



See Full Homecoming Court on Page 12  
Kyonna Ross Queen & Erik O'Leary King

# The Crittenden Press

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AN INDEPENDENTLY-OWNED, LOCAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1879

ONE DOLLAR

## FIRE HAZARD SEASON NO BURNING IN DAYTIME

The forest fire hazard season starts Feb. 15 and runs through April 30. During this time, it is illegal to burn any material capable of spreading fire between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Burning is also illegal within 150 feet of any woodland or brushland.

## COURTHOUSE FUNDING?

Although Crittenden County has been here before – at the top of a priority list for a new courthouse – there is new optimism that a real deal is near. The Judicial Branch budget was unveiled Tuesday by Chief Justice John D. Minton Jr. It includes funding for a new courthouse in Marion. As proposed, Crittenden County would be getting a \$12 million modern courthouse if it receives the necessary legislative approval. Plans are for a 20,000 square foot courthouse. However, it remains undecided whether the current structure would be razed or simply modified to meet contemporary needs. What also remains unclear is exactly how much the county would have to pay as its share of the construction/renovation.

## DISTINGUISHED NOMINEES

The Crittenden County School District Distinguished Alumni Committee has issued a call for nominations for consideration to be a 2020 Distinguished Alumnus. Deadline for nominations is March 1. The honor is customarily bestowed upon CCHS graduates who have made substantial impacts in their communities or professions. Those selected will be formally recognized during homecoming week next fall. To nominate a candidate, simply complete a short form, providing information about the nominee. Candidates must have graduated from Crittenden County High School at least 10 years ago. Find a nomination form at <https://forms.gle/NNRAddM-cUwuxsnjDA>.

## DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

By a vote of 92–2, the state House last week passed a resolution urging Congress to allow Kentucky and other states to permanently adopt daylight saving time (DST). House Concurrent Resolution 53, which also requires the state Senate's approval for final passage, has gone to that chamber for consideration. Whether or not a change is made is ultimately up to the federal government which sets the dates for daylight saving time. Other states have already approved legislation to make DST permanent, with Florida, Washington and Tennessee among them. Until a change is made by Congress, however, the laws have no effect. Daylight saving time in Kentucky this year will begin on Sunday, March 8 and end on Sunday, Nov. 1.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- **Crittenden County Election Board** will meet at 9 a.m. Friday at the County Clerk's office.
- **Monday is Presidents' Day.** The post office, banks and The Crittenden Press office will be closed. The courthouse and city hall will be open on Monday.



## 911 What's Your Emergency?

Louisa Phillips is the 911 coordinator for Marion and Crittenden County. She says costs are outpacing revenue for the 911 center which is creating problems with equipment, training and retention of employees. Phillips is pictured here sitting at the controls of the 911 Center inside Marion City Hall.

## New Tax or Fee Likely to Fund 911

### City, county officials are exploring options to generate operating funds

STAFF REPORT

Whether it be an increased tax on insurance premiums or a fee on vehicles or real estate, local residents should get ready to pay a fistful of dollars to help the 911 Dispatching Center make ends meet.

Continued shortfalls in the 911 Center's budget has led to recent talks between city and county officials who are exploring options.

The 911 Center is located inside Marion City Hall. It employs five full-time dispatchers who work shifts one at a time to cover every hour of the week. The salaries had for years been funded by a cooperative effort between city and county governments. But 10 years ago, when the city was in a better financial position, it voluntarily agreed to take on virtually all of the responsibility for daily operation of the center.

Much of the revenue for operating the call center – also known as a PSAP or Public Safety Access Point – comes from telecommunications taxes on landline and wireless devices. The city has been making up the shortfall from its general fund. City Administrator Adam Ledford says the red ink has been averaging about \$80,000 annually.

A written contract between the city and county was signed in 2010. It gives the city total autonomy in operating the center, but it

## ADDED COSTS?

Here are a few of the new taxes or fees that have been implemented in the city or county over the past 20 or so years.

- County Health District Tax
- County Insurance Tax
- County Payroll Tax
- County Net Profits Tax
- County Fire Dept. Fees
- City Tourism Tax
- City Environmental Fee

nually.

A written contract between the city and county was signed in 2010. It gives the city total autonomy in operating the center, but it

See **911**/page 3

## Health dept. finds balance on uncertain footing

### Result of the Cutbacks

- Crittenden Clinic is closed every Thursday.
- Livingston Clinic is closed every Monday and Wednesday.
- Lyon Clinic is closed every Thursday.
- There were not changes to the operating hours at Caldwell and Trigg health departments.

STAFF REPORT

Just last summer, it appeared that Crittenden County Health Department was potentially within months of closing its doors.

Not unlike other rural health departments, those in the Pennyryle Health District have struggled to stay financially solvent in a time when quasi-government agencies are receiving less and less public funding.

Jim Tolley, director of the five-county Pennyryle Health District, is guardedly optimistic that Gov. Andy

### Clinic Services

Crittenden Co. Health Dept.

2019	9,791
2018	11,642
2017	10,142
2016	12,927

Beshear's budget will include something to help health departments meet the financial challenges they're facing.

As health departments across Kentucky face pension challenges that could force many of them to enforce big cuts in services or even close



their doors, Gov. Beshear's two-year budget proposal offers them a bit of a reprieve. His proposal would give the departments about \$16.5 million in each year of the budget as a way to freeze their employer contribution rate at 67.41 percent of payroll.

Tolley thinks a compromise between the governor and perhaps more frugal-minded legislators will definitely help, but he's braced for the worst.

"What we have tried to do is position ourselves based on the

See **HEALTH**/page 3

## Salem man missing for 3 weeks



"Gabby" Cowan has a tall, thin build. He was last seen on Jan. 22.

### Family says he left home without money, his bank accounts haven't been touched

STAFF REPORT

Last seen at the restaurant in Salem just before noon on Wednesday, Jan. 22, Gary "Gabby" Cowen, 62, had left home without his wallet, a jacket or cigarettes.

"He wouldn't even go out on the front porch without cigarettes," said his niece, Heather Franklin, who along with other family and friends, has been turning over every stone they can find in search of Cowan.

He has been described by law enforcement and family as having suffered from mental health issues. He also has a number of physical health issues, including a heart condition and high blood pressure.

Oddly, Cowan left his mother's home on Church

Street in Salem on Tuesday, Jan. 21 without anything except the clothes on his back. Investigators say he was wearing a black and red plaid "lumberjack style" shirt and blue jeans.

There is no particular reason to think he's met with foul play, but investigators and family say it cannot be ruled out.

"If he died somewhere of natural causes, why haven't we found him," asked Franklin. "We don't really think anyone has harmed him, but where's he at?"

It is not uncommon for Cowan to leave home and be gone for two or three days at a time, but even then he generally maintains contact by phone with his elderly mother.

"This is out of normal



character for him. There is just no trace of him," Franklin said.

Livingston County Sheriff's Department Detective Devin Brewer said volunteer firemen have flown a drone in the area of one of the places Cowan was last seen. They've canvassed the area, talking to people who last had contact with the missing man.

The day he left home, Cowan was found that morning inside a home on Johnson Road, off Shelby Store Road, south of Salem. The homeowner re-

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The Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260 / Marion, Ky.



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# SB 1 preemptively prohibits sanctuary cites in Kentucky

It was a busy but productive fifth week of the 2020 Regular Session as we passed a wide array of bills through the Senate and continued biennial budget discussions.

As we wait to receive a budget proposal from the House of Representatives, where all spending bills must originate, the Senate the Appropriations and Revenue Committee has already begun an intensive review process of the budget proposed by the governor. Crafting the Commonwealth's two-year financial plan is a lengthy process, but I am confident that the final product will be fiscally responsible while ensuring sufficient funding for our critical programs. I will keep you updated on the status of the budget in the coming weeks.

The Senate Majority made notable progress on the 2020 legislative agenda, successfully passing 11 bills over the course of the week, including Senate Bill (SB) 1 and SB 7.

Also known as the Federal Immigration Cooperation Act of 2020, SB 1 ensures the coop-

eration of state and local governments with the federal government in the enforcement of federal immigration laws. The bill will create no additional responsibilities for law enforcement or agencies, but it does require no less be done than what federal statutory law states. SB 1 preemptively prohibits local municipalities from enacting sanctuary immigration policies. There had already been discussions in one of Kentucky's major cities to enact such policies. These would be irresponsible and dangerous. While many can agree that federal immigration law needs to be addressed by Congress, current laws should be enforced to ensure the



**Robby MILLS**  
KY STATE SENATE  
*Guest Commentary*

safety of the public, and provide law enforcement with the assurance that they can enforce laws in good faith.

SB 7, priority legislation relating to School-Based Decision-Making Councils, returns the appointment of the school principal to the Superintendent after consultation with the school council and equalizes council membership of teachers and parents.

A number of bills with bipartisan support passed through the Senate this week. SB 63 is a measure that would allow high school dropouts who are at least 21 years of age to complete their graduation requirements through online programs. SB 45 requires licensed child-care centers to have standards on nutrition and physical activity. SB 45 also incorporates state and national expertise in developing new standards regarding screen time and sugary drinks.

SB 42 would require issued student identification badges to contain emergency hotline numbers for domestic violence, sexual assault, and suicide

prevention. Suicide rates among young people is a true epidemic. I encourage you to have honest conversations with the young people in your life and let them know they are loved. Tragic stories arise far too often of someone who has taken their life out of depression or perceived hopelessness. Life is precious and we should take time to let others know that they are loved and not alone.

Also passing in the Senate this week was SB 102, a bill I was proud to sponsor, which removes unnecessary red tape in the Cabinet for Health and Family Services by repealing 48 outdated and obsolete statutes. SB 87, an act to remove the automatic transfer of a child from a district court to circuit court to be tried as an adult in cases involving the use of firearms was approved. SB 40, legislation that would provide additional protections for Kentucky's vulnerable children by requiring fingerprint background checks for employees of child protection and child welfare agencies was approved.

SB 60, a measure to add SMA to the list of heritable conditions tested at birth was passed. This screening would be provided at no additional cost to the family, or the Kentucky taxpayer.

For ambitious students who want to be a part of this year's legislative process, the Kentucky General Assembly offers a variety of page opportunities for all ages. Students interested should contact my office at (502)564-8100 to make a formal request. More information regarding the page programs can be found at [www.legislature.ky.gov](http://www.legislature.ky.gov)

To those who have reached out or visited my office in the past weeks, thank you for staying engaged during these early weeks of the session. I appreciate your input and urge you to continue making your voices heard in Frankfort.

Contact Sen. Mills toll-free at 1-800-372-7181 or email [Robby.Mills@LRC.KY.GOV](mailto:Robby.Mills@LRC.KY.GOV). You can also review the legislature's work online at [www.legislature.ky.gov](http://www.legislature.ky.gov)

# Proposed legislation will allow superintendents choice of principal

Another busy week as legislation started to move through both chambers of the General Assembly and the Governor's proposed budget began to come more in focus.

Studies have shown that on average, 2,900 vehicles per day illegally pass stopped school buses that are loading or unloading students. Yes, 2,900 per day, (not per year! House Bill 34 (HB-34) would allow school districts to install and maintain school bus stop arm cameras on its school buses and contract with a third party for the purchase or lease, installation, operation, and maintenance of the cameras. The third party, acting on behalf of the school district, would be responsible for the processing and enforcement of alleged violations of vehicles illegally passing a stopped school bus. This includes the collection of funds if a violation has been adjudged to have actually occurred. I am not in favor of unfunded mandates,

but the third party contract provisions of HB-34 would allow school districts to implement the legislation at no charge to them. I cosponsored this legislation, voted yes, and HB-34 passed the House and has been sent to the Senate for its consideration.

House Bill 313 (HB-313) addresses insurance fraud by extending civil immunity to companies that work with the National Insurance Crime Bureau for information relating to suspected fraudulent insurance acts. More importantly for individuals, HB-313 would require motor vehicle insurance companies to give a discount on comprehensive coverage for



**Lynn BECHLER**  
KY STATE HOUSE  
*Guest Commentary*

vehicles with an antitheft device. I voted yes, HB-313 passed the House and is in the Senate for its consideration.

Senate Bill 8 (SB-8) would require School Resource Officers (SRO) to carry firearms in every school building where instruction to students is delivered on a continuous basis. SB-8 also set a goal for every school district to provide at least one (1) school counselor or mental health services provider for every two hundred fifty (250) students. The bill engendered much discussion on the floor of the House with proponents arguing that school safety demanded this type of action and opponents arguing that guns in school scared students and created psychological harm. There was no dissension on the floor of the House about the counselor portion of the bill. I voted yes, SB-8 passed and is on its way to the Governor for his consideration and action.

House Concurrent Resolu-

tion 53 (HCR-53) is a Concurrent Resolution urging the United States Congress to enact legislation allowing states to permanently adopt daylight saving time. Federal law allows states to remain on standard time year round – in fact Arizona and Hawaii do so – but does not allow states to stay on daylight saving time year round. On a personal note, I prefer daylight saving time, but I am also concerned about the safety of students at their bus stops during the winter months. Children are routinely being picked up at 6:30 during darkness in the morning, and if year round daylight saving time was enacted, it would be even darker at 6:30. With standard time during the winter, children are more likely to be dropped off during daylight than they would be with daylight saving time which is especially helpful for our younger students. I therefore voted no, but HCR-53 passed the House and has been sent

to the Senate for action there.

During the governor's budget address, he said that he was balancing the budget with no new taxes and without "sweeping" money to the General Fund from other areas. Unfortunately, neither statement rings true. In a previous update I reported on the new tobacco taxes the Governor wants implemented. Further review of his proposal shows that he proposes "sweeping" \$241 million in the biennium from the Road Fund to the General Fund; he would then sell bonds (borrow) to make up some of the swept funds. I will continue working to make changes to his budget proposal.

Rep. Bechler may be reached through the toll-free message line at 800-372- 7181, at 502-564- 8100, by visiting the Kentucky Legislature Home page at [www.lrc.ky.gov](http://www.lrc.ky.gov) and clicking on the "Email Your Legislator" link, or by mail to the Capitol Annex, Frankfort, KY 40601.

# E-cigs are dangerous to children, should be taxed as tobacco

Manufacturers and retailers who sell Juul and other brands of e-cigarettes, or "vapes," wonder why health advocates won't just leave them alone. We have at least three reasons: Kids, kids and kids.

Kentucky teens are using e-cigarettes at three times the rate of adults and many of them would never have touched a cigarette.

Vaping manufacturers used the same marketing tactics as Big Tobacco to entice today's kids to try their products. Now many are addicted.

E-cigarettes have zero harm-reduction or cessation benefits for kids; in fact, they're particularly dangerous for youth.

We've heard the vaping industry question whether kids are really using e-cigarettes at epidemic levels. Here is the data from the CDC's 2019 Youth Risk Behavior Survey:

- 53 percent of Kentucky high school students have tried e-cigarettes (compared to 26 percent of adults)
- 26.1 percent of high schoolers used e-cigarettes in the last month (called "current use," and the rate nearly doubled over 2017)
- 8.6 percent of them used e-cigarettes daily (more than quadrupled since 2017)
- 17.3 percent of middle schoolers used e-cigarettes in the last month

Commentary by Ben Chandler, Terry Brooks, Ed.D., Ashli Watts and Brent Wright, M.D.

(more than quadrupled since 2017)

•In contrast, just one in 10 Kentucky adults currently uses e-cigarettes, according to the annual Kentucky Health Issues Poll.

**Are E-Cigs Safer?**

Walk into any vaping store in your community and, chances are, you'll find signs saying that e-cigarettes are safer than smoking. The industry usually points to a single 2013 study from England. That study was actually just a report summarizing the opinions of 12 health professionals who said they believed that e-cigarettes were safer than smoking. But they also said: "A limitation of this study is the lack of hard evidence for the harms of most products on most of the criteria." The absence of evidence is one reason the vaping industry safety claim falls so far short of truth.

Another reason is that England limits e-cig nicotine levels. The United States has no such limits and a Juul pod contains as much nicotine as an entire pack of cigarettes.

Moreover, advancing e-cig technology makes today's e-cigarettes 10 to 20 times more powerful than 2013 models, and they expose users to much higher levels of nicotine and other toxins.

Back to the question, though: Are e-cigarettes safer than smoking?

For adults, we're not sure yet, but the bar is pretty low – we know that cigarettes kill 8,900 people in Kentucky every year and help put Kentucky at or near the bottom of health rankings. And a growing body of evidence since 2013 shows that e-cigarettes raise the risk of lung disease, heart disease and stroke. While the industry claims that e-cigarettes were intended to help smokers quit, there are several proven tobacco cessation products that won't cost smokers a dime out of pocket, and that are much safer than vaping.

Meanwhile, the science is very clear that e-cigarettes are dangerous for youth. The high nicotine levels and flavors in e-cigarettes lead to quick addiction, they're a gateway to smoking, and they rewire the young brain to make it more susceptible to other addictions.

**Youth Vaping Epidemic**

Tobacco taxes are proven to reduce tobacco use, especially among youth. That's why we're asking Kentucky legislators to add a reasonable

excise tax on e-cigarettes sold to Kentuckians. Taxing e-cigarettes at the current cigarette tax rate would raise about \$34 million in much-needed revenue in Kentucky its first year, while also helping reduce youth vaping. What's more, three in four Kentucky adults support taxing e-cigarettes on par with traditional cigarettes.

Kentucky has a history of spending far more than it earns from tobacco. Smoking alone costs Kentucky more than \$1.92 billion in health care expenditures every year, yet tobacco excise taxes raised only \$188.4 million in 2019. And retailers of Juul and other e-cigarettes don't pay a single penny of that excise tax, yet their products are solely responsible for reversing a decade worth of progress in reducing youth tobacco use. We support House Bill 32, which would tax e-cigarettes at the current cigarette tax rate, to help rectify that.

Kentucky has a youth tobacco problem that threatens our kids' health, portends massive future health care bills and jeopardizes the readiness of our future workforce. But given that 95 percent of tobacco use starts during youth, it's a problem we can address if we adopt this reasonable tax during the 2020 General Assembly to help protect kids, before the

epidemic is magnified yet again.

*Ben Chandler is president and CEO of the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky; Dr. Terry Brooks is executive director of Kentucky Youth Advocates; Ashli Watts is president and CEO of the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce; and Dr. Brent Wright is president of the Kentucky Medical Association.*

HOMES	
2 Bed 1 Bath - 420 Claylick Creek Rd.....	\$54,900LO
3 Bed 1 Bath - 425 Sturgis Rd.....	\$86,900CH
3 Homes on 94+ Acres - Hoover Spur Rd.....	\$279,000CH
3 Bed, 1 Bath - 701 E Depot St.....	\$24,900 JM
3 Bed 1 1/2 Bath on 13+ AC - 2209 ST RT 506.....	\$189,000AL
4 Bed, 2 Bath - 6531 St. Rt. 1943 West, Eddyville, Ky.....	\$93,900ST
3/4 Bed 2.5 Bath on 5+ AC - 153 Fritts Rd.....	PRICE REDUCED.....\$170,500KB
5 Bed 3 Bath - 625 Coleman Rd.....	\$298,900 LP
3 Bed 1 Bath - 717 E Depot.....	<b>SOLD</b> .....\$54,900 CD
2 Bed 2Bath - 149 Hickory Hills.....	\$54,000 MW
3 Bed 2Bath - 776 Sugar Grove Church Rd.....	\$49,900 TD
3/4 Bed 3 Bath - 121 Lomora.....	PRICE REDUCED.....\$179,900 LW
2 Bed 1 Bath - 503 N Maple.....	<b>SOLD</b> .....\$34,900 DT
3 Bed 1 Bath - 2223 US 641.....	\$69,900 FU
3 Bed 2 Bath - 228 Keeling St.....	\$51,900 MP
3 Bed 2Bath - 1721 US 641.....	\$127,900 PC
ACREAGE	
40+ AC on JT May Rd.....	\$99,000DH
Cave-In-Rock Island - 160+ AC.....	\$359,900 AE
15+ AC - McMican Rd Marion, KY.....	\$54,900TC
89 AC - Zion Cemetery Rd. Crittenden Co.....	\$174,500 DT
116+ AC - 606 Howerton Rd (3 Bed House).....	<b>SOLD</b> .....\$261,000 WH
55+ AC - Zion Cemetery Rd.....	<b>SOLD</b> .....\$109,000
110+ AC - 9285 US 60 W Marion, KY.....	\$199,000
250+ AC - 9285 US 60 W Marion, KY.....	\$499,000
650+ AC - 9285 US 60 W Marion, KY.....	\$1,300,000
10x30 STORAGE UNIT • \$100	

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## Marion City Council

Marion City Council normally convenes in regular session at Marion City Hall at 5 p.m. on the third Monday of each month\*

<b>Mayor Jared Byford</b> North Walker Street Marion, Ky. 270.965.4444	<b>Councilman Donnie Arlack</b> Old Shady Grove Road Marion, Ky. 270.704.1749 arlack_don@hotmail.com	<b>Councilman Mike Byford</b> West Bellville Street Marion, Ky. 270.969.1254 michaelbyford53@gmail.com	<b>Councilman Dwight Sherer</b> Fords Ferry Road Marion, Ky. 270.965.3575 crockets@mchsci.com	<b>Councilwoman D'Anna Browning</b> North Main Street Marion, Ky. 270.705.4697 danna.sallin@yahoo.com	<b>Councilwoman Phyllis Sykes</b> North Walker Street Marion, Ky. 270.965.5080 phyllis.sykes@att.net	<b>Councilman Darrin Tabor</b> Old Morganfield Road Marion, Ky. 270.704.0041 darrintabor@yahoo.com
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# Farmers Bank reports phone scam; warns against divulging credentials

Farmers Bank and Trust Co., of Marion reported late Friday afternoon that it had received a number of phone calls from customers who believe they were the victim of an attempted scam.

Customers told bank representatives that they received calls from the alleged "Farmers Bank Fraud Department." The caller asked for log-in credentials to the customer's digital banking.

"We would never call and ask for that information," said Paja Crider, bank vice president.

Crider says customers should never give their log-in credentials to anyone.

If customers believe their account could potentially have been compromised, they should change their password immediately. They should then monitor their account for any unrecognized transactions and if any appear, notify the bank.

Crider said the bank has continued investigating the matter, along with

other security professionals.

"We are thankful there were only a few customers affected," Crider said.

Additional security measures have been implemented in response to what was learned by investigating the phone scam.

Crider said it appears the scammers started their operation at a time when they thought the bank would be closed, which would make it less convenient for customers to verify the call.

## MPD activity report

Data below provided by Marion Police Department from January 2020 compares figures with January 2019 and reflects year-to-date totals for 2020.

CATEGORY	January 2019	January 2020	2020 TOTAL
Miles driven/patrolled	3,054	2,667	2,667
Criminal investigations	14	8	8
Domestics	48	11	11
Felony Arrests	3	47	47
Misdemeanor arrests	19	10	10
Non-criminal arrests	0	5	5
DUI arrests	0	2	4
Criminal summons served	5	1	1
Traffic citations	15	17	17
Traffic warnings	3	10	10
Parking tickets	0	0	0
Other citations	28	61	61
Traffic accidents	5	5	5
Security checks/alarms	45	58	58
Calls for service	177	289	289

## Felony blast

Although there was a huge increase in felony arrests in this month's Marion Police Department activities report (at left), there is no reason for great alarm. Violent crime isn't spiking. The PD reports 47 felonies in January, but most of them were related to one forgery case that was actually from a Lyon County indictment. The suspect lives in Marion and was charged with more than 40 counts.

The average yearly number of felony arrests is 39 in Marion based on the past four years' figures.

## HEALTH

Continued from page 1

worst case scenario," said Tolley, who came out of retirement 10 months ago to take over management of the Pennyryle Health District, which he had managed from 2006-2012.

With the district facing a growing financial shortfall, Tolley began reorganizing and trimming services in order to keep the doors open at all of the area health departments. In the district are health departments in Crittenden, Livingston, Caldwell, Lyon and Trigg counties. In terms of volume of services rendered, Crittenden ranks third behind Caldwell and Trigg counties. Beyond clinical services, food services are the most popular in Crittenden County.

"We have made great strides at getting our financial house in order, but it has come at a cost of \$600,000 in salary cuts," Tolley said.

Amid cutbacks, the food services program in Crittenden County has been affected. Meals at the senior center and those for Meals on Wheels are no longer prepared here. Instead, they are brought to Marion from outside the county.

With fewer people employed by

the Pennyryle Health District, responsibilities have been consolidated and some services have been trimmed back or eliminated. Others could face greater belt-tightening if the General Assembly doesn't provide some relief, Tolley explains. There are hopes that Senate Bill 129 will create a more equitable source of funding for rural health departments that do not generate much in the way of fees for services.

"House Bill 129 codifies the prioritization of public health funding at every resource level – state, local and federal – to programs that provide the most significant opportunity to improve Kentucky's overall health," said Allison Adams, president of the Kentucky Health Department Association. "It also codifies the methodology in how that funding is distributed at the local level so that it is equitable at each county level."

The current system funds each health department with the same formula, regardless of its ability to generate local funds. The new formula would take that into account, making it more equitable, Adams said. In other words, departments that have more resources would get less state funding under this model. If the

legislation is approved as proposed, it could mean about \$330,000 more funding for the Pennyryle District.

In Crittenden, the health department is now closed one day a week. In Livingston, the doors are closed two days a week.

Health departments are responsible for a variety of public services from immunizations, inspections and nutrition to permitting home septic systems.

Tolley said some services are mandated by the health department's mission. Others are considered non-essential services and could face further cuts.

WIC (Women, Infant and Children) and immunization programs are not likely to be done away with, but there's a chance that some services could be eliminated if there are any unanticipated demands on current funding.

"Family Planning could be on the chopping block," Tolley says. "But we want to stay in that if financially possible."

The director says that fewer families are enrolling in that particular program, which is a women's healthcare service that includes free birth control, because private insurance and Medicaid cover most care offered by the program.



Members of the Shady Grove Volunteer Fire Department attended a recent NARCAN training in Eddyville and received three doses of the FDA-approved nasal form of naloxone for the emergency treatment of a known or suspected opioid overdose. Dan Wood and Darrell Simpson (pictured above) along with fireman Sid Bean each completed the 20-minute training. In return, the program sponsored by the Pennyryle Area Health Department provided the fire department with NARCAN. Studies have suggested that each year approximately 1 in 5 people who use heroin will have an overdose, and about 1 in 100 will die from an overdose. Pharmaceutical opioids such as morphine, codeine, oxycodone and methadone also are involved in many overdoses. Fentanyl is another opioid-based drug that is causing overdoses.

# Working the 911 Puzzle

OPERATION COSTS		Operating Costs	Revenue	Gain/(Loss)	Revenue Options	Likely Revenue
	FY 16	\$194,001	\$118,863	(-\$75,138)	Real Estate Fee \$36	\$175,788
	FY 17	\$194,425	\$129,005	(-\$65,420)	Vehicle Fee \$15	\$180,600
	FY 18	\$255,322	\$168,646	(-\$86,676)	Increase Ins. Tax 2%	\$155,000
	FY 19	\$283,211	\$155,000	(-\$128,211)	Outsource to KSP: Undetermined cost	

## 911

Continued from page 1

also requires it to pay the center's expenses.

It is the county that actually receives tax revenue from phone landline fees, of which 70 percent is sent immediately to the city to help with 911 operating costs. The county has been holding back 30 percent, it says, to build a capital improvement fund for equipment or other unforeseen expenses.

All of the cellphone tax revenue allocated for Marion and Crittenden County is sent directly to the city because it is the certified fiscal agent of the PSAP.

Because of growing expenses, the city is looking for some relief and is asking county government for additional operating assistance.

"We are in a critical situation. We are grossly underfunded and operating costs exceed our revenue," said Louisa Phillips, the 911 coordinator for Marion and Crittenden County.

"We're just looking for a solution."

County officials agree there is a financial shortfall and for the most part it appears the county is willing to help. However, the means and an exact dollar figure remain unclear.

County officials say they want more detailed information from the city, such as a line item budget for the 911 Center. County officials also say they want to explore the option of contracting with Kentucky State Police to handle the dispatching for police, fire and ambulance in Crittenden County.

Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom said it appears



Members of the local Emergency 911 Committee have met twice at the courthouse over the past few weeks. Pictured here are (from left) City Administrator Adam Ledford, Mayor Jared Byford, Sheriff Wayne Agent, Magistrate Dan Wood and Judge-Executive Perry Newcom during the first of those meetings in late January.

there would be significant savings in outsourcing the dispatching duties to state police at its Post 2 headquarters on I-69 south of Madisonville in Hopkins County. However, he and other community leaders have expressed at least some concern about turning over local control of emergency dispatching to a third party in another county.

"We know the county needs to help fund this," said Magistrate Dan Wood, who serves on the local 911 Services Committee that has met twice in the past few weeks to discuss the situation and explore options. "The amount and method for generating the funds has yet to be determined."

Newcom agrees that the county shares in the responsibility to fund the 911 center although that 10-year contract with the city doesn't require it to do so. Newcom fears that the county's general fund may be an insufficient source to meet projected shortfalls in the center's growing operating costs, which have risen due to pension responsibilities,

healthcare cost increases and other rising costs. Additionally, dispatchers have not received a pay raise in five years, Phillips said.

"We have not had proper funding in years," said the 911 Center coordinator.

Last year, the center handled roughly 15,000 calls for service. While the 911 Center has a fairly modern computer-aided system, Phillips says it's quickly becoming outdated in this age of rapidly-improving technology.

Keeping up with such changes into the future is one reason some leaders want to know more about the state police option. Newcom has requested details from KSP Post 2 about its contract services. If that information is available by next week's fiscal court meeting, the judge said magistrates will take a look at the 911 Center options.

Raising additional funds will almost certainly be necessary whether the 911 Center remains in Marion or outsourced to KSP, county leaders contend.

There have been three options discussed so far. They are putting a \$36 per year assessment on commercial and residential properties with dwellings or buildings (the county's tax roll has 4,883 of such listings); assessing a \$15 fee on each motor vehicle registered in Crittenden County (the county currently has 12,040 qualifying, registered vehicles); or increasing the county's insurance premium tax from two percent on each policy – excluding health and life – to four percent. Each option would generate revenue in the neighborhood of \$175,000 to \$180,000 annually.

Over the past four years, the 911 Center's tax revenue from landline phone and wireless devices has come up short of meeting expenses at the center, according to city data. City Administrator Adam Ledford said that last year the shortfall was \$128,211. In fiscal year 2018, the shortfall was \$86,676, in FY17 it was \$65,420 and in FY 16 it was \$75,138.

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

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY, KY - 277.06 ACRES - \$629,000** - This hunting tract generates an excellent income through tillable acreage and a hunting lease. The property is full of mature whitetail.

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY, KY - 97 ACRES - \$440,000** - Beautiful farm with home, porch, outbuildings, extensive landscaping, pasture ground, timber, ponds, loads of deer sign.

**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 - 402.58 ACRES - \$682,373** - Large acreage hunting tract with an internal road system and trails. Hunter-friendly topography with large creeks, feeder streams and a pond.

**CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KY - 91 ACRES - \$154,250** - Great hunting tract with optimal **SOLD** ground, gently rolling topography and a good stand of timber.

**LIVINGSTON COUNTY, KY - 95.5 ACRES - \$176,675** - Property has a diverse mix of habitat types, woods, and a **REDUCED \$176,675** merous entry point. Great hunter friendly topography, a creek and planted pines.

**CALDWELL COUNTY, KY - 127 ACRES - \$307,900** - Property has a diverse mix of habitat types, a good trail system and no road frontage. Loaded with deer sign! Property also has a good population of wild turkeys.

**CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KY - 27.1 ACRES - \$639,000** - Superb hunting tract with **REDUCED \$639,000** income, diverse blend of habitat types, gently rolling topography and a proven history of big bucks!

**CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KY - 100 ACRES - \$222,500** - This farm is set up for livestock **PENDING** property. The property has several ponds, a rock bottom creek and several awesome building sites.

**CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KY - 40 ACRES - \$90,000** - This is an established livestock farm with great views from the hilltops. The area is known for big bucks. There is a small pond on the property and a gated entry.

**CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KY - 60 ACRES - \$135,000** - This livestock farm has the potential for being an excellent hunting tract. Plenty of food plot locations, pond and rock bottom creek are located on the property.

**CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KY - 457 ACRES - \$1,199,900** - Well-kept hunting property with a cozy home, nice yard and spacious shop. Three ponds, elevated blinds, feeders and tree stands are all located on the farm.

**CALDWELL COUNTY, KY - 192.9 ACRES - \$535,000** - Beautiful log home sitting on a turn **SOLD** hunting tract with proven big buck history, couple ponds, food plots, along with an apple and grape orchard.

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Concert at PACS center

A fundraiser featuring live music by Kenneth Sullenger and friends will begin at 5 p.m., Thursday (today). Chili will be served for \$5, and visitors can bring a side dish or dessert. Director Jenny Sosh said the money raised is used toward monthly activities and upkeep of the center.

Calendar

• **Crittenden County High School SBDM** will meet at 3:30 p.m., Feb. 20 in the school library.

Extension

• **FCS Agent Janeen Tramble's** monthly class **"Cooking Through the Calendar"** will be held from 11 a.m.-1 p.m., Feb. 18 at the Extension Annex. This month's recipe is Hearty Comfort Soup. Participants will get hands on food preparation and a delicious meal along with nutritional information. There is no cost but pre-registration is required, please call (270) 965-5236.

• **Hooks & Needles Crafter's Corner Club** will meet at noon Feb. 19 at the Extension office. They are also taking donations of any yarn, needles, hoops etc. that you do not need any longer. Contact Nancy Lapp (270) 965-4469 for information.

• **A Beef Cattle Series** will be held from 6-8 p.m., Monday and again Feb. 17 and Feb. 24 at the Extension Annex. Join ANR Agent Dee Heimgartner to discuss topics about beef cattle production. Please call the Extension office at (270) 965-5236 to pre-register.

4-H

• **Rockology Club** will meet at 3 p.m., Thursday (today) at Ben E. Clement Mineral Museum.

• **Robotics Club** meets at 3:15 p.m., Thursday (today) at the public library.

• **Homeschool Club** will meet at 1 p.m., Feb. 18 at the Extension Annex.

College ag funds available

Crittenden County High School seniors and college students pursuing studies in agriculture and natural resource fields are encouraged to apply for scholarships from the Kentucky Association of Conservation Districts (KACD) Auxiliary. Three \$1,000 scholarships will be offered for 2020.

High school seniors may apply for the George Crafton Memorial Scholarship, which is awarded to a student planning to attend college to major in the field of agriculture or conservation of natural resources.

The Conservation of Natural Resources Scholarship is awarded to any student enrolled in college and pursuing an undergraduate degree in agriculture or a related field.

The Crittenden County Conservation District is offering a \$500 scholarship. Applications are available at the Crittenden County Conservation District office located at 118 E. Bellville St., Marion, or online at the Division of Conservation website, KACD Scholarships tab.

Local applications must to be postmarked by March 28 or left at the Conservation District office.

before 4:30 March 27.

National Donor Day celebrated Feb. 14

February 14 is not only Valentine's Day but also National Donor Day, which serves as a reminder of the importance of discussing with your loved ones the life-saving possibilities of organ and tissue donation.

Melissa Guill, Circuit Court Clerk in Crittenden County, said "We hope everyone will use National Donor Day as a time to discuss organ and tissue donation with those closest to you. Together, through spreading the word and educating others about donation, we can take small steps each day toward saving more lives."

In Kentucky, one can join the Kentucky Donor Registry at the Circuit Court Clerk's offices in each of Kentucky's 120 counties or online at [www.donatelifeky.org](http://www.donatelifeky.org) where one can learn about the Kentucky Circuit Court Clerks' Trust for Life, Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates, and the Kentucky Lions Eye Bank.

The need for organ and tissue donation is ongoing. Currently in the United States, there are more than 113,000 people

awaiting a life-saving transplant, with nearly 1,000 of those people living in Kentucky. Each day, 22 people die while awaiting a transplant.

As an observance, National Donor Day was started in 1998 by the Saturn Corporation and its United Auto Workers partners, with the support of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and many nonprofit health organizations.

National Donor Day is a time to focus on all types of donation that can help others including blood donations. Also, it is a wonderful time to think about those people who have given the gift of donation, have received a donation, are currently waiting on a transplant or did not receive an organ in time.

"Valentine's Day (and every day) is the perfect day to register as an organ and tissue donor," said Guill. "Joining one's state donor registry is a commitment to saving and healing lives. Sometimes starting the conversation can be difficult but National Donor Day



is an annual observance that can help. Joining the donor registry is an amazing opportunity to give someone else a second chance at life through donation."

Joyce Cantrell, a native of Morgan County, Ky., has a sweet smile that makes one feel so comfortable. Unfortunately, the worst of health problems can affect even the best of people. Joyce spent several years battling congestive heart failure and arrhythmia, an irregular heartbeat. To overcome each hurdle, she tried a variety of treatments and medicines, even a pacemaker defibrillator implant.

While she had short term success with her pacemaker, she soon learned that the only real

solution was a heart transplant. "This is something I would have never dreamed of. In that moment, it sounded unreal that I needed this to live."

After Joyce's name was added to the waiting list, nearly seven months passed before she was presented with a glimpse of hope. At 64 years old, Joyce answered the phone to what would be the call that changed her life. Joyce quickly packed her bags and arrived at her transplant hospital.

"I am doing great and can do more than I could before! I play with my grandson, walk more, and go anywhere I want to," Joyce said. She now fully understands the power of organ donation. "My son was registered as an organ donor before this ever happened to me, but I honestly hadn't thought a lot about it. Once you have been through this process yourself, it makes it so much more personal. It hits home."

Her attitude is incredible. To this day, Joyce is smiling and making others feel so loved. "If I can

help someone in any way, I am more than happy to."

The financial donations at Circuit Court Clerks' Driver's License counters and other philanthropic partners, including KODA and Kosair Charities, fund the statewide community outreach and public relations efforts to grow the Registry. Kentucky was recently recognized by Donate Life America for major increases in Registry rates.

For more information, call 1-866-945-5433, email [info@trustforlife.org](mailto:info@trustforlife.org) or visit [www.trustforlife.org](http://www.trustforlife.org). To join the Kentucky Donor Registry online as a potential organ and tissue donor, go to [www.donatelifeky.org](http://www.donatelifeky.org).

The Kentucky Circuit Court Clerks' Trust for Life (TFL) is a 501c(3) non-profit organization that informs, educates and encourages Kentuckians to be registered organ and tissue donors to save lives. TFL was founded in 1992 as the charitable arm of the Kentucky Association of Circuit Court Clerks.

Senior Center

The Crittenden County Senior Citizens Center is open weekdays 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. each day, and is \$3 for those 60 and older and \$5 for those under 60. Reservations are encouraged two days in advance but are taken up to a week in advance.

Upcoming menu and activities include:

Thursday - Menu is beef lasagna, buttered broccoli, garlic breadstick and Jell-O fruit salad.

Friday - Menu is baked catfish, navy beans, cole slaw, Ambrosia fruit salad and cornbread.

Monday - Menu is taco soup, baked potato with sour cream and margarine, cornbread and apple crisp. Ladies exercise with Full Body Fitness Studio begins at 9:45 a.m.

Tuesday - Menu is roast turkey, cornbread dressing, giblet gravy, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole and cranberry gelatin salad.

Wednesday, Feb. 19 - Menu is chicken pot pie, baked potato with sour cream and margarine, green beans, Mandarin oranges and wheat bread. Bingo begins at 10:30 a.m. A tax preparer will be available each Wednesday in



Carol McDaniel celebrated his 90th birthday Jan. 22 at the Crittenden County Senior Citizens Center. He was presented a cake and was entertained with live music.

February.

All menu items are subject to change based on availability.

PACS provides milk, coffee, tea and water each day. Aging coordinator Jenny

Sosh serves as director of the center.

Volunteers are always needed at the senior center. If you would like to volunteer your time, contact Sosh at (270) 965-5229.

School breakfast increases; kids plan Blessing Boxes

About 400 middle and high school kids are eating breakfast at school each day, thanks in part to the Second-Chance Breakfast option offered mid-morning. Districtwide, almost 600 breakfasts are served daily.

The number of kids eating breakfast at school has increased 300 percent in the last five years, according to Emily Wheeler, food service director.

Offering students a second opportunity to grab breakfast after school has already started, or Second-Chance Breakfast, is ideal for students who may not arrive at school early enough for the traditional breakfast program.

To combat the threat of sending kids home from school hungry, Wheeler plans to launch a pilot supper program at the middle and high schools sometime this semester. The caveat is

that students must stay after school for some type of enrichment or extracurricular activity to qualify for an evening meal. That can include homework help, Crosswalk, sports or enrichment activities, Wheeler said.

The meals will start simple, more like sack lunches, with peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and other quick things cafeteria workers can put together at the end of the day. Those meals would be served around 3:15 p.m., after buses leave the school campus.

If the pilot program is successful, Wheeler anticipates a supper program would be implemented districtwide next school year.

Addressing the same problem of kids going home hungry is a project being developed by the middle school's Young Leaders in Action team.

The four-person panel that will present their

project during an eight-county competition later this year wants to build Blessing Boxes and fill them with easy to prepare meals or snacks. The boxes would be placed on the school campuses so kids can take something they can quickly fix and eat at home.

Presenting their idea to the board of education last month, the students said they identified 30 percent of middle schoolers have a need or know someone who needs an evening meal.

Members of the Young Leaders program are Avery Belt, Laycee Lynn, Lane West and Kiera Chaney.

Advisor Tiffany Blazina said the Young Leaders came up with the project on their own.

"It's not often kids recognize needs when they don't have them themselves," Wheeler said, commending the Young Leaders' forethought for the Blessing Boxes.



Crittenden County Elementary School fifth grader John Tyner learned about inertia from Gary Rocha, an assistant to Nickelodeon's Mr. Wizard by pulling a tablecloth out from under a set of dishes during an assembly at the school.

**50 years ago Thursday, Feb. 19**

• Sunday marked the 126th anniversary of the "All-Kentucky City" of Marion. It was on Feb. 22, 1884 that the town was officially incorporated by the State of Kentucky.

• Over 60 members of the Future Homemakers Association visited homes to accept contributions to their Heart Fund Drive Project. The project fought against the Nation's Number One health enemy – heart and blood vessel diseases. Leading the project were co-chairmen of the project, Linda Gunther and Paula Phillips, FHA Sponsors Mrs. Barbara Rodgers, Ms. Marjorie Yandell and Mrs. Biggs.

• Crittenden County joined a statewide tribute to Farm Bureau during the week of Feb. 23-29. Local participation kicked off when County Judge J.W. Chandler signed a proclamation which designated the week as "Farm Bureau Appreciation Week" in Marion.

**25 years ago Thursday, Feb. 16**

• Crittenden County High School students celebrated the 50th anniversary of the first organizational meeting of the Future Homemakers of America. The local FHA chapter advisor was Dawn Hollamon.

• CCHS students Anna Koon, Amy Farmer and Christy Robertson presented Sandra Marie

Winn with a McDonald's gift certificate Tuesday for buckling-up during Child Passenger Safety Awareness Week.

• Crittenden County 4-Hers continued their annual project of collecting aluminum cans for recycling. This project helps fund 4-H projects throughout the year. At the time, the project was helping raise funds to support king and queen candidates.

**10 years ago Thursday, Feb. 11**

• More than 100 people attended Fohs Hall Fundraising Ball, which netted more than \$8,000. The event was hosted by Fohs Hall Inc. President and Master of Ceremonies was Alan Stout. The hottest items at the auction were the first copy of Ethel Tucker's "Tea Time of Life" book and a formal dinner at Mrs. Tucker's Main Street home.

• Myers Funeral Home was named Business of the Month by the Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce. Staff and management included Bill Myers, Joe Myers, Barbara Myers and Frank Blackburn.

• A Marion bluegrass band, known as the Possum Wranglers, performed on stage at the Rosine Barn Jamboree. The group was composed of Crittenden County musicians Steve Crider, Tom Hawthorne and Larry Starr.



Policy, people and prayer

I refuse to pick a side and I also refuse to be neutral. Watching the State of the Union address was like watching some sort of combination of Saturday Night Live and Madam Secretary. It was part drama and part comedy. This is not intended to be disrespectful. It is how I felt as I was watching. I must keep in mind that what I am watching is not policy or work getting done. It is theatre. Every word and every action from all in that room was both predictable and rehearsed. It is as real as any reality show we may watch. That does not mean that it is not important, nor does it mean that the actions and words are meaningless. I would argue that the opposite is true.

Both sides have a role to play and for a while now I have attempted not to take sides when it comes to party politics. I suspect that I am like many believers who have both agreements and disagreements with the platforms of both major parties. But refusing to take sides does not assume remaining neutral. As a believer I generally stand on the side of those who are left out, of those who have no voice or do not know how to use it, and of those who attempt to escape horrid conditions. I stand on the side of tolerance while maintaining a personal set of standards that I try to align with scripture. I believe in the rule of law for our nation, but personally live with as few rules as possible. They are good ones; for exam-

ple, “love your neighbor as yourself” and, “do to others as you would have them do to you.” This allows me to be patient and gracious and hope that others will afford me the same. My success rate ebbs and flows, but I keep trying. I am also thankful for many who choose to pursue public office and do their best to take their faith with them. What I despise is the behavior that some exhibit while claiming to be our leaders. The theatrics we have witnessed this past week serve to reinforce the tacit permission that our leaders are giving us to continue our derision and intolerance of those with whom we disagree. It is also worth remembering that we rarely see all the things that happen to keep our nation working properly. It does not make for good viewing and it does not serve the purposes of keeping us in one camp or the other.

I want to share a couple perspectives here. One is from my Filipino friend, Salvador Carriaga, who lives and works in the Philippines with a faith-based trade school and organic farming. He spends some of his time in Oklahoma and Texas working with the homeless. Here is what he recently wrote, “I love the drama in US politics. She impeached him, he ignored her handshake, and she shreds his written speech just inches away. Tomorrow, the impeachment drama will end, and the hard campaign begins. By the end of the day, no-

body gets killed. In Philippine politics, politicians get murdered for less drama. I’m going home to run for office. You are invited to my inauguration or assassination. America, at least your checks and balance is entertaining and not frightening. Lighten up. Feel blessed and enjoy your freedom to disagree. It’s the strength of your democracy. If that is all that I bring back to my people, I would do well. God bless America.”

I would also like to encourage us to respect our leaders, but be less inclined to follow their attitudes and behavior toward one another. It will not change unless we change first. Some leaders truly lead. I fear, however, that we currently have leaders who are a reflection of who we are rather than calling us to be better for the sake of each other.

With that in mind let me share a quote from Jesus in Luke 6:32-36, “If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the selfish. Be merciful, even as your Father is merciful.”

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



Sean NIESTRATH  
Faith-based columnist

Guest Columnist

Church Events & News

■ A community singing will be on Sunday night, Feb. 16 starting at 6 p.m. at Birdsville Baptist Church, located at 709 Birdsville Rd. Finger food will be served.

■ A Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper will be held from 5-7 p.m., Feb. 25 at Marion United Methodist Church.

Families and children are welcome. A short discussion about the religious significance of Shrove Tuesday will be held. An Ash Wed service will be held at 6 p.m., Feb. 26. The public is invited to

both events. A love offering will be accepted for Marion United Methodist youth.

■ Fredonia Unity Baptist Church’s clothes closet is open from 9 a.m. to noon on the second and fourth Saturday of every month.

■ First Baptist Church of Fredonia food pantry is open from 1 to 3 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in Coleman Hall of the church.

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

■ The clothes closet of First Baptist Church of Fre-

donia is open from 1 to 3 p.m. every Thursday. It is located at the back of the church’s Family Life Center.

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

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

Contentment comes through Christ

**Question:** I had a nice car and I got the itch for a new one with the latest technology on it. I bought me a new bright red one, but my old one was too good to give up so I kept it too. Why am I so discontent that I had to have the newest and best?

**Answer:** You are no different than many American consumers who want the latest and the most current vehicle, cell phone or TV. Our discontentment with what we have drives us to get the latest model when what we have works just fine.

When we aren’t content with the simple things like food, clothing, an adequate roof over our heads and the simple pleasures of life, our discontentment pushes



us for more and more. But, more stuff never satisfied a discontented heart.

It is easy to rely on things and even people to bring us temporary happiness, but true contentment can only be found in an intimate, daily relationship with God. Augustine, an early Christian theologian, had it right when he said, “God, you have made us for yourself, and our hearts are restless till they find their rest in you.”

The Bible teaches, “Godliness with contentment is great gain” (1 Tim. 6:6).

Take the time daily to visit with God. Get into the habit of enjoying a daily quiet time of Bible reading and prayer. Don’t think of them as something you have to do, but rather as time you are spending with someone – God.

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

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Marion Baptist Church

WELCOME

FAMILY LIFE CENTER

Open to the Public  
9am to 3pm  
Monday thru Friday

Walking Track  
Weight Room  
Gymnasium

WORSHIP

with us this week

For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

—Matthew 18:20

Visit one of our area churches for worship and fellowship

"For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

-Matthew 18:20

Marion Baptist Church

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

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

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

Piney Fork

CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

A new beginning, going forward and looking to the future Ky. 506 | Marion, Ky.

Sugar Grove

cumberland presbyterian

585 Sugar Grove Church Rd., Marion, Ky.  
(270) 704-2455  
Sun. School: 10 a.m. | Sun. Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.  
Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m. Rev. Jack Wieland

St. William Catholic Church

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

Father John Okoro

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 -

Marion United Methodist Church

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

Bro. David COMBS

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

South College St.

Mexico Baptist Church

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

Minister of Youth Robert Kirby | 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.

Crayne Community Church

Crayne Cemetery Road, Crayne, Ky.

Bro. James Driver, Interim Pastor

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

Tyners Chapel Church

Located on Ky. 855 North

Sunday: 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.  
Wednesday: 6 p.m.  
Pastor: Charles Tabor

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

FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

224 W. Bellville St., Marion, Ky.

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

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.

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...

Crooked Creek Baptist Church

261 Crooked Creek Church Rd., Marion, Ky.

Sunday School: 10 a.m.  
Sunday Morning Worship: 11 a.m.  
Sunday Evening Worship: 6 p.m.  
Wednesday Evening Worship: 6 p.m.  
Pastor: Bro. Mark Girten

Hurricane Church

Hurricane Church Rd. off Ky. 135 West

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Wednesday Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.

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# Tolu wins State Class B basketball championship

This article first appeared in The Crittenden Press in March 19, 1981. It was written by then reporter Lee D. Waters. Through Mr. Waters’ interview with Tom Griffith, one of the players with the winning 1931 Tolu Basketball team, and Virgil Hughes, one of the reserve players, the history on those wonderful exciting days were relived with all the action and some humorous memories by Griffith and Hughes. Let’s relive those days once again.



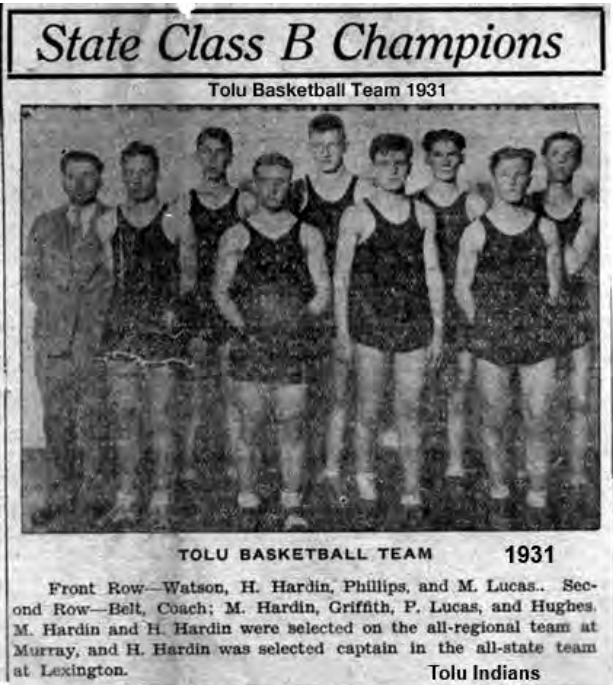
**Brenda Underdown**  
County Historian

*Forgotten Passages*

son finally called the front desk for a plumber. A more humorous incident of that tournament, Griffith said, is only funny in retrospect. Coming from a small town, the team had never seen revolving doors. On the team’s first day at the Phoenix the place was so busy the doors didn’t stop rotating. Griffith said, “we didn’t know you could stop the door. We spent quite a while trying to hit it just right to get through.”

**Liked to Play**

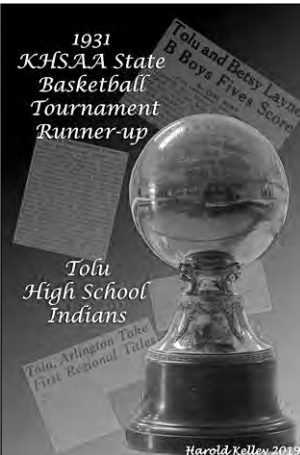
Tolu didn’t have a gymnasium in 1931, so the team practiced on an outdoor court year-round. Both Griffith and Hughes said the team practiced before school, at recess and after school and on Sundays no matter what the weather. They worked out against as many people as wanted to play, simply because, Griffith said, “We like to play ball.” Home games were played at Pohs Hall Gym in Marion. Tolu had to share that facility with some of the other high schools in the county. There were six at that time – Tolu, Shady Grove, Mattoon, Frances, Dycusburg and Marion. Road trips weren’t a simple matter of getting on a bus and going. The team usually scheduled several games in the Murray area at once, for example, and made a three-day trip out of it traveling in two cars. It took three hours to get to a game at Princeton, and another three to get home. Some of the most difficult trips were those to play Illinois schools. The team often crossed the river on mailboats and walked into the towns they were to play in. They had to walk along a set of railroad tracks to get from the river to the gym at De-koven. The facilities usually weren’t much better than home when they got across the river. They were usually musty little bitty old gyms barely big enough to turn around in. It was always nice to get on a court. There were different rules then also. The biggest difference was that the teams had to jump center after every basket. There was no rule concerning the amount of time taken to get down court, and there were no 3-second violations in the lane. Players were out after four fouls, and the team couldn’t get with their coach during the times-



This clipping from a newspaper shows the tough and powerful bunch of young Tolu men that were 1931 Class B basketball champions. Having no gym they had to do all their practicing on an outdoor court, in all kinds of weather. Front: John Wesley Watson, Harry Hardin, James “Sonny” Phillips, Morris Lucas. Second row: Rupert Belt, Coach, Morris Hardin, Tom Griffith, Paul Lucas, and Virgil Hughes.

out. They huddled together, sitting in a circle on the floor to discuss strategy. The center jump made a big man essential. Center was more important than any man on the team. If you couldn’t control the tip you were at a great disadvantage. Tolu rarely felt that disadvantage with the 6’3” Griffith as center. “We didn’t have any set plays, if I got the tip I’d give it to one fellow one time and another the next time. If any of us got it we’d go to the basket. We’d play a man-to-man defense and run the other team,” Griffith said. **Ball of dynamite** The top player of the Tolu state tournament teams was Harry Hardin, a guard. Hardin went on to become a legend at Western Kentucky after his days at Tolu. Area fans who remember seeing Hardin, named captain of the 1931 All-State Tournament team, say he was a ball-handling wizard. Another Hardin, Morris, was top scorer in the tournament. Griffith said that he was 5’6” and 165 pounds and was a little ball of dynamite. He could dribble a basketball as well as any open field football runner could run a football. He’d dribble from one end to the other and leave players laying in his path. **60-5 record** The Tolu team’s practice of playing without “any set

plays” was unusual but it worked. The 1930 and ‘31 teams posted a 60-5 record, with their only losses coming at the hands of Rosiclar, Ill., and Lola in regular season play, and Hopkinsville, Cornith and Manual at the tournament. Tolu’s district at that time included six counties – Crittenden, Caldwell, Livingston, Trigg, Lyon and Christian. In 1931, Tolu breezed through the district tournament preliminaries with the 59-7 win over Shady Grove and a 60-12 thumping of Farmersville, and a win over Salem before losing to Hopkinsville in the final. **Classes champs met** It was tradition in those early days of the state tournament to play the Class B champs against Class A champs. That was usually the worst game of the tournament. It wasn’t the case in 1931, however. As The Crittenden Press reported on March 27, of that year, “Not only did Tolu win the Class B tournament, defeating other teams in that class, but put up a plucky fight with the mighty Manual team of Louisville, losing a closely contested game.” Manual’s 1931 Class A champs were led by a guard named Lyle Judy. They stumped Tolu early in the game with a block play that kept everyone away from Manual’s basket except Judy, who



To the left is the trophy presented to the 1931 Tolu Basketball team, and to the right is a small silver basketball ball that each team member received from the tournament.

put his team up 23-8 at the half. That might have been the last heard of Tolu, especially considering the lack of coaching skills by Rupert Belt. The day was saved by another Crittenden County coach named Throckmorton who had been observing the proceedings from the stands. He came into Tolu’s dressing room at the half and drew out what was happening. It helped and if we had known that all along we would have been state champions. Tolu outscored their opponents 15-11 in the second half, thanks to Throckmorton’s assistance, but couldn’t overcome their first half problems. Manual took home the combination crown with a 34-23 win. The classes have long since been combined in the state basketball tour-

namment, and Griffith thinks Tolu’s 1931 team may have been responsible for that. He said, “I wouldn’t be surprised if they discontinued that A and B stuff because of the poor showing we had that first half.” Great memories of a great hometown ball team that made it to the state to be Class B. Champions. Although the school is gone and all the players passed away, we don’t want to forget this great history or those young men that made it such a memorable year. (Brenda Underdown is chair of Crittenden County Historical Society and a member of Crittenden County Genealogical Society. Much more local history can be found at OurForgottenPassages.blogspot.com).

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**THANK YOU**  
The family of Maudie Summers would like to thank everyone that called, texted, sent food, visited and sent flowers and gifts in memory of our loved one.  
A special thank you to the staff of Gilbert Funeral Home, Rev. Bill Summers and Bro. Billy Parrish for your compassion and comforting words.  
A very special thank you to the staff of The Palmer Place for the wonderful care you provided mom these last 10 months. Your love and care will never be forgotten.  
*God bless you all,  
Marcie, Mike and Macie Conger  
Gina Summers*

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# New stone depicts Salem history

STAFF REPORT

The City of Salem's economic vitality and witness to historic crimes and skirmishes are memorialized on a historical marker recently erected by the Livingston County Tourist Commission.

The Salem marker is one of several planned in Livingston County with the hope of fully developing a historical monument tour.

Similar monuments have been placed in Carrsville and Grand Rivers.

Bob Maxwell, chairman of the Livingston County Tourist Commission, said money generated from the county's motel tax is funding the monuments and a coordinating brochure, that will include a map depicting Mantle Rock and the Trail of Tears.

"A lot people are interested in history, and the hope is we can get people to stay an extra day and buy a few more meals, an extra tank of gas and a motel room," Maxwell said about the motivation

behind the historical markers as they relateto tourism.

One side of the granite monument contains photos of the Salem Union Church and home that served as a stage relay station and inn.

Located in the courtyard in downtown Salem, the back side of the monument describes the creation of Salem and some of the important events its citizens witnessed since the late 1700s.

It reads:

"Salem, Livingston County was opened for settlement in 1795, pioneers from the Mid-Atlantic states began drifting into the Salem Valley by 1798.

"County seat 1809-1842, officially took the name Salem in 1810. A town square at the juncture of highways 60 and 723 held the hewn log courthouse and jail.

"Site of the trials of the Cave-In-Rock crimes and the brutal murder of a slave by the Lewis brothers, nephews of Thomas Jefferson. Witness to the tragic Trail of Tears in 1939 and a Civil War skirmish in 1864.



A recently erected monument in Salem will become part of a historical marker tour in Livingston County.

"Salem again flourished in the early 1900s by means of the fluorspar mines.

"Dedicated to the past, present and future Salem."



Nicky Baker (right) with his wife Gary Beth accepts an award recognizing his induction into the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association Hall of Fame.

## Baker among Cattlemen fame

STAFF REPORT

Caldwell County resident Nicky Baker was inducted into the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association Hall of Fame at the 2020 convention.

Baker's involvement with the Cattlemen's Association has spanned over 20 years.

"I am a fifth-generation farmer and my farm has been in the family for over 200 years," Baker said.

Through the years Baker has cut down the size of his cattle herd to about 150, but at one time worked over 250 cows plus calves.

His commitment to the cattlemen's association goes beyond everyday life on the farm.

He, along with a few other members, created a Cattlemen's Association cooker made from scrap metal in order for the program to cook for scholarships and local organizations.

In addition to this, Baker has also been involved with cooking for the Wounded Warrior project.

His extensive service and dedication to the organization led to his recognition as the only inductee from the first region for the Kentucky Cattlemen's Association Hall of Fame.

Baker lives near Fredonia with his wife Gary Beth.

## Club holds memorial, hosts vocalists

Woman's Club of Marion held its first meeting of 2020 on Feb. 5 at the club building. Fifteen members and guests were entertained with songs by club member Michelle Crider and her friend April Fisk Roper of Benton.

Crider and Roper met when they were students at Murray State University and earned degrees in voice. Both continued their education for master's degrees, Crider at the University of Kentucky and Roper at Florida State University.

The meeting included a memorial service for Judy Winn who passed away Jan. 5. She had



Woman's Club of Marion was treated to beautiful music by sopranos April Fisk Roper (left) and Michelle Crider at the latest club meeting Feb. 5. Kathy Bechler (center), the club's Arts Chair, introduced the program that included music through the ages and ended with "For Good" from the Broadway musical *Wicked*.

been a member of the club for 57 years. The club placed a pewter bowl in memory of Judy at the club building.

Plans were announced for the 100th Anniversary of the club, which will take place at 10:30 a.m., March 14. Constance Alexander, Kentucky writer and columnist, will deliver the keynote address on "The Curious Incident of Poetry at Rotary."

Michelle Crider will present special music

and the Club Woman of the Year will be announced.

Hostess committee for the February meeting was Carolyn Belt, Mona Manley and Roberta Shewmaker.

# Grow With Google series coming up

A series of classes offered by Grow With Google will be offered to Marion small businesses March 4-May 6 at the Ed-Tech Center in Marion.

The classes are held at 10 a.m. each date, March 4, March 11, March 17, March 31, April 15 and May 6. They are sponsored by the the Crittenden County Public Library, Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce and the Lake Barkley Partnership.

Topics are as follows:

March 4: Google My Business Webinar with Dave Delaney

March 11: Spring Into Action Livestream (Google Analytics)

March 17: Google for

Startups and Market Finder

March 31: YouTube Playbook for Small Business

April 15: HR for Small Business (Murray State SBA)

May 6: National Small Business Week Livestream.

The classes are being offered at no cost to Chamber members.

"The Lunch and Learn held last October that was sponsored by Google, Lake Barkley Partnership, Crittenden County Library and the Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce was a success and Google donated \$3,000 to our library for new computers," said Amy Samuels, Chamber executive director. "These

classes are a follow up of what (Chamber members) have personally requested, and Google has agreed to do the classes free of charge."

Anyone interested in attending the workshop series should call Samuels and register at (270) 965-2266.

**Submit local events**

Community calendar is designed for individuals, non-profit organizations and government entities to publicize meetings and events. Call (270) 965-3191.

## Traffic deaths up in 2019

Highway fatalities in Kentucky increased last year according to preliminary numbers from the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet's (KYTC) Office of Highway Safety (KOHs). Initial data indicates there were 734 fatalities in 2019, compared to 724 in 2018. A final report will be released in April.

So far in 2020, preliminary numbers indicate there have been 56 roadway fatalities, down 17 compared to the same time last year.

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THANK YOU

Ted Dalton and Family would like to sincerely thank everyone for their support at the benefit that was held last Saturday. Thank you to all those who helped organize, plan and volunteered, along with those who came. Your support and continued prayers are much appreciated. Thank you!

Ted Dalton and Family

**CRITTENDEN COUNTY 5<sup>TH</sup> AND 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ROCKETS**

Front: Caeden Brothers, Garyson Hall, Logan Martin, Bryson Walker, Isaac James, Davis Perryman; Back: Garner Stallins, Ethan Thomas, Brayden Poindexter, Quinn Summers, Caleb Riley, Levi Suddoth, Avery Thompson

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**www.crittenden.kyschools.us/src**



BASKETBALL

FIFTH DISTRICT STANDINGS

BOYS		
Lyon County	17-9	5-1
Trigg County	10-16	4-2
Crittenden Co.	12-14	3-3
Livingston Cent.	3-24	0-6
GIRLS		
Trigg County	20-7	5-1
Crittenden Co.	15-7	5-1
Lyon County	12-14	2-4
Livingston Cent.	5-15	0-6

Upcoming Games

**FRIDAY**  
Lady Rockets at St. Mary  
Rockets at St. Mary  
**SATURDAY**  
Lady Rockets host Union County  
**MONDAY**  
Rockets at Dawson Springs  
**TUESDAY**  
Lady Rockets host Hopkins Central  
Rockets host Hopkins Central

FIFTH DISTRICT

**TOURNAMENT PAIRINGS**  
**AT LYON COUNTY**  
**BOYS**  
**Tuesday, Feb. 25**  
Lyon Co. vs. Livingston, 6pm  
Trigg Co. vs. Crittenden Co., 7:30pm  
**Friday, Feb. 28**  
Boys' Championship, 7 pm  
**GIRLS**  
**Monday, Feb. 24**  
Crittenden vs. Livingston, 6pm  
Trigg Co. vs. Lyon County, 7:30pm  
**Thursday, Feb. 27**  
Girls' Championship, 7pm

OUTDOORS

Hunting Seasons

Raccoon	Oct. 1 - Feb. 29
Raccoon (trapping)	Nov. 11 - Feb. 29
Squirrel	Nov. 11 - Feb. 29
Red/Gray Fox	Nov. 11 - Feb. 29
Beaver	Nov. 11 - Feb. 29
Canada Goose	Nov. 28 - Feb. 15
Coyote	Year Round
Coyote Night	Feb. 1 - May 31
Groundhog	Year Round

Coyote event changed

The annual coyote hunting contest has been postponed until Friday and Saturday, Feb. 21-22. Register at Hodge's sporting goods store on Sturgis Road. Cost is \$20 per two-man team. Hunters may hunt overnight on Friday. Check in will be at 5 p.m., on Saturday. Coyotes can be legally hunted at night with a light from Feb. 1 through May 31. The event was originally scheduled for last weekend.

SPRING SPORTS

Spring sports gear up

Spring high school sports can officially begin practicing on Saturday. These sports include baseball, softball and track and field. For more about participating, contact your school's front office or spring sports coach.

YOUTH SPORTS

Soccer sign up time

Online registration is now available for youth soccer sign ups. The Crittenden County Youth Soccer Association will also host two walk-up registration opportunities at H&H Home and Hardware from 9 a.m., until noon on Saturday, Feb. 29 and from 5-8 p.m., on Thursday, March 5 at Marion's Dairy Queen store. Online registration will be open until April 3. Follow CYSA on Facebook or email organizers at Crittendensoccer@yahoo.com for assistance. Soccer season begins March 16.

LL baseball, softball

It is time to register for youth baseball and softball. Deadline to sign up is March 7. There will be an assessment from 10 a.m., until noon at the middle school gym on March 7. There are discounts for multiple family members registering. Cost is \$25 for kickball and \$40 for baseball or softball. Find a form at the Dugout Club Facebook page, Press Online or in paper form at The Crittenden Press office.



Boone gets onto floor just in time for Rockets push toward playoffs

STAFF REPORT  
Getting junior Tyler Boone just ahead of the postseason could be a key factor for the Rockets as they head down the final stretch.  
The forward, who saw his first action last week, had been recovering from football injuries. He has scored 28 points in three games, including a 16-point performance on Friday as the Rockets dispatched Dawson Springs 80-59.  
Crittenden, now 12-14, lost 62-48 to Caldwell County on a night billed as

Back to Butler as the Tigers hosted the Rockets Tuesday at the old Butler High School gym.  
Crittenden led by four points in the third period following back-to-back threes from Preston Morgeson and Erik O'Leary, but the Rocket boys fell behind in the fourth period and missed 11 foul shots down the stretch.  
Crittenden won its first two games with Boone coming off the bench, including a 63-27 win last Thursday at Community Christian. Boone will give the Rockets

SECOND REGION TOP 10

Weekly Regional Media Poll

BOYS	GIRLS
1. Madisonville	1. Henderson Co.
2. University Heights	2. Madisonville
3. Henderson Co.	3. Webster County
4. Webster County	4. Christian County
5. Lyon County	5. Hopkinsville
6. Christian County	6. Trigg County
7. Hopkinsville	7. Union County
8. Caldwell County	8. Crittenden Co.
9. Union County	9. Caldwell County
10. Crittenden Co.	10. Lyon County

Boys' Game Summaries

**Caldwell 62, Crittenden 48**  
Crittenden Co. 12 31 43 48  
Caldwell Co. 17 32 42 62  
CRITTENDEN - Morgeson 12, O'Leary 15, Winders, Mott 6, Davidson, Boone 4, M.Carlson, J.Carlson, Turley 11. FG 16. 3-pointers 6 (Morgeson 3, O'Leary 3). FT 10-25.  
**CALDWELL** - Ray, Riley 10, Spikes 8, Blaine 20, Branch 16, East 2, J.Riley, Fralix, Smiley 6. FG 22. 3-pointers 4 (Branch 2, Blaine, Spikes). FT 14-24.

**Crittenden 80, Dawson Springs 59**  
Dawson 7 25 45 59  
Crittenden 28 50 59 80  
DAWSON - Clark 18, Pace 10, Cotton 16, Dawson 9, McKnight 4, Smiley 2, Whalen, Neiters, Back, Cunningham. FG 22. 3-pointers 4 (Clark 3, Pace). FT 11-18.  
CRITTENDEN - Morgeson 17, O'Leary 20, Winders, Mott 14, Guess, Boone 16, Champion 3, Dobyns, M.Carlson 2, Adamson, J.Carlson, Turley 8. FG 26. 3-pointers 9. (Morgeson 3, O'Leary 4, Mott, Champion). FT 17-25.

**Crittenden 63, Community Christian 27**  
Crittenden Co. 26 34 55 63  
Community Christian 9 12 21 27  
CRITTENDEN - Morgeson 7, O'Leary 15, Mott 11, Guess, Davidson 5, Boone 8, Champion 2, Dobyns 3, M.Carlson 2, Adamson 2, J.Carlson 2, McGowan 4, Turley 2. FG 27. 3-pointers 3 (Morgeson, O'Leary 2). FT 6-10.  
CCA - T.Wilson 4, B.Wilson 2, Chesnut 9, Tidwell, Winsett 4, Wilkerson, Smith 6, Chappell 2, Harrison, Koenigsmark. FG 11. 3-pointers 1 (Smith). FT 4-10.

another physical presence around the basket and he is likely to give CCHS a nice scoring boost. If the junior can average close to double digits in points and rebounds the rest of the way, it could make the Rockets one of the most dangerous teams in the region as the playoffs near. CCHS already has three players scoring in double digits - O'Leary, Preston Turley and Gabe Mott.

Are Rocket girls flirting with a 20-win season?

Lady Rocket basketball's fanbase probably doesn't need to hold its collective breath, but coach Shannon Hodge has her girls within reach of a 20-win season, something that has been done just two times in the 27-year coach's tenure.  
With four regular-season games remaining, the Lady Rockets already have 15 wins. Every game left is winnable and the girls will go into the Fifth District Tournament as the No. 1 seed and certainly among the two favorites to win the district, alongside regular-season co-champion Trigg County.  
The Lady Rockets last won 20 games in 2017, the year CCHS recorded the best record in school history at 25-8. The girls won 21 games in 2011, the year they won the Second Region championship.  
Crittenden was close to winning its 17th game on Tuesday, but lost in overtime at Caldwell County in a game played at the old Butler gym. The Lady Rockets made just 3-of-10 foul shots in OT as Taylor Guess, Nahla Woodward and Jaelyn Duncan each fouled out.



Lady Rocket junior Lilly Perryman (25) reaches for a rebound during Friday's victory over Dawson Springs.

**Crittenden 45, Dawson 33**  
Dawson Springs 5 17 23 33  
Crittenden Co. 6 25 37 45  
DAWSON - Spurlin, Drennan, Oldham 2, Clark 24, Harper 3, Randolph 2, Ward 1, J.Harper 2. FG 14. 3-pointers 2 (Clark, G.Harper). FT 3-6.  
CRITTENDEN - Guess 20, Boone 5, Moss, Duncan 4, Woodward 14, Easley, Perryman, Smith 2, Driskill. FG 19. 3-pointers 2 (Boone, Guess). FT 5-8.

**Caldwell 59, Crittenden 50**  
Crittenden 13 22 34 45 50  
Caldwell 4 18 31 45 59  
CRITTENDEN - Guess 25, Boone 2, Moss 7, Duncan 5, Woodward 11, Easley, Smith, Driskill. FG 18. 3-pointers 1 (Woodward). FT 11-23.  
CALDWELL - Goffinet 2, Hollowell 18, McDaniels 7, McConnell 17, Jaggars 12, Parker 3, Campbell. FG 21. 3-pointers 2 (McDaniels, McConnell). FT 15-27.

ROCKET BASKETBALL 1,000-POINT CLUB MEMBERS



Crittenden County basketball and Farmers Bank honored members of the Rockets' 1,000 Points Club last week. Pictured are (from left) Don "Sucky" Brasher, Tom Wring, Kenneth Shadowen (representing his late brother, Lige Shadowen), Bennett Smith, Ronnie Moss, Casey Oliver, Tammy and Brett Owen (representing their son, Aaron Owen), Preston Turley and Gabe Mott. A new banner listing the top scorers in school history was unveiled.

Rockets 1K Points Club

Points	Player	Years	Games	Avg
1,822	Tim Hill	2000-2005	129	14.1
1,596	Bennett Smith	1968-1972	73	21.9
1,442	Lige Shadowen	1955-1958	84	17.2
1,359	Don Brasher *	1950-1953	68	20.0
1,205	Greg Thurman	1983-1987	75	16.1
1,191	Aaron Owen *	2009-2014	124	9.6
1,148	Ronnie Moss *	1986-1990	77	14.9
1,110	Bruce Belt *	1951-1955	79	14.1
1,090	Casey Oliver *	2007-2011	88	12.4
1,071	Tom Wring *	1953-1956	61	17.6
1,070	Preston Turley	2016-Present	107	10.0
1,055	Gabe Mott	2016-Present	93	11.3
1,024	Spencer Cozart	1975-1979	95	10.8

\*Indicates that historic records are incomplete

Greatest scorers recognized

While some historic records are still missing, Crittenden County sports historian Andy Hunt has verified the above list as the most accurate available enumeration of points made by the highest-scoring players in Rocket basketball history. They were honored during a reception and ceremony Friday at Rocket Arena.



# Former Rocket has a state championship

STAFF REPORT

Basketball and baptism go hand in hand for former Rocket point guard Kenny Jackson.

In his fourth season as scholastic basketball coach, the 45-year-old Crittenden County High School graduate has won a state championship and been a state runner-up.

Jackson's Northside Baptist Christian basketball team has certainly proven its salt on the court, but it's what happens outside the lines that provides even more meaningful reward to this coach and his players.

Jackson concedes that most area prep sports fans know little, if anything, about his ball team despite its success in the Kentucky Christian School Athletic Association (KCSAA). In Jackson's first season at the helm of the Mayfield faith-based school's squad, the Lions lost in the KCSAA 2A state championship game. In his second season, the

school won the 2A championship.

"We really have a nice gym and facility, especially to be a small, basically unknown school," said Jackson, who graduated from CCHS in 1993 after playing hoops here for two years under coach Jon Lawson.

"A lot of people in this town didn't even know we were here," he continued. "Some probably still don't."

But, Jackson and his private school basketball team are garnering more attention. Jackson had been a youth basketball coach in Mayfield and was an assistant coach at the now closed Mid-Continent University before signing on to lead the school team sponsored by his church.

Northside Baptist Christian is a K-12 school with an enrollment of 125. The team plays about 28 games a season in the 29-team KCSAA and beyond.

"We play teams from Illinois, Missouri and Ten-

nessee," Jackson said, in addition to programs across Kentucky. The closest Kentucky schools in their association are in Madisonville and Morgantown.

"We went to Leitchfield for a game the other night and didn't get home until midnight," he said.

The Lions' program includes a varsity and junior varsity squad. The varsity team has 13 players on its roster.

Creating relationships with players and opponents, teaching the game and mentoring young people are among the most rewarding gifts he finds from coaching a faith-based school team. But then there's more – a higher calling if you will.

"In my second season we had a boy dedicate his life to the Lord and obviously that's what we're all looking for in a church setting," he said.

Jackson described his job as something akin to an advanced upward

coach. He leads devotionals either before or after games and teaches his players to work hard and be respectful.

"If we knock someone down, we help them back up," he said. "If a ball gets loose and goes out of bounds, we hustle over and get it. We don't wait for someone else to go get it. Winning is obviously good, and there's a place for discipline, too, as we teach the game."

Recently, Jackson has been reunited with familiar basketball family. Another former Rocket, Payton Croft, is now coaching at Mayfield High School. Jackson was a high school athlete at Crittenden County when Croft was just a youngster hanging around the gym because his father, Jimmy, was a longtime basketball coach at CCHS.

"I got to watch Payton's team. Jimmy sits in the stands and sits right beside him," Jackson said.



Kenny Jackson's basketball team is 13-13 this season. This is his fourth season to lead the faith-based school's hoops program and his teams are 66-60 over that time frame.

# Story of Jackson's athleticism is worth sharing

Just how good is Kentucky signee Isaiah Jackson?

Waterford Mott head coach David McGlown has a story that UK basketball fans should love.

"We had a game earlier this season and a guy threw the ball up to him. Isaiah was running behind him, dunked and hit his head on the backboard. That's how athletic he is," McGlown said.

"Yet if you see him play, he's so unselfish. You think this kid could just dominate the game and doesn't have to score more than six or eight points to do it because of everything else he can do. He can fill the stat sheet."

In one recent win, Jackson scored 14 points (with four dunks), grabbed 10 rebounds, blocked five shots and dished out five assists. Another game he had 32 points. Yet another game it might be 11 points, seven rebounds, two blocks and two assists. He had 12 points, 11 rebounds, five blocks and three assists in three quarters of another win.

"He is having a great season," the coach said. "He has such an all-around game. He can make a jump shot, hit a 3, score inside, play defense and block shots. When he came back from his injury after two games, it turned our season around. He changes the game a lot because he plays above the rim."

This is Jackson's first year at Waterford Mott after transferring from Spire Academy (Ohio). McGlown knew Jackson's father "a little bit" and knew some about Jackson before he arrived.

"He is so quiet and so



Larry Vaught  
UK Sports Columnist  
Vaught's Views

humble, kind of shy at times," the coach said. "It takes a while to get to know him but when you do he opens up, jokes around and just does things a normal kid does."

"If he's maybe on the phone doing an interview, he's kind of reserved. But you can tell he's getting more comfortable with everything."

He'll play in a big spotlight at UK but at Spire Academy last year he played with LeMelo Ball, a possible top three pick in the 2020 NBA draft. Ball's father, LaVar, is also a nationally known figure and Spire normally played in front of overflow crowds with large media contingents.

"He will open up even more once he gets there and gets other great players around him," McGlown said. "Coach (John Calipari) will get him ready to handle the spotlight even better and handle the interviews and attention."

He's putting in plenty of extra work to be ready basketball-wise. McGlown says he works with his personal trainer on his jump shot and ballhandling skills.

"He is actually a small forward who is 6-9. He can handle the ball, shoot from the perimeter. He was playing point guard for us a little bit in one game to just show his other skills," McGlown said.

Jackson has played for four high schools in four years and McGlown said bouncing around between different coaches and environments kept Jackson from having a chance to settle in and show all he can do on a consistent basis.

"He's excited about next year and will sometimes mention Kentucky but right now he is focused on trying to make a state title run with our team because he values



Isaiah Jackson

winning more than anything," McGlown said. "He will say something every now and then about UK but then go a few days and not say anything. But there's no doubt he's excited about what lies ahead for him at UK and he should be. I think he'll do great."

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Auburn coach Bruce Pearl, not a favorite of some UK basketball fans, recently joined Paul Finebaum's show on the SEC Network and the host asked Pearl about his relationship with Kentucky head coach John Calipari. The two went head to head when Pearl was at Tennessee and Calipari at Memphis and now in the SEC.

"I can't control whether anyone likes me or not," Pearl said. "For me, I have great respect for John Calipari, and the job he does. I hope he has respect for the job I do. He's a great ambassador for our league. If you listen to him, he's always giving the other team credit. He takes the high road."

"I feel like we have a good healthy relationship because we have respect for how difficult of a job we have and how well we're both able to do it. Now, we're both passion-

ate. We're different, but we both wear it on our sleeves pretty good."

Pearl told Finebaum he still doesn't believe there is a rivalry between the two programs. That was before UK lost at Auburn, it's third straight loss to the Tigers, including one in the Elite Eight last year when Auburn advanced to its first Final Four.

"People ask, 'Do you have a rivalry with Kentucky?'" Pearl said. "I say, 'No, they've dominated the series for a long time, but if we can be competitive over the next few years, maybe we can develop a rivalry.'"

Auburn plays Kentucky again Feb. 29 in Rupp Arena.

"I am sure Kentucky will be great in that game like they always are," Pearl told me back in December at the Marshall County Hoopfest. "I have unbelievable respect for that program. We have not played well in Rupp Arena in several years."

"Got to go back again this year. Kentucky basketball fans know their basketball. I always feel a level of responsibility for playing good basketball when I take a team to Rupp because those fans respect and appreciate the game so much. Unfortunately we have not always done that."

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Freshman Rylea Smith of St. Louis got a huge compliment from Kentucky coach Rachel Lawson before the season started when Lawson said she could be the best leadoff hitter she's ever had at Kentucky. Considering the players Lawson has coached and the success UK has had under her, that's big praise for a freshman before she played her first game. Of course, Smith got the winning RBI in her second collegiate game.

"Whenever I get compliments I take it with more of a grain of salt," the

freshman outfielder said. "I see it as I could have a bit more confidence in myself than I do. When I came into college I was worried. It is a whole different setting and you are playing against some of the best of the best."

"When you hear your coach say that you might be one of the best she's ever had, it does give you a lot of confidence. Rather than putting pressure on you it takes pressure off me more than anything."

Smith hit .526 her senior season with nine doubles, 11 triples, five homers, 27 runs knocked in and 38 stolen bases in 39 tries. Her speed showed up on defense, too, where she had 96 putouts and turned three double plays. She

hit above .500 all four years in high school, helped her team win a state title in 2018 and played for USA Softball.

So why was she worried coming into college?

"I just think I am a pretty worrisome person when it comes to softball overall. I am pretty confident in my hitting," Smith said before the season started. "I am pretty confident overall but I always worry how I will do."

"It's a type of preseason stress because you don't know how the season will go and what you will need and how everything will turn out for you. Hearing your coach saying she has confidence in you doing well can also bring you confidence."

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## Duck Slayers

A group of Crittenden County youth waterfowlers recently took at duck hunting trip to western Tennessee where they harvested a nice bag of mallards. Pictured are (from left) Brayden Williamson, Coleman Stone, Logan Bailey, Holden Cooksey, Ben Evans, Cole McKinney, (front) guide Slayton Gearin and Dawson Johnson.

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# City proposes across-the-board pay raise for Marion Police Department

## Revenue from alcohol sales drives plan

STAFF REPORT

A proposed pay raise for Marion police department is aimed at retaining and attracting qualified officers and, as intended by ordinance, putting to use tax dollars raised through the legalized sale of alcohol inside the city.

Marion City Council on Monday at its regular monthly meeting introduced a new pay plan for policemen, which includes a \$1.50-per-hour raise for every officer. Based on a normal 40-hour work week, that would amount to an additional \$3,120 in gross income per man. Depending on rank and tenure, police officers could soon be earning between \$41,717 and \$48,200 annually.

City Administrator Adam Ledford said recently that receipts from the local alcohol tax and the sale of permits had generated about \$13,000 in the last quarter of 2019 – a period when some of the sales points

were just getting started. While it's too early to begin forecasting what annual revenue will be from the legal sale of alcohol in Marion, Ledford says, it's clear that the windfall will be enough to pay for this proposed raise, and perhaps more.

If approved, the proposed raise will amount to \$15,600 in pay for all five current policemen. That doesn't include employer-paid taxes or overtime costs.

The council will hear further input on the proposed raise at its next meeting, and then vote whether or not to seal the deal.

With support from Mayor Jared Byford and Marion Police Chief Ray O'Neal, the city administrator is also proposing to hire an additional officer and roll the city's code enforcement duties into



**WEST BACK AT HOME**  
After a lengthy hospital stay, suffering from a viral infection, Asst. Chief Bobby West has been released and returned home Tuesday.

the police department. Although it would broaden the workload for the department, Chief O'Neal is in favor of the plan because it would ultimately create a six-man police force, something the department hasn't had in many years. MPD at one time included seven full-time officers, and one part-timer.

Ledford said the proposed pay plan and additional officer's salary has been woven into early discussions of the city's fiscal year 2021 budget and there's no reason to believe it would put undue stress on the town's financial forecast, particularly because of added revenue from the alcohol tax.

"As of now, this works from a financial sense. This works with one caveat," Ledford said. "I will need more solid numbers for our healthcare costs to get a clearer picture."

The city provides healthcare insurance at no cost to its employees, and it provides a 25-percent cost-share program for their dependents' healthcare insurance. A major price increase could have an affect on the overall plan, he sug-

gested.

Putting the additional workload on the police department to handle code enforcement hasn't been fully accepted by every elected official. Councilmen Donnie Arflack and Darrin Tabor have voiced concerns about putting more burden on an already time-strapped, shorthanded police department. Still, it appears the majority supports the idea with the police chief's blessing.

Ledford and O'Neal have explained their rationale, pointing out that an additional officer will make the plan work, but it's even doable with current staffing. Plans are to select an officer and make his role more of an administrative one, handling Alcohol Beverage Control (ABC), Code Enforcement and Planning and Zoning. That officer would also be available for routine patrols or additional policing duties as needed.

For the last several years, Marion has employed a full-time code enforcement officer. Teri Hart, who held the job, retired at the end of last year.

The police department

has been a bit short-handed much of the time in the last several months because of injuries and health issues. Chief O'Neal thinks it could be back to a full five-man rotation pretty soon as Assistant Chief Bobby West is now recovering at home after spending about three weeks in the hospital because of a viral infection.

Councilwoman D'Anna

Browning asked whether the alcohol tax revenue would be available for broader community safety measures, such as to fund educational programs such as those promoted by the Champions for a Drug-Free Community. Further review of the statutes governing the local ABC ordinance will be necessary to determine if receipts can be used in that matter.

## Area Deaths

### Johnson

William Ray "Billy" Johnson, Jr., 55, of Grand Rivers died at his home Thursday Feb. 6, 2020.



He was a U.S. Army veteran; member of Harvest House Pentecostal Church and a member of the Kentucky National Guard unit that was formerly stationed at Marion.

Survivors include his wife, Stephanie Autry Johnson of Grand Rivers; two daughters, Jessica Andrews and husband Brian of Princeton and Megan Buckingham and husband Casey of Dyersburg, Tenn.; a son, Joseph Johnson and wife Natasha of Princeton; two step-daughters, Destiny Paige Autry of Grand Rivers and Sidney Renee Autry of Grand Rivers; a brother, Ronald Wayne Johnson of Trenton, Tenn.; two sisters, Judy Weaver of Dyersburg, Tenn. and Pamela Smith of Trenton, Tenn.; six grandchildren, Thomas McKee, Joseph Johnson Jr., Jeremiah Johnson, Cheyenne Johnson, Lil-

lian Buckingham, Benjamin Buckingham; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William Ray Johnson Sr., and Geraldine Van Hooser Peay; and a sister, Opal JoAnn Johnson.

Services were Monday, Feb.10 at Goodman Funeral Home in Princeton with Bro. Daniel Orten officiating. Burial was at Morse Cemetery in Caldwell County.

### Flanary

Samuel Wayne Flanary, 75, of Marion died Friday, Jan. 31 2020 in Paducah.

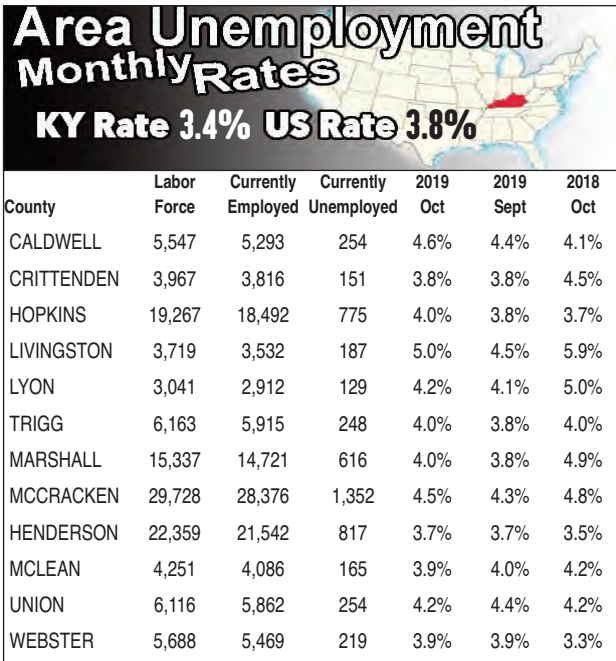
He was a member of the Marion United Methodist Church.

Surviving are his son, Jonas Drew Flanary of Marion; a step-sister, Edith Harris of Marion; a sister-in-law, Louise Flanary of Princeton; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Roberta S. Flanary; his par-

ents, James Isaac Flanary and Effie Ilene Belt Flanary; and two brothers, David and Douglas Flanary.

A memorial service will be held at 6 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 13 at Marion United Methodist Church with Rev. David Combs officiating. There will be no visitation.



## MISSING

Continued from page 1

turning from work found him there and asked him to leave. She didn't know him.

Franklin said Cowan told the woman that he was heading to another nearby residence to see a friend. His niece also said the trailer where Cowan was found looks a whole lot like his own home. She thinks he may have been confused, thinking it was his residence. Cowan had apparently walked about a mile from Salem to Johnson Road. It appears he also walked back to Salem where he was seen shortly before

noon the next day at Simply Southern Café. He asked to do some work at the restaurant in exchange for food.

He also mentioned during the exchange at the restaurant that he was on his way to Evansville. His niece said it isn't uncommon for him to say he's going somewhere when he's really not.

He has a son and ex-wife in Grand Rivers.

Police and relatives have searched all of the places Cowan would routinely frequent. The detective said Evansville authorities have been notified and photos of Cowan sent there.

Franklin says what's particularly alarming is that Cowan has not accessed his bank account since he went missing three weeks ago. His regular Social Security check was automatically deposited in his bank account on Jan. 31 and it hasn't been touched.

Cowan is described as a white male, six feet tall and weighing 140 pounds. He has blue eyes and brown hair.

Anyone with information should contact the Livingston County Sheriff's Department at (270) 928-2122 or the Kentucky State Police at 1-800-222-5555.

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Crittenden County High School held its basketball homecoming on Friday night. The king and queen were crowned between varsity games against Dawson Springs. Senior Kyonna Ross was chosen as queen and senior Erik O’Leary was the king. The entire court is pictured here (from left) freshmen Brilee Crittendon and Preston Morgeson; juniors Leah Fritts and Noah McGowan, seniors Emma Herrin and Trevor Peppler, Ross and O’Leary, crown bearer Luke Hurst and flower girl London McCord, seniors Ashton Binkley and Thomas Fesler; sophomores Anna Fesler and Tristen Davidson and last year’s queen and king, Shelby Summers and David Maness.

Crittenden County Schools

2020-2021 School Calendar

August 2020

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2020

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2020

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2020

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2020

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

January 2021

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

February 2021

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

March 2021

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

April 2021

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	

May 2021

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

June 2021

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

July 2021

Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Regular Instructional Day

Holiday

Professional Development

First & Last Day for Students

District Planning Day

Opening/Closing

Non School Day

Aug 6

Aug 10

Aug 11

Aug 12

Sept 7

Oct 5-9

Oct 12

Nov 3

Nov 25-27

Dec 21-Jan 1

Professional Development Day

Opening Day

District Planning Day

First Day for Students

Labor Day

Fall Break

Professional Development Day

Presidential Election Day

Thanksgiving Break

Christmas Break

Jan 4

Jan 18

Feb 15

Mar 12

Apr 5-9

Apr 12

May 19

May 20

May 21

May 24

Professional Development Day

No School

District Planning Day

District Planning Day

Spring Break

District Planning Day

Last Day for Students

District Planning Day

Closing Day

Flexible PD Day

Crittenden County students will be in class on roughly the same schedule next year as the current school year. The 2020-2021 calendar was adopted in December, several months earlier than usual, but officials say they want to give families ample time to plan trips or special events in the next school year. They plan to do this annually. Classes will start the second week of August, and aside from state or federal holidays, schools will close for fall break the first full week in October and for two weeks for Christmas break. Spring break is the first full week of April, with closing day for students being May 19, 2021.

## Eatery on Main St. is closed

STAFF REPORT  
After almost three years on South Main Street, Anna Mae’s on Main has closed. The locally-owned restaurant closed at the end of January. Owner Keith Davis said he cannot rule out any future changes in plans, but for now he has closed the restaurant.

“I appreciate everyone’s support. We had very loyal customers,” he said. “It was good to be reunited with a lot of people I hadn’t seen in years and I made a lot of new friends.” Unused gift cards can be redeemed by calling (270) 704-3984.

## Tax filing season is here

The Internal Revenue Service (IRS) and Kentucky Department of Revenue (DOR) have begun accepting electronic and paper federal tax returns. Individual state income tax refunds began being processed on Monday, with the issuance of refunds beginning as early as next week. Taxpayers may check the status of their refund by visiting <https://refund.ky.gov/> and entering their Social Security number and exact dollar amount of the refund. Depending upon household income, some taxpayers may qualify for the Free File Alliance, which offers no-cost Kentucky tax return

preparation for electronic returns and allows taxpayers to receive refunds via direct deposit. Visit <https://revenue.ky.gov/Individual/Pages/FreeFileSoftware.aspx> to learn more and find out if you qualify. This year, Kentucky is also launching KY File, a new, no-cost option to file individual income tax returns. KY File is free and is designed to be the simple electronic equivalent of a paper form. There are no income limitations to use this service. Before using KY File, taxpayers should complete their federal tax forms. KY File will allow you to file your returns electronically and receive a paper check sooner.

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## Figuring tax on a bottle of beer can be, well, very unclear and untasty

STAFF REPORT  
In case you’re counting, the tax rate on a bottle of beer at either of the town’s two sit-down restaurants is 14 percent. And to be honest, it’s not quite that simple. The formula for figuring how much a restaurant owes in taxes on that 12-ounce serving of malt beverage is a bit confusing and was the subject of some debate Monday at the Marion City Council meeting. Jat Tabor, who manages Mulligans Pizzeria and Pub at the Heritage Country Club, asked the council for clarification of the ordinance pertaining to the administration of taxes on bottles or cans of beer served at taverns. City Attorney Bart Frazer referenced the City of Marion’s alcohol ordinance and tourism and recreation tax ordinance, both of which must be applied to a bottle of beer served at a business with a restaurant alcohol sales permit. Tabor, who once owned the 88 Dip which was

### Longneck Logic

also subject to the city’s tourism and recreation tax, said it was his understanding that only prepared food or beverages were subject to the three-percent restaurant tax. Beer, he said, is not a prepared food or beverage. It’s a self-contained serving, Tabor reasoned. “If I go buy a can of beer at Five Star, they don’t charge me the three percent tax, but they sell food there,” Tabor said. In the last quarter of 2019, Mulligans did not charge its customers the tax, Tabor admitted. When city officials told him the beer should be taxed three percent for tourism and five percent for the local alcohol tax, Tabor said, he refigured the amount of tax owed and paid it. However, Tabor said he wanted to bring the matter to the city council, so it was fully aware of the matter. He asked if the

council’s intention when it approved the ordinance was to make cans and bottles of beer subject to the tourism tax. Some council members say they’d like to know the position other communities take in such circumstances. A discussion also arose on whether the local alcohol tax is to be applied before or after the state sales tax is added. Frazer said the local ABC ordinance does not stipulate that the sales tax is excluded. The tourism tax makes that stipulation, excluding the sales tax. Sure. It’s complicated. For example, if the two local taxes excluded sales tax from the price of the beer, a \$2.50 bottle would be subject to a five-percent local alcohol tax and a three-percent tourism tax bringing the sub-total charge to \$2.70, which would then be subject to the state’s six-percent sales tax, making the total price of a longneck \$2.86. The matter may require further clarification.



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