly the census official was a Mr. Cruce of the same family as the late Mr. Dick Cruce.

A few years ago, about 70 years later, (1950) Mr. and Mrs. Edd Clark, formerly of this community but now of Providence, rode up in front of my store at Deanwood, and called to me and said, “Joe, as we were riding down old Piney Hill a bit ago I saw something bright in a rocky place in the road. I got off my horse and found it to be a nice diamond shape watch charm, I don’t need it and make you a present of it.”

It was some time later that it dawned on me that it was the one lost by the Census taker in 1880. I will be glad to make a present of it to any of his descendants who will come or write for it. It’s gold plated and in good condition. (Wasn’t noted later if anyone ever came for the lost coin or not).

A True Mystery, also written by J. N. Dean, Nov. 1956.

I cannot place the

time of the happenings of this story other than to say it was back in the times when a Star Route mail carrier would leave Marion Post Office early of mornings with a big leather mail bag, either end of which would hold a bushel or more, and locked with a heavy padlock and thrown across a saddle on a horse or mule, traveling east, en-route to Shady Grove Post Office 14 miles away, coming and going by the way of Iron Hill Post Office where the writer was postmaster and running an old time country store.

I was doing a banking business with The Farmers Bank, Mr. Bill Fowler was president, Mr. J. B. Hubbard was cashier and Mr. Ernest Carnahan was an assistant.

Early in April of that year in question, I received a notice from the bank that I had overdrawn my account there about \$25. I was surprised and puzzled for I felt sure that I should still have a balance there. After comparing their statement with my book it was evident that I did not have credit for a deposit of \$50 that I had mailed to them 10 days or more before, which consisted mostly of U.S. Pension checks I had cashed for the old union soldiers.

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Fredonia Valley Bank
www.fredoniavalleybank.com

THANK YOU

Our family would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who sent cards, called, texted or just had us in your thoughts and prayers during the weeks while mom/grandma was in the hospital and during our time of loss. Thank you to Dr. Littlejohn and the staff at Caldwell Medical Center for being so great. Thanks to Teena York, Gilbert Funeral Home staff, Bro. Lester Watson and Bro. Tim Burdon for the beautiful service and Mexico Baptist Church members for the meal.

*The family of Virginia “Tatty” Higgins Kay and Ronnie Jenkins
Beverly Davidson and Jason Hurley
Brandon Jackson, Alex, Daryl and Charlee Jayliene Higgins
Heather and Dan Dawson
Holly, Eric and Lena Shoubridge*

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Crittenden County Clerk RFP

Crittenden County Clerk’s Office is seeking sealed bids for a grant proposal to more properly archive almost 180 years of marriage and other paper documents and digitize and/or microfilm 130 land and marriage record books located in the county clerk’s courthouse office in Marion, Ky. The effort will ensure preservation of vital records, as well as make them more accessible to the public.

This project has five sections. Each section could/may be awarded to a different vendor. Therefore, bid on each section of interest. If not interested in a particular section of this project, please submit a No Bid for that section(s).

Section I

Security microfilm the following records from digital images supplied by Critenden County Clerk’s Office into 35mm, where applicable, using polyester-based film, in comic mode according to the blipping instructions in the memo dated Oct. 8, 1990, and deliver to the Kentucky Department of Libraries and Archives.

- 22 Deed Books: 210-232 (2007-16). Series L1317.
- 3 Marriage Books: 64-66 (2008-16). Series L1234.

Section II

Digitize images.

- 35 Deed Books: 48-83 (1920-54). Series L1317
- 70 Marriage Books: 59 unnamed volumes and volumes 54-64 (1842-2014). Series L1234.

Section III

Index images.

- 35 Deed Books: 48-83 (1920-54). Series L1317
- 70 Marriage Books: 59 unnamed volumes and volumes 54-64 (1842-2014). Series L1234.

Section IV

Marry digitized images into the county clerk’s document management system.

- 35 Deed Books: 48-83 (1920-54). Series L1317
- 70 Marriage Books: 59 unnamed volumes and volumes 54-64 (1842-2014). Series L1234.

Section V

Provide archival-quality storage of a fragile, aging documents for transport and permanent retention.

- 50 18x24x4 archival boxes for volumes dating 1860-1953.
- 200 12.25x10.25x5 archival document cases for loose documents dating 1896-1991.
- 100 3-inch 3-ring binders for marriage records dating 1896-1984.
- 5,000 archival quality protective sleeves for marriage records dating 1896-1984.

Sealed bids must be returned to this office by mail or in person by the time of bid opening at 9 a.m. on March 12, 2021. Bids may be sent to: Crittenden County Clerk Daryl Tabor, 107 S. Main St., Ste. 203, Marion, KY 42064-1563 For additional information, contact Tabor at 270-965-3403.

their mail. He got my letter there and placed it in his inside coat pocket, intending to take it to the other bank the next morning.

However, the weather turned much warmer during the night and before going to the bank he decided to change his winter coat for his lighter one, and forgetting all about my letter, took his coat and hung it far back in a dark closet. There it hung untouched until cold weather returned.

When he took the coat out for winter wear he found it needed cleaning and pressing. He sent it to the laundry; the party pressing it noticed something in the inside coat pocket. He found it to be a letter to The Farmers Bank, mailed at Iron Hill, early in April of that year, about six months before. He sent it to the bank and the “mystery” was solved. Mr. Carnahan told me later, “that was the awfulest thing I ever did” as for myself I had given up all hope of recovering my \$50, so it was easy for me to forgive.

Such an interesting family, made moreso by their special writings. I wish I could have known them all those many years ago.

(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).



Tell me your story

A recurring theme in this column is that of story. We watch them, write them, tell them, hear them. We tell stories that are true, some that are made up (for all kinds of reasons). We tell short ones and long ones – funny, sad, serious and light-hearted. We are the stories we tell and the stories we believe. It is also true that the more stories we know about the people around us the more whole we will be. That is why reading is important. That is why being around people who are different than us is important. Being aware of the stories of other people and assimilating those into how we treat each other makes us more human.

February is Black History Month; the theme is “The Black Family.” It is one of several national and ethnic history months in the United States. By focusing on one group, we have an opportunity to arrive at a deeper understanding of who we are as a nation.

There are three proverbs in the Old Testament book of Proverbs back-to-back that speak to the importance of hearing each other’s experiences. The first is typically set in a law court. It says, “He who states his case first seems right, until the other comes and examines him.” (18:17). The image that usually comes to mind involves three parties: one listening and two giving their stories. Now, imagine only two parties. The one who states the case first is me, the one who comes to examine my case is you. No one likes this very much. I do not like to have my narrative challenged, much less changed.

I am not suggesting we rewrite history by eliminating truth (although we have all done it and will continue to do so). I am suggesting that we could deepen and broaden our history and thus make it more accurate. This will also make room for everyone. We do this with our faith. We do it in

our businesses. We do it as our families grow over time. We have all had



Sean NIESTRATH Faith-based columnist Guest Columnist

the experience of getting to know another’s story and as a result our respect and love for them grows.

The second speaks to a way of charting a course ahead which we have adopted, although imperfectly, from the beginning of the American experiment. “The lot puts an

end to disputes and decides between powerful contenders.” (Proverbs 18:18). This one has been especially challenging for us in recent years. Although I would contend that we are still trending better when it comes to our casting of lots. (See the movie “Free State of Jones” or LBJ’s 1948 senate primary runoff for a couple of easy to find examples).

To be fair, the idea of casting lots in the Old Testament was nothing like voting today. What is important is that a process (however flawed) is agreed upon and we all live with the result, with the opportunity to do it again every two years. What has happened recently is that we have been forced to hear the narratives of people who disagree with us even on things as basic as facts. It is tempting to dismiss others’ viewpoints, but we do so at our peril – even if we do think “they”

are crazy. This is caused by our failure to pay attention to the previous proverb for too long.

The third requires us to recognize that we are all human beings navigating vastly different lives and circumstances. ‘A brother helped is like a strong city, but quarreling is like the bars of a castle.” (Proverbs 18:9). We must see each other as brothers and sisters and seek to help each other. This removes the threat that some feel when their story is being examined and found to be incomplete or flawed.

It is important for us to be able to tell our stories so that they can be heard. The goal is not to diminish or denigrate others but to enrich and gain understanding. Helping each other builds strength, quarreling builds prisons.

We must come out of our trenches and stop firing at each other. From a faith perspective it gets us closer to God. It makes us more gracious. It makes us wiser. It makes us more apt to listen.

It makes us better teachers and communicators. We do not have to give up what we believe. We do need to allow ourselves to be examined by other views. I know, that will never be popular. Listen and speak during Black History Month – celebrate all of our stories.

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.

Reserve physical intimacy for marriage

Question: I dated a girl for two years in high school. Now we have lived together for two years and have two children together. Isn't being faithful to the one you live with as good as being married to her?

Answer: I commend you on your faithfulness to your union with the one who is the mother of your two children. It is wonderful you have found someone to love and to be loved by her. Sharing your life with another is deeply meaningful.

Unfortunately, living with a lady who is not officially your wife is a breach of God’s intention for two people living together. No matter how much we try to redefine what marriage is and what that commitment entails, it doesn’t make it right.

God has made His plan for marriage clear. “A man will leave his father and

ASK the PASTOR

By Bob Hardison



Waiting until you are united in marriage before having sexual intimacy adds purity of heart to one’s relationship.

A strong marriage is built on trust and commitment. Entering into a marriage covenant before God and one’s state legal system makes a stronger bond than just for a man and a woman deciding to “just live together.”

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

THE PADGETT’S



Sunday, Feb. 14 • 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Singing during morning worship

Meal following

CROOKED CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

located 1.2 miles from Marion off Ford's Ferry Rd.

Love offering accepted

Events & News

■ Shady Grove Cemetery will have its annual meeting at the Fire Station at Shady Grove on Feb. 13 at 10 a.m. Everyone is invited.

Does Your Congregation Have Something Planned?

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

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

THANK YOU

The family of Willa Reynolds would like to thank everyone for the many acts of kindness shown to us during the loss of our loved one.

A special thanks to the doctors and nurses at Crittenden Community Hospital for the care they gave her.

Thanks to Brother Gary Murray for his comforting words and to the staff at Gilbert Funeral Home for the services they provided.

The family of Willa Reynolds

Belt Auction & Realty

MARION / CRITTENDEN COUNTY

MIDWAY MINI FARM...This property has approx. 10.6 acres w/3 stocked ponds, a large barn w/stables. Home was constructed 2018 w/4 BR,3 BA, large living room, den, study/nursery. Gorgeous Kitchen & den overlooking the farm. Master Bedroom has large private bathroom w/garden tub & full walk in Closet. Farm consist of fenced areas for horses, livestock. CRAYNE RANCH HOME...Open Floor plan in this ranch conveniently located just south of Marion, in Crayne KY. Home has stainless appliances including a gas stove. Large master BR w/master bath & walk in closet. Large 24 foot above ground pool, single car attached garage, and detached carport. Storage shed in the back yard with plenty of play room for the children.. **SOLD**

11 ACRES...building lot in Grandview Est. Agent owned. **12.5 ACRES...**located on SR 723 S near county line. **SALEM/LIVINGSTON**

BRICK RANCH...just off Hwy. 60. Private location w/approx. 4 acres, low cost utilities, convenient location for those who are looking for country living. **REDUCED \$87,000**

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OFFICE: (270) 965-5271 FAX: (270) 965-5272

WORSHIP with us this week

Visit one of our area churches for worship and fellowship

St. William Catholic Church

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

Father John Okoro

Mexico Baptist Church

Minister of Music Mike Crabtree
Pastor: Tim Burdon
Sunday Worship Services: 10 a.m., 7 p.m.
Sunday Bible Study: 9 a.m.
Sunday Discipleship Training: 6 p.m.
Wednesday Worship Service: 7 p.m.

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

DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Pastor: Bro. Chris Cummins "Whatever It Takes"

Sunday Bible Study: 10 a.m. • Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.
Approx. 5 miles from the intersection of Hwy. 60 & Hwy. 297
Phone: (270) 965-2220

Emmanuel Baptist Church

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

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

Captured by a vision...

Tolu United Methodist Church

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

Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

The People of The United Methodist Church
Sunday School 10 a.m. • Service 11 a.m.
Wednesday Night Youth 6:30 p.m.

Barnett Chapel General Baptist

Sunday School: 9:45 a.m. Barnett Chapel Rd., Marion, Ky.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Wednesday Night Bible Study: 6 p.m.
Barnett Chapel...where everyone is welcome.

Freedom General Baptist Church

Pastor: Ross Atwell

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

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

Marion Baptist Church

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

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

SUNDAY CHURCH TIMES:
8:30 a.m. Coffee Juice Fellowship • 8:45 a.m. Sunday School • 10 a.m. Morning Worship
6 p.m. Youth Bible Study • 6 p.m. Evening Worship
WEDNESDAY CHURCH TIMES: 6 p.m. Prayer/Devotional Service • 6:45 p.m. Adult Choir Practice

SEVEN SPRINGS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH

219 Seven Springs Rd., Marion, Ky. 42064

Sun. School for all ages: 10 a.m.
Sun. Worship: 11 a.m., 6 p.m. • Wed.: 7 p.m.
Bro. Austin Weist, pastor
• We are an Independent Baptist Church seeking to know Christ and to make Him known to the community around us.

Crayne Community Church

Crayne Cemetery Road, Crayne, Ky.
Bro. James Driver, Interim Pastor
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

growing in grace 2 Peter 3:18

PLEASANT GROVE General Baptist Church

Located on Ky. 723, 4 miles north of Salem
Sunday School 10 a.m. | Sunday Worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m. | Wed. 7 p.m.

Marion Church of God

334 Fords Ferry Road, Marion, Ky.
Sun. School 10 a.m. • Morning Service 11 a.m.
Sun. Evening 6 p.m. • Wed. Evening 6 p.m.
"Where salvation makes you a member." Lucy Tedrick, pastor

PINEY FORK CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Pastor Junior Martin

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

It's new beginnings, going forward and looking to the future Ky. 506 | Marion, Ky.

Sugar Grove CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN

585 Sugar Grove Church Rd., Marion, Ky. (270) 704-2455

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

Marion United Methodist Church

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors. The People of the United Methodist Church

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

Bro. David COMBS South College St.

Frances Community Church

Bro. Butch Gray

Wed. night prayer meeting & youth service: 6:30 p.m.
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Worship service: 11 a.m.

Hurricane Church

Hurricane Church Rd. off Ky. 135 West

Pastor: Bro. Danny Hinchee
Sun. School, 10 a.m. • Worship, 11 a.m.
Sun. Evening services, 6 p.m.
Wed. Evening services, 7 p.m.

Unity General Baptist Church

4691 U.S. 641 • Crayne, Ky.
Barry Hix, pastor • (270) 365-5836 or (270) 625-1248
Sunday School 10 a.m. • Sunday Worship 11 a.m.
Sunday Evening 6 p.m. • Wednesday Night Service 6 p.m.

Marion Church of Christ

546 West Elm Street • (270) 965-9450
Sunday Bible Study: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 10:30 a.m. and 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.
- The end of your search for a friendly church -

Classifieds

The Crittenden Press

The Crittenden Press

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You can also reach more than one million readers with one call! Contact the classified department for more information about placing a 25-word classified in 70 newspapers for only \$250. It is the policy of The Crittenden Press Inc., to fully comply with the Fair Housing Act and to never knowingly publish advertisements that discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability or family status. If you believe an advertisement published in this newspaper is discriminatory, please contact the publisher immediately at (270) 965-3191.

All phone numbers listed for ads on this page are within the 270 area code unless otherwise noted.

for sale

Use ToneKote® for cats and dogs to stop shedding, scratching and ensure a warm winter coat. Available at Akridge Farm Supply. www.kennelvax.com. (3t-6-p)

Hay for sale: Mixed grass round bales and orchard grass square bales (270) 969-8600 or (270) 704-0634. (4t-9-p)

wanted

Looking for land to lease for hunting. If interested call (904) 248-1671. (4t-6-p)

for rent

3 BR, 2 bath mobile home, central heat and air, stove and refrigerator, trash pickup, yard maintenance, \$500/mo. (270) 704-3234. (tfc-je)

agriculture

ROUND GRASS HAY for sale. (270) 704-0830. (2t-7-p)

employment

Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce seeks candidates for its part-time executive director position. Candidates should be knowledgeable with regard to computer programs, bookkeeping, communications and social media and have outstanding organizational skills. Send inquiries, resume and references to elizabeth.floyd@gmail.com. (2t-6-c)

NOW HIRING! General Laborers, Forklift Operators, & Machine Operators. Starting wage \$14 per hour. Please apply at Rocket Tire, 314 Sturgis Road, Marion, KY Monday through Friday 7 a.m.-5 p.m. or Saturday 7 a.m.-12 p.m. (4t-8-p)

HELP WANTED: The Crittenden County Fiscal Court is currently accepting applications for two positions at the Road Department. Openings for laborer/operator trainee and for an experienced equipment operator. Interested and qualified individuals may complete an application at the Judge Executive's office or submit a resume at 107 S. Main St., Ste. 208 Marion KY 42064 or by email to brittany.mardis@crittendencountyky.org. Pay scale is commensurate with experience and benefits include health insurance, retirement, paid leave, paid sick time, paid holidays, and training. Experience operating a backhoe will be given preferential considerations. (4t-8-c)

OWNER OPERATOR – Must have own semi-tractor. Forklift experience needed – or someone raised in a farming community. Dedicated Southern IL/IN, Western KY. Established company. Excellent pay and fuel rebate. 219-663-5678 X 17. (4t-6-p)

The Earle C. Clements Job Corps Academy is seeking employees. We offer a competitive salary, benefits package, and advancement opportunities. Full-time, part-time, and substitute positions available. MTC is an equal opportunity employer-Minority/Female/Disabled/Veteran. To view current openings and qualifications and to apply, please visit our website: www.mtcjobs.com. "Building Tomorrow's Futures Today" (4t-8-p)

Reliable workers needed! Full-time, 1st & 2nd shift positions available now! Strong Solid Company with a Bright Future! Good starting wage \$10 & up based on skill & experience. Must pass background & drug screen. Apply at Liberty Tire Recycling, 2071 US 60 West, Marion KY or email resume to hmaloney@libertytire.com. Call for more info 270-965-3613. Equal Opportunity Employer. (6-tfc)

services

CONCRETE WORK: Parking lots, garages, steel buildings, walls, sidewalks, driveways, room additions. Call for quote (270) 724-4672, Joe Mattingly Concrete Construction. (12t-11-p)

notice

Advertise your job opening, event, items for sale, auction etc. in this newspaper plus 83 other Kentucky newspapers including The Paducah Sun, Kentucky

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

legal notices

Notice is hereby given that on Feb. 2, 2021 Reginald Hodges of 1609 Areca Palm Dr., Port Orange, FL 32128 was appointed executor with will annexed of Shelby Jean Clevenger, deceased, whose address was Crittenden County Health and Rehab, 201 Watson St., Marion, Ky. 42064. Cobie D. Evans, 108 E. Carlisle St., Marion, Ky. 42064, agent for service of process.

All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the agent for process with will annexed on or before the 3rd day of August, 2021 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred.

All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately.

Crittenden District Court
Melissa Guill, Clerk
(1t-06-c)

Notice is hereby given that on Feb. 3, 2021 John Wesmoland of 10196 S.R. 141 S., Morganfield, Ky. 42431 and Joel Wesmoland of 19 S. Jefferson St., Sturgis, Ky. 42459 was appointed co-executors with will annexed of Dorothy Ann

Wesmoland, deceased, whose address was 105 S.R. 2123, Marion, Ky. 42064. Hon. Cobie Evans, 108 E. Carlisle St., Marion, Ky. 42064, attorney.

All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the co-executors with will annexed on or before the 3rd day of August, 2021 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred.

All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately.

Crittenden District Court
Melissa Guill, Clerk
(1t-06-c)

Notice is hereby given that on Jan. 27, 2021 Rosanne Chandler of 119 South Weldon Street, Marion, Ky. 42064 was appointed executrix with will annexed of Mary Rose Clark, deceased, whose address was 410 North College, Marion, Ky. 42064. Hon. Rebecca Johnson, P.O. Box 415, Marion, Ky. 42064, attorney.

All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the executrix with will annexed on or before the 27th day of July, 2021 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred.

All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately.

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346 Rooster Lane, Marion, KY

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Beef and Pork Processing

Please stop by to schedule an appointment.
Hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F / 9 a.m.-noon Sat.
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Crittenden District Court
Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-06-c)

REQUEST FOR QUOTE: The West Kentucky Regional Recycling Corporation is accepting sealed bids for the construction of a post frame building. Building site is at the West Kentucky Correction Complex in Eddyville KY. Bids should be submitted by Thursday March 4, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. to the WKRRRC c/o Trigg Co. Fiscal Court, 38 Main St. P.O. Box 672 Cadiz KY 42211 or email ttreasurer@att.net. To obtain a copy of the construction details you may either call 270-965-5251 or email brittany.mardis@crittendencountyky.org. The building size will be a 26'x70'x16' 3-sided open front building for storage with a 6" concrete floor, 80% of which is already completed. The WKRRRC Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in accordance with KRS 45-A. (1t-6-c)wkrrc

SURPLUS PROPERTY BID NOTICE:

The Crittenden County Fiscal Court has declared the following as surplus property and is accepting sealed bids. One 6' pickup truck bed for a 2008 Dodge Ram 4WD pickup. The bed can be inspected at the road department located at 1901 US 60E. Marion KY. All bids must be submitted to the county Judge Executive's office at 107 S. Main St.- Ste. 208 Marion KY 42064 or email to mardis@crittendencountyky.org by 8:00 a.m. Feb-

ruary 18, 2021, at which time bids will be opened and read aloud at the regular meeting of the Fiscal Court. Please indicate the item being bid on the outside of the envelope. If you have any questions regarding this bid notice contact the office of the Judge Executive at 270-965-5251. The County reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in accordance with KRS 45-A. (1t-6-c)

Notice of RFQ: On behalf of the Crittenden County Detention Center the Crittenden County Fiscal Court is accepting sealed bids for Food Services at the Detention Center. Consideration will be based on providing 3 meals per day, 365 days per year, for all detainees. Meals must meet dietary requirement standards set forth by the management of the detention center. Questions regarding this bid request may be answered by calling Jailer Robert P. Kirk at 270-965-3185 or by email at robbie.kirk@crittendencountyky.org. Bids must be received by 8:00 a.m. February 18, 2021 at 107 S. Main St., Ste. 208 Marion KY 42064 or by email to brittany.mardis@crittendencountyky.org addressed to Food Services Bid. All bids will be opened and read aloud during the regular meeting of the Fiscal Court at 8:30 a.m. that day. The Crittenden County Fiscal Court reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids in accordance with KRS 45-A. (1t-6-c)

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HOMES

4 Bed 2 Bath - 683 Chapel Hill Rd \$139,900AR
6 Bed 5 Bath - 109 E Gum St. Historic Home \$112,500SH
3 Bed 1 Bath - 421 W Bellville St. **SOLD** \$79,000SA
3 Bed 1 Bath - 1700 St. Rt. 838 W. \$110,000JC
2 Bed 1 1/2 Bath w/Pool - 4516 US 60 W. **SOLD** \$109,000KL
3 Bed 2 Bath - 649 S Main St. \$69,900 WE
3 Homes on 94+ Acres - Hoover Spur Rd. **SOLD** \$279,000 CH
3 Bed, 1 Bath - 701 E Depot St. \$24,900 JM
4 Bed, 2 Bath - 6531 St. Rt. 1943 West, **PRICE REDUCED** \$86,500 ST
2 Bed 2Bath - 149 Hickory Hills. **SOLD** \$49,000 MW

ACREAGE

650+ AC - 9285 US 60 W Marion, KY \$1,300,000
40+ AC on JT May Rd. **SOLD** \$79,000 DH
Cave-In-Rock Island - 160+ AC \$359,900 AE
15+ AC - McMican Rd Marion, KY **SOLD** \$54,900 TC
89+ AC - Zion Cemetery Rd Crittenden County \$174,500DT
110+ AC - 9285 US 60 W Marion, KY \$199,000
250+ AC - 9285 US 60 W Marion, KY \$499,000

10x30 STORAGE UNIT • \$100

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BILL WOULD RAISE FELONY THRESHOLD ON THEFT, FRAUD

Legislation aimed at bringing Kentucky's felony theft threshold statutes to the national median of states at \$1,000 is on the table in Frankfort. The bill would also increase the threshold for several fraud-related crimes to \$1,000, some of which currently have amounts as low as \$100 for the offense to be a felony.

The House Judiciary Committee advanced HB 126, sponsored by Chairman C. Ed Massey, last week. "The Kentucky Smart on Crime Coalition applauds Chairman Massey for his leadership," said Mandy Simpson, Director of Public Policy for the Metro United Way of Kentucky on behalf of the Kentucky Smart on Crime Coalition. Kentucky's felony theft threshold has failed to keep pace with inflation and modernization of the criminal legal system, remaining unchanged for more than a decade. Kentucky ranks third nationally for children who experience parental incarceration. The Commonwealth is imposing lifechanging consequences on parents and children for



what other states consider petty theft, the colation said.

ADULT SKILLS OFFER FROM CROSSWALK, FULL BODY FITNESS

Crosswalk Academy and Full Body Fitness Studio will collaborate to offer an adult skill-building class focusing on setting and achieving goals. The event will be held at 6 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 16 at the Marion Ed-Tech Center. Topics will help adults learn to take small steps toward becoming more fit and less stressed. Register by email by contacting Jeff Hughes, Crosswalk coordinator, at Jeff.hughes@critten-den.kyschools.us.

JOB INJURIES FALLING

The state's recordable, nonfatal occupational injury and illness rate has fallen to the lowest point on record, the Kentucky Labor

Cabinet announced today. The total recordable incidence rate for all industries fell to the lowest level since the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) began recording the data in 1996, according to the Kentucky Labor Cabinet Occupational Safety and Health Program annual report. The fiscal year 2020 rate, based on 2019 BLS data, was 3.2 cases per 100 full-time equivalent workers. Kentucky's rate in 1996 was 8.4, when BLS began recording the data. Kentucky's incidence rate still remains slightly higher than the national average of 3.0. MCC OFFERS CLASS FOR ELECTRICIANS The Madisonville Community College Workforce Solutions Department is offering the master electrician and electrician preparatory course this

spring. Taught by Roy Wells, master electrician, this course is designed for those who are interested in obtaining a master electrician or journeyman electrician's license by taking the International Code Council (ICC) exam. The course will begin March 15 and conclude on May 7. The course fee is \$295 and students will receive information about the additional required workbooks and materials upon registration. For more information or to register for the class, contact the MCC Workforce Solutions office at (270) 824-8658. CLERK REPORTS ONLINE RENEWALS The first month of online vehicle registration renewal in Crittenden County saw nine residents pay tags and taxes on 16 vehicles. Almost \$2,900 in payments were processed. Starting Jan. 1, Crittenden County Clerk's Office began accepting payment of registration renewals through the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's online system at <https://secure.kentucky.gov/kytc/renewal>. Available 24/7, the registration website accepts credit cards for payments.

Once processed, the county clerk's office will mail the new registration to the customer the following business day. County Clerk Daryl Tabor says he wanted to offer the payment option to give people another opportunity for residents to reduce in-person contact if they wish. Payments with a credit card can still be taken over the phone and a blue drop box is offered outside the front door of the courthouse to accept payments by check. The county clerk's office is open 8-4 weekdays. TAX SEASON BEGINS The Kentucky Department of Revenue (DOR) is in the process of finalizing its tax filing processes and procedures, striving to make this the most efficient and safe filing season possible. The IRS recently announced it will begin accepting electronic and paper federal individual income tax returns on Feb. 12. Kentucky will follow the same timeline and begin accepting and processing state returns on the same date, which is later than usual due to additional programming and testing of IRS systems. Electronic individual income tax returns typ-

ically take two to three weeks to process and refunds can be expected to be issued shortly thereafter. Taxpayers may check the status of their refund by visiting refund.ky.gov and entering their Social Security number and exact dollar amount of the expected refund. Due to ongoing COVID-19 pandemic public health recommendations, there could be delays in processing times. CRP DEADLINE FEB. 12 Agricultural producers and private landowners interested in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) must sign up for the popular program by the Feb. 12 deadline. The competitive program, administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), provides annual rental payments for land devoted to conservation purposes. This signup for the CRP gives producers and landowners an opportunity to enroll for the first time or continue their participation for another term. For Breaking News Between Issues See The Press Online Go to The Press Online

WEST

Continued from page 1 By the time she arrived, her husband had nearly collapsed, holding himself up against a brick pillar in front of the clinic. She immediately got him next door to the hospital. "I walked into the emergency room and after that I don't remember much of anything," says West. Eighteen days and countless prayers later, West left the hospital. It could have turned out differently. "I don't think the average person knows just how bad he was," said Marion Police Chief Ray O'Neal. West was treated at four different hospitals and a full diagnosis remains a mystery. Some believe it was COVID-19. "My cardiologist, my kidney doctor and my family doctor all say it was COVID, but that's not on paper anywhere," West says. "If you look at the symptoms these people are having with COVID, it sure seems like it, because Bobby had all of those symptoms," the police chief said. Attending healthcare professionals at Crittenden Community Hospital

transported West right away to Paducah's Baptist Health shortly after he struggled through the door. The problems were too great to keep him there, and he was moved to University of Louisville Hospital. Test after test revealed nothing definitive. The sickness was shrouded in mystery. "They tested him for every virus and bacterial infection they knew of, including Parvovirus and Blastomycosis," said his wife, pointing out that those two are often found in pets. "They did a COVID test because although it was just then coming on, they knew about the virus. But that came back negative, too, so they were strongly thinking he was poisoned somehow." The investigation grew beyond the hospital, and included a serious look at criminal cases he was working on before West had fallen ill. Was this something sinister? Chief O'Neal said there was serious consideration that evidence West might have handled on the job could have brought on the illness. However, those assumptions were quickly excluded. Turns out that every plausible reason for his sickness was ruled out. Yet it had affected his kidneys, lungs, heart and

bowels. No treatment was working and doctors were barely keeping him alive. "At the hospital they asked us a few times how far we wanted to go before we stopped treatment," says Elliot, thinking about how close the family was to losing a husband and father. "They said we will not stop until you tell us to, but be aware and be thinking about at what point you want that to happen." "Now, that was surreal," she said. West and his wife credit prayer and God's hand. Prayers from their family, friends and pastors brought not only healing, but perfect timing. There was one night in particular that she had unceasingly prayed over him in the hospital bed all night long. "The doctor came by the next morning and told the nurses that whatever they did between 1 a.m., and 4 a.m., needed to continue because it was working," West said. "The nurses told the doctor they hadn't changed anything." Elliot knew who had interceded, and she believes the doctor did, too. "Things just fell into place," Elliot said. Just weeks before his

life-threatening episode, Jewish Hospital, known for its cardiac care, had been acquired by UofL hospital. "Weeks earlier his doctors at UofL would not have even been talking to the cardiac specialists at Jewish Hospital," says Elliot. Yet, because the two facilities had begun working in concert with one another, West was moved across town to Jewish Hospital. By coincidence, as he was rolled into the cardiac unit, doctors and other healthcare professionals were there afterwards and available to install an Impella heart pump. It is a device used for temporary ventricular support in patients with depressed heart function. The apparatus began to stabilize his heart and his fever broke. And there were more timing matters West and his family believe were guided by a superior hand. "A few weeks later and I wouldn't have even been able to have been there in the hospital with him," his wife says. Once the pandemic had its grip on the country, patients were left with only the care provided by strangers. "There are just some things family can provide that no one else can," El-

liot said. And she did it all. The love and compassion displayed by his wife was nothing short of miraculous, West says. She never left his side, sometimes sitting for days in a bedside chair without sleep. The survival rate for someone with a cardiac event like West went through is 1 in 10, Elliot said. "God, that's it. When your doctors say we can't explain it, you know it's God," she proclaims. Ever so slowly, West began a long road toward recovery and on Feb. 13, one day before Valentine's Day, he was home. "I took him to church. He wanted to go because he hadn't been in so long," recalls his wife. After that she took him home, then she went straight to her flower shop and worked the whole night through and into the following day, preparing Valentine flowers and gifts. There was no rest for the weary, she concedes, but there were no complaints. "We just weren't ready to let him go," she says. After several weeks of followup dialysis, West got back to his job in uniform by the middle of April. "Most people who start dialysis never get off of

it," he said. "I told my nurses that I serve a powerful God and one day I would no longer need it, even though they were talking to me about a kidney transplant." There are no apparent lasting effects from the puzzling illness, but West is still taking a couple of heart medications. He said that will last another year or so. West has also tested positive for COVID-19 antibodies, which did not surprise him. Otherwise, the police officer and family man is simply grateful and blessed to be able to tell his story of faith, love and near perfect timing.

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C-tier series, open events on local disc golf’s ’21 schedule

STAFF REPORT

There are a few upcoming events for local disc golfers at the Marion-Crittenden County Park course and the Crittenden County Fairgrounds beginners course.

Veterans for Vets is a benefit tournament with all proceeds going to American Legion Post 217. It will be sponsored by Dynamic Discs. This event was held last year as well. It's expected to raise around \$1,500. It's set for Feb. 28. Also, there will be a Local



In addition to the park’s disc golf course, there’s a beginners course at the Lions Club Fairgrounds.

Route Series that will include three C-tier level events for all skill levels. Players can earn points, cash and prizes as they compete for a championship in each division. Proceeds from this series will be used to continue upgrading the novice course at the fairgrounds.

In April, the Bluegrass Disc Golf Series comes back to Marion with local course designer H.B. Clark promoting the tournament.

There are also plans for a throwing clinic. Details for that will be forthcoming soon.

Events Schedule

- Feb. 28 Veterans for Vets Charity Best Shot Doubles (at both park and fairgrounds courses)
- March 7 Local Route Series #1 (fairgrounds)
- March 14 Local Route Series #2 (fairgrounds)
- March 21 Local Route Series #3 (fairgrounds)
- April 19 Bluegrass Disc Golf Series (park course)



The county’s first measurable snowfall of 2021 turned schools out Monday and gave youngsters an opportunity to enjoy some sledding. Pictured here is Michael Rushing and Bentley Rushing on their farm in rural, northern Crittenden County. Schools were also delayed two hours on Tuesday because of road conditions following the wintry weather that hit late Saturday and early Sunday morning. A number of churches also canceled services on Sunday due to weather.



Get a free copy of the new 2021-22 Kentucky Fishing & Boating Guide inside the Crittenden County Clerk’s Office. The office recently received copies of the 40-page, full color guide with all you need to know about fishing and boating, including new laws and regulations. The booklet also includes an angler’s fish identification guide.

Sheppard regularly flirting with triple-doubles

Seems like every week – or maybe every game – that North Laurel sophomore standout Reed Sheppard gets close to having a triple-double. He recently had 54 points, nine assists and eight rebounds in a 98-90 win over Corbin just a week after a previous 50-point game.

Sheppard’s parents are former UK guards Stacey Reed Sheppard and Jeff Sheppard. He was MVP of the 1998 Final Four and Stacey remains one of the top 10 all-time scorers at Kentucky.

Reed Sheppard already has five Division I scholarship offers, including one from Iowa. He does not have a Kentucky offer and there has been speculation by some UK fans that Jeff Sheppard and John Calipari do not see eye to eye on matters and that would keep Reed Sheppard from ever going to UK.

“There is nothing,” Jeff Sheppard said when asked about animosity between him and Calipari. “I am going to try my best to be as removed as possible from this whole recruiting thing.”

Apparently the perception some have that Sheppard and Calipari do not get along goes back to the 2013 UK Ohio Convention where Sheppard spoke to a group of about 150 UK fans — and I was there. He talked about valuing championships over draft picks and not being a fan of the one-and-done concept — the same thing other former UK players have said.

He also said he felt more comfortable walking in to see Rick Pitino — his former coach at UK — at Louisville than he did Calipari. But that

was because he barely knew Calipari and Pitino was his coach at UK.

I never sensed any animosity then and certainly did not when last week after numerous fans kept asking me and I talked to Sheppard about it.

“There’s nothing there,” Sheppard said. “It will be his decision. We are just trying to enjoy every step of the way right now.”

Georgia linebacker Trevin Wallace is the third highest rated recruit Kentucky coach Mark Stoops has signed at Kentucky behind No. 1 Landon Young and No. 2 Matt Elam.

The four-star prospect from Jesup (Ga.) Wayne County is rated as the No. 2 inside linebacker nationally by 247Sports and picked UK over Auburn, Florida State, South Carolina and Ole Miss. He is only the seventh top 100 recruit to sign with UK since 2014 and second in the 2021 recruiting class along with Frederick Douglass offensive lineman Jager Burton.

Lyndsey Gough is the sports director for WTOG-TV in Savannah, Ga. She is a 2015 University of Kentucky graduate and worked for WBKO-TV in Bowling Green for one year and spent two years with Spectrum News Kentucky for two years where she covered both UK and Louisville sports. Gough was at Wallace’s decision-making ceremony



Larry Vaught
UK Sports Columnist
Vaught's Views

last week when he picked the Wildcats and liked how he handled it.

“He picked up an Ole Miss ball, then put it down. He picked up a UK ball and put it down and my UK heart sank,” she said. “Then he unzipped his jacket and said Kentucky, so that made me smile. I was even wearing my (UK) class ring and told him welcome to BBN. You could also tell people there were really happy for him.”

No one was happier than Stoops and his coaching staff because they hope Wallace can provide immediate help to a position where UK needs playmakers. Leading tackler Jamin Davis opted to leave for the NFL but also had a role in Wallace becoming a Wildcat.

Because of the pandemic, Wallace’s recruitment has been Zoom calls with UK coaches or phone calls. Wallace has never been to Lexington.

“His decision to pick UK was fully based on his relationship with the coaches,” Gough said. “It wasn’t because he visited and loved the new facilities. It also helped that he talked to Jamin Davis who is from just one county over.”

“Trevin called him a couple of weeks ago and he (Davis) told him he would succeed anywhere he would go because of his talent but he could do something really special at Kentucky and that helped solidify his decision.”

What did it cost to lure two coaches away from the NFL to become part of Mark Stoops’ coaching staff at Kentucky?

New offensive coordinator Liam Coen will

make \$750,000 this year and \$775,000 in 2022. Running backs coach Jemal Singleton will make \$500,000 this year and in 2022.

Both coaches have clauses in their contracts that could bump up their compensation based on games won and bowl appearances among other things.

Derek Terry of The Cats Pause reported that each coach will get an additional one month of salary if UK wins six or more games — and if UK plays a normal 2021 schedule only winning six games will be a disappointment. Incentives for reaching the SEC Championship or getting a spot in the College Football Playoff will earn two months’ salary but that will be a lot easier said than done.

Coen didn’t need long to make his recruiting presence felt as Penn State grad transfer Will Levis announced he was coming to UK. The quarterback is finishing his degree at Penn State. He will not be on campus for spring practice but has three years of eligibility left.

Coen went after the Connecticut native when he entered the transfer portal. He started two games for the Nittany Lions threw for 421 yards and one touchdown and ran 82 times for 260

yards and three scores.

Levis had a new offensive coordinator each year at Penn State — and the Nittany Lions will have another new coordinator next season — so starting over with Coen should not be an issue for him.

ESPN analyst Dick Vitale got on a crusade early in the Kentucky-Tennessee game scolding those who were even suggesting coach John Calipari should be fired for UK’s play this season. Kentucky went on to build a 10-point lead with 12 minutes to play only to lose by 11 points to the No. 11 Vols.

“I want to give a message out there to those people on social media talking about Calipari should be fired,” Vitale said in the first half. “Get real. Get absolutely real. The guy is one of the best coaches in America. I don’t care what this year shows. Bottom line, look at his track record at (U)Mass and at Kentucky. It’s off the charts.”

“So get off that crazy feeling because he is not getting fired. That will not happen. I’ve got a better chance of growing hair than of him getting fired by Kentucky.”

Quote of the Week: “When you see a guy who played for you seven years ago and he has a

son, is married and hasn’t changed how he is, you just smile. He just got more confident in who he is and comfortable in his skin,” John Calipari on former player Julius Randle of the New York Knicks in an interview with the New York Post.

Quote of the Week 2: “She is probably the best leadoff hitter I have ever had here. She is strong, fast, can shorten up (and bunt) and has now added the home run ball. She is a player that you will notice having an immediate impact. She actually did last year but the season was cut short but she is really, really good and could have a huge breakout season,” Kentucky softball coach Rachel Lawson on junior catcher Kayla Kowalik.

Quote of the Week 3: “He kind of just told me it’s a once-in-a-life opportunity, and I already knew that. He talked really high of Coach Cal and the city of Lexington. He’s somebody whose opinion I hold very, very close to my heart. I know he wouldn’t lead me in the wrong direction or anything like that,” UK assistant coach Jai Lucas on what Rick Barnes, his former college coach, told him about working for John Calipari.



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BASKETBALL

2nd Region Rankings

Area Media Poll

GIRLS		
Rank	Team	Last Week
1.	Henderson County	1
2.	Webster County	2
3.	Crittenden County	3
4.	Christian County	4
5.	Lyon County	5
6.	Union County	7
7.	Trigg County	6
8.	Caldwell County	8
9.	Hopkinsville	9
10.	Hopkins Central	10

BOYS		
Rank	Team	Last Week
1.	Lyon County	1
2.	Webster County	3
3.	Madisonville	2
4.	University Heights	5
5.	Hopkinsville	4
6.	Henderson County	6
7.	Union County	8
8.	Christian County	7
9.	Crittenden County	9
10.	Caldwell County	10

LOCAL ATHLETES

College signing day

There will be a formal college announcement ceremony for senior athletes at Crittenden County High School's Rocket Arena at 2 p.m., on Friday, Feb. 19. Because of pandemic protocol, it will be open only to approved guests. The Press will be there to provide a live broadcast on its YouTube channel. Among the athletes expected to participate are CCHS seniors Kate Keller, Tyler Boone, Preston Turley and Sammy Greenwell. Keller has committed to cross country and track at Kentucky Wesleyan, Boone is going to play football at Murray State, Turley will play football at Eastern Kentucky University and Greenwell be a golfer at Coker University in South Carolina.

SOFTBALL

Preseason softball

Second Region high school softball coaches have picked Henderson County No. 1 in the region in a preseason poll conducted by Your Sports Edge. Others were Lyon County No. 2, Christian County No. 3, Madisonville No. 4, Webster County No. 5. Crittenden and Union also received votes in the top five poll.

BASEBALL

Salem's Lamb signs

Livingston Central senior baseball player Dakota Lamb of Salem has committed to play collegiately at the University of the Cumberland. He made the announcement late last week. "Dakota has worked hard to earn his opportunity to play at the next level. Everyone here at LCHS is excited about Dakota's verbal commitment to play at University of the Cumberland," said Livingston baseball coach Jerrod Quertermous. Lamb is a 6-foot right-handed pitcher and infielder.



OUTDOORS

Hunting Seasons

Here are some of the key hunting opportunities currently in season or coming up soon:	
Quail, Rabbit	Nov. 16 - Feb. 10
Squirrel	Nov. 16 - Feb. 28
Bobcat Trapping	Nov. 16 - Feb. 28
Fox Hunting	Nov. 16 - Feb. 28
Fox Trapping	Nov. 16 - Feb. 28
Canada Goose	Nov. 26 - Feb. 15
Bobcat Hunting	Nov. 28 - Feb. 28
Duck	Dec. 7 - Jan. 31
Coyote Nighttime	Dec. 1 - May 31
Coyote	Year Round
Groundhog	Year Round
Turtles	Year Round

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Girls take week off to avoid COVID issues

Crittenden County canceled its scheduled girls' basketball games this week to minimize chances of a COVID-19 situation derailing its appearance in next week's All A Classic State Championship at Richmond's Eastern Kentucky University McBrayer Arena.

The girls dropped games with Hopkinsville and Hopkins Central as a precautionary measure. The Rocket boys' team is in quarantine until Feb. 13 because a player at Hopkins Central tested positive following a game between the two teams last week.

Newport Central Catholic (5-4) and the Lady Rockets will square off at 5:30 p.m., Monday. A link to the live webcast will be posted at www.AllAClassic.org.

"They have an athletic team and they're pretty big. They have a 6-foot-3 girl and one that's 6-1 so they will have a height advantage over us, but I think we can stick with them," said Taylor Guess, the Lady Rockets' sophomore guard who recently became the youngest player in school history to reach 1,000 points.

Tournament games will be spread out from Monday through Saturday next week for those who continue winning. The championship is at 9 a.m., on Saturday, Feb. 20. If Crittenden can win its opener, the girls would play again at 12:30 p.m., on Thursday, Feb. 18 against either Shelby Valley or Berea. Semifinals are Friday, Feb. 19.



Crittenden County senior Chandler Moss makes a move on the block against Union County. The Lady Rockets and Bravettes have now split their season series after UCHS beat CCHS last week at Morganfield.

Rockets lose more than a week after winning at Hopkins Central

STAFF REPORT

Just as they'd hit their stride, so to speak, the Rockets were sidelined by COVID-19.

The Crittenden County basketball team had won five of its last six games, including a 68-51 win at Hopkins Central a week ago Monday. Turns out, however, that would be a win that cost the Rockets about 10 days of play and practice.

A player from Hopkins Central tested positive for the virus following the game and Crittenden was placed on quarantine until Feb. 12. The boys are scheduled to play at Calloway County on Saturday.

Rocket basketball coach Denis Hodge said the game at Calloway remains on schedule as long as no other unforeseen issues arise later this week.



Games will be live-streamed. Link available on All A Classic website.

GIRLS TOURNAMENT

at Richmond Feb. 15-20

UPPER BRACKET

Pineville vs Whitfield Academy
Owsley County vs Hancock County
Newport Central vs Crittenden County
Shelby Valley vs Berea

LOWER BRACKET

Metcalfe County vs Danville
Bishop Brossart vs Murray
Presentation Academy vs Region 16
Walton-Verona vs Bethlehem

Girls' 3-game streak is snapped at Union

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County never got on track last Thursday at Union County, falling behind early and losing 69-56. The defeat snapped a three-game winning streak for CCHS, which will not play again until the All A Classic State Tournament on Monday.

The Lady Rockets had defeated Union by one point in their previous meeting this season. Since then, however, CCHS has lost starting guard Natalie Boone to an Achilles injury and is still trying to regroup.

Union County freshman Amelia Mackey scored 20 points, including four 3-pointers.

The Bravettes improved to 5-5 while the Lady Rockets fell to 9-3.

Senior Nahla Woodward scored 17 points and Chandler Moss and Taylor Guess added 15 and 12, respectively.

Crittenden Co.	10	18	34	56
Union County	13	30	44	69
CRITTENDEN - Taylor Guess 12; Riley Smith 2; Chandler Moss 15; Jaelyn Duncan 8; Nahla Woodward 17; Addie Hatfield; Lilly Perryman; Kacie Easley; Brylee Conyer; Matthia Long 2. FG 22. 3-pointers 1 (Woodward). FT 11-15.				
UNION - Madison Morris 11; Mati Hagan 8; Amelia Mackey 20; Raelle Beaven 10; Jralee Roberson 11; Lillie Goodlee; Kramer Jenkins 4; Annie Beaven; Reese Hagan 5; Maddie Hibbs; Jaci Curry; Ella Gough. FG 24. 3-pointers 5 (Mackey 4, R. Hagan 1). FT 16-20.				

PICK SIX Top Scorers

Player	Pts	FT	Reb
Gabe Mott	15.6	62%	3.5
Preston Turley	14.7	60%	7.3
Tyler Boone	11.4	73%	6.1
Preston Morgeson	10.1	59%	3.5
Travis Champion	4.4	44%	1.6
Ben Dobyns	2.9	100%	0.6

Three of the Rockets' top four scorers are pictured at left: Preston Turley (34), Gabe Mott (4) and Preston Morgeson.

At closing time

Squirrels among last options

As winter takes that long volatile turn toward spring, most outdoorsmen have packed away their gear and are spending their time thinking about turkey season just around the corner.

Somewhere in the exhaust of fall big game hunting and waterfowling most hunters overlook one of the most fundamental opportunities the forest of western Kentucky has to offer.

That's hunting for bushy tails.

Squirrel season runs through the end of February and now is a great time to reinvent that love affair with the sport that our grandfathers cut their teeth on.

Until whitetail deer were reintroduced in large numbers to the Bluegrass State in the 1970s, small game hunting was king of the commonwealth. Wild turkey restocking efforts brought that wily bird to the state in huntable numbers in the 1990s, further pushing the squirrel off the outdoorsman's radar.

While rabbits continue to flourish, quail are about as common as mountain lions around here so hunting beyond New Year's Day is typically reserved for die-hard duck hunters and folks with coon dogs.

Taking a new look at an old game is a prudent move for hunters who

long to be afield in late winter. It's a pleasant experience with no ticks, chiggers or mosquitoes to terrorize your squirrel hunting. Stalking for tree rodents is fun and if you don't particularly like to dine on them, there's always someone who will take a mess of squirrels, particularly if you do the dirty work (cleaning them).

Why not rekindle that love affair with a game critter that abounds in the hardwoods of our rural landscape and one that can teach us much about the outdoors. Gunning for bushy tails hones skills necessary for other seasons, including shot selection, stealth and patience.



This vintage bolt-action, single-shot .410 makes a good squirrel gun.



Kyle Cauley and Jody Gallimore of Murray brought in a truck load of song dogs.

11 coyotes is record

Murray duo Kyle Cauley and Jody Gallimore set a new record for the local coyote hunting contest sponsored by Hodge's and Marion Tourism Commission.

They won \$1,000 for bagging 11 during a 24-hour hunt that began Friday at dusk. The second-place team harvested nine.

All of the winners' coyotes came from farms in Calloway and Graves counties and were taken between dark at 1 a.m., Cauley said.

This was the first time the Murray men have competed in the Crittenden County contest, but they won a similar event in Henderson a few weeks ago and were second recently in another in Illinois.

Bechler supports new teacher retirement plan

As I mentioned in a previous update, this year is unique in that due to the ramifications of the rash of executive orders issued during the ongoing pandemic, we met for eight days in Part 1 of our session rather than the normal four. The governor vetoed six of the seven bills that were passed during Part 1 while allowing one to become law without his signature. The legislature is a co-equal branch of government and each member is duty bound to exercise its obligations to represent his or her constituents. With that in mind, I voted to override all of his vetoes and the General Assembly did in fact override all of them.

Senate Bill 9 mandates that healthcare providers give medically appropriate and reasonable life-saving and life-sustaining medical care and treatment to all

born-alive infants even if born alive after a failed abortion. This is the bill that the Governor allowed to become law without signing. It is not a surprise, but within minutes of our vote to override his vetoes, the governor filed suit challenging three of the bills: House Bill 1 and Senate Bills 1 and 2. Unsurprising, yes, but nevertheless very disappointing.

House Bill 1 provides direction to help businesses, schools, nonprofits and other organizations remain safely open throughout the rest of this pandemic and gives employers some relief in making their unemployment insurance payments. The

measure also includes a provision that ensures visitation opportunities for those in long-term care and children in state custody.

Senate Bill 1 balances the need for Kentucky to act quickly in an emergency by ensuring that a governor does not overstep his or her authority and attempt to legislate through executive orders.

Senate Bill 2 prevents the executive branch, including unelected appointees, from using the regulatory process to make laws.

To date, the governor has not filed suit against House Bills 2, 3, or 5.

House Bill 2 gives the attorney general authority to regulate abortion.

House Bill 3 allows Kentuckians who file suit against state government or a state elected official to do so in the county of their residence.

House Bill 5 requires

executive branch reorganizations and board reorganizations to be approved by the General Assembly

In other action, the full House considered House Bill 10 and House Bill 258. HB-10 provides certain liability protections from a lawsuit by someone who claims to have contracted COVID-19 at a business if that business has implemented CDC guidelines that were in existence at the time of the alleged incident.

HB-10 also provides qualified immunity from prosecution for a public school official's decision to open or close a school due to the uncertain environment created by COVID-19. I voted Yes and HB-10 has been sent to the Senate for its consideration.

As has been noted nu-

merous times in the past, Kentucky's public sector pensions and the associated funding are in serious trouble and the General Assembly has been grappling with the issues for a number of years. In an effort aimed at beginning to address a portion of it, a working group of representatives was formed to take a look at new teacher pensions. This group met at least monthly since the end of the General Assembly's 2020 session and solicited input from all appropriate teacher organizations. HB-258 is the result of those meetings.

HB-258 is a plan for new Teachers Retirement System (TRS) members entering the system on or after Jan. 1, 2022. It provides new members with a hybrid plan that

includes a traditional defined benefit plan, known as the foundational benefit, and a smaller savings account, known as the supplemental benefit. Both would be managed by the TRS. The plan has a minimum retirement age of 55 with incentives to work longer and retire later. The plan is designed to provide a 70 percent income replacement at age 55 with 30 years of service which is similar to the current TRS plan. I voted Yes, HB-258 passed the full House and has been sent to the Senate for its consideration.

Rep. Bechler (R-Marion) represents the 4th District, which includes Crittenden and Livingston counties. You can reach him at at 800-372-7181, 502-564-8100 or by visiting legislature.ky.gov

Budget will survive COVID

The Kentucky General Assembly reconvened in Frankfort last week for the second portion of the 2021 regular session, having now completed 11 out of the required 30 days. Legislative business at the Capitol resumed full speed ahead, as both the House and Senate spent last week meeting in committees, voting bills out of the chamber, and overriding vetoes recently cast by the governor.



Robby MILLS
KY STATE SENATE
Guest Commentary

During the recess period, the governor vetoed six priority bills. They included Senate Bills (SB) 1 and 2, and House Bills (HB) 1, 2, 3, and 5. The policy measures disapproved by the governor consist of language to implement a 30-day expiration of executive orders concerning restrictions placed on schools, businesses and nonprofits – unless extended by the approval of the General Assembly. The same would go for executive orders that regulate political, religious and social gatherings or impose mandatory isolation or quarantine requirements.

All of the gubernatorial vetoes listed above were overridden by the legislative majority and have effectively become law. As elected officials representing Kentuckians throughout the Commonwealth, we are eager to be involved in these consequential decisions moving forward.

You can find more details on each of these bills in my previous legislative updates or at www.legislature.ky.gov.

It comes as no surprise that the governor has already filed litigation challenging some of the veto overrides. However, I am grateful to say that Senate Bill 9, the Born - Alive Infant Protection Act, became enacted law without the governor's signature.

While we were in recess, budget conference committees, including members from both the House and Senate, began meeting to deliberate an agreed-upon budget bill. Luckily, the state's Consensus Forecasting Group predicted in December that Kentucky would see a small increase in revenue at roughly \$53 million in the next year, with economists expecting the state's budget will not be as hurt by the COVID-19 pandemic as initially thought. These discussions will remain a vital part of the session as these conference committees hammer out details of the state's annual budget plan.

The Senate passed several bills to the House last week, including:

SB 8 - Senate priority legislation that provides exemptions to mandatory immunization requirements during an epidemic based on religious grounds or conscientiously held beliefs. If enacted into law, it would require the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to develop and make available on its website a standardized form relating to exemptions from immunization requirements.

SB 11 provides recourse for property owners to pursue legal action for intentional damages done to rental property. The bill would classify the deliberate or wanton destruction, defacement and damage to residential rental property as criminal mischief. It also strives to provide landlords with notifications on background checks if a prospective applicant has previously been charged with causing substantial and intentional damage to rental property.

SB 21 allows originating hospitals to voluntarily transport mental health patients to a different hospital or facility upon staff authorization and a patient's signed written agreement. It would prevent an adult or child patient who has voluntarily been transported from being released during the transport to a receiving facility. The bill would also establish that a qualified mutual health professional may provide outpatient counseling to any child who is age 16 or older.

SB 61 establishes training standards for the staff of personal services agencies and home health agencies that serve patients with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia. If enacted into law, the bill would improve the care provided to these patients. The hope is that it would also address retention of direct-care staff by better preparing them for job duties – resulting in less stress and dissatisfaction.

I am proud to be a sponsor of Senate Bill 61. When I chaired a Dementia Services Task Force in 2019, one of the recommendations that resulted from that group's work was ultimately aimed at improving the services provided to individuals who have Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia within their homes. Many families and caregivers want to keep their loved ones cared for within their own homes. SB 61 is designed to support our caregivers who work in home health and personal services agencies by improving their training, which results in better care to those who need their care.

There is still much work to be done. I will continue to keep you up-

dated and informed in the weeks ahead. Thank you for staying engaged in this year's legislative session. It is a great honor to serve you in Frankfort.

Senator Mills (R-Henderson) represents the 4st District, which includes Caldwell and Livingston counties. You can reach him at 800-372-7181 or by email at Robby.Mills@LRC.ky.gov.

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