



The Crittenden Press

Rocket Homecoming Court « Page 10

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

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ONE DOLLAR

Conexon broadband work coming soon

As a followup to an article in last week's newspaper about internet service in the area, Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom has provided an update on broadband expansion efforts by Conexon Connect, which is in partnership with Kenergy. A progress map is available online for residents to track developments. It can be viewed at www.kenergycorp.com/internet.

Currently, crews are replacing utility poles in the northeastern part of the county that are supported by the Sullivan substation. Once that phase is complete, work will move to the Marion substation and then to the Dycusburg substation. Once pole replacements are finished, the broadband build-out should follow quickly, Newcom said. Additionally, the judge says he is working with Kentucky Utilities to promote a Conexon pole attachment agreement. Such an agreement could allow Conexon to provide service in KUserved areas, ensuring expanded broadband options for residents across the entire county, Newcom said. While other service providers exist, increasing availability will improve affordability and reliability for all, the judge explains.

Kenergy, in partnership with Conexon Connect, is leading the effort to build a 7,200-mile fiber-to-the-home network, marking Conexon's first project in Kentucky. This initiative will provide high-speed internet access to all 49,000 Kenergy members.

Students will be on tractors to school

Motorists in the area should be on the lookout for farm equipment on the roads Friday, Feb. 21, as Crittenden County High School hosts a Drive Your Tractor to School Day. Students participating will meet in town by 7 a.m., to gather with escorts before making their way to campus.

This event, open to CCHS high school students only, celebrates the area's strong agricultural roots while giving young farmers a chance to showcase their machinery. Those interested in joining must see Jessica Abercrombie for a permission form. Expect a slow-moving but spirited commute as tractors roll into town.

Lake George reopens

Lake George is reopen for fishing and recreation for the first time since Marion's water crisis began nearly three years ago. Mayor D'Anna Browning says that now that the levee stabilization project is complete, the lake can be fished under the same rules as before: No gas-powered boats and a Kentucky fishing license is required.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Fredonia City Council will meet at 7 p.m., Monday, Feb. 17 at city hall.
- Marion Tourism and Recreation Commission will meet Tuesday, Feb. 18 at 8:30 a.m., at the Marion Welcome Center.
- Salem City Council will meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 18 at Deer Lakes meeting room.

Sewer Facility Number 2



New City of Marion treatment plant is high-tech marvel

STAFF REPORT

Wastewater from Marion now undergoes a high-tech treatment process at the city's new \$17 million plant, which has been in operation for seven months. The facility replaces an aging plant that was under state orders to close and is designed to handle the city's combined stormwater and wastewater system.

The process begins when wastewater enters a pump station at the old plant. From there, it is sent across U.S. 60 to the new facility in the industrial park north of town. Advanced systems then separate waste from water. Bacteria break down solids, while the water is aerated and chemically treated before cascading into Rush Creek behind the plant.

Dan Wood, the project inspector, said the treated water should be clear enough to drink by the time it reaches the bottom of the waterfall. Any remaining solids are compacted in a press and automatically

loaded into a trailer. Once full, the waste is hauled to a specially permitted landfill in Calvert City.

The plant was built to accommodate Marion's combined sewer system, in which stormwater and wastewater travel through the same pipes. This often leads to high inflow during storms. On an average day, the plant treats about 600,000 gallons of wastewater. However, heavy rainfall on Jan. 31 caused it to process 3.01 million gallons in a single day.

Construction began in June 2021 and was completed in July 2024, though supply chain delays during the COVID-19 pandemic slowed progress.

"A lot of chemistry goes into this process," Wood said.

"It is a big biological process," added Greg Tabor, plant superintendent.

The plant operates 24/7, though an opera-

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At top is the waste water plant's press loading treated solid waste into a haul trailer. Above is the cascade, a final stage for treated water headed back into the environment, and an overall photo of the plant.

Floyd traces near-death experience



Floyd on the day she was released from hospital

STAFF REPORT

Elizabeth Floyd doesn't remember much about the night she collapsed in her kitchen. She had been feeling sick for days, taking antibiotics and steroids to fight what she thought was strep throat. But on Dec. 11, she turned to her husband's aunt and said she didn't know where she was.

That moment set off a chain of events that nearly ended her life.

Floyd, 49, a former Chamber of Commerce president who works

at Legacy Oxygen in Marion, had been pushing through illness while preparing for a family funeral. But her condition quickly deteriorated. She was rushed to Livingston Hospital, where doctors discovered her oxygen levels were dangerously low and her carbon dioxide levels were critically high. She had respiratory failure, double pneumonia, RSV and sepsis.

"I don't remember any of it," Floyd said. "But that night, I crashed, and they had to put me

on a ventilator."

As her condition worsened, doctors searched for a hospital that could handle her case. Nashville and St. Louis were unable to take her. Eventually, she was transferred to Deaconess Gateway Hospital in Evansville, but doctors there determined she needed more intensive care than they could provide.

She was placed on an ECMO machine, which took over the

See **FLOYD**/page 9

The Crittenden Press

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Deaths

Cunningham

Elizabeth Suzian Cunningham (Landreth), 54, of Franklin, KY, died at 11:30 a.m. Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025, at Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, surrounded by family.



She was born March 5, 1970, in Caldwell County, to Ronald “Ronnie” and Nancy Landreth. She grew up in Marion, where she learned to play piano, studied German, and (supposedly) terrorized her brother Shannan. She met her first husband, martial arts enthusiast Anthony Davidson, and graduated from Crittenden County High School in 1988. She later moved to Scottsville and then Bowling Green, where she raised her two children, Ryan and Ally Beth.

Cunningham was a dedicated mother, daughter, friend, and sister to everyone in her life, especially to her furry “favorite grandchild,” Pancake. A talented artist, she was a member of the Simpson County Guild of Artists and Craftsmen, with several of her paintings displayed at the Gallery on the Square in Franklin. Like her late grandmother, Wanda Blackburn, she loved to paint and looked forward to warm weather to “play in the dirt.” Cunningham was fiercely proud of her children and never missed a chance to brag about them.

She worked as an optometric technician before joining Henkel of Bowling Green in 2013. Along with an abundance of detergent pods and fabric softener she generously shared, Henkel gave her a work family she cherished, forming lifelong friendships with her coworkers.

Surviving are two children, Ryan (Kalab) Davidson of Bowling Green, Ally (Ellison) Davidson of Chicago, Ill.; mother, Nancy (Stallion) Landreth of Marion; two brothers, Shannan (Tressie) Landreth of The Villages, Fla., and David (Debbie) Doom of Morganton, N.C.; nephews, Dawson, Alec, Brent, and Josh; and her grand dog, Pancake.

A Celebration of Life was held Saturday, Feb. 8, at Gilbert Funeral Home & Crematory, Inc. in Franklin. A second Celebration of Life was held Monday, Feb. 10, at Gilbert Funeral Home.

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association,

Midwest Affiliate, 3816 Paysphere Circle, Chicago, IL 60674. Envelopes will be provided at the funeral home. Paid obituary

Miniard

Marlon Elmo Miniard, 82, of Marion, died Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025 at Livingston Hospital and Healthcare Services.

Miniard was an avid fisherman, who loved spending time outdoors, especially at the cabin. He loved his family.



Surviving are two daughters, Wendy (Scott) Taylor of Texas and Staci (Joe) Brammer of Georgia; brothers; Ed Miniard of Marion, Tony Miniard of Frances, Doug (Kim) Miniard of Paducah, Don Miniard of Tennessee, and Ralph Miniard of Ohio; grandchildren, Eric Taylor and Tabitha Taylor of f North Carolina, Jackson Brammer of Georgia; sister, Juanita Nolan of Salem and several nieces and nephews.

Miniard was preceded in death by three brothers, Dallas Miniard, Jay Miniard, and Hurst Miniard; parents, Bill and Arreta (Richardson) Miniard.

Arrangements are under the direction of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services. Paid obituary

Green

Sandy Green, 75, of Dycusburg died Monday, Jan. 27, 2025, at Salem Springlake Health and Rehabilitation.

She was born July 21, 1949, in Crittenden County to the late Austin Thomas and Dorothy Lee Brown Patton. She worked in housekeeping at Prizer Point and Hilltop Nursing Facility, taking great pride in her work and home. Her greatest love was her family, and she was a constant presence at her grandchildren's ball games, always their biggest cheerleader.

Surviving are a daughter, Jenni (Shane) Padon of Salem; son, Chris (Cher) Green of Paducah; sisters, Bonnie (Bobby) Fralick and Brenda (Ruben) Duncan, both of Kuttawa; grandchildren, Nicholas (Danielle) Richardson, Morgan Green, Skylar Padon, and Savannah Padon; great-granddaughter, Elyse Richardson; and several nieces and nephews.

In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by her husband, Kerry Preston Green, and brothers, Bobby Neil Patton and Thomas Ross Patton.

Funeral services were Friday, Jan. 31, at Lakeland Funeral Home with Ronnie Fox officiating. Burial followed in Asbridge Cemetery in Crittenden County.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to Asbridge Cemetery, c/o Debbie Johnson, 1937 Brown Mines Road, Marion, KY 42064.

Morgans Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Paid obituary

Russell

Donald Russell Jr., 64, of Fredonia died Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025, at his home surrounded by family.

He was born Aug. 22, 1960, in Princeton and was known for his generosity and loving nature.



A self-employed man of many talents, he grew up attending Donaldson Baptist Church and was a dedicated “backseat” member of Fredonia First Baptist Church. He was an avid coffee drinker at the Fredonia store and always ready to lend a helping hand. His greatest joy was spending time with his six grandchildren.

Surviving are his wife of 42 years, Dawn Etta Russell of Fredonia; three sons, Devin Russell, Dillon (Jessica) Russell, and Daniel (Olivia) Russell, all of Fredonia; six grandchildren, Hadley, Maggie, Gatlin, Avery, Bo Wayne, and Jaxon Russell; mother, Judith Kaye Russell of Princeton; two sisters, Gina (Greg) Beck of Fredonia and Tia (Mark) Berton of Princeton; and brother, Ron Wayne (Le Ann) Russell of Princeton.

He was preceded in death by his father, Donald Lane Russell Sr.

Services were Friday, Feb. 7, at Morgan’s Funeral Home. Bro. Presley Lamm officiated. Burial was in Fredonia Cemetery.

Expressions of sympathy may be made to Fredonia Cemetery, P.O. Box 152, Fredonia, KY 42411.

Conner

Karla Gail Conner, 77, of Marion died Friday, Feb. 7, 2025, at Salem Springlake Health and Rehabilitation Center.



Prior to her retirement, she worked as a medical legal death investigator and deputy coroner in Illinois.

Surviving are her mother, Kuma Little of Marion; daughter, Kressa Olson

of Woodland, Colo., step-daughters, Jamie Campbell of Wimauma, Fla., and Lynn (Doug) McKeen of Shorewood, Ill.; brother, Daniel Roy (Jill) Little of Hillsboro, Va.; several grandchildren; cousin, Linda Hearell of Marion; and special friend, Gwen Melton of Marion.

She was preceded in death by her father, Roy Little; and sons, Jeoffrey and Gregory Conner.

Services were Sunday, Feb. 9 at Myers Funeral Home, with burial in Mapleview Cemetery.

Martin

Allen D. Martin, Sr., 88, of Poplar Grove, Ill., died Wednesday, Feb. 5, 2025 in Poplar Grove, Ill. He was born on June 30,1936 in Marion. He was the son of Frances



and Bertha (McMican) Martin. Allen graduated high school and joined the military serving our country in the Army National Guard in the Vietnam War. He married his sweetheart, the late Helen Louise Martin on his birthday, June 30, 1959. He was a machinist for Arnold Engineering and then worked at True Value as a security guard. Allen played Bingo at the Moose Club and enjoyed fishing and watching television. He loved to spend time with his family including his grand and great-grandkids. His family will miss grampa's hugs and his mumbled “I love you’s.” He would always let his family know how proud he was that they called him. His favorite place to eat was Cracker Barrel. He was well loved.

Surviving are his son Allen (Cheryl) D. Martin, Jr.; brother, Frances (Barb) Martin, Jr.; grandchildren, Rockie (Teri) Martin, Jr., Bridget (Troy) Onley, Dave (Tanisha) Martin, Shayla (Jon) Martin and Shane (Monica) Martin; 13 great- grandchildren; and multiple nieces, nephews and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his parents; loving wife, Helen; son, Rockie Martin, Sr.; sister, Virginia Adams; brother, Jonny; and sister, Cora Pirello.

Visitation for Allen will be at 10 a.m. until the time of service at 11 a.m., Friday, February 14, at Anderson Funeral and Cremation Services in Belvidere, Ill. Burial will follow at Highland Garden of Memories. Pastor Charles Waggoner will officiate. Paid obituary

Community Calendar

Call (270) 965-3191 to share your organization's meetings in this free, weekly community calendar.

Thursday, Feb. 13

- Line dancing begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Center.
- New Era Homemakers will meet at 5:30 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension office.
- New Era Homemakers will have a Facebook Dessert Auction from 6-8 p.m.. Make sure to check out the Extension Facebook page to bid on your favorite dessert to help fund the Story Walk.

Friday, Feb. 14

- Dessert Auction pickup will be from 8 a.m.-4 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Office.

Monday, Feb. 17

- Pesticide Certification will be at 8 a.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.

Tuesday, Feb. 18

All about Houseplants class will be at 5:30 p.m. at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.

Wednesday, Feb. 19

A Walk in the Park will start at 3 p.m. at the City-County Park.

Fireside Chat to explore controversial artist

An evening of art discussion and insight awaits as the Community Arts Foundation hosts its latest Fireside Chat at 7 p.m., Feb. 25 at Fohs Hall in Marion. This year's topic will delve into the work of Maurizio Cattelan, a provocative and satirical artist known for his thought-provoking sculptures.

Led by local teacher and art history major Kathleen Guess, Fireside Chat offers a relaxed yet engaging environment where attendees can explore the deeper meanings behind significant artworks and artists. Guess, who brings well-researched analy-

sis to each session, has guided discussions on more than 20 diverse topics over the years, covering figures such as Andy Warhol, Banksy, and Ai Weiwei, as well as themes ranging from Greek statues and early American art to the history of photography and the architecture of Gothic cathedrals.

The upcoming event will examine Cattelan's bold and often controversial approach to art, which challenges social norms and invites both admiration and debate. Art enthusiasts and curious minds alike are encouraged to attend and take part in the discussion.



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Caregivers' work appreciated with special day

You likely know someone who is a caregiver. A caregiver provides help with someone's daily living and/or medical needs because of temporary or long-term limitations caused by injury, illness, disability, aging, etc.

RespectCaregivers.org (2022) reports that 1 in 5 Americans (21.3% of the population) serves as a caregiver. Caregivers include formal providers such as doctors, nurses, therapists, social workers, and aides, as well as informal caregivers, such as family members, neighbors, clergy, and others, most of whom are unpaid for their time or care. AARP reported that approximately 53 million people across the United States provide care for partners, children with disabilities, friends, and other loved ones (2022).

Informal caregivers provide various forms of care, including medical assistance, meal preparation, transportation, financial support, running errands, cleaning, communicating with

healthcare professionals, serving as patient advocates, and monitoring medication. According to RespectCaregivers.org (2022), caregivers are "unsung heroes." They call them the "backbone of our country."

To celebrate the tireless work of caregivers, the Providers Association for Home Health & Hospice Agencies created National Caregivers Day to emphasize the essential contributions of caregivers and encourage appreciation of their work. Let Feb. 17 be a reminder to support caregivers as they support the people we care about. Honor a family member, friend, or neighbor who provides selfless personal, physical, and/or emotional care and support to someone who needs it. You can write them a note, send them a picture, or give them a gift. There are endless ways to thank a caregiver.

To support the many caregivers in Crittenden County, the extension office offers a support

group that meets the last Saturday of every other month at the Crittenden County Extension Office Annex. Join us for our next "Conversations in Caregiving" meeting on Mar. 29 at [time needed]. If you are not a caregiver but know one, another great way to offer them support is to let them know you can sit with their loved ones while they attend the meeting or take other time for themselves.


The new Homemakers Club, New Era Club, will host a dessert auction today, Feb. 13, on Facebook. Proceeds will fund the permanent story walk project at City-County Park. Please follow the Crittenden County Facebook page and be ready to bid on some fantastic desserts for you, your loved one, or even a caregiver.

Source: Amy F. Kostelic, Associate Extension Professor for Adult Development and Aging

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nancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

The University of Kentucky Martin-Gatton College of Agriculture, Food and Environment news and communications team provides monthly Extension Exclusives in the categories of Horticulture, Agriculture and Natural Resources, 4-H, and Family & Consumer Sciences. To see more exclusives, visit <https://exclusives.ca.uky.edu>.



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Married With Children For a Long Time

Editor's note: This article was published in the Hancock Clarion in Hawesville, Ky. The subjects are Crittenden County natives.

LEAH MARSCH
HANCOCK CLARION

Every now and then you'll find couples whose names just sound like they go together. Gerl and Sheryl McKinney of Hawesville not only have first names that rhyme but complementing personalities and backstories that make them a wonderful pairing.

Their story started in the early 1970s in Crittenden County. Gerl was a salesman for a Ford dealership, raising three sons on his own – Gerl Wayne, Jeff Allan and Brian. Sheryl was a beautician, raising a son and daughter on her own – Jeff Young and Jennifer. Their two Jeffs played pee-wee football together, and Gerl usually ran the chain.

“I would look up in the stands and there was the prettiest girl I ever saw,” he still beams.

Gerl asked Sheryl on a date to a fishing spot on the Cumberland River. Sheryl said her mom was the one who convinced her to go, since she had not gone out with anyone in a while. She was pleasantly surprised at how easily their conversations flowed and how much they had in common as single parents.

“Our personalities just fit,” said Gerl. “We just meshed.”

The two dated for around five or six months before deciding to marry.

“I guess I was a pretty good salesman because I sold her on the idea of marriage!” he joked. “I convinced her that half the responsibility of raising five (children) would be easier than two or three alone.”

Sheryl was pleased with how their children got along. She remembers her son asking her to tell Gerl to bring his boys out too whenever he knew Gerl would be visiting. The couple wanted to get married on a day the whole family could be together, before Gerl's boys left to spend the summer with their mom.

“But that was a wed-



Above are Gerl and Sheryl McKinney with their great- and great-grandchildren and at right they are pictured with their five children on their wedding day.



ding that almost never happened,” recounted Gerl.

He ended up having to stay in the hospital 11 days for a ruptured appendix.

“I told the nurses I needed to get out of there by Saturday, that I was getting married!”

When he was released, they decided they would get married Sunday after church instead, followed by a cake and punch party. Gerl and Sheryl were married May 27, 1973. They took all five children with them on their honeymoon to Big Bear Camp at Kentucky Lake.

In Brady Bunch style, the newly consolidated family enjoyed many different activities together. They spent a lot of time visiting Land Between the Lakes, packing picnic lunches, and working in their big garden together, all hobbies that didn't cost a lot of money. Gerl and his boys moved into Sheryl's house which they expanded for more bedrooms.

“We had bunk beds. We had two boys in each room and Jennifer had her own,” explained Sheryl.

They had to decide whose church they would become members of – Gerl's big Baptist church or Sheryl's little Presbyterian church.

“We decided my little church in Crayne needed more membership than the big church in Marion. We gained four people with Gerl and the boys!” she laughed.

Today, the couple is members of Hawesville United Methodist Church.

When it came to supporting their family, Gerl stated, “There wasn't a choice; we both had to work.”

They knew several families struggling to raise one or two children, but there they were with nearly a half dozen. They always stretched out what they could. Gerl remembered his good friend Stephen Emmick said, “You can always add water to the soup,” when it came to making sure there was always enough to go around for their families.

In 1980, the Ford dealership closed. He joined the management team at Marion's Southern States, and that led to a management position at Hawesville's Southern States in 1986. The two by then were empty nesters, so they took a chance and moved to Hancock County.

Unfortunately, they lost their daughter, Jennifer, a year prior. Upon her passing, they adopted her dog, so they needed to rent a place that allowed pets.

They stayed in an apartment for two years before buying the house they still live in today, which is part of Kelly Heights Subdivision. They transformed their garage into Sheryl's Beauty Shop where she still works today.

“I knew it would be hard to build my business back up, but we were both used to small town life,” she explained of their move.

Both enjoyed the clean slate they had moving here and all their customers.

Over the years, Gerl, 88, and Sheryl, 79, made time for each other by traveling and playing golf. They were members of Windward Heights Country Club for over 30 years. Together, they have been to all 50 states, Canada, Mexico and Washington D.C. Today, their fridge is still covered in magnets from all their adventures. They enjoy reading the Hancock Clarion and The Crittenden Press together weekly.

Even though their family has spread out over the years, the McKinneys are content with staying in Hancock County. Besides their four sons (and four daughters-in-law), they have six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson. Gerl said they call all the grandkids every Sunday afternoon, and it's very special when they get to see them. He enjoyed reflecting on the life he and Sheryl made together.

“Sometimes you don't realize you have a story worth telling until you tell it,” he said.

Three CCMS students score nationally in fall Vocab Bowl

BY TIFFANY BLAZINA
CRITTENDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

After learning they had secured runner-up among all Division 3 middle schools in the world, you might say students at Crittenden County Middle School responded quite volubly!

Not sure what that means? Odds are, English Language Arts teacher Gabrielle Gray's seventh graders do. Together, they earned Middle School/Elementary School Division 3 Runner-Up honors in the fall 2024 international Vocabulary Bowl.

Vocabulary.com hosts an annual fall and spring competition, with nearly 47,000 schools worldwide participating. Of those, Crittenden County Middle School narrowly missed the top spot but secured second place. With the spring competition well underway, they are determined to bring home top honors in April.

The online competition recognizes both schools and individuals who learn vocabulary words on Vocabulary.com's website and then test their mastery through drills and quizzes. Gray said that while she is thrilled and proud of her students, she's also delighted to see the impact of their efforts in the classroom.

“I've seen massive improvements in their reading, writing, spelling, and speaking skills since we started this,” Gray said. “The cross-curricular impacts are also noticeable. For example, my students are learning content-specific vocabulary for science and social studies, and they can now correctly use and comprehend those words.”

In addition to the school's accolades, three of Gray's seventh graders finished the competition with outstanding global rankings. Aaliyah Curnel finished 16th out of 351,817 students worldwide, while Brooklyn Lovell placed 61st and Aurora Duvall 130th. Even more impressive, they are the only students from Kentucky to place individually in the Top 200.



Middle school vocab champs are (from left) Brooklyn Lovell, Aaliyah Curnel, Aurora Duvall and teacher Gabrielle Gray.

Lovell said she loves the program and feels more confident and knowledgeable in all of her classes since getting involved. “I use a lot of new words now in my other classes,” she said. She also enjoys the ability to search and learn words related to her own interests, citing the program's diverse themed lists covering academics, sports, hobbies, celebrations, and holidays.

Curnel is aiming for a Top 10 finish this spring. “I'm very motivated!” she beamed. Duvall said simply learning and using new words was part of what drew her to the program.

Gray also received recognition for her work with students. A plaque acknowledging her as a Vocabulary.com Top Teacher arrived alongside the school's trophy.

Currently, the middle schoolers are in the heat of spring competition, ranking first in Kentucky while battling for a Top 10 finish in their division overall. Gray said she knows her students' determination and looks forward to another award-winning finish in April.

And in case you're still wondering, volubly means “in a chatty manner.” Curnel, Duvall or Lovell could have told you that.



Pictured above are students attending the JAG ribbon-cutting ceremony at Rocket Arena. At right are Emma Coleman, JAG coordinator at CCHS, and JAG student president Lindsey Stiles.



‘Buy-in’ comes quick for JAG program

BY TIFFANY BLAZINA
CRITTENDEN SCHOOL DISTRICT

Program specialist Emma Coleman said prior to coming to Crittenden County High School, her greatest concern about leading the new JAG (Jobs for America's Graduates) program was student buy-in.

It didn't take long for that fear to vanish, however, as the program found quick success among its 55 members at CCHS. Those students, along with Coleman, JAG Kentucky specialist support manager Stephanie Rickman, board members, school district leadership and guest speakers who have volunteered time with the program were in attendance recently to celebrate JAG's official ribbon-cutting ceremony in Rocket Arena Conference Room.

Coleman said after a full semester in, she can see that students are completely invested in what the program is trying to accomplish.

“I am so proud of their effort,” said Coleman. “The topics I feared they may perceive as ‘boring,’ have become some of our best and most effective lessons,” she added, citing instruction in investments, taxes and insurance.

JAG is a year-long program that high school students may take as an elective to help prepare them for post-secondary education. The JAG curriculum also focuses on soft skills such as public speaking, resume building and financial literacy. Graduation rate among JAG seniors is 96 percent, which is 10 percent greater than the national average.

JAG student president Lindsey Stiles said the program has increased her confidence and leadership skills.

“After graduation, I plan to go to college to become a registered nurse,” said Stiles. “JAG has prepared me for it by helping me build my resume and explore college options.”

Coleman believes her purpose in facilitating the program is to assure students that the future is limitless for them.

“I want them to know they have no limitations and can accomplish anything they put their minds to,” she said. “I'm thrilled at how far they have already come, and I am very excited to see what the future holds for these amazing Rockets.”

Follow JAG on Facebook @JAG-KY-Crittenden-County.



Crittenden County High School Beta Club hosted the Frosty Paws 5K on Saturday, Feb. 1, raising more than \$800 for the Mary Hall Ruddiman Canine Shelter, a local no-kill animal rescue. Overall winner was Asa McCord, a senior at Crittenden County High School. Ashley Thomas was the top female finisher, while Landon Starkey earned top youth honors. Other medalists included Sam Grau, Lea Ann Whitney, Hannah Whitney, Hunter Kirk and Mike O'Hara. The race had 22 participants. Several local businesses sponsored the event, including M & G Services, Duncan's Service Center, Full Body Fitness, First United Bank, Farmers Bank & Trust, Crittenden Community Hospital, KB Pharmacy, Ellington Detailing and Liberty Tire Recycling. Pictured at right are Aubrey Grau and McCord.



SEWER

Continued from page 1

tor does not need to be on-site at all times.

As for the former facility, all equipment will be removed, and the holding areas and aerators will be demolished and covered with dirt.

Wastewater treatment follows a multi-step process. In the early stages, large debris is removed before wastewater enters settling tanks, where heavy solids sink to the bottom, forming sludge. The remaining liquid moves through aeration tanks, where oxygen promotes the growth of bacteria that break down organic pollutants. After further filtration and disinfection, the

treated water is released into the environment.

With the new treatment plant up and running at full speed, the Kentucky Division of Enforcement has officially closed the case regarding the old Marion Wastewater Treatment Plant after determining that the facility has met all conditions outlined in the Agreed Order issued in 2016 and amended in 2017. In a letter dated Friday, Feb. 7, Environmental Enforcement Specialist Alexis Sulfridge confirmed that the new treatment plant is in compliance, resolving Case No. DOW-21-3-0162. The closure marks the end of regulatory enforcement actions related to the old facility, bringing finality to the long-standing environmental oversight.

Allied vs County on roofing case is over

A lawsuit challenging Crittenden County’s decision to award a major roof repair contract has been dismissed with prejudice, marking the end of a legal battle initiated by Allied Contracting Group and its owner Kent Withrow.

Both sides were left to pay for their attorney fees. The fee charged by Crittenden County’s attorney from Paducah was \$21,754.

Circuit Judge Daniel Heady initially ruled against the plaintiff, Allied Contracting, last summer when he denied the company’s request for an injunctive order to halt the work. With an appeals court upholding that ruling, the case has now been permanently dismissed, preventing any further legal action on the matter.

Allied Contracting Group filed suit in Crittenden Circuit Court seeking to prevent Crittenden County Fiscal Court from contracting with Miller Construction, a Madisonville-based company owned by Gary Miller, to repair 12 county buildings that were damaged by hail. Allied argued that the county had not properly followed bidding procedures under Kentucky law and the county’s own administrative code.

However, after a nearly four-hour hearing, Judge Heady found insufficient merit in Allied’s claims to justify an injunction. He questioned whether the company had proper standing in the case and ruled that delaying repairs could lead to further structural damage. The roofs have all been repaired.

Key arguments in the case revolved around whether the winning bid was responsive – a legal term meaning that the bidder met all procedural requirements. Allied’s attorney, Matthew DeVries of Nashville, argued that Miller Construction should have been disqualified for failing to attend a pre-bid meeting and making errors in its submission. But the county’s attorney, Stacey Blankinship of Paducah, representing the Kentucky Association of Counties, countered that Allied had also made errors in its bid documents.

Judge Heady took particular issue with Allied’s assertion that it had submitted the lowest bid – when testimony revealed that Miller Construction’s bid was \$578,000, significantly lower than Allied’s bid of \$935,668. The judge noted that there was no evidence of fraud, collusion or dishonesty in the county’s decision to award the contract to the lower bidder.

Additionally, testimony revealed that the county’s insurance provider had assessed the damage and authorized a claim payment of \$786,000 for repairs before bids were accepted. Allied had access to that information, while Miller Construction did not.

Fredonia will use grant for ballpark

City of Fredonia has received preliminary approval for a \$92,670.04 grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for improvements to Buddy Rogers Park, state officials announced.

The funding, awarded through the Department for Local Government (DLG), was confirmed in a letter from Commissioner Matt Sawyers to Mayor Jim Seibert. The grant will support park enhancements, but the city must meet several conditions before moving forward, including entering into a formal agreement with the Commonwealth and complying with federal wage rates.

The city cannot begin advertising bids until it receives funding authorization from

the National Park Service. Additionally, all project costs exceeding the approved amount must be covered by the city.

Mayor Seibert said he will submit the city's acceptance by a March 15 deadline.

Comer wants land reverted to Paducah

U.S. Rep. James Comer, R-Ky., has urged the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to accelerate efforts to transfer remediated land from the former Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant back to the local community for economic development.

In a letter to DOE Secretary Chris Wright and EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin, Comer emphasized the importance of returning the land to the residents of Paducah, citing its potential to attract leading industries to McCracken County and bolster the regional economy.

“I am writing to bring your attention to the efforts of my constituents in Paducah, Kentucky, who are eager to facilitate the transfer of remediated land located within the former Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant to the local community,” Comer wrote. “I have long supported their efforts to expedite cleanup with the goal of ultimately returning the land to the community for economic development.”

Comer highlighted a 2023 DOE grant awarded to the Paducah Area Chamber of Commerce to assess the regional workforce and develop strategies to leverage the area’s nuclear-ready designation. He noted his role in securing the grant through federal appropriations legislation, emphasizing its significance in preparing Paducah for future development opportunities.

“It has been conveyed to us that DOE and EPA officials expect the first land transfer of approximately 200 acres to be finalized later this year,” Comer stated. “I encourage you to maintain progress on this transfer and make every effort to prioritize and communicate the next steps to local officials and interested parties.”

Comer also extended an invitation for DOE and EPA leaders to visit Paducah to observe cleanup progress and discuss the community’s vision for the site’s future.

The Paducah Gaseous Diffusion Plant, which was used for uranium enrichment for decades before shutting down in 2013, has been undergoing environmental remediation. Local officials have advocated for the site’s redevelopment as part of broader economic revitalization efforts in western Kentucky.

Wildfire season will begin on Saturday

Kentucky’s winter and spring wildfire season runs from Feb. 15 through April 30. During this period, outdoor burning is prohibited during daylight hours between 6 a.m., and 6 p.m., within 150 feet of a woodlot or grassland.

KY bill would help minor league ball operate in state

A newly introduced bill aims to safeguard minor league baseball in Kentucky by addressing a conflict between the state’s wage-and-hour laws and Major League Baseball’s (MLB) collective bargaining agreement (CBA).

According to an article first published by Kentucky Today last week, Sen. Amanda Mays Bledsoe, R-Lexington, has filed Senate Bill 15 to exempt minor league players from certain state wage regulations. The



change, backed by both MLB and the MLB Players Association, would ensure players fully benefit from the CBA without conflicting state requirements.

Kentucky is home to several minor league teams, including the Louisville Bats, the Triple-A affiliate of the Cincinnati Reds, and the Bowling Green Hot Rods, the High-A affiliate of the Tampa Bay Rays. Recent changes in the CBA have boosted minor league salaries by 119 to 138 percent and provided year-round compensation. However, Kentucky’s current laws could impose additional wage requirements, potentially disrupting team operations and player development.

A key issue is that Kentucky’s wage-and-hour laws are structured for traditional hourly employees, while minor league players under the CBA are classified as salaried employees with a fixed, guaranteed wage throughout the year, including the offseason and spring training. State law typically requires detailed record-keeping of hours worked and mandates overtime pay calculations—requirements that do not align with the unpredictable nature of professional baseball schedules, including travel, training, and extended game days.

“Baseball has long been America’s pastime, and now is the time to act to protect its future in Kentucky,” Bledsoe said.

Without a legislative fix, Kentucky’s existing labor regulations could introduce complications for minor league teams, forcing them to comply with overtime tracking and additional administrative burdens that could impact the sport’s viability in the state.

The bill has yet to be assigned to a committee.

President Trump says pennies are out

The Associated Press reported this week that President Donald Trump has ordered the U.S. Treasury Department to halt the production of new pennies, citing the rising costs associated with minting the one-cent coin.

“For far too long the United States has minted pennies which literally cost us more than 2 cents. This is so wasteful!” Trump wrote Sunday on his Truth Social platform. “I have instructed my Secretary of the US Treasury to stop producing new pennies.”

The decision follows recent discussions about the penny’s cost, including a post last month by Elon Musk’s so-called Department of Government Efficiency, which highlighted that the U.S. Mint lost \$85.3 million in the 2024 fiscal year producing nearly 3.2 billion pennies. Each penny costs nearly \$0.037 to make, a rise from \$0.031 the previous year.

While the mint also loses money on nickels – each costing nearly \$0.14 to produce – Trump’s move raises questions about whether he has the authority to unilaterally discontinue the penny. Currency specifications, including metal composition, are dictated by Congress.

Lawmakers have periodically introduced legislation seeking to phase out the penny, citing cost savings and efficiency. Canada stopped minting its penny in 2012, and the U.S. previously eliminated its half-cent coin in 1857.

Farm Machinery Show is this week

Kentucky Department of Agriculture’s Raising Hope Safety, Health and Rescue Program will be featured at the National Farm Machinery Show this week (Feb. 12–15) at the Kentucky Exposition Center in Louisville. The program will showcase farm safety and rescue demonstrations alongside health screenings and resources for farmers.

Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell emphasized the importance of farmers’ physical and mental well-being, stating that Raising Hope aims to support healthy farming communities. The exhibit will include safety demonstrations on farm equipment, grain bin rescue techniques, and road safety awareness.

Health screenings will be available daily from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., offering checks for blood sugar, blood pressure, and hearing. Mental health resources and general health education will also be provided.

The National Farm Machinery Show is the country’s largest indoor farm show. It attracts thousands of attendees and over 900 vendors annually, offering insight into the latest agricultural innovations.

Howell appointed to Ag Committee

Sen. Jason Howell, R-Murray, has been appointed to the Agriculture and Rural Development Committee of The Council of State Governments Southern Office (CSG South) by Senate President Robert Stivers, R-Manchester.

In this role, Howell will collaborate with policymakers from 15 southern states to address agricultural policies, rural economic development, and infrastructure challenges. As chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, he emphasized the importance of farming and rural development, referencing the iconic "God Made a Farmer" speech by Paul Harvey.

CSG South, founded in 1947, fosters cooperation among southern states, including Kentucky. The Agriculture and Rural Development Committee focuses on issues such as resource distribution, global market access, rural healthcare, and infrastructure.

Howell will serve a two-year term through Dec. 31, 2026, and participate in committee meetings, legislative discussions, and policy development initiatives.

The 2025 Southern Legislative Conference is set for July 19–23 in Birmingham, Ala.



50 YEARS AGO

February 13, 1975

■ Sureway grocery store advertised red potatoes for 99 cents for a 20 pound bag, onions were three for 39 cents and oranges 5 for 79 cents. Cereal was 49 cents a box. The treasure chest winner in the amount of \$200 was Rachel Blackburn of Fredonia.

■ On the front page of The Press was a great deal of basketball news. Players pictured were Cindy Brookshire, Markeata Brown, Clark Towery and coach Jack Keeney.

■ Teresa Winders and LaNaye Croft were pictured as part of a feature on Crittenden County High School's vocational offerings.

25 YEARS AGO

February 10, 2000

■ Susan Alexander of Marion Woman’s Club was pictured with Amy Watson of WPSD-TV. Watson was guest speaker at the club’s meeting.

■ Little league basketball players Kirk Stone, Patrick Holloman, Matthew McMain and Dustin Conner were pictured in action sports photos by Derek McCree.

■ Three young couples with plans of being married later in the year were featured as part of the newspaper’s Valentine’s Day spotlight. The couples were Christy James and Bryan O’Neal, Trayce Corbett and Johnny Newcom and Michelle Turner and Cory Crider.

10 YEARS AGO

February 12, 2015

■ Marion Baptist Church deacons sponsored a Ladies Valentine Banquet for widows in the congregation. Pictured were Queen of the Valentine Dinner Sandra Sills, deacon Bob Guess and entertainer Chris Clarke of Happy Trails Ministries.

■ Crissy Carter was named executive director of the newly formed Livingston Hospital Foundation. Carter had been employed at the hospital in other areas since 2003.

■ Rocket Role Models were named. They included Avery Johnson, Alex Conner, Avery Belt, Casey Cates. Carly Porter, Keifer Marshall, Coby West, Caden Riley, Hailey McCann and Mallory Lynn.

■ Middle School language arts teacher Jeanette Campbell was pictured conferencing with sixth-grade student Hannah Faughn.

■ Seven CCHS band members were recognized for their selection to perform in the Quad State Honors Band at Murray State. They were Kylee Beard, Jamie Needs, Monica Hodge, Sean Watson, Chris Swilley, Jacob Kelley and Sam Winders.

*Read Brenda Underdown's
Forgotten Passages column
at The Press Online*

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School, church got name from spring

In the year, 1931, there was a series of articles written about interesting people who have become historical figures in our county. This interesting article was written by Marion F. Pogue and shared with his students at the Caldwell School way back in 1896 and was later shared with The Crittenden Press. He tells of history of the Caldwell Springs area, which is located just outside of Frances, Ky., on KY 855 South.

The Beginning
Backward, swing backward the pendulum of years, we pass through the happy childhood days when we attended the services at the old brick church; backward still it takes up through the mist of half a century before our existence; backward still it goes past the memory of the oldest inhabitant of these sacred precincts today.

There we are left like a stranded mariner on a lonely island with only our imagination to paint the scene of this lovely valley. The morning sun as he peeped over the eastern hills did not behold this humble temple of learning, or the modern gables of the house of God, nor hear the buzz of the saw, or the shriek of escaping steam as it drew the thin circle of steel through the heart of the mighty oak, on its way to freedom happy children upon the school yard, the plowman's song, lowing herds, were all to come a century later.

But instead the luminary of the day saw an unbroken forest, which extended for a mile in every direction. But these same hills were here and they guarded this same beautiful valley as jealously as they do today. Often have my eyes, during these years of pleasant labor here, surveyed their gentle slopes, and thought how often the wild deer and the great shaggy buffalo had sought their shelter here when the storm king raged, or the cold north wind blew his cutting blast.

Hunter's paradise
This valley was a hunter's paradise, covered with a tangled growth of cane, paw-paw and sumac. Here is a winding path; let us follow it; it is soon lost in a larger one. Onward we go, though we have frightened a flock of wild turkeys, and yonder goes a drove of deer, scampering down the valley in the direction from whence they came. Here is an open spot. The ground bears evidence of many visitations. We cross a winding stream



The Caldwell spring as it looked many years ago is located across the highway and creek bed from the Caldwell Springs Church.

of crystal water further on. We notice many half burned twigs and branches, the remains of a Shawnee campfire.



Brenda Underdown
County Historian

Forgotten Passages

A step further and there bubbles up, as pure and fresh as today, the crystal waters of Caldwell Springs, limpid, beautiful and refreshing. For untold centuries has this life-giving fountain sent forth this precious stream to appease the thirst of man and beast. It slacked the first thirst of the red hunter and doubtless as his fevered lips were batched in its cooling water did he invoke the Great Spirit to give him its counterpart in the Happy Hunting Grounds beyond the skies.

Major Caldwell arrives
Later came the pale face; and the savage, the buffalo and finally the deer retired before the crack of his unerring rifle. Over 100 years ago the hardy pioneer and adventurers began to pour through Cumberland Gap into Kentucky. Onward they came westward, and one autumn afternoon the savage wilderness of this valley was disturbed by its first white settlers - Major Caldwell of the English army, was the man. The guns of the Revolutionary War were still reverberating from Vermont to Georgia. With a prophetic eye, he saw the defeat of King George's army; so the troubled political times bade him begone. Before the end of the war he had entered this region.

Seeking the security and solitude of this valley, he drove before him his cattle, scores of slaves and a train of well-laden packhorses. He entered this beautiful valley; he drank from the spring; he was charmed, and he looked no further. He erected temporary residences and slave quarters on the hill above the spring. A large brick kiln was



Marion F. Pogue taught school in 1896 at Caldwell Springs. He later would become the state senator for Crittenden, Livingston and Union counties from 1930-34.

burned and the foundation of a great manor house was laid near where the schoolhouse now stands. But all this was stopped as suddenly as it had begun; only the decaying buildings and crumbling foundation met the eyes of the next comers. This is all we know of Major Caldwell and his group. A number of his slaves were buried on the hill above the spring.

Settler's arrive
Now again the settler's ax was heard, the log cabin sprang up, the housewife filled her pail from the spring, while the children watched the minnows in the old spring just as your children do today.
The schoolhouse usually precedes the church; and so it was here. Let us compare that backwoods seminary building with the present comfortable, commodious buildings which we have today.
It was built of logs, sometimes unhewn, with rib poles instead of rafters; its roof of long boards weighed down with poles; the door was made of clapboards; a log was cut out of the side for a window; there was no ceiling or "loft" and the roof was so low on the sides that the large boys had to stoop on entering the building; the seats were split logs with pegs for legs, with-

out backs, and often the splinters on the seats would make their way through his butternut jeans pants, if they had any; if not, they could more easily make their way through their long shirts. It had a stick clay chimney; the fireplace was long enough to take in a log seven feet long. The building the first year had no floor; the second year they made a puncheon floor. They had nothing but subscription schools, and lasted three months.
Notwithstanding all this, the man who told the writer these things, a near relative of James Armstrong, Uncle Jerry Hamby, learned to "read, write and cipher," and made a success in life. What an inspiration should it be to pupils today.

Caldwell Springs School

Such was the picture of Caldwell Springs School from 1825 to 1865, when boys and girls often walked through the forests five or six miles to school. And to this school went the Armstrongs, Brashers, Bennetts, Koons, Hamby's, Johnsons, Duvalls, Perkins, and many other boys and girls who learned their simple studies, felled the giant oaks on the hills, cleared tangled cane-breaks from the valleys, building splendid homes from the one and turning the other into fertile fields, as fertile as plowshare ever turned. These forbears left us a community prosperous and united.

School Memories from later years

These are some memories of the Caldwell Springs School written by Ruth Hard Rogers several years ago in the 1980s.
She remembered attending a Spring school, in the year 1920 with her two sisters, as she was not old enough to attend as a student. The school building was new at that time and freshly painted. It contained two cloakrooms, one for the girls and one for the boys. These rooms were for their heavy coats and their lunch boxes, or brown paper sacks, which they brought their lunches in each day.
About two years later the fathers of the community decided to add another room as the enrollment had increased enough to need another teacher. Our school was one of the largest around, both in building size and enrollment.
It was nestled between two hills, the roads were of dirt, dusty in summer and a quagmire of mud in winter. Leading out in three directions for kids ages 6 to 18 to walk a distance of two to three miles. A large clear flowing spring, walled in by three large rocks, and a cool stream with tiny fish darting here and there was nearby. It

was an ideal place for children to play during recess.
Only a short walk from the snowy white school building was the Caldwell Springs Baptist Church. This too was the order of the day. Your spiritual needs were also considered, and when revival meeting time came, teachers and pupils alike marched in file to sit quietly in the pews and hear God's word.
Others continued to attend the school, walking the country roads until about the late 1930s or 40s when school bus routes were started and the rural schools started to consolidate.
The school building was sold to the church building committee and was torn down and used

to add on Sunday school rooms for the church.
The Caldwell Springs Baptist Church is still active today. It sits in a beautiful valley just across the highway from the old Caldwell Springs that were used many years ago by the early settlers and enjoyed by the youngsters of long ago.
(Brenda Underdown is chair of Crittenden County Historical Society and a member of Crittenden County Genealogical Society. Much more local history can be found at OurForgottenPassages.blogspot.com).

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Situated in an area renowned for its big bucks, this all-timber hunting tract offers an exceptional opportunity for avid hunters seeking their next trophy.

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Speech Team places at tournament

Jaisen's Lineberry was tournament champion in dramatic interpretation and Chloe Rushing was runner up in informative speaking at the regional speech tournament.

The CCMS Speech team got 3rd place at Regionals. Pictured from left are: Hayden Jones, Julieta Conklin, Bella Walston, Shelby Miles, and Hannah Peek.

Religion The Crittenden Press

Repeat of ignorance (Black History Month)

Knowing history is vitally important for understanding how we think the way we do. It is important for us to understand the events and thinking of the past that have shaped our current situation. It should have the effect of humbling us and increasing our empathy for our fellow citizens of this planet. Without the study of history, we often make the mistake of acting as though things have always been the way they are.

We are fortunate to live in a place where our laws and literature have been preserved. This is a tremendous blessing, even when those laws and literature are less than flattering. We must always be careful not to condemn those of the past. Even when we judge their decisions to be cruel or short-sighted.

There are, however, some examples of nearly incomprehensible decisions or events that change the course of history for generations. It is shocking that people who claim belief in a God of love, a Christ of salvation, and a Holy Spirit of guidance and comfort could be responsible for, or complicit in the chattel slavery. The apostle Paul wrote in Galatians 3:28, "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus." In Colossians 3:11 he wrote, "Here there cannot be Greek and Jew, circumcised and uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave, free man, but Christ is all, and in all."

On Sept. 23, 1667, the colonial government of Virginia overturned over a millennium and a half of Christian teaching on equality. They were a self-styled, "grand assembly" and they "enacted and

declared" a new law that ignored Paul's beautiful teaching. Here it is in its original syntax and spelling along with a "clarification" passed three years later.

"Whereas some doubts have arisen whether children that are slaves by birth, and by the charity and piety of their owners made partakers of the blessed sacrament of baptism, should by virtue of their baptism be made

free; It is enacted and declared by this grand assembly, and the authority thereof, that the conferring of baptism doth not alter the condition of the person as to his bondage or freedom; that diverse masters, freed from this doubt, may more carefull endeavor the propagation of christianity by permitting children, though slaves, or those of greater growth if capable to be admitted to that sacrament." [sic.]

"Whereas it hath been questioned whither Indians or negroes, manumitted or otherwise free, could be capable of purchasing Christian servants; It is declared by this grand assembly, that noe negro or Indian though baptized and enjoyed their own freedom, shall be capable of any such purchase of Christians, but yet not debarred from buying any of their owne nation." [sic.]

In his classic 1969, Winthrop Jordan published, "White over Black: American Attitudes Toward the Negro, 1550-1812." It is based on over two decades of research. He points out that after these laws were enacted there was a change in how people self-identified. In the early part of the 1600s, Englishmen in the colonies would identify as "Christian." By the middle of the century it had shifted to English

and Free. By 1680, a new term appeared and eventually overtook all others - "White." These laws, and ones like them are what makes American chattel slavery different than other forms of slavery in history.

We are still living with the wretched turn of events today. If Christians had only continued to treat others as Paul had instructed, there is a chance that our current fighting of DEI would never have been. On many forms and applications there is still a space for "race" or "ethnicity." This does not even touch how the legal definition of the made-up term "white" has shifted over the years.

The most tragic consequence from a Christian point of view is the continuing damage done to the witness and body of Christ. In my lifetime it was dangerous in some parts of our nation to live according to the teaching of Paul rather than the implications of the laws passed in Virginia in the Seventeenth Century.

We desperately need to know our history. We desperately need to repent of willful ignorance and complacency. Christians must learn to be witnesses to the morality and ethics of the Bible without resorting to being legal or doctrinal bullies.

We can pass laws, and our "grand assemblies" can make declarations that push people in one direction or another. None of this changes what Christ-followers are to be doing. None of it changes how we should treat others.

I owe a debt to an acquaintance and fellow-traveler on the road to be a better human being, Bobby Valentine, for providing the seed for these thoughts today.

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

Religious Outreach

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

■ Old Salem Baptist Church has a Blessing Box located next to the church at 117 Old Salem Church Rd. Everyone is welcome to take items or place them in the box for others to enjoy.

■ First Baptist Church of Fredonia food pantry is open from 4-5:30 p.m., third Wednesday of each month in Coleman Hall of the church.

■ 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.

■ The Clothes Closet of the First Baptist Church in Fredonia is open to serve the area with free clothes. The Clothes Closet is operated from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. each Thursday. The Clothes Closet will be closed in case of severe weather.

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

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

Love should be without favoritism within the family

Question: My parents showed favoritism to my sister. She was pretty and a good singer. They were always doting on her. I did woodwork and it seemed unimportant to them. I disliked all the attention she got and I grew to resent her. We're still not close. As a parent, how can I keep from showing favoritism among our children?

Answer: We like hunting and care for concerts. We may like dogs and want nothing to do with cats or vice versa. Our preferences define who we are. But when it comes to family, playing favorites has detrimental consequences. It causes the



favorite child to waltz through his (her) younger years with an unrealistic sense of entitlement throughout life. It causes the other child(ren) to feel less important and neglected. Perhaps, it will cause sibling rivalry and a breakdown of family closeness.

The way to keep from showing favoritism among your children is to show genuine love to each child. First Corinthians 13 is a template

for love and respect in the family. "Love is patient, love is kind. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres" (vs. 4, 7). Ask God to fill your heart with His love.

With His love within you, you have the capacity to generously give love and time to each of your children as opportunities arise. By giving love, we can make each child feel special for who he (she) is and does. By giving wholehearted love to each of your children, you may negate sibling rivalry and prevent lifelong conflicts.

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

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Pastor: Morgan Smith
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Sunday Bible Study: 9 a.m.
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Bro. Jamie Baker

Emmanuel Baptist Church

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CHOIR PRACTICE: 6:45 p.m., PRAISE TEAM: 7:30 p.m.

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Sun. Evening 6 p.m. • Wed. Evening 6 p.m.

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

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classified department at (270) 965-3191 or email us at advertising@the-press.com.

legal notices

Notice is hereby given that on February 5, 2025 Martha K. Campbell of 1141 U.S. 60 East, Marion, Ky. 42064 was appointed executrix of Angela K. Tosh, deceased, whose address was 11691 U.S. 60 East, Sturgis, Ky. 42459. Robert B. Frazer, P.O. Box 361, Marion, Ky. 42064, attorney. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the executrix before the 5th day of August, 2025 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred.

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

Crittenden District Court
Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-6-c)

Notice is hereby given that on February 5, 2025 Terri Louise Fulks of 997 S.R. 1901, Marion, Ky. 42064 was appointed executrix of Larry N. Woodall, deceased, whose address was 227 Rochester Ave., Marion, Ky. 42064. Hon. Rebecca Johnson, P.O. Box 415, Marion, Ky. 42064, attorney.

All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the executrix before the 5th day of August, 2025 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred.

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

Crittenden District Court
Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-6-c)

Notice is hereby given that on February 5, 2025 Diane Frazer Pitt of 7785 Old State 13, Marion, Ill. 62959 was appointed executrix with will annexed of Ted Frazer, III, deceased, whose address was 308 2nd Street, Marion, Ky. 42064. Hon. Vance Cook, P.O. Box 70, Princeton, Ky. 42445, agent for service of process.

All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the agent for process with will annexed on or before the 5th day of August, 2025 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred.

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

Crittenden District Court
Melissa Guill, Clerk (1t-6-c)

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
CRITTENDEN CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 24-CI-00090
FREDONIA VALLEY BANK
PLAINTIFF

v.
UNKNOWN HEIRS, DEVISEES, LEGATEES, SUCCESSORS AND/OR ASSIGNS OF DAVID D. ORT; and UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS AND/OR TENANTS OF 1530 MAIN LAKE ROAD, FREDONIA, CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KENTUCKY,
PVA MAP NUMBER 05-00-00-030.02
DEFENDANTS
NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to a Judgment and Order of Sale and to satisfy the judgment of the Plaintiff in the above styled

action, the Commissioner will offer for sale on or about the hour of 10:00 a.m., Monday February 24, 2025, at public auction to the highest bidder at the Crittenden County Office Complex at 200 Industrial Drive (the Crittenden County Courthouse being under construction), Marion, Kentucky, the following described property:

PROPERTY ADDRESS:
1530 Main Lake Road,
Fredonia Crittenden County, KY

PARCEL NO.: 050-00-00-030.02

A certain tract or parcel of land lying in Crittenden County, Kentucky and more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at the center of the Caldwell Springs Road and East side of Lindsey Driveway; thence at right angles in a Northerly direction 320 feet to a stake thence at right angles in a Easterly direction 112 feet corner to Lindsey and Lonnie Knight; thence at right angles in a Southerly direction 223 feet following Lonnie Knight Line to center of Caldwell Springs road; thence with Meanderings of said road 252 feet to the point of beginning.

This property is subject to a Boundary Line Agreement of record in Deed Book 194, at page 698, Crittenden County Court Clerk's Office.

SOURCE OF TITLE:

This being the same property conveyed to Brenda Ort and her husband, David Ort by Chester Brown, a single person, by Deed dated December 7, 2005 and recorded in Deed Book 203, at Page 775, Crittenden County Court Clerk's Office. Brenda Ort preceded David Ort in death and her interest in the above-described property vested in David Ort by virtue of the survivorship provision contained the aforementioned Deed of Conveyance.

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY CONVEYED HEREIN WAS PROVIDED TO THE DRAFTSMAN BY THE PLAINTIFF AND THE DRAFTSMAN DOES NOT CERTIFY THE ACCURACY OF THE SAME NOR ANY EXISTING EASEMENTS

Terms: The following terms are in effect unless otherwise mentioned above:

At the time of sale, the successful bidder shall either pay full cash or make a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price with the balance on credit for thirty (30) days. If the purchase price is not paid in full the day of the sale, the successful bidder shall execute a bond at the time of sale with sufficient surety to secure the unpaid balance of the purchase price. The bond shall bear interest at the rate of 4.20% from the date of sale until paid. (In the event the Plaintiff is the purchaser of the Real Property for an amount equal to, or less than, the amount of its judgment in

rem, no bond shall be required of Plaintiff and the settlement obligations of Plaintiff shall be deemed satisfied upon payment of the costs of the sale in accordance with the statement of costs presented by the Master Commissioner). To the extent applicable, the property will be sold subject to the statutory right of redemption. The purchaser shall be responsible for ad valorem taxes for the year 2025 and subsequent years. No written bids are allowed and any announcements made at the sale take precedence over printed matter contained herein. The Master Commissioner does not warrant title. The Master Commissioner only conveys pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale. The successful bidder has 10 days after the sale to examine title and file exceptions.

Dated this the 23rd day of January, 2025.

REBECCA J. JOHNSON
MASTER COMMISSIONER
217 WEST BELLVILLE STREET
P.O. BOX 415
MARION, KENTUCKY 42064
270-965-2222 (1t-6-c)

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
CRITTENDEN CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 24-CI-00091
myCUMortgage, LLC
PLAINTIFF

v.
GAGE A. RODRIGUEZ,
AKA GAGE RODRIGUEZ
JULIE E. RODRIGUEZ,
AKA ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ
DEFENDANTS
NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to a Judgment and Order of Sale and to satisfy the judgment of the Plaintiff in the above styled action, the Master Commissioner will offer for sale on or about the hour of 10:10 a.m., Monday February 24, 2025, at public auction to the highest bidder at the Crittenden County Office Complex at 200 Industrial Drive (the Crittenden County Courthouse being under construction), Marion, Kentucky, the following described property:

PARCEL NO.: 057-50-02-027.00

Legal Description: Situated in Marion, Crittenden County, Kentucky, more particularly described as follows: Lot #27 as shown on plat recorded in Deed Book 128, page 359, in the Office of

the County Clerk of Crittenden County, Kentucky. This tract of land has 75 feet frontage on Central Avenue and has a depth of 175 feet more or less.

Being the same property conveyed to Gage Rodriguez and Elizabeth Rodriguez, husband and wife, dated April 9, 2018, recorded April 16, 2018, in Deed Book 235, Page 578, Crittenden County, Kentucky records.

Subject to all restrictions, conditions and covenants and to all legal highways and easements.

Commonly known as: 216 West Central Avenue, Marion, KY 42064

THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY CONVEYED HEREIN WAS PROVIDED TO THE DRAFTSMAN BY THE PLAINTIFF AND THE DRAFTSMAN DOES NOT CERTIFY THE ACCURACY OF THE SAME NOR ANY EXISTING EASEMENTS

Terms: The following terms are in effect unless otherwise mentioned above:

At the time of sale, the successful bidder shall either pay full cash or make a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price with the balance on credit for thirty (30) days. If the purchase price is not paid in full the day of the sale, the successful bidder shall execute a bond at the time of sale with sufficient surety to secure the unpaid balance of the purchase price. The bond shall bear interest at the rate of 4.375% per annum from the date of sale until paid. To the extent applicable, the property will be sold subject to the statutory right of redemption.

In the event the Plaintiff becomes the purchaser of the real estate at the Master Commissioner's sale, and if the Plaintiff's bid is less than its lien adjudged herein, Plaintiff may comply with the terms of sale by taking credit upon this Judgment without making the cash deposit or executing the sale bond as provided for in this Judgment. The purchaser shall be responsible for ad valorem taxes for the year 2024 and subsequent years. No written bids are allowed and any announcements made at the sale take precedence over printed matter contained herein. The Master Commissioner does not warrant title. The Master Commissioner only conveys pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale. The successful bidder has 10 days after the sale to examine title and file exceptions.

Dated this the 30th day of January, 2025.

REBECCA J. JOHNSON
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BASKETBALL UPCOMING GAMES

Around the Fifth District BOYS

Feb 13 Lyon hosts Madisonville
Feb 15 Livingston hosts Carlisle Co.
Feb 17 Crittenden hosts Hopkinsville
Feb 17 Lyon at Paducah Tilghman
Feb 17 Christian Fellowship at Trigg
Feb 18 Hopkins Central at Crittenden
Feb 18 Trigg hosts Todd Central

GIRLS

Feb 13 Trigg hosts Dawson Springs
Feb 13 Lyon hosts Hopkins Central
Feb 13 Crittenden hosts Henderson
Feb 15 Livingston hosts Carlisle Co.
Feb 15 Lyon hosts Mayfield
Feb 15 Crittenden hosts Hopkinsville
Feb 17 Christian Fellowship at Trigg
Feb 18 Lyon hosts Union County
Feb 18 Crittenden at Madisonville

Fifth District Standings

GIRLS		
Team	Dist	Overall
Crittenden County	5-1	19-6
Lyon County	5-1	18-8
Livingston Central	0-5	7-18
Trigg County	1-4	6-18

BOYS		
Team	Dist	Overall
Lyon County	5-0	18-6
Trigg County	3-2	8-17
Livingston Central	3-3	8-15
Crittenden County	0-6	0-24
Through Monday/Tuesday		

SOCCER Registration under way

Crittenden Youth Soccer Association (CYSA) is now accepting registration for the spring 2025 season. Divisions are available for players born between 2013 and 2022, with fees ranging from \$55 to \$65 depending on the age group. A \$10 discount is offered for families with multiple children. Practices for 12U and 10U teams begin the week of March 10, with an end-of-season tournament scheduled for May 10 in Lyon County. Practices for 4U, 6U and 8U teams start the week of March 24, with games concluding the week of May 5. All players are required to have a ball, cleats and shin guards. For more information, contact Summer Gardner at (270) 704-9999 or Brittney Buell-Schneider at (270) 969-1721.

BASEBALL | SOFTBALL Umpires are needed

The Second Region is looking for high school baseball and softball umpires. For more information, contact Matt Bell at 270-871-6956 or matthewmybell@gmail.com. Here is the pay schedule for baseball umpires in the region:

- \$85 7 inning game
- \$170 7 inning doubleheader
- \$255 7 inning tripleheader
- \$135 7 and 5 inning doubleheader
- \$60 5 inning game
- \$100 5 inning doubleheader
- \$140 5 inning tripleheader
- \$70 7 inning 3 man crew
- \$120 7 and 5 inning 3 man crew
- \$130 7 & 5 inning 2 man crew
- \$85 Additional varsity game

PICKLEBALL League play 3 days

Pickleball action is available three days a week at Crittenden County Recreation Center (former armory). Organized play is held on Monday, Wednesday and Saturday each week. Mondays are for mixed leage with men and women play starting at 5 p.m. Wednesday is ladies only starting at 5:30 p.m., and Saturdays are also for co-ed play starting at 9 a.m.

VOLLEYBALL Tays resigns as coach

Crittenden County High School is looking for a new volleyball coach following the resignation of Savannah Tays, who skippered the team for part of two seasons and took the Lady Rockets to the All A Classic State Tournament. CCHS was 19-6 under Tays last season, the first full year as head coach. She had taken over the program in 2023 when Bayley McDonald resigned during the season. That year, CCHS was 17-14.

OUTDOORS Hunting Seasons

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

Raccoon	Oct. 1 - Feb. 28
Raccoon Trapping	Nov. 11 - Feb. 28
Bobcat	Nov. 16 - Feb. 28
Squirrel Fall	Nov. 28 - Feb. 15
Canada Goose	Nov. 28 - Feb. 15
Coyote Night (lights)	Dec. 1 - March 31

No. 20 remains just out of reach

STAFF REPORT

The road to 20 wins will be no easier in the coming days as that elusive mark remains just out of reach for the Lady Rockets, who lost 55-35 on the road Tuesday at Hopkins Central.

Crittenden County (19-6) was outmaneuvered at every angle, falling behind by 10 in the first half and 15 in the third period. Hopkins Central's size was an advantage on the offensive boards, and Crittenden missed some shots in the paint early and finished with just one three-pointer – Bristyn Rushing's first shot of the game – which briefly gave Crittenden its only lead at 3-2.

Junior Anna Boone led CCHS with 14 points as the only Lady Rocket in double figures.

The girls host Henderson County on Thursday before playing Hopkinsville and Madisonville. Getting that 20th win won't be easy down the stretch.

Girls eek past Union County

With both hands tied behind their backs in the final two and a half minutes Saturday night at Union County, the Lady Rockets still found a way to win, 51-46.

Crittenden County, now 19-5, has beaten the Bravettes in four of their last



Lady Rocket coach Shannon Hodge and her team will have to wait for that elusive 20th victory.

five meetings, including a 17-point victory in December. Union County falls to 13-9.

Coach Shannon Hodge has guided her squad to the brink of her fourth 20-win season in 32 years at the helm of CCHS, but No. 19 didn't come easy. The Lady Rockets were already without junior Elliot Evans – who has missed the last three games due to an ankle injury – and leading scorer Anna Boone fouled out with 2:36 remaining as CCHS trailed by one.

The game was a battle of attrition, with Crittenden strug-

gling to handle the ball and Union County struggling to finish around the basket. The Bravettes had led by as many as 10 points in the second half, and when Boone went to the bench, the Lady Rockets' comeback hopes seemed in jeopardy.

However, Jordyn Hodge led a late surge, scoring 10 of her team's final 12 points en route to an 18-point performance. Boone finished with 14.

Girls overwhelm Dawson

Overwhelmingly outmanned, Dawson Springs lost 63-14 at Crittenden

Rockets rely on 3s to no avail

STAFF REPORT

At Caldwell County on Tuesday, Crittenden County managed only a couple of two-point field goals but buried 10 threes in a losing effort.

The Rockets lost for the 24th straight time, falling 94-39 to the Tigers (16-9). Caldwell has now beaten the Rockets in four straight encounters. Crittenden County freshman Coby LaRue hit five threes and scored 17 points, while freshman Drake Young knocked down four threes and finished with 12 points.

The Rockets play at Webster County on Friday.

Hickman County gets win at Marion

Hickman County surged ahead in the second half to defeat Crittenden County 80-41 in a matchup where both teams found success from beyond the arc. Hickman relied on a balanced attack, with four players scoring in double digits, to overwhelm the Rockets as the game progressed.

Hickman (7-17) led 24-17 after a fast-paced opening quarter, with both teams trading baskets and three-pointers. By halftime, Hickman had stretched its advantage to 40-23 and continued to pull away in the second half.

Crittenden County, still searching for its first win, was led by Jay Stevenson and Junior Cowser with seven points apiece. The Rockets were without center Brayden Poindexter, who missed the

game due to a head injury sustained the night before against Dawson Springs.

Homecoming loss to Dawson Springs

Freshman Drake Young dropped five three-pointers for homecoming, but the Rockets lost 87-40 Friday at home.

Young had two threes in the first period and two in the third, but Crittenden County was unable to keep pace with Dawson's sharpshooting. The Panthers had three players with more than 20 points apiece.

Crittenden lost for the 22nd time in a row this season while Dawson improved to 14-9. CCHS has lost four straight against Dawson dating back to last season.

Crittenden County	10	19	28	39
Caldwell County	27	58	76	94
CRITTENDEN – LaRue 17, Porter, Young 12, Candelario 3, Mratin, Dayberry, Stevenson, C.Poindexter 6, Jones, B.Poindexter, Myers 1, Topp. 3-pointers 10 (LaRue 5, Young 4, Candelario). FT 5-10.				
CALDWELL – Parker 2, Aikins 9, Rowland 14, Wilson 16, Whittington 10, Ka.Wilson 4, Spikes 3, Boyd 2, Roach 6, Wells 11, Lander 13, Ke.Wilson 2, Maddux 2. 3-pointers 8. FT 16-21.				

Hickman County	24	40	66	80
Crittenden County	17	23	31	41
HICKMAN – Rosas 8, Dowdy 2, Burpo 15, Crumble 2, Byassee 1, DeWeese 3, Fulcher 2, Irons 14, Boaz 9, Grimmitt 3, Newton 19, L.Grimmitt 2. 3-pointers 8. FT 8-10.				
CRITTENDEN – LaRue 3, Porter 4, Cowser 7, Steven-				

Archers capture 3 state championships

Local archers delivered an impressive performance at the state indoor championships last weekend, bringing home three state titles and several top placements across multiple divisions.

Emory Orr, Tucker Boudro and Maddie Ziegler each claimed an Indoor State Championship and also won the Battle of the Bluegrass in their respective categories. Orr and Ziegler were further recognized as Indoor Shooters of the Year – Orr in the Youth Open division and Ziegler in the Young Adult Open division.

The Young Adult Team of Ziegler, Boudro, Will Piltz, Alan Piltz, Gunner Topp and Owen Copp secured a championship victory, while

the Youth Team – Orr, David Piltz, Hunter Jackson, Corbin Dorroh, Luke Binkley and Hunter Copp – finished fifth.

Several archers earned individual placements: Darren Curnel, 2nd place, Jr. Eagle; Jed Orr, 13th place, Jr. Eagle; Wyatt Copp, 25th place, Eagle; David Piltz, 5th place, Youth Open; Hunter Jackson, 6th place, Youth Open; Corbin Dorroh, 7th place, Youth Open; Hunter Copp, 38th place, Youth Pins; Luke Binkley, 5th place, Youth Barebow; Alan Piltz, 4th place, Young Adult Open; Will Piltz, 7th place, Young Adult Open; Gunner Topp, 7th place, Young Adult Pins; and Owen Copp, 26th place, Young Adult Pins.



Rocket junior Jay Stevenson has was activated from the injured list a few weeks ago and is providing depth for the young team.

son 7, Young 5, Candelario 6, Dayberry 3, C.Poindexter 3, Ellington 3, Martin, Jones, Myers, Topp. 3-pointers 8 (LaRue, Cowser, Dayberry, Young, Candelario 2, C.Poindexter, Ellington). FT 1-2.

Dawson Springs	29	56	76	87
Crittenden County	12	24	31	40
DAWSON – Bourland 23, Plunkette 6, Johnston 28, Blue 24, Drennan 6, Washburn, McKnight. 3-pointers 5 (Plunkette 2, Johnston 2, Drennan). FT 15-22.				
CRITTENDEN – LaRue 3, Porter, Cowser, Dayberry, Stokes, Stevenson, Young 17, Candelario 2, Martin, C.Poindexter 4, Ellington, Murray 8, Jones, B.Poindexter 6. 3-pointers 6 (Young 5, LaRue). FT 2-7.				



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Weather: Fun to talk about, but...

Last month we talked about some of the larger January snow events in the Salem/Marion area, particularly the January 1978 blizzard and the January 2009 ice storm. We had a little snow last month, about 3 to 4 inches here in White Plains. For some of you, it was too much. For you snow lovers, it was just enough to make you want more. Take heart—we’ve had some deep snows in February. Of the top 24 snow events recorded in Paducah since 1937, 10 of these were in February, including 4 of the top 10. To put that in perspective, February easily wins this “snow battle” list over December (2), January (5) and March (7).

Snow lovers in Crittenden and surrounding counties will remember with delight the 12-inch snow we had in the Salem/Marion area back on Feb. 16, 2015. You were ecstatic.

I remember that day very well since it was the day my dad went to his heavenly home. It was a fitting sendoff since Daddy loved snow. Back in his backhoe days, he spent countless hours on a backhoe (with no cab) scooping off driveways, parking lots, even city streets in Salem. He

watched the weather forecast closely. If snow was in the forecast for the following day, he would put the tire chains on his truck the night before so he would be ready to go out before daylight the next morning to get employees of the old Salem Nursing Home who would probably not have been able to come in to work otherwise. His dual-wheel truck with tire chains never got stuck in the deep snow. Like the Energizer Bunny, it just kept going and going.

This snow was only the second time I ever saw 12 inches of snow fall in one day. Then, just a little over two weeks later, we got another 12 inches of snow. Those of you who are not so fond of the white fluffy stuff were saying, “Enough already.” Funny thing about that March 4 snow – it came when the tulip trees were in full bloom, creating a beautiful spectacle. It also totally covered the early spring flowers that had already made their annual appearance.

Will we see any big snows in February this



Chris CLARKE
Press Columnist
Happy Trails

year? At this writing, there was a prediction for some snow this week. Some warm weather recently provided a nice winter’s respite. Don’t think for a second that spring has sprung.

Some of you may be curious about Pennsylvania’s rodent weather prognosticator, Punxsutawney Phil – the “world famous” groundhog who hails from Punxsutawney, Penn. He saw his shadow on Feb. 2, predicting another six weeks of winter.

If our furry friend does not see his shadow on the prescribed Groundhog Day, it means that spring is just around the corner. Too bad for this year.

If you have a Farmer’s Almanac, you already know what to expect.

There’s also the annual Frymire’s Winter Forecast. Dick Frymire is now deceased, but his son and granddaughter are carrying on the family’s prognosticating tradition utilizing Frymire’s Japanese elm tree. Their forecast called for 6 inches snow on Feb. 5.

While it’s fun to talk about the upcoming weather, we know that no man controls the weather or even foretells it with much accuracy. Our God above has created our wonderful Earth

and placed it in perfect proximity to the sun so we can have the correct amount of heat and light. He has also given the Earth many natural air currents and seasonal ocean currents to control our weather. I love watching weather trends and current conditions. In fact, I installed a personal weather station last summer. I love it. Still, I know God is totally in charge of the weather. If you have a complaint, talk it over with Him.

As for me, I’m like my daddy. He never complained about the weather; no matter how hot or cold, he would always say that it was “just right.” Let’s be thankful that we can enjoy all the seasons of life, including the weather.

Chris Clarke, who has his own equestrian ministry Happy Trails, writes a monthly column for The Press.

JANUARY 2025

Weather Yearbook



Coldest Temp
3.1

Wed., Jan. 22

Warmest Temp
60.0

Fri., Jan. 17

Wettest Day
2.34

Thur., Jan. 30

	2025	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020
Average Temp	30.1	32.4	42.5	31.4	36.7	39.6
Coldest Temp	3.1	-0.1	18.3	5.6	19.6	15.7
Hottest Temp	60	57.6	68	63.7	60	65.7
Precipitation	4.5	6.8	7.2	4.3	4.3	4.78
Wettest Day	2.34	2.06	2.47	2.13	1.85	2.07

■ January brought us a wide range of weather from cold and snow to wet and mild. Last year’s total rainfall was 17.25 inches, which was slightly less than the nine-year average of 17.6. So far, February has been quite wet and January’s 4.5 inches of rainfall was about normal. The nine-year average for the county is 4.55 inches.

MARION POLICE activity report

Data below provided by Marion Police Department compare police activity for the month of January 2025 to the same month in 2024. The chart also includes the previous month’s totals, year-to-date police activity totals and last year’s monthly average.

CATEGORY	JANUARY 2025	December 2024	January 2024	2024 YR TOTALS	2024 MONTHLY AVERAGE
Miles driven/patrolled	1,941	2,591	1,750	23,545	1,962.1
Criminal investigations	15	11	10	150	12.5
Domestics	3	4	7	88	7.3
Felony Arrests	1	6	1	48	4.0
Misdemeanor arrests	16	12	2	81	6.8
Non-criminal arrests	3	10	5	112	9.3
DUI arrests	0	0	0	2	0.2
Criminal summons served	0	0	0	51	4.3
Traffic citations	13	21	6	212	17.7
Other citations	24	25	13	285	23.8
Traffic warnings	5	12	5	55	4.6
Parking tickets	0	0	1	1	0.1
Traffic accidents	6	5	9	69	5.8
Security checks/alarms	66	66	58	720	60.0
Calls for service	236	149	179	2,578	214.8



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FLOYD

Continued from page 1
function of her heart and lungs, and was flown to Indiana University Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.

Doctors warned her family that her chances were grim.

“They told my son and my brother, ‘If you all are praying people, now is the time to pray,’” Floyd recalled.

She had been placed on her stomach to relieve pressure on her lungs, and when doctors prepared to turn her over, they warned that it could stop her heart.

The procedure was successful, but she remained on life support for weeks. Floyd was sedated but had moments of awareness. She heard her family’s voices and feared she had been kidnapped. When they told her how many people were praying for her, she didn’t understand why.

“I didn’t realize how bad off I was,” she said.

Floyd missed Christmas and New Year’s with her family while in the hospital. When doctors finally removed her ventilator, she had to relearn how to walk.

“I went from sick and about to die to suddenly not needing any oxygen, no IVs, nothing,” she said.

She was discharged from IU Methodist on Jan. 15 and immediately transferred to Salem Springlake for physical therapy. After a week and a half, she had recovered so well that her insurance stopped covering



‘If you all are praying people’

There were times during her weeks-stay in the hospital that Elizabeth Floyd’s doctors were uncertain if she would survive.

her stay.

Floyd is set to return to work on March 3 – far ahead of doctors’ six-month recovery estimate.

But her medical ordeal came at a staggering cost. Her hospital bills have already exceeded \$1 million, with one from IU Methodist alone totaling \$735,000. She expects to owe at least \$10,000 out of pocket.

Her church and com-

munity have rallied around her. A benefit singing event will be held March 1 at the Lions Club’s fairgrounds building, and a GoFundMe set up by her sister has raised nearly \$3,500.

“If Steven’s aunt Missy hadn’t been here that night, I would’ve laid in my bed and died,” Floyd said. “God brought me through this. And I’m going to keep fighting.”



Homecoming

Crittenden County High School's Homecoming Court members (pictured from left) are freshmen candidates Hud-son Stokes and Addie Mor-ries, juniors Quinn Summers and Gracie Orr, Homecoming King CamRon Belcher and Queen Brooke Winstead, senior candidates Will Jarvis and Hattie Hatfield, seniors We-ston Green and Jenna Max-field, sophomores Logan Martin and Alina Henry and 2024 queen and king Brynn Porter and Turner Sharp. Crown bearers are Jax Sigler and Jolie Sigler.

Livingston
County Schools
Smith brings
background to
vibrant learning

STAFF REPORT
Livingston County Schools are taking a bold step into the future of education with the development of a new Learning Lab, spearheaded by Jennifer Smith, the newly appointed coordinator of the Vibrant Learning Center. With a wealth of experience in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) education and curriculum development, Smith is crafting a hands-on, project-based learning environment that will serve as a hub for students, teachers and the community.

At its core, the Learning Lab is more than just a classroom – it's a maker space where students can engage in hands-on projects and experiential learning. While Smith's primary role is to enhance the school's STEM program, the Learning Lab is designed to be an interdisciplinary resource for students and teachers across various subjects. The flexible space allows for collaboration, creativity and real-world application of science, technology, engineering and math concepts. It is a place where students can explore everything from robotics and 3D printing to environmental science and hands-on physics experiments.

Smith brings extensive experience to the role. She spent 20 years teaching in Arizona, worked as an environmental education specialist and currently serves as an online instructor for Arizona State University. Her background in zoology and science education, along with her years of working with teachers on professional development, has given her the ability to bridge STEM concepts with engaging classroom instruction. She has worked with organizations such as Arizona's Fish and Game Department and led hands-on research initiatives at Biosphere 2, a world-renowned Earth systems



Jennifer Smith has extensive background and training in a variety subject areas that will benefit students.

science research facility.

One of her immediate goals is to strengthen connections between STEM learning and the natural resources in Livingston County. She has reached out to local organizations and plans on connecting with others like the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife, to explore partnerships that could provide students with field-based learning experiences. By leveraging the county's abundant environmental resources, she hopes to introduce activities such as water quality analysis, biodiversity studies, and forestry-based projects. These real-world applications of science not only engage students but also introduce them to potential career paths in conservation, environmental science and related fields.

A significant initiative within the Learning Lab is the development of ready-to-use STEM kits for teachers. Smith is assembling portable activity sets that will allow educators to bring hands-on experiments into their classrooms or bring their students to the Learning Lab for interactive learning sessions. The kits include topics such as home circuit-building, magnetism and life cycle studies. Gifted and talented students will be coming through the program as a part of their monthly enrichment later this month to experience some of the hands-on tubs that will eventually be used for Family Science Nights.

Smith joined the school in December.

In addition to serving students, the Learning Lab is designed to be a resource for teachers. Smith is working to integrate STEM activities into existing curricula by demonstrating how they can reinforce core subjects like math and literacy. She understands the time constraints teachers face and aims to make STEM integration as seamless as possible by providing training and ready-made lesson plans.

A soft opening for the Learning Lab is scheduled for late April, during which community members, educators and students will get a firsthand look at the technology and activities available. The event will showcase the Lab's 3D printer, robotics stations, and hands-on experiments. Smith hopes this introduction will spark interest among teachers and inspire them to incorporate more interactive learning into their classrooms.

Although the Learning Lab is still in its early stages, Smith envisions it becoming a central hub for STEM education in Livingston County. She wants to create opportunities for students to develop critical thinking and problem-solving skills that will prepare them for the future. Her ultimate goal is to make STEM education accessible to all students, ensuring they have the chance to explore, experiment and discover their passions in a dynamic and engaging environment.

Smith invites anyone who has expertise or connections within local businesses or tied to STEM fields to contact her. Her email is jennifer.n.smith@livingston.kyschools.us.

Schools sign \$3.4 million deal to save energy over 20 years

STAFF REPORT
A \$3.4 million Guaranteed Energy Savings contract will replace lighting, heating and air systems throughout the Crittenden County School District and help replace original bathrooms at Crittenden County's 45-year-old elementary school.

The project was approved by the Crittenden County Board of Education Jan. 28 after months of discussion with Ascendant Facility Partners, facilitator of the project. If projected savings on utility costs are not achieved, Ascendant is required by law to provide the district annual reimbursements for energy-savings shortfall.

Ascendant, who has two Crittenden County connections – its accountant is native David Belt, and its community liaison is former Crittenden County educator Steve Carter. Both have been working with the Crittenden County Board of Education for about six months on the project, which use energy savings to fund upgrades within the school.

Prior to the start of basketball season, the first piece of the energy savings puzzle included a conversion to LED lighting in Rocket Arena, a cost savings and recognizable lighting upgrade to the gym.

A big piece of the project, which results in rebates from utility companies, is solar energy.

Solar panels will be mounted on the top of Crittenden County Elementary, Middle and High School, the board of education office and Rocket Arena.

The bulk of the solar production will be utilized by the district and will be utilized to offset the current retail rate paid for electricity, according to Ascendant engineer Russ Litsinger.

Crittenden County's board of education closely monitored the work Ascendant did last year in Lyon County, including solar panels on its public education buildings.

Guaranteed energy savings contracts are supported by the Kentucky Department of Education.

Crittenden County will repay bonds used for the project for 20 years at 4% interest, with debt service of about \$125,000 annually.

Crittenden County Schools' annual electricity, natural gas and water/wastewater expenses, according to Ascendant, average \$327,044.

Last fall AFP officials anticipated a \$70,485 annual utility and operational savings over a 20-year term after completion of the project.

"I appreciate the board's diligence, it makes the project go smoother, and I respect you all to go that deep into it," Steve Carter said last week following the board's agreement to embark on the project. "I'm excited to enhance the learning environment and take some headaches off Mr. (Brian) Kirby and the county's maintenance department as well."

School officials have, for several years, patched problems in CCES' original restrooms, and many heating and air units on top of the school have well outlived their expectancy.

Board member Ryan McDaniel said the board is excited about being on cutting edge of technology that will benefit "the next generations of kids who are going to come through these halls."

Code enforcement board discusses property clean up

City of Marion's Code Enforcement Board met recently at City Hall, addressing property cleanup concerns and adjusting its meeting schedule.

Board members Barbara Browning, Larry Hurst and Eddie Lee Belt were present, along with City Councilwomen Wanda Olson and Nikki Conger. Code Enforcement Officer Rick Mills was also present.

In old business, Mills provided updates, including discussions on the property at 320 W. Elm St. The board granted the owner 14 additional days to complete necessary corrections.

Additionally, the board revisited issues concerning another property on Elm Street. The owner has accepted Mills' cleanup plan and deadline of April 3.

In nw business, local residents Rob and Rhonda Horack expressed concerns about debris on properties at 333 and 303 Bellville Street, and 112 and 108 Walker Street. Chairman Hurst assured them the issues would be forwarded to Mills for immediate attention.

The board also voted to move its regular meetings to the second Monday of each month at 5 p.m. at City Hall, beginning March 10. Belt made the motion, which was seconded by Browning and approved unanimously.

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