The Crittenden Press

PLAYOFF Basketball is Underway « Page 10

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27, 2025

24/7 BREAKING AND LOCAL NEWS / THE-PRESS.COM AN INDEPENDENTLY-OWNED, LOCAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1879 ONE DOLLAR

Snowed out rigs will be moving in town on Friday

Motorists should be on the lookout for farm equipment on roads and streets early Friday morning as Crittenden County High School hosts Drive Your Tractor to School Day. The event was originally scheduled for last week but was postponed due to snow. Participating students will meet in town by 7 a.m. to gather with escorts before making their way to campus.

CWD found across river from Union Co.

Kentucky's Department of Fish and Wildlife is closely monitoring a recent detection of chronic wasting disease (CWD) in a deer harvested in southwest Indiana. The 2½-year-old male deer from Posey County, located across the Ohio River from Henderson and Union counties, tested positive following multiple confirmations by Indiana officials.

Kentucky authorities are coordinating with Indiana's Department of Natural Resources and will implement measures outlined in the state's CWD Response Plan. While CWD – an always fatal disease affecting whitetailed deer, elk, and related species – remains non-transmissible to humans, officials advise that meat from any infected or visibly sick animals should not be consumed.

This marks the fourth detection of CWD either in or near Kentucky, following earlier cases in Ballard County in 2023, Breckinridge County in 2023 and in northwest Tennessee on the Kentucky border in 2021.

Ferry may reopen soon

Chances are that the Cave In Rock ferry will reopen Thursday, as the Ohio River is expected to fall to under 40 feet by 6 a.m. Once the ferry landings are cleaned of any debris, the service – which has been closed for about a week – will resume.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

•Crittenden County Public Library Board will meet at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 27 at the library.

•Marion Code Enforcement Board will meet at 5 p.m., Monday, March 3 at city hall.

•Livingston County Board of Education will meet at 5 p.m., Monday, March 10.

•Caldwell County Fiscal Court will meet at 9 a.m., Tuesday, March 11 at the courthouse.

•Marion City Council will meet at 5 p.m., Monday, March 17 at city hall.

•Fredonia City Council will meet at 7 p.m., Monday, March 17 at city hall.

•Marion Tourism and Recreation Commission will meet at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 18 at the Marion Welcome Center.

•Salem City Council will meet at 5 p.m., Tuesday, March 18 at Deer Lakes meeting room.

The Crittenden Press

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Former Salem mayor who died in fire remembered for contributions

STAFF REPORT

Salem is in mourning yet fondly remembering the many virtues of its former mayor and passionate community advocate Rell Peck, 87, who tragically died late last week in a house fire that was declared weather related.

Temperatures had dropped near zero in the hours before the fire was reported at 5:25 a.m., last Thursday. Peck, who heated his home with a wood-burning furnace, is believed to have stacked logs on top of the furnace for drying, which ignited and spread to the ceiling of the home's basemen.

Despite efforts by first responders and Salem Fire and Rescue, who arrived on scene within six minutes

See **PECK**/page 2

Rell Peck

No-Fall on a record SnowFall

Jason Hatfield clears the drive-thru at Marion Pit Bar-B-Q after last week's snowfall that didn't quite live up to its billing. While schools were out for four days last week, the cleanup was perhaps easier than expected. County Road Foreman Audi Maraman told magistrates that snow removal from priority roads was virtually complete within about 48 hours of the last flake. While 8-10 inches were forecast for some parts of the region, Crittenden County had just under four. According to National Weather Service records, the most snow we've gotten in modern history was in 1994. While there is no guarantee, the recent snowfall may very well be winter's last gasp as daffodils are starting to emerge.

Record Snows

County	Total	Year
Crittenden	12"	1994
Livingston	14"	1994
Caldwell	15"	2015
Union	7"	1951
Hopkins	19"	2015
Webster	18"	2004
Lyon	15.4"	2015
Hardin, Ill.	9.8	1978
Pope, Ill.	14	2012

EMS, dump permit, rent among topics at magistrates' meeting

CRITTENDEN COUNTY FISCAL COURT

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Fiscal Court has ratified an earlier recommendation by the Crittenden County Solid Waste Committee to deny a request to permit a construction and demolition debris landfill near a local recycling facility, citing environmental concerns.

During a late January meeting, the solid waste committee reviewed an application submitted by Marion C&D, owned by Nathan Ratley, seeking county approval for the landfill on Mott City Road at Marion Recycling Center. However, officials noted that the site is under investigation for accepting construction and demolition material prior to having the proper authority.

The committee issued concerns about potential affects of contamination to the watershed feeding the Marion's raw water supply.

Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom explained that water from the landfill application area runs into a ditch, which flows into Crooked Creek, which then flows into and through Marion's Lake George, the town's current source of raw water.

With several questions still pending before the Kentucky Environmental Services Division, committee members unanimously denied the request and that decision was ratified last week by county magistrates.

Judge Newcom said the applicant has been provided further resources, including referral to ordinances that apply to construction and demolition dump sites that might aid in his re-applying at a later time.

"His application at this point is not acceptable," Newcom said, explaining the committee's findings.

County Attorney Office Rent

Magistrates have made no determination whether the county will continue to rent space at Frazer Law Office after sale of the firm's real estate is completed in the coming weeks. At January's fiscal court meeting County Attorney Bart Frazer an-

See **COUNTY**/page 3

Neal Bryant

Bryant earns teacher recognition

STAFF REPORT

Neal Bryant, a seventh-grade science teacher at Crittenden County Middle School, will add another prestigious recognition to his impressive year of achievements. The Challenger Learning Center has selected Bryant for its Outstanding Educator award, following his recent National Board Certification and his students' top-ranking performance on the Kentucky State Assessment (KSA) science scores.

Principal Nita Johnson, herself a past recipient of the award, nominated Bryant for this distinction, which is part of West Kentucky Community and

See **TEACHER**/page 2

Gaze not upon the clowns

Chris **EVANS**
Press Editor & Publisher
About Town

In the age of social media, it seems everyone has a stage, a microphone and an audience. But while these platforms hold the potential for meaningful dialogue and community-building, they have also become arenas for the theatrics of false narratives – in short clown shows. The spectacle is undeniable – and many of us, willingly or not, become part of the crowd because of the entertainment value.

Unlike the Pied Piper of legend, who led followers with his hypnotic tune, the purveyors of baseless claims on social media are not commanding armies of loyal adherents ready to march to their drumbeat. Instead, they are more akin to circus performers, drawing spectators not for the veracity of their message but for the sheer entertainment of the show. Audiences watch, not with conviction, but with curiosity, astonishment or the thrill of witnessing chaos. I would liken it to the crowd that quickly built in the junior high hallway when Tommy and Ted got into a fist fight just before the fourth-period bell.

This relatively new social media dynamic has reshaped our collective engagement with information and interaction. The focus is less on credibility and more on shareability. Outrage, humor and shock value drive clicks, likes and shares. It's heartless water cooler gossip on steroids. Falsehoods are packaged in sensationalism and consumed as entertainment – like watching monkeys at a circus, an absurd spectacle we don't take seriously but can't look away from. At some point the big top comes down and the circus ends, yet there are piles of trash left behind once the show is over. Cleanup can be the messiest part.

What we need to be very conscious of is that this modern mode of mud-slinging carries emotional and cultural risks. Even when viewers don't believe, constant exposure erodes boundaries between fiction and reality. What starts as harmless entertainment can mutate into something far more insidious, subtly altering perceptions and enabling mistrust in legitimate institutions.

One of my favorite Bible verses – a reminder of which I have worn on my wrist for years – reminds me that to those who much is given, much is expected. Through the context of Jesus' teachings, Luke 12:48 emphasizes the serious implications of knowledge and responsibility. Jesus illustrates through Luke's words that those who know their master's will, yet fail to act upon it will face a stricter judgment. As disciples we are held to higher standards. Written centuries ago, Dante's Inferno describes in a fictional poem that the darkest yet hottest corners of hell are reserved for good people who fail to lift a hand during times of trial and tribulation.

Gaze not upon the burning

See **CIRCUS**/page 3

Deaths

Peck

Albert Rell Peck, Sr., 87, of Salem, died Thursday, Feb. 20, 2025 at Livingston Hospital and Healthcare Services.

Peck was a Navy veteran who graduated from college in California while serving. He returned to Salem after the Navy to work with his father operating TR Peck and Son Trucking Co., and eventually became sole owner of the business. Upon retirement from his company, he returned to college and received an MBA from WKU in Bowling Green.

Peck served two terms as mayor of Salem, helping with many city projects over the years. He was a huge advocate of Salem, serving not only as a city commissioner and a two-term mayor, but also as president of Salem Lions Club. He was awarded the honor of Kentucky Colonel and became a proud member of American Legion Post 217 in Salem. He also was a proud and dedicated member of Pleasant Grove Baptist Church for many years and loved serving God.

Surviving are his wife of 22 years, Patricia Peck; a son, Albert Rell (Debbie) Peck, Jr. of Salem; a daughter, Rhonda (Mark) Wiman of Paducah; a step-daughter, Lissa (Brad) Byers of Port St. Lucie, Fla.; five grandchildren, Brandon and Jordan Wilson, Rachelle Korves, Bill McNamara, and Ron Hansen; and two great-grandchildren, Lona and Auden Korves.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Lona Mae (Guess) Peck; a son, Timothy Peck; two sisters, Carole Brown and Dietra Peck; a grandson, Jim Hansen; and his parents, TR and Aurella (Murray) Peck.

Services are at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 2 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services with Bro. Jerrod Quertermous officiating. Burial will follow in Salem Cemetery.

Friends may visit with the family after 5 p.m., Saturday, March 1 at the funeral home.

Memorial contribution may be made to: American Legion Post 217, PO Box 70, Burna, KY 42028.

Stoner

Daniel Lee Stoner, 67, of Salem, died Wednesday, Feb. 19, 2025 at Baptist Deaconess Health Madisonville.

He loved music and concerts and he liked playing cards with sisters and family. He loved his grandkids most of all, displaying pictures of them all over his home.

Surviving are three sons, Tony (Ashley Jones) Stoner of Norco, La., Craig Stoner of Marion and Danny (Meagan Brasher) Stoner of Frances; two sisters, Belinda (Harold) Crawford of Salem and Vanessa Riggs; and 10 grandchildren, Isaac Maroney, Don Austin Stoner, Alanis Kyell Stoner, Emma Marie Stoner, Laken Alexxis Hunt, Taylor Jade Stoner, Tia Jamicen Stoner, Jackson Kyle Stoner, Kodi McKenly Stoner, and Wilder York Stoner.

He was preceded in death by his biological father, David Stoner; his parents, Jack and Betty (Scott) Higgs; and a brother, David Stoner.

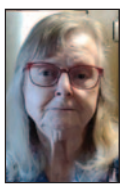
Funeral services were Saturday, Feb. 22 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services.

Condolences may also be left online at boydfuneraldirectors.com.

Paid obituary

Glore

Rose Ann Glore, 84, of Salem, died Saturday, Feb. 22, 2025 at Livingston Hospital. She was a member of Lola Pentacostal Church, worked in several factories and was a cook on a boat for 20 years.



Surviving are three children, Perry Jewell (Anna Nadine) Glore of Eddyville, Sherri Ann (Johnny Don) Watson of Marion and Vickie Dee (Ricky Belt) Glore of Salem; five grandchildren, several great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; a sister, Dotty June Volle of Golconda, Ill.; and several nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 58 years, Harold Perry Glore; her parents, Jewell and Myrtle Winters Holbrook; three sisters, Betty Jo Holbrook, Judy Jackson and Alta Marie Potts; and a brother, Billy Holbrook.

Services were Tuesday, Feb. 25 at Lola Pentecostal Church with burial in Whites Chapel Cemetery. Gilbert Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

Porter

Melva Blanche Moore Porter, 94, of Salem died Monday, Feb. 24, 2025 at Salem Springlake Health and Rehab Center.

She was a beloved mother, grandmother, aunt and friend.

Porter was a devoted grandmother to her two grandsons, Jared Franklin and Nick Vaughn, both of whom she loved and cared for tirelessly. She enjoyed tending to her flowers and cooking family meals. She also spent much of her time sewing her own beautiful draperies and pillows; not to mention the most current fashions. She was a beautiful lady with a kind and playful spirit; never one to pass up the opportunity for a wisecrack or a prank. She will be lovingly remembered by her surviving daughter, Mitzi; her grandsons Jared and Nick; her brother Leon (Dottie) Moore of Ledbetter and sister Wanda Schuppe of Carmel, Ind., and many beloved nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her husband, SFC Thomas Jesse Porter; mother Bessie Carr; her parents, Marvin and Ruth Moore; a daughter Shari; and her grandson Patrick.

All services will be private.

Memorial donations be made to your local animal shelter. Condolences may also be left online at boydfuneraldirectors.com.

Paid obituary

Community Calendar

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

Thursday, Feb. 27

• Line dancing begins at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County Senior Center.

• 4-H Cooking Club will meet at 5:30 p.m. at the Extension Annex.

Saturday, March 1

• Crittenden County Elementary STLP students will host Rockets SCREEN for Heart Health at Crittenden Community Hospital during a community health fair from 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

Monday, March 3

• Marion's VFW will have breakfast at the post from 7:30-10 a.m. Cost is $8 or make a donation.

Wednesday, March 5

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

TEACHER

Continued from page 1

Technical College's (WKCTC) Regional Educators Awards and Scholarship Program. The honor recognizes educators who demonstrate exceptional dedication to student learning and actively partner with the Challenger Center to enhance educational experiences.

"Mr. Bryant has a unique way of getting students to buy into what he is offering," Johnson explained.

She highlighted his innovative teaching methods, including investigative procedures and hands-on learning approaches.

"Not only does he use diverse strategies and teaching methods, but he has developed many content materials himself," she said.

With 15 years of educational experience, Bryant's success stems from more than just his extensive subject knowledge. Johnson emphasized his ability to build strong relationships with students.

"He knows his content well, but he also understands that students first want to know they are heard and understood. Then, they will learn from their teacher."

Bryant, 45, a Crittenden County alumnus having graduated from high school in 1998, earned his teacher credentials and bachelor's degree from Murray State University.

Humbly recognizing those around him working toward the same goals, Bryant said, "I love the teachers I work with."

He added, "There are other teachers working just as hard. There are teachers that I work with that are doing amazing things every day," he said.

With regard to his teaching philosophy, Bryant talks about his connection to the kids.

"It's about creating memorable moments. Moments that spark curiosity, build confidence, and change trajectories," Bryant said. "This is what makes the Challenger Center in Paducah special, and that is what makes this award special. Someone saw that in me, and that feels good."

The Challenger Learning Center at Paducah, established in 2002 through a partnership between Paducah Junior College, Inc. and West Kentucky Community and Technical College, is part of an international network of over 40 centers. These facilities use space-themed simulated learning environments to advance STEM education through school visits, summer camps, after-school programs, and teacher professional development. Since its opening, the Paducah center has conducted thousands of educational missions.

The award ceremony will take place at a banquet at WKCTC on March 27.

PECK

Continued from page 1

of the report, Peck was unable to be saved. His wife, Pat, was on the main floor of the home and escaped the blaze.

Current Salem Mayor Gary Damron spoke with visible emotion about the loss of his predecessor.

"He was a friend, mentor and someone I looked up to in many ways," Damron said, recalling personal moments shared over their mutual passion for baseball. "He loved Salem, Livingston County and our region

Peck served two terms as mayor of Salem and was widely recognized as a pillar of the community, known for his caring leadership and unwavering commitment to his neighbors. His civic contributions were extensive, including spearheading the much-needed replacement of outdated water lines in the city. He was mayor from 2007 to 2012 and again from 2016 to 2019.

A graduate of Salem High School, Peck was a U.S. Navy veteran who served as an aviator, playing baseball for the Navy during his service years. He later obtained his commercial pilot's license and worked as a corporate pilot. He also earned a master's degree in business from Western Kentucky University.

David Brown, former American Legion commander, remembered Peck as someone who "held just about every leadership position one time or another" at the American Legion post in Burna, serving as chaplain "probably longer than anyone ever was."

Peck performed military rites at numerous funerals and presented flags to families of fallen veterans as part of the American Legion Honors Squad.

"He knew everybody in the world. He was a very community-minded and community-oriented individual," Brown said.

One of Peck's most notable contributions was his dedication to veterans' memorials. Together with his wife Pat, he maintained approximately 2,500 white memorial crosses displayed annually at the Burna Legion post for Memorial Day. According to Brown, Peck and Bobby Mitchell were the driving forces behind both the crosses and later raising funds to develop a permanent stone monument that would stand "forever."

Peck's community service extended to the Lions Club, where he served as head for many years until it disbanded in the 1990s. TL Maddux, a longtime friend, noted that the Lions Club was instrumental in founding the local hospital, a project Peck supported. Peck also worked for a time as a purchasing agent at the hospital.

Janet Hughes, a community leader and fellow church member at Pleasant Grove General Baptist Church, recalled Peck's involvement in numerous civic projects, including the purchase of an empty lot that became the bicentennial courtyard.

"He was mayor and city commissioner for several years. He loved being involved and would go to PADD meetings," Hughes said. She added that when the Garden Club started in 2007 while Peck was mayor, he was instrumental in supporting their efforts.

"We are all heartbroken," Hughes said. "He loved to sing... We are going to miss him so much at church and here in town. He was just a very worthy citizen who loved the City of Salem."

The Salem Fire Department expressed gratitude to Livingston County EMS, Burna, Smithland and Ledbetter fire departments for their assistance during the fire, as well as to Kentucky Utilities and the City of Salem for ensuring all utilities were shut off at the scene.

Peck's funeral Sunday at Boyd Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Salem will include military rites performed by the American Legion.

Crittenden County Animal Clinic
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Crittenden County Animal Clinic performs surgical procedures including spays, neuters, a variety of small animal surgeries castrations, enucleations, lacerations, dentals and extractions.
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THE EVENT OF THE YEAR!
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JANUARY 2025

Activity Report

SHERIFF ★ EVAN HEAD

Here is Crittenden County Sheriff Evan Head's monthly activity report for his department.

	Jan.	2024 Mo.Avg.
Collisions Investigated	3	7.6
Complaints	34	66.8
Papers Served	35	53.0
Service Attempts	5	5.5
Total Service Attempts	48	104.1
Transports	5	4.3
Special Detail	78	58.7
Training Hours	81	41.1
Verbal Warning	8	24.4
Criminal Citation	9	17.7
Officer Assist	7	5.7
Building Checks	41	50.6
Total Manhours	1070	86.7
Bailiff Court Hours	77.75	86.7
Cases Opened	2	8.0
Felony Arrests	3	8.8
Followup Investigations	11	29.3
Misdemeanor Arrests	2	10
Motorist Assists	5	8.3
DUIs	1	2.5
Traffic Citations	2	14.1
General Policing	212	156
Call for Service	34	22.6
Vehicle Inspections	62	—

Survey suggests parents want less reliance on Chromebooks

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Schools recently conducted its annual Parent Experience Survey, with 222 parents and guardians responding – a more than 25% increase in respondants from a 2023 survey. The survey, conducted in partnership with the Studer Group, aims to assess the district's strengths and identify opportunities for growth.

District officials expressed appreciation for the community's input, emphasizing that the feedback will help shape future initiativess.

The survey highlighted several areas where Crittenden County Schools are excelling. The highest-rated responses indicated that parents feel the school is clean and well-maintained (4.07 out of 5), students are treated with respect (4.06), and the school provides a safe learning environment (3.99). Additionally, parents acknowledged that their children have access to necessary classroom supplies and equipment for effective learning (3.94).

However, some areas were noted as needing improvement. The lowest-rated items involved communication between parents and school staff. Parents reported a desire for more positive feedback and updates on their child's progress, with responses regarding positive calls, emails, or notes about their child receiving an average rating of 3.16. Additionally, parents expressed concerns about the consistency of school rule enforcement (3.58) and decision-making by school administration (3.64).

In open-ended responses, parents praised communication tools like ParentSquare and the Parent Portal, as well as the efforts of teachers and the school's focus on safety and security.

On the other hand, areas identified for improvement included increasing communication between parents and teachers regarding student progress, reducing reliance on Chromebooks and providing more challenging academic work. Some parents also noted concerns with the lunch menu, though many complimented the availability of fresh fruits and vegetables.

The school district said feedback is instrumental in driving improvements. The district is actively working on action plans to address concerns to enhance the overall educational experience for students.

CIRCUS

Continued from page 1

without lifting a bucket or you, too, could be roasted.

In these times of what Granny would call "newfangled contraptions," a heightened sense of watchfulness is more important than ever. We must stay skeptically observant, especially in this age of artificial intelligence, where electronic sophistication can disguise profound ignorance.

We must approach unrailed social media content with a critical eye, fact-checking sources and recognizing sensational language. Only through intentional scrutiny can we uphold clarity, trust and the collective good.

We must be vigilant in recognizing differences between a circus and an intellectual stage where real conversations happen. Social media may offer a front-row seat to the clown show, but we have the power to choose whether we watch passively or step away, seeking truth in a quieter, more thoughtful corner of the world. Entertainment should not come at the cost of clarity, trust, taste or decorum.

Chris Evans, a newspaperman since 1979, has been editor of The Press for more than 30 years and is the author of South of the Mouth of Sandy, a true story about crime along the Tennessee River. You can find it on Amazon or wherever books are sold.

COUNTY

Continued from page 1

nounced his plans to sell his office building to Assistant County Attorney Cobie Evans. Judge-Executive Perry Newcom told magistrates that the new owner is requesting a rent increase of $1,200 per month for the space, which would bring the total monthly cost to $1,500, including utilities.

Frazer plans to continue practicing law and remain as county attorney, but will no longer own the property where the office has been for the past couple of years.

Based on the request, an ad hoc committee was formed that included magistrates Robert Kirby and Chad Thomas, County Treasurer Yvette Martin and the county judge. That committee met in late January to discuss the office space situation, focusing on legal obligations, current office arrangements and potential relocation options.

The committee reviewed documents, including a Kentucky Attorney General opinion and state statutes governing fiscal court responsibilities for county attorney office expenses. The discussion clarified that, under state law, if a county attorney's office is not housed in the courthouse, the fiscal court is required to allocate rent funds. Newcom has said there is no room in the new county office complex for the county attorney and staff.

Committee members visted the current office space at 200 South Main Street office, which is occupied by Frazer and Evans, who share a private practice, too. It was noted that the office is figuratively split, with approximately 50% of the time and space dedicated to county attorney operations. Two staff members work specifically for the county attorney. The committee also confirmed that no county-owned property, aside from a few state-issued computer monitors, is located in the office building. Therefore, relocating the county attorney's workspace would require purchase of furniture, fixtures, hardware and perhaps computer networking equipment.

The committee then toured the Community Recreation Center (former armory), a county-owned facility with available space that could be repurposed for office use. While the building contains some electronic networking infrastructure, an IT assessment will be necessary to determine whether the system is functional and practical for the county attorney's operation and electronic communication needs.

Before making a final recommendation, the committee is seeking further information on whether state funds might be available to offset rent costs, rather than relying entirely on county funds. Additionally, a cost estimate will be gathered regarding a possible relocation to the former armory.

After hearing a report from the committee, the fiscal court decided to hold off on making a decision in the matter until Evans' acquisition of the law firm is complete. For now, the county is still paying $300 rent per month.

Ambulances needed

Magistrates heard a report from Crittenden County Fiscal Court's EMS/Ambulance Committee, which met a few weeks ago to discuss ongoing challenges with the county's ambulance fleet and plans for improving service coverage.

Judge-Executive Newcom, along with committee members – Magistrate Chad Thomas and ComCare's Jim Duke and Bobby Woolsey – reviewed the status of the ambulance fleet, highlighting issues related to vehicle condition and replacement plans. The county is currently two years behind on its scheduled ambulance replacements, as outlined in contractual agreements.

The committee's official minutes noted that two of the county's four ambulances are experiencing serious mechanical problems. One vehicle has an unresolved electrical short, while another has a mechanical issue that was being diagnosed at the time of the meeting. On average, each unit accrues approximately 65,000 miles per year, a number that may increase due to a rise in patient transfers following the hospital's recent designation as a Rural Emergency Hospital.

In terms of replacement options, ComCare EMS has available a used ambulance (currently in service elsewhere in its service area) with approximately 85,000 miles and a relatively new box (patient care area). It is being offered to the county for $35,000. The price would include rebranding with the Crittenden County EMS logo.

A new ambulance would cost around $240,000, making remounting existing boxes a more cost-effective solution, with remounts averaging about $130,000 annually, Newcom told magistrates during last week's fiscal court meeting. Used vehicles have also become increasingly difficult to find due to widespread demand, the committee reported.

To enhance emergency coverage, ComCare plans to adjust its operational schedule. Under the new plan, one ambulance crew will be available 24/7, another for 10 hours per day with the other 14 hours covered by an on-call crew. This schedule change, expected to take effect in March or April, aims to maximize costs while maintaining adequate coverage, the report says. County officials anticipate reviewing the ambulance budget once further adjustments are in place. The hope is that there will be no need for contract payment modifications if the new service plan proves effective. The county's existing contract with ComCare expires in about a year unless it is renewed, Newcom said.

The judge said $10,000 in grant funds are available to help the county secure a new ambulance, and another $10,000 is expected for next fiscal year. The county is also considering sending a contingent to Missouri to examine a couple of used ambulances that will be sold at auction.

Deed room Tosh retiring

Crittenden County Clerk Daryl Tabor told the fiscal court that Cindy Teer's retirement was official on Monday, Feb. 24. Teer has been the county's deed recorder for the past 15 years and she had been employed for more than 20 years in the clerk's office. She will be replaced in the deed room by deputy clerk Misti Autry Tabor said.

Drug goggles okayed

The fiscal court approved funding for a new educational initiative aimed at preventing opioid abuse among students. The $5,999 project, backed by the Crittenden County Coalition for a Drug-Free Community, will use Opioid Settlement funds to purchase Fatal Vision Opioid Goggles for school prevention programs.

Sheriff Evan Head endorsed the initiative, noting its similarity to the "drunk goggles" program already used in schools.

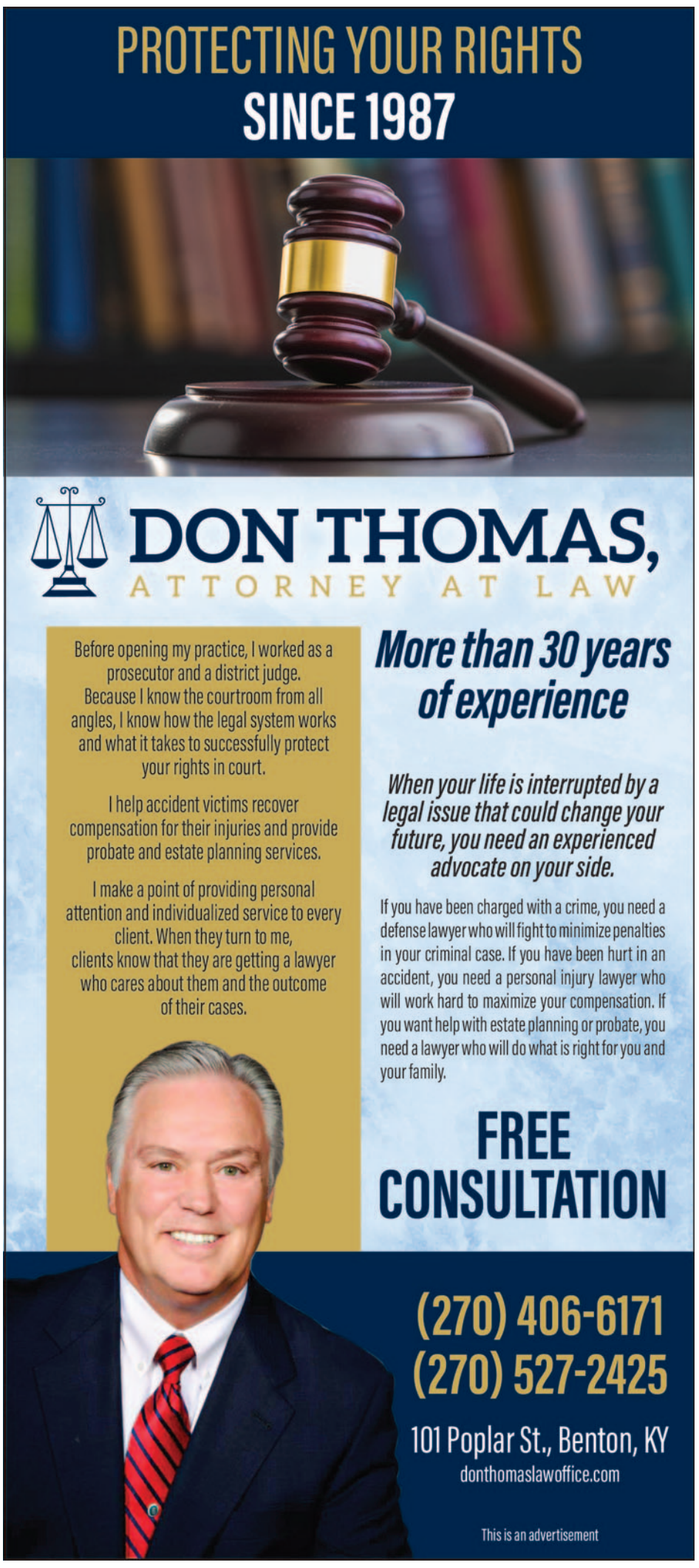
"Drunk Goggles get a good response when we've used them in the schools, so this is very similar," the sheriff told magistrates.

The high-tech goggles, which simulate the effects of opioid impairment, will be incorporated into substance abuse prevention programs led by school resource officers at the high school.

House Bill 53

Judge Newcom said there may come a time when the fiscal court will need to consider passage of a resolution opposing proposed legislation that would change the way some taxes are collected.

The proposed legislation, House Bill 253, aims to streamline collection and reporting of local business taxes and fees in Kentucky. It would require the state treasurer to develop a centralized, web-based system by 2028, for reporting, collecting and distributing occupational license fees. Businesses will have the option to use this system or continue to pay the county directly.



Camping is cooled by winter weather

Riverview Park, formerly known as Dam 50, saw a significant decline in camping activity during January as cold weather further reduced visitor turnout. Only two RV nights were reserved, and there were no tent reservations throughout the month. The seasonal limited activity led to financial challenges, marking a stark contrast to the slight positive income recorded in December.

Revenue for January was notably impacted by adjustments and refunds, resulting in a negative RV site revenue of (-$660). With additional fee and tax adjustments, total deposits for the month stood at (-$729.21). Combined with total expenses of $1,126.81, the park recorded a net loss of $1,856.02, making it the most financially challenging month of the winter season so far. The decline follows December's modest net income of $193.45, which had reflected stability despite low winter reservations.

Riverview Park includes a seasonal dock, restrooms, pavilion, and recreational facilities. Revenue collected during more active months helps support necessary upkeep, even as winter months bring reduced camping participation. The park's tent sites remain available at $5 per night, and RV sites at $20 per night with full amenities, with reservations accessible online at CrittendenCountyKy.org.

85 dogs came into county shelter in Jan.

Crittenden County Animal Shelter has released its intake and discharge summary for January, detailing the number of dogs taken in, adopted, fostered and rescued.

At the end of January, the shelter had a headcount of 42 dogs, with an additional 54 placed in foster care. Throughout the month, 85 dogs were brought into the facility.

Efforts to find homes and rescue placements continued, with 22 dogs successfully transferred to rescue organizations. Meanwhile, four dogs were adopted by new families, and three were reclaimed by their owners.

The shelter reported one dog passing away due to medical reasons and two dogs were euthanized. No dogs escaped or were deemed unable to be relocated.

Two counties move to relook at solar rules

Daviess and Henderson counties are taking proactive measures to address the growing number of solar energy projects proposed within their jurisdictions, each implementing moratoriums to allow for regulatory refinements and public input.

Last Thursday, the Daviess County Fiscal Court voted 3-1 to enact a 12-month moratorium on wind and solar energy projects. The decision follows concerns from residents over property rights, infrastructure impacts, and economic development, particularly in response to a proposed 1,200-acre solar farm on agricultural land. The pause will allow officials to assess and refine regulations governing renewable energy installations, ensuring they align with community interests and long-term planning.

Similarly, the Henderson County Fiscal Court on Tuesday advanced a broader restriction, unanimously approving a resolution that effectively halts new large-scale solar energy developments until at least Feb. 1, 2027. The measure introduces a text amendment to the county's 2019 solar energy system ordinance, specifically targeting Level 2 solar installations, which involve expansive solar fields like those currently under construction in the Robards area.

According to the amendment, the moratorium suspends the filing, processing, review, and acceptance of applications related to the rezoning, conditional use permits, or any other necessary approvals for Level 2 solar projects. This affects multiple county agencies, including the Henderson Fiscal Court, the Henderson City-County Planning Commission, and the Henderson County Board of Zoning Adjustment.

Officials in both counties have cited the need for comprehensive planning to balance renewable energy development with agricultural preservation, infrastructure concerns, and economic considerations. The extended pause in Henderson County suggests a more long-term evaluation, whereas Daviess County's shorter-term moratorium may lead to revised policies within a year.

As renewable energy continues to expand in western Kentucky, these measures reflect local governments' efforts to address both the opportunities and challenges associated with large-scale solar projects.

Bill would change state water regs

A bill moving through the Kentucky legislature could significantly change state water pollution regulations, a move that supporters say would reduce red tape for industry but opponents warn could lead to dirtier water and higher costs for Kentuckians, The Courier-Journal reports.

Senate Bill 89, sponsored by Sen. Scott Madon, R-Pineville, aims to narrow the

state's definition of "waters of the commonwealth," limiting the Energy and Environment Cabinet's authority to regulate streams, wetlands, and groundwater. According to The Courier-Journal, Madon argues that the bill aligns with federal water regulations weakened by a 2023 U.S. Supreme Court ruling, easing the burden on industries like coal.

However, environmental advocates and the Energy and Environment Cabinet have raised serious concerns, warning that the bill would remove protections for crucial water sources, potentially exposing groundwater and public water systems to pollution. The cabinet stated the legislation would make Kentucky the only state to surrender its authority to define state waters to the federal government, The Courier-Journal reported.

The bill passed the Senate in a swift vote and now heads to the House. Critics argue it could increase treatment costs for drinking water, raise utility bills, and exacerbate flood risks by eliminating protections for wetlands. Advocates, including Kentucky Resources Council attorney Audrey Ernstberger, told The Courier-Journal that the proposal disregards the role of small streams and wetlands in maintaining water quality and flood control.

Martins' arrival is an indication of spring

The first Purple Martins of the year have been spotted in Kentucky, marking a sure sign that spring is approaching. According to a news release from the Purple Martin Conservation Association, a Purple Martin enthusiast recorded the first sighting on Feb. 7 in Hickory, just north of Mayfield in Graves County.

These birds, North America's largest species of swallow, migrate up to 7,000 miles from their wintering grounds in Brazil to the eastern United States and Canada each year. Their migration is closely monitored through a community science project called the Scout-Arrival Study, which helps conservationists track their movements and population trends.

Joe Siegrist, president of the Purple Martin Conservation Association, emphasized the importance of these reports, noting that tracking the migration provides valuable data to aid in conservation efforts. Over the past 50 years, Purple Martin populations have declined by one-third due to habitat loss, competition with invasive species, and other environmental challenges.

The species relies almost entirely on human-made nest boxes for survival in most of its range. Dedicated conservationists, often referred to as "martin landlords," maintain these nesting sites, ensuring the birds have a place to return each year.

For more information on Purple Martin conservation and how to participate in tracking their migration, visit www.purplemartin.org.

Howell sponsors bill for animal health board

The Kentucky Senate has unanimously passed Senate Bill 69, bipartisan legislation aimed at modernizing veterinary laws by recognizing equine dentistry and animal chiropractic practice under new allied animal health professional licenses. Sponsored by Sen. Robin Webb, D-Grayson, and co-sponsored by Sen. Jason Howell, R-Murray, the bill also establishes the Allied Animal Health Professional Advisory Board to oversee these professions.

Webb said the legislation enhances animal welfare, supports agriculture, and improves access to specialized care, while Howell, chair of the Senate Agriculture Committee, emphasized its importance in maintaining high veterinary standards for Kentucky's equine and agricultural industries.

SB 69, which also updates veterinary record-keeping laws, now heads to the House for consideration.

Plumbing Code Exam prep course at MCC

Madisonville Community College Workforce Solutions is offering a Spring 2025 Plumbing Code Exam Prep Course to help plumbers and apprentices prepare for the Kentucky State Plumbing Exam.

The 36-hour course provides a detailed review of the Kentucky Plumbing Code, practice tests, and real-life applications. Participants will receive a codebook and workbook. Licensed plumbers can earn up to 18 continuing education credit hours.

Classes begin March 17 and run for four weeks, meeting Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Brown Badgett Building on the Madisonville Community College campus. The course costs $295, and registration is required.

To sign up, visit tinyurl.com/7zcdhhxd or call 270-824-8658. Early registration is encouraged to meet the minimum enrollment requirement.

Between Printed Editions Tune in to The Press Online for breaking news.

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THROW BACK THURSDAY

OUR MEMORIES GO BACK TO 1879

10 YEARS AGO

February 26, 2015

■ A proclamation was signed to celebrate Nancy Hunt ahead of her retirement as the long-time Extension agent in Crittenden County.

■ Chelsea Oliver scored 27 points in the Lady Rockets' Fifth District Tournament semi-final game in a 63-38 win over Trigg County. Both the Rocket girls and boys were preparing to play in the district championship game.

25 YEARS AGO

February 24, 2000

■ Kentucky Utilities announced the closure of its Marion office on Bellville Street in Marion.

■ Shanna Hunt and Eric Collins, students at Crittenden County Middle School, earned the chance to compete in the state Governor's Cup competition after placing second in regional competition.

■ Crittenden County Rockets were ranked third in the Second Region after a 19-7 season, only its fourth 19-win season since Crittenden and Marion high schools consolidated in 1956.

■ The Lady Rockets finished their season 10-12 and settled for second in the Fifth District to Caldwell County. Lyndsey Hall was the team's scoring leader with 14 and Shelly Johnson had a career high 24 points.

50 YEARS AGO

February 28, 1975

■ Dulcie Hardin was selected chairman of the Breath of Spring campaign to fight children's lung-damaging diseases, such as cystic fibrosis, severe asthma and bronchitis. Hardin was president of the Woman's Club of Marion.

■ Sons of American Revolution held a banquet in Marion. Bob Wheeler was president of the Francis Marion Chapter won the Sons of the American Revolution.

■ Crittenden County High School's Woodwind Choir competed in the Green River Valley Music Festival. Members were Jeannie Pyse, Amanda Easley, Connie Drennan, Patty Beavers, Sandra Boone, Tammy Binkley, Teresa Slayton, Scooter McMican, Kurt McMackin, Donald Marsh, Shelby Shewcraft, Jeff Hughes and Daryl Temple. Occupying the principal seat in their sections were Shewcraft, Marsh and Temple.

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

Marion native appearing on NBC series

EDITOR'S NOTE: This article (or at least part of it) appeared in last week's newspaper. In our haste to meet an early deadline for the newspaper to get ahead of the snow, we inadvertently left out part of the article. So, here it is again, in it's entirety.

STAFF REPORT

Matt Collins, a Marion native and Murray State University graduate, is returning to NBC's Chicago Fire in a new role that spans multiple episodes this season. The 38-year-old actor will appear in episodes 15 and 16, with a potential third episode later in the season.

"I can't talk a lot about it because of spoilers," Collins says of his upcoming role, "but essentially I'm just a regular Joe who's in a car accident, and the person that I hit… Well, it doesn't go well for them."

Collins' journey into acting began at Crittenden County Middle School, where he participated in the speech team. In high school he was part of a production of Shakespeare's MacBeth. While at Murray State University, he discovered his passion for acting almost by accident.

"I saw an Acting 101 class and thought 'Sure, it'll be easy, why not,'" he recalls. "Then I got in there and thought 'Okay, this makes sense for me.'"

He went on to earn a bachelor's degree in theater studies.

This isn't Collins' first experience with the Chicago television universe. He previously appeared in episodes of both Chicago Med and Chicago Fire before the COVID-19 pandemic disrupted the entertainment industry. Living in Chicago, he balances his acting career with work as a leasing agent, which gives him the flexibility to pursue auditions and take acting classes.

Collins has been active in Chicago's theater scene, with his most recent stage role in a play called Southern Gothic. He's taken classes at the renowned Second City, known for its improv training.

"Improv is really, really good on your resume," he notes.

The actor acknowledges the challenges in his field, particularly since the pandemic.

"A lot of the storefront theaters closed because of COVID, so there haven't been as many opportunities," he explains. "The big theaters are still feeling the financial strain, so they've been bringing in bigger name actors from LA and New York. It makes it even tougher, but I just kind of take whatever you can get."

Viewers can catch Collins's upcoming appearances on Chicago Fire later this season on NBC, with the episodes expected to air in the coming weeks. The most episode was No. 12, Collins said.

Viewers can catch Collins's upcoming appearances on Chicago Fire later this season on NBC, with the episodes expected to air in the coming weeks. The most recent episode was No. 13.

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Outrage is not good for us

Sean NIESTRATH
Faith-based columnist
Guest Columnist

I have made some not-so-great decisions in my life. Some of them were directional, meaning I could choose one of several options. While I don't know what those other roads would have looked like (and I don't need to know), I do wonder sometimes. The more obvious poor choices have been in the relational realm. I would like to think that nearly all of them either did not cause a break or have been repaired.

Those decisions have one thing in common. I had been led to anger because I was listening to the wrong story. That story may have come from the immediate context or incident, in which I did not take the time to get all the facts. It may have been a broader story from my nation, my religious affiliation, or a political party. Whatever the source, it was not the main story to which I should have been listening.

All of us have a story that controls all the other stories of our life. Stories are how we make sense of the world. Stories tell other people who we are. Stories are how God chose to communicate his word to us. When the dominant story conflicts with other stories, something has to give.

We run into conflict when a national story is dominant because we lack the imagination to see a world where bonds of faith are stronger than bonds of ethnicity or which passport we carry. We can run into trouble when political dogma fueled by a twisted narrative becomes so dominant that we dehumanize our opponents. We can even forget the command to "love your neighbor as yourself" when we latch on too much to religious dogma that counters the very basic teachings of our faith.

For Christians, how easily we forget, or perhaps never knew about, such powerful statements as, "From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view." This leads to us being "new creation" and further we are given to "the ministry (work) of reconciliation." Anyone who claims to be a disciple of Christ who is not about healing relationships and loving neighbor has bought into a story other than the one we read in the Bible.

Major denominations are splitting over social issues that hit at the heart of Christian morality. While the differences may be irreconcilable, they do not preclude the truly important characteristics of love and mercy and justice. May we have the grace to believe that those who differ from us are doing their best to make this world a better reflection of the peaceable kingdom of God.

Recall Paul's teaching in Romans 14:1-4, "As for the man who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not for disputes over opinions. One believes he may eat anything, while the weak man eats only vegetables. Let not him who eats despise him who abstains, and let not him who abstains pass judgment on him who eats; for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another? It is before his own master that he stands or falls." Again most of us, me included, lack the imagination to see beyond the story that I want to tell.

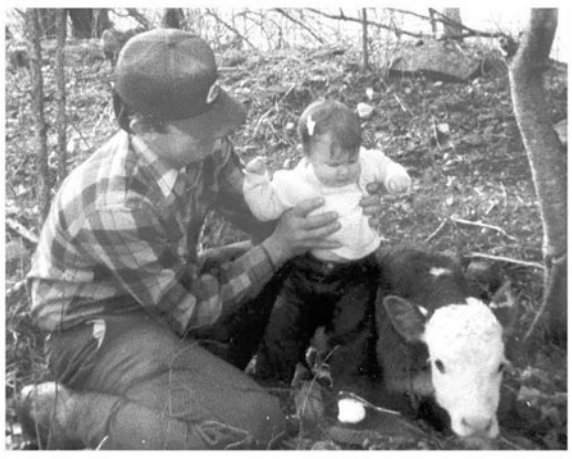
For me it is fearful to fully accept a story that did not originate with things I understand and which I cannot control. National stories we can turn to our liking – even to the point of changing history. Political stories we can influence with letters, laws, and ballots. Religious dogma stories we can learn and regurgitate. We can believe we can live up to those dogmas and feel just fine condemning others. But the grand story of creation and a God that would have ALL of us reconciled...!

What if we, indeed, learned to welcome each other as we have been welcomed by Christ. What if we sought the good of others, even if it cost us something? What if we learned to offer hope to each other rather than threat? What if we extended an open hand rather than a placard? What if we learned to live with complexity and nuance rather than by caricature and slogan?

We all know that outrage is not good for us, but we continue to fall for it. We continue to speak and post things that diminish the intelligence, morality, and even humanity of those who differ from us. All the while the talking heads feel emboldened to write books and deepen the divides. Next time I feel outraged, I will check the story that is controlling my life. My guess is that it will not be THE STORY of love and peace and unity and salvation that we continue to deny to the point of it seeming impossible.

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.

"Forever in our Hearts"



In Loving Memory of
Bruce Guess
February 28, 1942 — August 16, 2005

Avoiding the green-eyed monster of jealousy

ASK the PASTOR
By Bob Hardison

Question: My brothers have always made a lot more money than me. Their houses and vehicles have been newer than mine and their vacations more elaborate. Inwardly, I've been jealous of them. What can I do to alleviate my jealousy?

Answer: Jealousy has often been described as a "green-eyed monster," and it harms everyone in its way. That's especially true in one's family. It leads to emotional distance from your siblings.

You must not allow your resentment of your brothers' wealth to go unchecked. Contemplate what you can do to stop the jealousy that has taken root in your heart. First, pray to God to keep you from all forms of negative emotions. Sins of attitude are the beginning of overt acts of unkindness.

Next, you can work on developing a biblical view of life and material things. Jesus said, "What good is it for a man to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit his very self" (Lk. 9:25). Life is not about material things (stuff), but about relationships with God and others. Jesus taught the most important things in life are to love God completely and to love others as yourself (Mk. 11:29-31).

Next, work on becoming more content with what you have. The Apostle Paul taught the Christians at Philippi, "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want" (4:12). It's been said, "The secret of having it all is knowing you already do."

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

Rockets SCREEN Heart Health

The Crittenden County Elementary School's Student Technology Leadership Program's (STLP) project focus for this year is heart health awareness. The students have joined forces with Crittenden Community Hospital to offer our community a health fair event. The health fair will be held from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, March 1 at Crittenden Community Hospital. Community members of all ages are invited to participate in this event. Screens offered include blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, BMI and more. The STLP students will be using the participation data from this event to determine the impact of their project which they will present at the state competition in April.

AT&T Mobility, LLC is proposing to construct a 259-foot overall height self-supporting lattice telecommunications structure located at 3708 US Highway 60 West, Marion, Crittenden County, Kentucky (37° 18' 56.3" N, 88° 08' 11.4" W). The proposed tower is anticipated to utilize FAA Style E (medium intensity, dual red/white strobes) lighting.

AT&T Mobility, LLC invites comments from any interested party on the impact the proposed undertaking may have on any districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects significant in American history, archaeology, engineering, or culture that are listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places under National Historic Preservation Act Section 106. Comments may be sent to Environmental Corporation of America, ATTN: Annamarie Howell, 1375 Union Hill Industrial Court, Suite A, Alpharetta, GA 30004 or via email to publicnotice@eca-usa.com. Ms. Howell can be reached at (770) 667-2040 x 108 during normal business hours. Comments must be received within 30 days of the date of this notice.

In addition, any interested party may also request further environmental review of the proposed action under the FCC's National Environmental Policy Act rules, 47 CFR §1.1307, by notifying the FCC of the specific reasons that the action may have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. This request must only raise environmental concerns and can be filed online using the FCC pleadings system at www.fcc.gov or mailed to FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554 within 30 days of the date that notice of this proposed action is published on the FCC's website. Refer to File No. A1307197 when submitting the request and to view the specific information about the proposed action. 23-003849c MCM

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315 Emmaus Church Rd., Salem, Ky.
Rodney Phelps, Pastor
(270) 704-2400
emmausbaptistsalem@outlook.com
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Freedom General Baptist Church Pastor: Ross Atwell
87 Freedom Church Rd., Marion
(about 1 mi. from Marion off Ky. 91)
CHURCH TIMES:
Sunday School 10 a.m. Sunday Evening 6 p.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m. Wed. Bible Study 6 p.m.

Speaker: Greg Rushing
PINEY FORK
CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
SUNDAY School 10 a.m. Worship 11 a.m. Bible study 6 p.m.
A new beginning, going forward and looking to the future
Ky. 506 | Marion, Ky.

St. William Catholic Church
Sunday Mass 11 a.m.
Father Jojy Joseph
860 S. Main St. Marion, Ky. (270) 965-2477

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

Sugar Grove Cumberland Presbyterian
585 Sugar Grove Church Rd., Marion, Ky.
Reverend Greg Cain 270-245-4013
Sun. School: 10 a.m. | Sun. Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m.

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

Crooked Creek Baptist Church
261 Crooked Creek Church Rd.,
P.O. Box 442, Marion, Ky. • (270) 704-0914
Pastor, Hank Cayce
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
"Come and Worship with Us"

Marion Methodist Church
We love intensely, believe deeply, and pray zealously
SUN: Sun. School 9:30 a.m. Worship 10:45 p.m.
South College St.

DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH
"Whatever It Takes"
Sunday Bible Study: 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m. & 6 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study: 7 p.m.
Bro. Jamie Baker
Approx. 5 miles from the intersection of Hwy. 60 & Hwy. 297
Phone: (270) 965-2220

Crayne Community Church
Crayne Cemetery Road, Crayne, Ky.
Bro. James Driver, Interim Pastor
Sunday Worship 9 a.m.

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

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

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

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

Tolu Methodist Church
Pastor: David Brown
We invite you to be our guest
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.

growing in grace
2 Peter 3:18
PLEASANT GROVE General Baptist Church
Located on Ky. 723, 4 miles north of Salem
Sunday School 10 a.m. | Sunday Worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m. | Wed. 7 p.m.

Unity General Baptist Church
4691 Mott City Rd. • Marion, Ky.
Bro. David Perryman, Pastor
Sunday School 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

Barnett Chapel General Baptist
Barnett Chapel Rd., Marion, Ky.
Sunday School: 10 a.m.
Sunday Worship: 11 a.m.
Sunday Night Service: 6 p.m.
Barnett Chapel... where everyone is welcome.

Marion Church of God
334 Fords Ferry Road, Marion, Ky.
Morning Service 11 a.m.
Sun. Evening 6 p.m. • Wed. Evening 6 p.m.
"Where salvation makes you a member."

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

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To the People of Kentucky
The Honorable Andy Beshear, Governor
Holly M. Johnson, Secretary
Finance and Administration Cabinet
The Honorable Perry A. Newcom, Crittenden County Judge/Executive
Members of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court

Independent Auditor's Report

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying Statement of Receipts, Disbursements, and Changes in Fund Balances – Regulatory Basis of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court, for the year ended June 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statement, which collectively comprise the Crittenden County Fiscal Court's financial statement as listed in the table of contents.

Unmodified Opinion on Regulatory Basis of Accounting

In our opinion, the accompany financial statement referred to above presents fairly, in all material respects, the receipts, disbursements, and changes in fund balances – regulatory basis of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court, for the year ended June 30, 2023, in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Commonwealth of Kentucky as described in Note 1.

Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

In our opinion, because of the significance of the matter discussed in the Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles section of our report, the financial statements do not present fairly, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial position of each fund of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court, for the year ended June 30, 2023, or the changes in financial position and cash flows thereof for the year then ended.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS), the standards applicable to financial audits contained in Government Auditing Standards, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States, and the Fiscal Court Audit Guide issued by the Auditor of Public Accounts, Commonwealth of Kentucky. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement section of our report. We are required to be independent of Crittenden County Fiscal Court and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Basis for Adverse Opinion on U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles

As described in Note 1 of the financial statement, the financial statement is prepared by the Crittenden County Fiscal Court on the basis of the accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Department for Local Government to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws, which is a basis of accounting other than accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The effects on the financial statement of the variances between the regulatory basis of accounting described in Note 1 and accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, although not reasonably determinable, are presumed to be material.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statement

Crittenden County Fiscal Court's management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Department for Local Government to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws. This includes determining that the regulatory basis of accounting is an acceptable basis for the preparation of the financial statement in the circumstances. Management is also responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statement

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS and Government Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statement.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS and Government Auditing Standards, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are

appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.

- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statement.
- Conclude whether, in our judgement, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Crittenden County Fiscal Court's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Matters

Supplementary Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statement taken as a whole of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court. The Budgetary Comparison Schedules are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the financial statement; however, they are required to be presented in accordance with accounting practices prescribed or permitted by the Department for Local Government to demonstrate compliance with the Commonwealth of Kentucky's regulatory basis of accounting and budget laws.

The accompanying Budgetary Comparison Schedules are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statement. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statement and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statement or to the financial statement itself, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the Budgetary Comparison Schedules are fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statement as a whole.

Other Information

Management is responsible for the other information included in this report. The other information is comprised of the schedule of capital assets but does not include the financial statement and our auditor's report thereon. Our opinions on the financial statement do not cover the other information, and we do not express an opinion or any form of assurance thereon. In connection with our audit of the financial statement, our responsibility is to read the other information and consider whether a material inconsistency exists between the other information and the financial statement, or the other information otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work performed, we conclude that an uncorrected material misstatement of the other information exists, we are required to describe it in our report.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with Government Auditing Standards, we have also issued our report dated October 25, 2024, on our consideration of the Crittenden County Fiscal Court's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with Government Auditing Standards in considering the Crittenden County Fiscal Court's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Based on the results of our audit, we present the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses included herein, which discusses the following report finding:

2023-001 The Crittenden County Jail Inappropriately Used Debit Card For Jail Commissary Purchases

2023-002 The Jailer Failed To Properly Reconcile The Jail Commissary Account and Inmate Account And Present An Accurate Annual Report.

Respectfully submitted

Tammy R. Patrick, CPA

Tammy R. Patrick, CPA
Patrick & Associates, LLC

October 25, 2024

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CRITTENDEN COUNTY
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULES
Supplementary Information - Regulatory Basis

For The Year Ended June 30, 2023

	GENERAL FUND			
	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts, (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
RECEIPTS				
Taxes	$ 1,227,500	$ 1,245,922	$ 1,334,269	$ 88,347
Excess Fees	10,135	12,671	7,271	(5,400)
Licenses and Permits	47,200	47,550	43,982	(3,568)
Intergovernmental	417,200	595,381	559,796	(35,585)
Charges for Services	110,000	110,900	161,579	50,679
Miscellaneous	262,500	304,536	230,183	(74,353)
Interest	2,000	8,391	13,539	5,148
Total Receipts	2,076,535	2,325,351	2,350,619	25,268
DISBURSEMENTS				
General Government	1,079,762	1,320,190	1,191,115	129,075
Protection to Persons and Property	511,650	481,485	455,503	25,982
General Health and Sanitation	274,590	331,720	287,185	44,535
Social Services	56,175	60,320	33,425	26,895
Recreation and Culture	9,500	9,500	8,886	614
Debt Service	129,356	147,656	147,645	11
Administration	565,502	563,734	406,737	156,997
Total Disbursements	2,626,535	2,914,605	2,530,496	384,109
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts Over Disbursements Before Other Adjustments to Cash (Uses)	(550,000)	(589,254)	(179,877)	409,377
Other Adjustments to Cash (Uses)				
Transfers From Other Funds	150,000	225,000	227,417	2,417
Transfers To Other Funds		(75,000)	(75,000)	
Total Other Adjustments to Cash (Uses)	150,000	150,000	152,417	2,417
Net Change in Fund Balance	(400,000)	(439,254)	(27,460)	411,794
Fund Balance Beginning	400,000	439,254	439,254	
Fund Balance - Ending	$ 0	$ 0	$ 411,794	$ 411,794

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CRITTENDEN COUNTY
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULES
Supplementary Information - Regulatory Basis
For The Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)

	ROAD FUND			
	Budgeted Amounts		Actual Amounts, (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
	Original	Final		
RECEIPTS				
Intergovernmental	$ 3,480,351	$ 3,659,631	$ 3,122,833	$ (536,798)
Miscellaneous	207,000	222,651	217,971	(4,680)
Interest	5,000	25,317	35,504	10,187
Total Receipts	3,692,351	3,907,599	3,376,308	(531,291)
DISBURSEMENTS				
Transportation Facilities and Services	48,750	48,750	20,117	28,633
Roads	1,457,000	1,661,124	1,241,877	419,247
Other Transportation Facilities and Services	1,662,000	1,662,000	1,626,202	35,798
Debt Service	210,250	227,250	226,295	955
Administration	934,351	932,185	131,606	800,579
Total Disbursements	4,312,351	4,531,309	3,246,097	1,285,212
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts Over Disbursements Before Other Adjustments to Cash (Uses)	(620,000)	(623,710)	130,211	753,921
Other Adjustments to Cash (Uses)				
Financing Obligation Proceeds	170,000	191,724	191,724	
Transfers From Other Funds		75,000	75,000	
Transfers To Other Funds	(150,000)	(225,000)	(227,417)	(2,417)
Total Other Adjustments to Cash (Uses)	20,000	41,724	39,307	(2,417)
Net Change in Fund Balance	(600,000)	(581,986)	169,518	751,504
Fund Balance Beginning (Restated)	600,000	581,986	581,986	
Fund Balance - Ending	$ 0	$ 0	$ 751,504	$ 751,504

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CRITTENDEN COUNTY
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULES
Supplementary Information - Regulatory Basis
For The Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)

JAIL FUND

	Budgeted Amounts Original	Budgeted Amounts Final	Actual Amounts, (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
RECEIPTS				
Intergovernmental	$ 3,239,100	$ 3,357,963	$ 3,212,394	$ (145,569)
Charges for Services	26,250	52,700	73,869	21,169
Miscellaneous	157,500	182,535	205,427	22,892
Interest Earned	1,000	5,273	7,876	2,603
Total Receipts	3,423,850	3,598,471	3,499,566	(98,905)
DISBURSEMENTS				
Protection to Persons and Property	2,249,575	2,380,633	2,325,264	55,369
Debt Service	513,150	513,151	513,105	46
Administration	911,125	958,185	633,945	324,240
Total Disbursements	3,673,850	3,851,969	3,472,314	379,655
Net Change in Fund Balance	(250,000)	(253,498)	27,252	280,750
Fund Balance Beginning	250,000	253,498	253,498	
Fund Balance - Ending	$ 0	$ 0	$ 280,750	$ 280,750

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CRITTENDEN COUNTY
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULES
Supplementary Information - Regulatory Basis
For The Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE FUND

	Budgeted Amounts Original	Budgeted Amounts Final	Actual Amounts, (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
RECEIPTS				
Intergovernmental	$ 4,000	$ 4,000	$ 2,488	$ (1,512)
Interest	50	50	139	89
Total Receipts	4,050	4,050	2,627	(1,423)
DISBURSEMENTS				
General Government		1,000	930	70
Administration	6,550	6,280		6,280
Total Disbursements	6,550	7,280	930	6,350
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts Over Disbursements Before Other Adjustments to Cash (Uses)	(2,500)	(3,230)	1,697	4,927
Net Change in Fund Balance	(2,500)	(3,230)	1,697	4,927
Fund Balance Beginning (Restated)	2,500	3,230	3,230	
Fund Balance - Ending	$ 0	$ 0	$ 4,927	$ 4,927

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CRITTENDEN COUNTY
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULES
Supplementary Information - Regulatory Basis
For The Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)

STATE GRANTS FUND

	Budgeted Amounts Original	Budgeted Amounts Final	Actual Amounts, (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
RECEIPTS				
Intergovernmental	$ 38,995	$ 49,643	$ 49,642	$ (1)
Total Receipts	38,995	49,643	49,642	(1)
DISBURSEMENTS				
Protection to Persons and Property	53,995	67,644	56,103	11,541
Total Disbursements	53,995	78,292	66,751	11,541
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts Over Disbursements Before Other Adjustments to Cash (Uses)	(15,000)	(28,649)	(17,109)	11,540
Net Change in Fund Balance	(15,000)	(28,649)	(17,109)	11,540
Fund Balance Beginning (Restated)	15,000	28,649	28,649	
Fund Balance - Ending	$ 0	$ 0	$ 11,540	$ 11,540

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CRITTENDEN COUNTY
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULES
Supplementary Information - Regulatory Basis
For The Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)

FEDERAL GRANT FUND

	Budgeted Amounts Original	Budgeted Amounts Final	Actual Amounts, (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
RECEIPTS				
Intergovernmental	$ 20,000	$ 20,000	$ 10,000	$ (10,000)
Total Receipts	20,000	20,000	10,000	(10,000)
DISBURSEMENTS				
Social Services	20,000	20,000	10,000	10,000
Total Disbursements	20,000	20,000	10,000	10,000
Net Change in Fund Balance				
Fund Balance Beginning				
Fund Balance - Ending	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0

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CRITTENDEN COUNTY
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULES
Supplementary Information - Regulatory Basis
For The Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)

PARKS AND RECREATION FUND

	Budgeted Amounts Original	Budgeted Amounts Final	Actual Amounts, (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
RECEIPTS				
Charges for Services	$ 22,000	$ 22,000	$ 19,276	$ (2,724)
Interest	200	726	1,890	1,164
Total Receipts	22,200	22,726	21,166	(1,560)
DISBURSEMENTS				
General Health and Sanitation	1,000	1,070	1,003	67
Recreation and Culture	11,700	13,293	9,077	4,216
Administration	69,500	76,674		76,674
Total Disbursements	82,200	91,037	10,080	76,674
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts Over Disbursements Before Other Adjustments to Cash (Uses)	(60,000)	(68,311)	11,086	75,114
Net Change in Fund Balance	(60,000)	(68,311)	11,086	79,397
Fund Balance Beginning	60,000	68,311	68,311	
Fund Balance - Ending	$ 0	$ 0	$ 79,397	$ 79,397

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CRITTENDEN COUNTY
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULES
Supplementary Information - Regulatory Basis
For The Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND

	Budgeted Amounts Original	Budgeted Amounts Final	Actual Amounts, (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
RECEIPTS				
Interest	$ 500	$ 1,319	$ 3,327	$ 2,008
Total Receipts	500	1,319	3,327	2,008
DISBURSEMENTS				
General Government	126,500	126,500		126,500
Administration		1,237		1,237
Total Disbursements	126,500	127,737		1,237
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts Over Disbursements Before Other Adjustments to Cash (Uses)	(126,000)	(126,418)	3,327	3,245
Net Change in Fund Balance	(126,000)	(126,418)	3,327	129,745
Fund Balance Beginning	126,000	126,418	126,418	
Fund Balance - Ending	$ 0	$ 0	$ 129,745	$ 129,745

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CRITTENDEN COUNTY
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULES
Supplementary Information - Regulatory Basis
For The Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)

E-911 FUND

	Budgeted Amounts Original	Budgeted Amounts Final	Actual Amounts, (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
RECEIPTS				
Taxes	$ 325,000	$ 326,946	$ 335,309	$ 8,363
Intergovernmental	600,000	317,903	344,453	26,550
Interest	500	1,069	4,548	3,479
Total Receipts	925,500	645,918	684,310	38,392
DISBURSEMENTS				
Protection to Persons and Property	940,040	692,363	649,771	42,592
Administration	55,460	35,859		35,859
Total Disbursements	995,500	728,222	649,771	78,451
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts Over Disbursements Before Other Adjustments to Cash (Uses)	(70,000)	(82,304)	34,539	116,843
Net Change in Fund Balance	(70,000)	(82,304)	34,539	116,843
Fund Balance Beginning	70,000	82,304	82,304	
Fund Balance - Ending	$ 0	$ 0	$ 116,843	$ 116,843

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CRITTENDEN COUNTY
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULES
Supplementary Information - Regulatory Basis
For The Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)

CLERK STORAGE FUND

	Budgeted Amounts Original	Budgeted Amounts Final	Actual Amounts, (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
RECEIPTS				
Miscellaneous	$ 18,000	$ 18,000	$ 12,920	$ (5,080)
Interest	100	100	131	31
Total Receipts	18,100	18,100	13,051	(5,049)
DISBURSEMENTS				
General Government		18,100	4,639	13,461
Administration	18,100			
Total Disbursements	18,100	18,100	4,639	13,461
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts Over Disbursements Before Other Adjustments to Cash (Uses)			8,412	8,412
Net Change in Fund Balance			8,412	8,412
Fund Balance Beginning				
Fund Balance - Ending	$ 0	$ 0	$ 8,412	$ 8,412

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CRITTENDEN COUNTY
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULES
Supplementary Information - Regulatory Basis
For The Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)

CHILD SUPPORT FUND

	Budgeted Amounts Original	Budgeted Amounts Final	Actual Amounts, (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
RECEIPTS				
Intergovernmental	$	$ 103,675	$ 35,717	$ (67,958)
Miscellaneous			2,184	2,184
Interest			4	4
Total Receipts		103,675	37,905	(65,770)
DISBURSEMENTS				
General Government		103,675	37,124	66,551
Total Disbursements		103,675	37,124	66,551
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts Over Disbursements Before Other Adjustments to Cash (Uses)			781	781
Net Change in Fund Balance			781	781
Fund Balance Beginning				
Fund Balance - Ending	$ 0	$ 0	$ 781	$ 781

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CRITTENDEN COUNTY
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULES
Supplementary Information - Regulatory Basis
For The Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)

ARPA FUND

	Budgeted Amounts Original	Budgeted Amounts Final	Actual Amounts, (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
RECEIPTS				
Interest	$ 1,000	$ 7,457	$ 18,158	$ 10,701
Total Receipts	1,000	7,457	18,158	10,701
DISBURSEMENTS				
General Government		160,442	90,269	70,173
Protection to Persons and Property		19,922		19,922
Administration	1,001,000	845,886	288,224	557,662
Total Disbursements	1,001,000	1,026,250	378,493	647,757
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts Over Disbursements Before Other Adjustments to Cash (Uses)	(1,000,000)	(1,018,793)	(360,335)	658,458
Net Change in Fund Balance	(1,000,000)	(1,018,793)	(360,335)	658,458
Fund Balance Beginning	1,000,000	1,018,793	1,018,793	
Fund Balance - Ending	$ 0	$ 0	$ 658,458	$ 658,458

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CRITTENDEN COUNTY
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULES
Supplementary Information - Regulatory Basis
For The Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND

	Budgeted Amounts Original	Budgeted Amounts Final	Actual Amounts, (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
RECEIPTS				
Miscellaneous	$	$ 87,371	$ 87,371	$
Interest			1,595	1,595
Total Receipts		87,371	88,966	1,595
DISBURSEMENTS				
Administration		87,371		87,371
Total Disbursements		87,371		87,371
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts Over Disbursements Before Other Adjustments to Cash (Uses)			88,966	88,966
Net Change in Fund Balance			88,966	88,966
Fund Balance Beginning				
Fund Balance - Ending	$ 0	$ 0	$ 88,966	$ 88,966

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CRITTENDEN COUNTY
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULES
Supplementary Information - Regulatory Basis
For The Year Ended June 30, 2023
(Continued)

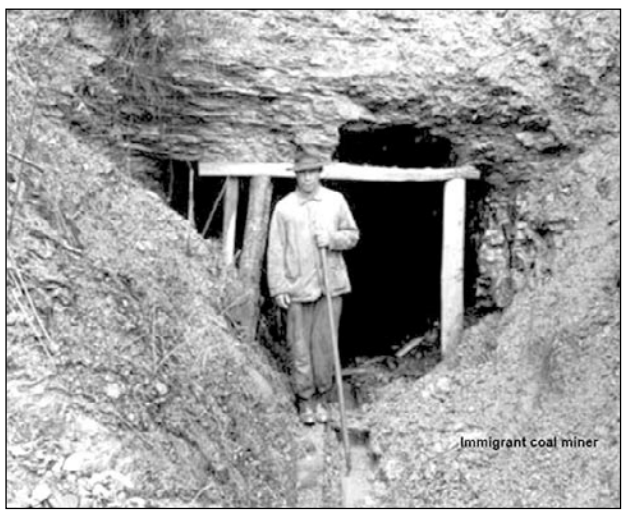
CONSTRUCTION FUND

	Budgeted Amounts Original	Budgeted Amounts Final	Actual Amounts, (Budgetary Basis)	Variance with Final Budget Positive (Negative)
RECEIPTS				
Interest	$ 1,000	$ 8,247	$ 13,208	$ 4,961
Total Receipts	1,000	8,247	13,208	4,961
DISBURSEMENTS				
Capital Projects	1,501,000	1,467,956	1,360,736	107,220
Total Disbursements	1,501,000	1,467,956	1,360,736	107,220
Excess (Deficiency) of Receipts Over Disbursements Before Other Adjustments to Cash (Uses)	(1,500,000)	(1,459,709)	(1,347,528)	112,181
Net Change in Fund Balance	(1,500,000)	(1,459,709)	(1,347,528)	112,181
Fund Balance Beginning	1,500,000	1,459,709	1,459,709	
Fund Balance - Ending	$ 0	$ 0	$ 112,181	$ 112,181

Immigrants part of our past history

Part of our almost forgotten history lies in the northern part of county in the area known as Bells Mines. We know that John Bell, a politician from Nashville, Tenn., came to Crittenden County, back while it was still Livingston County in the 1830s. He purchased a lot of land around the Tradewater River to start his coal mining company.

I've always wondered how a politician from Tennessee found his way to far western Kentucky to purchase land and start a coal mine operation. As we all know back in the early 1800s, Andrew Jackson, another politician from Tennessee, was here exploring for silver and created a couple of our old iron furnaces. My thoughts are that John Bell knew Andrew Jackson from their political careers in Nashville, and perhaps Andrew Jackson told John Bell about the this area and its minerals.



An early Bells Mines coal worker as he is getting ready to enter one of the mine openings.

Crittenden County 1860 Census
Bells Mines District

GRINWELL, George	14	wm			Eng
Robert	12	wm			Eng
John	10	wm			Eng
HARPER, Thomas	30	wm	miner	30	Eng
Elizabeth	31	wf			Eng
Isabella	8	wf			Pa #2
TYUS, Wm	25	wm	miner		Eng
HARPER, Thomas	2	wm			Ky
HUNTLEY, John	32	wm	miner	30	Eng
Margaret	29	wf			Eng
Isabella	6	wf			Oh
Margaret	9/12	wf			Ky
LOUSDALE, John	31	wm	miner		Eng
SCAVENGER, Thomas	20	wm	miner		Eng
BUCKLEY, Paul	20	wm	miner		Eng
CHURCH, Enoch	33	wm	miner	115	Eng
Sarah	32	wf			Wales#3
Enoch H	14	wm			Eng#2
Edward W	13	wm			Eng#2
Robert W	9	wm			Ky #2
Mary A	8	wf			Ky #2
George W	6	wm			Ky
Sarah J	4	wf			Ky
Joseph T	4/12	wm			Ky
BARMBY, Christopher	31	wm	miner	50	Eng
Eliza	31	wf			Tn #3
Ann	4	wf			Ky
Joseph	2	wm			Ky
Thomas	6/12	wm			Ky
NELSON, Nancy	13	wf			Tn
McMAHAN, Henry	32	wm	miner		Ireland
FOSTER, James	30	wm	miner		Scotland
BROWN, Joseph	36	wm	miner		Eng
GORNLY, Phillip	25	wm	miner		Ireland #3
PICKELS, George	36	wm	miner		Eng
GRIMSHAW, Joseph	33	wm	miner		Eng
QUIGLEY, Patrick	25	wm	miner		Ireland
CAIN, Hugh	26	wm	miner		Scotland
GUCKGUGEVINE, T	30	wm	miner		Scotland
NELSON, Alexander	23	wm	miner		Tn
HARGROVES, John	31	wm	miner		Eng
CONNAUGHAN, James	28	wm	miner		Ireland
NIEBLE, Serillus	27	wm	(German)--50 Hesse Cassel		

This is a small section of the 1860 Crittenden County Census showing many of the immigrants that had come to Bells Mines for work, their occupation is listed as miners.

Immigrants Come To America

By the early 1850s and 1860s, European immigrants had learned of the need for mine laborers and they began to arrive at Bells Mine seeking employment.

The American coal industry relied heavily on immigrant labor during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Immigrants were recruited to the coal mines in various ways. I have always wondered how the immigrants knew about the Bells Mine Coal Company. How did they know to travel through the unknown and come to this area? Maybe this will give some insight on how they knew to come here. Some were attracted by labor agents stationed in major ports of entry who often recruited new arrivals by painting a rosy picture of the living and working conditions in the mines. Others followed friends and relatives in a search for employment and a steady income to support their families.

Brenda Underdown
County Historian

Forgotten Passages

In the decade from 1845 to 1855, large numbers of immigrants fled to the United States to escape the results of crop failure and starvation, civil and religious unrest, and sever unemployment or almost inconceivable hardships at home. They also sought to escape the political unrest caused by riots. A lot came to the United States to avoid young men being automatically drafted into the military. This is the reason the Hina family came to America and then to Bells Mines. The father wanted his sons to come here to escape being drafted and have a better life; but whatever their reasons, they came to work and make a better life.

Many early immigrants were primarily natives of coal mining regions of Great Britain, Ireland and Wales, with large number of eastern and southern European immigrants flooding in during the late 19th Century. Many of these were skilled miners.

Immigrants Arrive at Bells Mines

According to the 1850 Crittenden County census, an unbelievable number of immigrants already lived here, all located in the area of Bells Mines. From Germany there were families and individuals totaling 74, from England 42, France 5, Prussia 6, Wales 1 and Scotland 1. From Prussia and Germany came craftsmen in the trades of shoemakers and blacksmiths.

In the 1860 Census, more immigrants had come from England, Ireland, Denmark, France Baveria, Wales and from Switzerland and made the population ever greater.

Besides this large number of immigrants, there were also living here a large number of people from the states of Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia and Indiana. Most all of the heads of these families were listed as miners.

Naturalization Application for Immigrants

These immigrants who came to America would need to fill out an "application for naturalization" and file his intent in either the county or circuit court. He could also file his intent in one state and, if he met all the requirements, become a citizen while living in another state.

The first statute dealing with naturalization was labeled the Naturalization Act of 1790 and allowed any white person, alien, of good character who had been in the United States for two years to become a citizen. Not included were slaves, indentured servants and most women. The applicant also had to renounce all allegiance and fidelity to every "foreign Prince, Potentate, State or Sovereignty" and promise to support the Constitution of the United States.

After his period of time was up, he would return to court and finalize the process to become a citizen. There are many of these applications located in the Crittenden County Clerk's Office in the old county court record books. Here are a couple that I abstracted.

Order Book 2, June 14, 1858, page 2

This day Joseph Hina appeared in Court and on his solemn oath declared that he came from Baden on or about the ___ day of ___ while a minor under the age of 21 years that he hath resided in the United States for the span of 3 years previous that it was Bonafide his intention to become a citizen of the United States and to renounce forever all allegiance to any foreign Prince Potentate State or Sovereignty particularly Electorate of Baden whereof he is a citizen and subject and having adduced satisfactory proof to the court that he hath resided in the United States for 3 years past that for the first three years of that period he was a minor and under age and the said Joseph Hina is declared to be and is hereby admitted a citizen of the United States which is ordered to be certified. (The Hina family stayed in the community and has descendants living here today.)

Book 2, July 9, 1860, Page 426

Christopher Barnaby personally appeared in Court and produced a certificate duly authenticated showing that he has on the 12th day of April 1858 in the county court of Crittenden County in Kentucky and made the necessary declaration of his intention to become a citizen of the United States and having declared an oath that he will support the Constitution of the United States that he doth absolutely and entirely renounce and abjure all allegiances and fidelity to any foreign Prince Potentate State and Sovereignty whatever and particularly Victoria Queen of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland of whereof he was before a citizen or subject and having produced to the court satisfactory evidence of his having resided in the United State five years at least and in this state one year at least and that during that time he has behaved as a man of good moral character attached to the principals of the Constitution of the United States and will disposed to the good order and happenings of the save whereupon the said Christopher Barnaby is hereby admitted and declared a citizen of the United States.

(Christopher Barnaby stayed in Crittenden County and lived all his life in the Bells Mines community and had a small coal mine of his own known as Barnaby's Mine.)

Times were hard

In the 1860s during the Civil War, times were extremely hard on the community of Bells Mines. There would be many days citizens weren't able to work the mines and the Union army confiscated their coal barges and what coal they had mined, and took it for their own use. This left the mines unable to move what coal they had to other locations to sell for funds to pay the miners.

As the hard times for the coal company continued, many of these families once again packed their belongings and moved on to other places. Some moved over the county line into Union County to work in their mines (one of these families was Piper), and many moved on to southern Illinois. I found several families moved to West Virginia, Texas and even out West. By the 1870s and 1880s most all of the original immigrant families that came to Bells Mines had moved to other parts of the country taking their history and family names with them. But without them in the beginning, Bells Mines Coal Company might not ever have been.

(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 big bucks, this property offers the perfect habitat for deer and turkey hunting, plus the added convenience of a cozy cabin!

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Jessica Bouland
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Lunch will be provided following the service
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(270) 969-0381

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The Crittenden Press

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auto

1996 Ford Ranger, white, paint looks bad, but truck runs good. AC works. $2,500. (270) 704-0022. (1t-8-p)

for rent

1 bedroom (small) efficiency apartment, includes all utilities, $400/month and $400 deposit. Call (270) 704-3234. (4-tfc) je

employment

City of Marion employment opportunity! Come be a part of our maintenance team, full-time. You can get an application from our website www.MarionKY.gov or pick one up at City Hall. Minimum qualifications include graduation from high school or equivalent; some experience with utility equipment and services is desirable, but not mandatory. All resumes must be accompanied by a City of Marion application. Upon completion of a probationary period, employee benefits include 100% of employee health insurance premiums, Kentucky State Retirement, and vacation and holiday pay. The City of Marion is an Equal Opportunity Employer and a Certified Drug-Free Workplace. (1t-8-c)

services

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notice

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bid notices

BID FOR HEATING AND AIR UNIT INSTALLATION

The Livingston County Cooperative Extension Office in Smithland, KY is accepting bids for new dual fuel heating and air units to be installed in an existing building. Bids will be accepted until February 28, 2025.

Job can be seen/assessed on-sight at the Livingston County Cooperative Extension Office located at 803 U.S. 60 East, Smithland, KY 42081 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Job must be started within 15-30 days of the time the bid is accepted and agreed upon by both parties. Detailed, itemized bids should be delivered in-person or by mail (Livingston County Extension District Board, P.O. Box 189, Smithland, KY 42081) no later than February 28, 2025 by 4:30 p.m. For questions, please call 270-928-2168 or email Joni Phelps at jkbarr3@uky.edu. The College of Agriculture, Food and Environment is an Equal Opportunity Organization with respect to education and employment and authorization to provide research, education information and other services only to individuals and institutions that function without regard to economic or social status and will not discriminate on the bases of race, color, ethnic origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability. Inquiries regarding compliance with Title VI and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX of the Educational Amendments, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and other related matter should be directed to Equal Opportunity Office, College of Agriculture, Food and Environment, University of Kentucky, Room S-105, Agriculture Science Building, North Lexington, Kentucky 40546. (2t-8-c)

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LEGAL NOTICE
The Kentucky Transportation Cabinet

In accordance with KRS 176.051, Kentucky's noxious weed law, the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet will control noxious weeds on state-owned right of way at the request of the adjoining property owner. The noxious weeds named in this law are Johnson grass (Sorghum halepense), Canada thistle (Cirsium arvense), Cutleaf Teasel (Dipsacus laciniatus) Nodding thistle (Carduus nutans), Common teasel (Dipsacus fullonum), Poison hemlock (Conium maculatum), Marestail (Conyza canadensis), Amur Honeysuckle (Lonicera maackii), Multiflora Rose (Rose multiflora) Japanese knotweed, (Polygonum cuspidatum), Spotted Knapweed (Centaurea stoebe) and Kudzu (Pueraria montana).

Persons who own property adjacent to state right of way and who are involved in eradication efforts on their property can submit a written application to the highway district office in their area. Contact information can be found at transportation.ky.gov/DistrictPages

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REQUEST FOR BIDS:
Mowing for the City of Fredonia

The City of Fredonia is now accepting bids for the 2025 mowing season.
Mowing bid packets will be available at Fredonia City Hall during normal business hours.
All mowing bids are due to Fredonia City Hall by March 7, 2025.

For any additional information, please contact Fredonia City Hall at (270) 545-3925.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

A copy of the complete audit report of Crittenden County Fiscal Court for the year ending June 30, 2023 including financial statements and supplemental information, is on file at the Crittenden County Office Complex and is available for public inspection during normal business hours.

Any citizen may obtain from the Crittenden County Treasurer a copy of the complete audit report, including financial statements and supplemental information for his / her personal use. Complete copy duplication will be charged at a rate of $0.25 per page.

Copies of the financial statement prepared in accordance with KRS 424.220, when a financial statement is required by KRS 424.220, are available to the public at no cost by contacting the Crittenden County Treasurer at 200 Industrial Drive, Suite A, Marion, Kentucky 42064, or by calling (270) 965-5251.

MONEY FOR ON-FARM IMPROVEMENTS AVAILABLE

KADF
KENTUCKY AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

Application Available from:
CRITTENDEN COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT
118 E. Bellville St.
Marion, KY 42064
Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
or online at:
visit: kyagr.com/agpolicy/2024-Program-Guidelines-and-Applications CAIP Program

COUNTY AGRICULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAM (CAIP)

Applications are now available for Crittenden County's CAIP program. CAIP is a cost-share reimbursement to farmers who make qualifying on-farm investments, up to $1,000.00 reimbursed.

Application Period:
first cut-off is March 7!
Applications accepted first come-first serve! Until funds are gone!

For More Information:
270-965-3921, ext. 3
or Email: **Cindy Jenkins**, Cynthia.Jenkins1@usda.gov,
or **Bob Guess**, Robert.Guess@ky.nacdnet.net

All applications are scored based on the scoring criteria set by the Kentucky Agricultural Development Board.

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BASKETBALL

5th District Tournaments

GIRLS
At Trigg County
Monday's Results
Crittenden Co. 64, Trigg Countyu 28
Lyon County 50, Livingston Central 37
Thursday's Championship
Crittenden Co. vs. Lyon County, 7pm

BOYS
At Trigg County
Tuesday's Results
Lyon County 95, Crittenden Co. 24
Livingston Central 74, Trigg County 57
Friday's Championship
Lyon Co. vs. Livingston Central, 7pm

2nd Region Tournaments

GIRLS
At Christian County
Monday, March 3
Opening round games, 6pm & 7:30pm
Tuesday, March 4
Opening round games, 6pm & 7:30pm
Friday, March 7
Semifinal games, 6pm & 7:30pm
Saturday, March 8
Championship, 6pm

BOYS
At Madisonville
Wednesday, March 5
Opening round games, 6pm & 7:30pm
Thursday, March 6
Opening round games, 6pm & 7:30pm
Tuesday, March 11
Semifinal games, 6pm & 7:30pm
Tuesday, March 18
Championship, 7pm

Blues earn regional honors

Dawson Springs boys' basketball coach Mickey Blue was chosen coach of the year in the Second Region and his son Rex Blue was selected as the Second Region male player of the year. Christian County senior Ne'Vaeh Day was the girls' Second Region player of the year and Crittenden County Shannon Hodge the girls' coach of the year.

Livingston milestones

Three Livingston Central basketball players recently reached career milestones. Senior Maggie Downey and junior Bryson Walker each eclipsed the 1,000-point mark. Downey has averaged 9 points a game this season while Walker averages 16. Senior Victoria Joiner has set a school record with more than 1,400 rebounds. Joiner averaged 11 points and 9 rebounds this season. She also eclipsed the 1K point mark earlier in her career. The Lady Cardinals were eliminated from post-season play on Tuesday, losing to Lyon County.

BASEBALL I SOFTBALL

Registration under way

Crittenden County Dugout Club registration is underway for its 2025 youth baseball and softball season. Registration forms are due by March 8, with a skills assessment scheduled for the same day from 10 a.m. to noon at the former armory. The program offers divisions for both baseball and softball, ranging from Co-ed Rookie (ages 4-6) to Babe Ruth (ages 13-15). Registration fees are $45 for Co-ed Rookie and $60 for Youth Baseball/Softball divisions, with family discounts available. Multiple-player families can register two players for $85 or three or more players for $100. Players registering after March 8 will face a $25 late fee, with March 13 set as the absolute final registration deadline. All new players ages 7 and up, as well as those moving to new age divisions, must attend the skills assessment. The age cutoff for baseball divisions is May 1, while softball divisions use Jan. 1 as their cutoff date. All leagues except Co-ed Rookie will participate in away games in nearby communities. For more information or registration materials, interested parties can see the Dugout Club Facebook page.

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
Coyote Night (lights)	Dec. 1 - March 31
Duck	Dec. 7 - Jan. 31
Wild Turkey Youth	April 5-6
Wild Turkey	April 12 - May 4
Coyote	Year Round
Ground hog	Year Round

FOLLOW THE ROCKETS at THE PRESS ONLINE
www.The-Press.com Sports Tab
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Hodge chosen region coach of year

Coach Shannon Hodge

STAFF REPORT

In a decorated career spanning more than three decades, Shannon Hodge has become synonymous with excellence in Kentucky high school basketball. Now, the veteran Crittenden County Lady Rockets coach adds another accolade to her impressive resume: she was named Second Region Coach of the Year last week. It was the third time she's received that same honor.

Hodge leads her team into the Fifth District championship game on Thursday – a squad that has already displayed playoff prowess by earning a berth in the All A Classic final four. It marked Hodge's tenth time guiding her team to the All A Classic State Tournament, the most among teams in the region.

This year's squad also secured its 20th win earlier this week, the fourth of Hodge's teams to reach that milestone in a single season.

The latest honor comes as no surprise to those familiar with Hodge's remarkable legacy. Since taking the helm in 1993, she has amassed over 400 career victories, making her the winningest coach in Crittenden County history. Under her leadership, the Lady Rockets have captured seven district titles and claimed a coveted Second Region crown in 2011, which led to an appearance in the state's Sweet 16.

A homegrown talent, Hodge starred for Crittenden County during her high school days before earning All-American honors at Centre College.

Elliot Evans (22) scored 13 points in her first game back since early February and Anna Boone (2) led CCHS with 20 points and nine assists against Trigg County.

Lady Rockets play Lyon for title

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County will return to the Fifth District championship game Thursday for the 10th time in 11 seasons. It likely would have been the 11th straight had it not been for a COVID forfeit in 2021. Instead, this will be the fourth straight trip to the tournament final for CCHS.

After dispatching district tournament host Trigg County 64-28 on Monday, the Rocket girls will be vying for their fifth title over that same span.

Coach Shannon Hodge said her girls had to "knock some rust off" in the early minutes of Monday's tournament opener, but once the rough edges were smoothed out, CCHS poured it on the Lady Wildcats, and the mercy rule running clock was enforced with two minutes left in the third period.

Crittenden had not played in 11 days due to snow and had lost their final two regular-season games against Hopkins Central and Henderson County before weather wiped out that final week of the season.

At Trigg, junior Anna Boone was in postseason form, scoring 20 points, shooting 60 percent from the floor, grabbing seven rebounds and dishing out nine assists. Junior Elliot Evans scored 13 in her first game since spraining an ankle Feb. 4 in a loss at Christian County.

Evans had a scare in the third quarter when CCHS was ahead by 33 points. Her wounded ankle was kicked while being double-teamed in the backcourt. Hodge quickly pulled her from the game, and a couple of minutes later, the coach unloaded her bench to rest the other starters.

Crittenden (20-7) will face off against Lyon County (21-8) in the championship game at 7 p.m., Thursday at Trigg County. The Lyons beat Livingston Central in the other opening-round matchup. Lyon is a team CCHS sees quite often each season during the regular season and in the All-A Classic. Over the past 11 years, CCHS has faced the Lyons five times in the district final, winning two and losing three, including last year's championship at Eddyville.

"We know if we're defensively moving, being aggressive, rebounding the basketball and transitioning well, we will give ourselves a chance," said Hodge, a 33-year veteran skipper with seven district crowns.

The Lady Rockets posted their 20th win of the season with the opening round victory in the playoffs, giving coach Hodge her fourth 20-win season.

Trigg County	13	17	20	28
Crittenden Co.	20	40	58	64

TRIGG – Norwood, AJ Norwood 3, Bush 10, Grinols 11, Adams, Jones, McGee 4. 3-pointers 2 (Bush, Grinols). FT 4-6.
CRITTENDEN – Boone 20, Evans 13, Hodge 7, Federico 6, Rushing 8, Stewart 4, Holeman 2, Berry 4, Matthews, Champion, Grau, Rich, Hunt. 3-pointers 7 (Boone 3, Evans 3, Hodge). FT 13-16.

A tough season came to an end for the Rockets and coach Matt Fraliex Tuesday in the opening round of the Fifth District Tournament.

Difficult Rocket season comes to winless end

For the Rockets, Tuesday's 95-24 loss in the opening round of the Fifth District Tournament came as no surprise, as Lyon County – the defending state champion and a regional contender – took control early and cruised to an easy win.

The Rockets closed out a disappointing 0-26 season plagued by injuries and player departures. It wasn't the program's first winless campaign; CCHS went 0-24 in 1990-91 under head coach Jim Simmons.

Freshman Drake Young led CCHS against Lyon with 11 points. He was the team's leading scorer for the season with an 8-point average.

Crittenden County	4	12	15	24
Lyon County	35	60	78	95

CRITTENDEN – LaRue, Porter, Cowsert, Dayberry 3, Stevenson, Young 11, Candelario, Martin 3, C.Poindexter, Ellington 3, Murray, Jones, B.Poindexter 4. 3-pointers 6 (Young 3, Martin, Ellington, Dayberry). FT 0-2.
LYON – Kirk 20, Co.Collins 13, Coffman 12, Ca.Collins 6, Defew 9, Lukas 10, Baker 2, Phillips 8, Prow 2, Ramey, Herring 10, Thompson 3, McDaniels. 3-pointers 7 (Co.Collins 3, Phillips 2, Herring, Kirk). FT 10-17.

Jankowski lands minor-league deal with Cubs to start spring

STAFF REPORT

The Chicago Cubs have signed veteran outfielder Travis Jankowski to a minor league contract that includes a non-roster invitation to major league spring training, according to reports from ESPN. While exact terms remain unclear, the deal may evolve into a major league option if the Cubs decide to open a 40-man roster spot.

Jankowski, a former member of the now defuct Marion Bobcats, who turns 34 in June, brings more than a decade of big league experience to the table. Known for his speed and strong defensive play, his offensive production has seen its share of fluctuations. His most recent seasons with the Texas Rangers showcased both his ability to steal bases and his struggles at the plate – a profile that has defined his journeyman career.

Jankowski's addition to the Cubs' farm system is seen as a strategic move to bolster outfield depth as the team fine tunes its roster heading into the season.

Jankowski won a World Series championship with the Rangers in 2022.

Jankowski

Out-of-state hunting license fees up, more possibly coming

STAFF REPORT

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has implemented several regulatory changes, including fee increases for nonresident hunting and fishing licenses

The amendments establish a $10 increase for nonresident hunting licenses, a $50 increase for nonresident deer permits, and a $25 increase for nonresident spring and fall turkey permits. The changes also clarify provisions for youth sportsman's licenses.

The Wildlife Commission at its quarterly meeting in December discussed further license increases for 2026, and tying license fee adjustments to the Consumer Price Index, with changes implemented every two years.

These fee adjustments come as the department highlights conservation achievements from 2024, when wildlife-related activities generated an estimated $8.7 billion for Kentucky's economy.

"Kentuckians who purchase hunting and fishing licenses, register boats, or support the Kentucky Wild program are making a direct investment in conservation efforts across the state," a department spokesperson said.

The regulatory amendments also address invasive carp removal through the newly codified Experimental Commercial Fishing Methods Program, which allows commercial fishers to use specialized gear to harvest large quantities of these invasive species. The program added three commercial fishers last year and now includes a resident and nonresident permit structure with separate tier I and tier II categories.

Additional changes include updates to fishing regulations. The department has established definitions for terms like "gill net" and "trammel net" used in commercial fishing, and replaced "commercial fisherman" with "commercial fisher" throughout regulatory language.

Rules for nontraditional fishing methods now include a possession limit of two shovelnose sturgeon and a two-fish possession limit for sportfish taken by trot line, jug line or set line. Sport fishing trotlines must be tagged at both ends with the angler's customer identification number.

The department reported significant conservation accomplishments in 2024, including opening more than 73,000 acres for public recreation, conducting prescribed burns on over 9,400 acres, and stocking more than 4.5 million fish in Kentucky waters.

Capital improvements included boat ramp upgrades on several waterways and installation of a new well and pump at Henderson's Sloughs Wildlife Management Area to enhance waterfowl habitat.

For 2025, Kentucky Fish and Wildlife plans to work with county governments to upgrade boating access sites at Lake Linville, South Fork Licking River and Green River.

For more information about regulatory changes, residents can visit fw.ky.gov or sign up for RegWatch at legislature.ky.gov.

Coyotes more active at onset of mating sesaon

Increased sightings of coyotes may occur this winter and spring in rural and urban areas across Kentucky as coyotes roam more to search for mates, establish territories and raise pups.

Coyote winter mating season typically lasts into March, while pup rearing takes place in spring and early summer.

"People may worry when they think there are coyotes living near them, but there's usually no cause for alarm if you see one," said Laura Palmer, wildlife biologist for the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources. "Like other wildlife that live in and around neighborhoods and farms, and even in urban areas, coyotes are shy and will typically avoid humans."

A member of the canine family, coyotes are mostly monogamous and form lasting pair bonds to raise their pups in established territories. Although coyotes are generally timid and wary of people, encounters with people and pets can arise as they go about foraging, protecting their dens and feeding their pups.

"Don't be afraid and don't panic," Palmer said. "There are many unfortunate misconceptions about coyotes, but conflicts can be easily avoided by having a basic understating of these wild animals."

Coyotes have been common in Kentucky for at least the past 50 years after spreading out across North America from the interior plains. Found in every state except Hawaii, and in every Kentucky county, most coyotes do not bother people, livestock or pets and most people do not even know coyotes are living near their homes.

Coyotes can live in any habitat from Alaska to Mexico, and have a varied diet consisting mostly of rodents, insects and fruit. They help maintain a natural balance in the ecosystem by providing natural rodent and insect control, scavenging and removing carrion from the environment, seed dispersal and more.

Coyotes are also opportunists and may take advantage of food around homes if an easy meal is available. A sick or injured coyote that is not able to forage on wild foods as efficiently, or young that have not learned to hunt effectively, may also sniff out food sources provided by humans.

"Do not feed coyotes – intentionally or unintentionally," Palmer said. "Don't leave your pet's food outside and don't feed feral cats, raccoons, deer or other wildlife. Be mindful that bird feeders may attract mice and squirrels, which could attract coyotes. Compost piles may also attract coyotes. Share this information with your neighbors – a united community approach is more effective at preventing issues in the first place."

As with any wild animal, coyotes can lose their fear of people if conditioned to depend on us for food, which can lead to conflict. Remove all potential food sources, clean grills and remove grease traps, secure garbage, and be extra vigilant with pets that may be seen as prey or competition. Plug holes under fences, block access to crawl spaces, and fence around yards and gardens.

Pet owners should turn on outside lights and check the yard for unwanted animals before letting pets outside. Pets should be kenneled or supervised when outside.

When walking a dog, use a short, non-retractable leash that is highly visible and vary your walking routine. Do not let a dog chase or "play" with a coyote.

Never feed or approach any wild animal to take pictures or video. Observe and enjoy wildlife from a distance.

"If someone sees a coyote when out for a stroll or while walking their dog, just know that coyotes are curious by nature," Palmer said. "Sometimes they follow people or dogs just to see what they are doing, or they may be guarding their pups that may be in an unnoticed den nearby. Alter walking routes in the future to avoid suspected den sites."

Den sites may be in hollow trees or logs, rock crevices, brush piles, abandoned groundhog burrows, or even abandoned buildings or junk piles.

Coyotes are protective of their pups, born in spring or early summer, which stay in the den with the mother for about 3 weeks and learn to hunt when they are 8 to 12 weeks old. Family groups typically break up and disperse in late summer and early fall.

While coyotes are usually more afraid of people, some tips to keep in mind if approached by a coyote include:

Try to scare it away immediately. Don't stand and watch it.

Shout, whistle, clap your hands, stomp your feet and make some loud noise.

Make yourself appear larger by waving your arms, widening your stance or wave a walking stick.

Establish dominance. Take a step or lunge toward the coyote. Throw a rock or stick in its direction, but not directly at it.

Pick up dogs and small children.

Keep scaring the coyote until it is out of sight.

Stay away from any known or potential dens. If you suspect a den is nearby, slowly back away from the area and do not haze the coyote.

Share these solutions with neighbors so everyone can work together.

Most coyotes do not cause conflict, but the ones that do may be removed individually by a licensed nuisance wildlife control operator, when necessary. Coyotes may also be hunted year-round, with no limit, with the appropriate hunting license and as allowed by local ordinances. Information and resources are available on the Kentucky Fish and Wildlife Coyotes webpage.

Ag tags benefit FFA, 4-H

As farm license plates are starting to be renewed ahead of their March 31 deadline, Crittenden County Clerk Daryl Tabor reminds owners of these so-called Ag Tags that a $10 voluntary donation to the future of Kentucky agriculture is built into the renewal price. This contribution, split evenly between 4-H, FFA and Kentucky Proud, is not mandatory, but you must opt out at the time of renewal in order to not incur the charge.

This $10 is in addition to the regular $21 registration renewal cost.

Tell the county clerk's office at the time you renew if you wish to opt out of the donation. The state-programmed registration system, by default, adds the donation to your renewal unless you request to have it removed.

A portion of each donation portion allotted to 4-H and FFA comes back to the local chapters in the respective county of registration, helping send underprivileged children to 4-H camp and assisting them in obtaining the signature blue jackets worn by FFA participants.

Thanks to the generosity of local farmers last year, the Crittenden County Clerk's office collected more in Ag Tag donations than ever before. The $3,140 collected by the office to the fund saw $523.33 come back to both Crittenden County FFA and 4-H.

The chart above shows amounts previously collected in Crittenden County dating to 2013, along with the percentage of renewals contributing to the Ag Tag donation. The overall number of Ag Tags is shown in the fourth column, with the amount coming back to each Crittenden County FFA and 4-H in the far right column.

CRITTENDEN AG TAG REVENUE

Year	Collected	Pct.	Number	Local $
2023	$2,620	31%	842	$436.67
2022	$1,470	19%	791	$245.00
2021	$2,220	26%	843	$370.00
2020	$1,580	19%	818	$263.33
2019	$1,370	16%	864	$228.33
2018	$1,340	17%	765	$223.33
2017	$1,460	18%	786	$243.33
2016	$1,930	23%	805	$321.67
2015	$1,290	16%	795	$215.00
2014	$1,060	13%	809	$176.67
2013	$1,070	12%	831	$178.34

Has COVID broken our will to exercise?

You may have a goal of becoming more active this year but might find it difficult to stay motivated. You are not alone. According to a study by the University of Southern California's Center for the Digital Future, 32% of Americans say they are exercising less than before the pandemic.

Rebecca WOODALL
EXTENSION AGENT
FAMILY & CONSUMER SCIENCE

Physical activity has many benefits, including aiding weight loss, boosting your immune system, relieving stress, and helping to lower your blood pressure. The goal is to get 150 minutes of activity each week.

While getting and staying motivated can be challenging, here are some tips to help you meet your physical activity goals.

Make it manageable. Figure out when you can incorporate physical activity into your week. The 150 minutes of recommended weekly physical activity can be broken down into 30 minutes over five days or even smaller increments throughout the day.

Make a plan. The important thing is to move, even for 10 minutes at a time. If you are unsure how to fit physical activity into your schedule, log how you spend your time each day to see where exercise might fit in. Once you have an exercise schedule, develop a backup plan to help you catch up if you cannot exercise at your regular time. Activities such as walking or climbing stairs require no equipment and can be done indoors if the weather is not cooperating.

Find something you enjoy. Research has shown that people who enjoy their physical activity have a better chance of sticking with it. Your activity does not have to be difficult. It could be as simple as walking around your neighborhood or dancing to music each day.

Find ways to make it social. Some people find having an exercise partner or joining a gym class helpful for motivation. Get a workout buddy, or find a virtual exercise class. You can also make it a family activity by encouraging them to be active with you.

To help you meet your activity goals, Family and Consumer Sciences is hosting a "Walk Your Way Challenge," encouraging you to move 150 minutes each week your way from March 10 to May 25. Each week, we will provide you with tips and opportunities to get moving. Local leaders and familiar faces will be hosting "Walk and Talks." Join Al and Angela Starnes, Mayor D'Anna Browning, Police Officer Ray O'Neal, and more throughout the 12-week program to visit and walk. Starter kits will be provided to those who register while supplies last, and prizes will be given to those who meet the goals at the end of the program.

For more information on ways to get and stay active or to register, contact the Crittenden County Extension Office at 270-965-5236.

Educational programs of the Cooperative Extension Service serve all people regardless of economic or social status and do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, ethnic origin, national origin, creed, religion, political belief, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, marital status, genetic information, age, veteran status, or physical or mental disability.

Crittenden County Detention Center

DETENTION CENTER REPORT

February 20, 2025

The Crittenden County Detention Center report is provided monthly to magistrates during Crittenden County Fiscal Court meetings. The inmate count is an average for last month.

- *Federal Inmates $57 Per diem*
- *State Inmates $35.34 Per diem*
- *Lyon County Inmates $36.00*
- *Other County Inmates $40.00*

DECEMBER

Total Receipts $286,131.37
Disbursements $276,876.13

JAIL CENSUS	Jan. 2025 Avg	Dec 2024 Avg	Montly Average 2024
State Inmates	72.1	73.2	75.38
Federal Inmates	65.7	62.5	67.69
Other County Inmates	28.7	27.1	21.82
Critenden County Inmates	23.5	24.8	19.86
TOTAL INMATES	190	187.6	184.75
Highest Daily Count	199	200	195.67
Lowest Daily Count	186	184	178.75

Last Month REVENUE	January 2025	December 2024	Montly Average 2024
State Housing Payments	$78,984.90	$80,151.12	$81,220.16
Federal Housing Payments	$116,166.00	$110,352.00	$116,235.25
Federal Transport Payments	$11,466.70	$12,264.69	$13,566.71
Lyon Co. Housing Payments	$28,080.00	$26,604.00	$21,399.00
Other County Housing Payments	$2,560.00	$2,560.00	$1,802.17
Weekend/Work Release	$720.00	$704.00	$477.33
TOTAL HOUSING	$237,977.60	$232,635.81	$234,709.79

Last Month ANALYSIS			
Cost of Crittenden Inmates	$31,200.00	$24,576.00	$19,290.67
Numbers of Co. Housing Days	780	768	602.83
County Daily Housing Rate	$40.00	$32.00	$32.00
Avg Daily Population Co. Inmates	23.5	24.8	19.86

Abuse, drugs among February indictments

CRITTENDEN GRAND JURY

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden County Grand Jury, which convened earlier this month, has returned several indictments, including multiple felony drug charges and a case involving alleged child abuse. Among those indicted were individuals accused of methamphetamine possession, hindering apprehension, and operating a vehicle under the influence. The charges stem from various incidents investigated by local law enforcement in recent months.

A grand jury does not determine guilt or innocence. It merely decides whether a case will continue to be prosecuted in circuit court. The grand jury hears only the prosecution's side of the case.

•Daniel Hopkins, 23, of Rosiclare, Ill., was indicted on a felony charge of first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and misdemeanor charges of second offense operating a vehicle under the influence of a controlled substance, failure of automobile owner to maintain required insurance, possession of drug paraphernalia, driving on a DUI suspended license, and leaving the scene of an accident.

Hopkins was charged following an incident on the morning of Jan. 15 when Sheriff Evan Head was dispatched to KY 91 North near Cave-In-Rock Ferry to investigate the report of a single-vehicle accident. There, the sheriff found a truck from which evidence revealed the suspected driver.

Hopkins was later discovered at a Marion business, where he allegedly admitted to having been driving the truck when it crashed and leaving the scene. The police citation also claims that the suspect admitted to having meth stuffed in his underwear and to having used it prior to the crash. Investigators also found a glass meth pipe in a drawer that the suspect allegedly admitted was his.

Hopkins had been found guilty in November of possession of meth and operating a motor vehicle while under the influence of a controlled substance in Union County.

•Alexis Ann Parker, 23, of Marion was indicted on a felony charge of second-degree criminal abuse of a child under 12 years old.

In separate action, court records indicate that late last year a complaint was filed in civil court alleging that Parker had failed to provide required financial support to her two young children.

•Sara Riley, 36, of Marion, was indicted on a felony charge of first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and misdemeanors for hindering apprehension, possession of marijuana, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Riley initially found herself under investigation for hindering apprehension of Chris McKinley, who was wanted by police in two other cases. When arrested, Riley was in possession of the drugs and paraphernalia. She has already pleaded guilty to the accusations.

•Jason F. Rushing, 43, of Marion, was indicted on a felony charge of first-degree, second-offense possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and a misdemeanor charge of possession of drug paraphernalia.

Court records indicate that around 1:30 p.m. on Jan. 11, Marion Police Chief Bobby West was summoned to McDonald's restaurant to investigate a person who had been in the men's restroom for about 45 minutes. The person was suspected of doing something illegal because a lighter could be heard clicking inside the restroom. The police chief found Rushing in the bathroom and noticed an odor that led to further investigation. Rushing was found to have a small bag of suspected meth in his pocket. He denied having the meth and denied knowing what was in the bag.

•Michael Travis, 44, of Marion, was indicted on a charge of first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine).

According to police records, probation and parole officers were searching for an alleged missing woman and went to a home on KY 295 in rural Crittenden County on the morning of Oct. 29. There, they found Travis and the woman. Travis was found to be in possession of a bag containing alleged methamphetamine.

Eight individuals indicted in Livingston felony cases

LIVINGSTON COUNTY GRAND JURY

STAFF REPORT

Livingston County Grand Jury returned indictments against eight individuals this month in felony cases that have now been sent to circuit court.

A grand jury does not determine guilt or innocence; it merely decides whether a case will continue to be prosecuted in circuit court. The grand jury hears only the prosecution's side of the case.

Indicted during the February meeting of the grand jury were the following:

•Michael H. Coursey, 50, of Cadiz, was indicted on a felony charge of third-degree assault and misdemeanor charges of second-degree disorderly conduct and public intoxication.

He was taken into custody after an incident at a local bait and tackle shop that led to an assault on a law enforcement officer.

Court records indicate that on Oct. 28, authorities responded to calls in Grand Rivers about a man lying in the roadway, reportedly making statements about wanting to be run over. While en route, dispatch received another report from Fisherman's Friend Bait and Tackle regarding a shirtless male inside the store, claiming to hear voices.

Deputy Zackary Dunigan arrived to find Coursey exhibiting signs of severe impairment, including extreme mood swings, disorientation, and aggression toward staff, according to the citation. As an officer attempted to engage him in conversation, Coursey allegedly stood up and struck the deputy in the eye with a closed fist. The officer deployed a Taser and ordered Coursey to the ground, where he complied and was taken into custody.

•Steven P. Cummings, 35, of Salem, was indicted on three felony counts of first-degree wanton endangerment, felony first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), felony filing a false report which generates an emergency response, and misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and failure to notify the Department of Transportation of an address change.

Police reports indicate that on the morning of Nov. 12, deputies from the Livingston County Sheriff's Department responded to a residence in Salem following a report of a home invasion. The report was allegedly made by Cummings. When deputies arrived, they encountered the defendant outside his residence armed with a loaded handgun. After investigating the alleged home invasion, deputies believed the reported incident was unfounded. Further investigation revealed that Cummings was in possession of alleged methamphetamine and various items of drug paraphernalia.

•Michael J. Enoch, 40, of Grand Rivers, was indicted on two felony charges of receiving stolen property ($10,000 or more), felony first-degree possession of a controlled substance, and a misdemeanor charge of receiving stolen property ($1,000 to $10,000).

According to police reports, Enoch was arrested on Sept. 25 following a lengthy investigation into alleged stolen property across multiple counties.

The Livingston County Sheriff's Department executed a search warrant at a residence on Macon Lane in Grand Rivers and found alleged stolen property. Enoch was also charged with allegedly possessing methamphetamine at the time of his arrest.

During the search, sheriff's deputies recovered several large stolen items, including a livestock trailer, two gooseneck trailers, lumber, and cattle management equipment. These items had been reported stolen from counties surrounding Livingston County, including McCracken, Caldwell, Trigg, and Calloway.

•Tommy W. Fulkerson, 31, of Kuttawa, was indicted on a felony charge of first-degree criminal abuse.

According to court documents, an investigation began on Nov. 13 by the sheriff's department after child protective services contacted law enforcement with allegations of criminal abuse of a child.

•Christopher M. Johnson, 52, of Wickliffe, was indicted on a felony charge of first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine).

•Shawn E. Stallins, 43, of Princeton, was indicted on a felony charge of fourth-offense DUI and additional charges of third-offense driving DUI suspended with aggravating circumstances, operating a motor vehicle without an ignition interlock device, leaving the scene of an accident, second-degree wanton endangerment, second-degree assault, and for being a persistent felony offender.

Police reports indicate that Stallins was arrested around 5 p.m. on Dec. 6 following an automobile crash at the intersection of KY 453 and US 60. Stallins denied he was behind the wheel. The police report states he failed multiple field sobriety tests.

The collision resulted in a passenger being ejected from the suspect's vehicle. This individual required medical treatment and was transported to an area hospital. Police noted the suspect's vehicle did not have an ignition interlock device installed.

•Roger W. Carver, 37, of Grand Rivers, was indicted on a felony charge of first-degree criminal mischief and misdemeanors for second-degree criminal mischief, resisting arrest, second-degree disorderly conduct, and second-degree indecent exposure.

According to the police citation, state police were dispatched on Dec. 11 to investigate a possible burglary on Newbern Road near Smithland. When the trooper and a Livingston deputy arrived at the scene, they found Carver inside. The property owner alleged that he had destroyed multiple items in the home.

Officers broke through a sliding glass door to gain entrance into the home. When they confronted Carver, he pulled off his pants and underwear. Once re-dressed, Carver is alleged to have resisted arrest to the point that he was pepper-sprayed so officers could gain control of him and place him into a cruiser.

•Bradley Harbord Opel, 32, of Grand Rivers, was indicted on two felony charges of first-degree rape, felony second-degree assault, felony first-degree strangulation, felony first-degree unlawful imprisonment, two felony counts of first-degree wanton endangerment, and a misdemeanor charge of interfering with communications.

According to the police citation, Kentucky State Police were dispatched to assist the Livingston County Sheriff's Department on an alleged domestic disturbance call. Upon arrival, officers encountered family members helping to remove two children and an injured woman from a home on Division Street in Grand Rivers.

The alleged victim displayed severe bruising to her upper body and face. Officers entered the residence and made contact with the suspect, who admitted to becoming physical with the victim during an altercation that began the previous evening.

Opel was placed under arrest, and during questioning, the report states he acknowledged consuming drugs and alcohol prior to the incident.

The victim alleged that she was assaulted throughout the night at gunpoint. A 9mm weapon was found at the home.

CLWD expansion moving forward

STAFF REPORT

Crittenden-Livingston Water District met Monday night in Salem and heard a presentation from its engineers about the upcoming plant expansion, its timetable, challenges and costs.

The expansion, which will take the plant from two million to four million gallons a day, is expected to meet the area's drinking water demands for years to come. Some of the district board members questioned whether doubling the plant's size would be enough. For now, it will have to be based on what engineers say. Getting regulatory approval for anything larger is not likely at this point.

The multi-million-dollar project begins with construction of a $1.1 million clear well. Travis Construction of Marshall County won the bid for that project. It should begin this spring or summer, raising the district's holding capacity at the plant from 300,000 to 600,000 gallons of water.

The board also learned that the Public Service Commission is expected to rule on a rate increase the district requested last summer. A rate study prescribed a proposed increase of 16.94% to balance CLWD's routine financial needs, excluding the planned expansion.

The district held a special meeting last week to ratify some earlier decisions by the board of directors and also to begin a process to clean up some record keeping with regard to its directors' terms.

Judge-executives from the two counties were present and explained a plan that would require all six of the board members to resign, effective immediately on the next meeting of each county's respective fiscal court meeting. Plans, however, are to reappoint each member, but to new staggered terms. Crittenden Fiscal Court did just that last Thursday as Alan Hunt was reappointed for two years, Tony Travis for three years and Darrell Simpson for four years.

Based on a couple of issues in recent months with regard to directors' terms, the two judges devised this plan with counsel from the Public Service Commission and Kentucky Division of Water to re-establish a proper record-keeping system for the appointed board members.

"It is the district's responsibility to track these terms," Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom said.

Over the past few years, during changeovers in leadership at the water district, records had not been kept up to date, thereby creating confusion on board member terms.

Each county's fiscal court appoints three members who are then subject to certification by the Public Service Commission.

Members will be assigned to two-, three-, or four-year terms. The staggered terms will provide for more stability on the board, the judges said.

Livingston County Judge-Executive Michael Williams pointed out that members can resign at any point during their term, particularly if these new terms extend beyond the length of time they intended to serve.

Livingston County's water board appointees were reappointed Tuesday and will be sworn in the coming days. Those are T.L. Maddux, Glenn Hughes and Tim Capps.

Livingston Fair Board planning for summer, seeking community help

Livingston County Fair Board has launched its planning phase for the 2025 County Fair, with big plans to deliver an enhanced community experience while seeking local support.

Board members, meeting monthly to orchestrate the summer event, have outlined a program featuring traditional favorites alongside potential new attractions. Highlights include the signature truck and tractor pull, a children's power wheels competition, Bingo nights and a possible talent showcase spotlighting local performers. The exhibition hall will continue its tradition of displaying locally-grown produce and handcrafted items.

"We're incredibly excited about the plans coming together for the 2025 fair," the fair board said in a news release. "But to make it truly special, we need the support of our community."

The board emphasizes that the fair serves as a vital platform for community connection, adding, "It's a great time and opportunity for us to reconnect with our neighbors and fellowship with people from across the county."

While the fair has long been a cornerstone of summer festivities in Livingston County, its success relies heavily on community backing. The board has announced a tiered sponsorship program designed to accommodate various levels of support:

•Bronze Level ($100-$200): Includes signage visibility throughout the grounds and event announcements.

•Silver Level ($201-$500): Adds multiple event mentions and social media recognition.

•Gold Level ($501-$1,000): Features small banner placement at the main entrance.

Platinum Level ($1,001-$5,000): Offers large entrance banner placement, admission for five, and event booth space.

Diamond Level (Over $5,000): Includes comprehensive advertising coverage and exclusive event sponsorship.

For additional information about sponsorship opportunities or the 2025 fair, contact the board at livingstonfair@gmail.com .