



# The Crittenden Press

Lady Rockets seek 3rd straight district crown | Page 9

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

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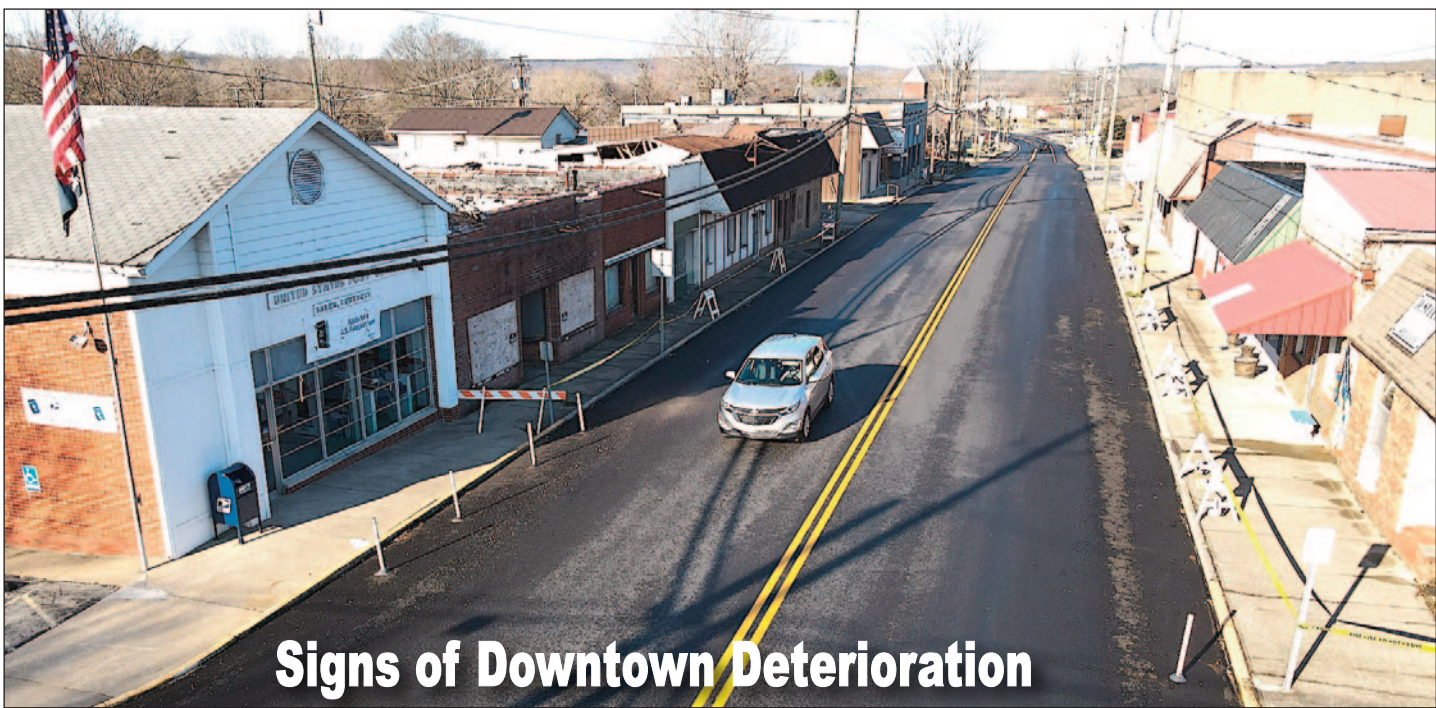
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29, 2024

AN INDEPENDENTLY-OWNED, LOCAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1879

ONE DOLLAR

## Conditions ripe for wildfires, EM reminds against day burning

Dry late-winter conditions with windy days has local firemen on high alert. Emergency Management Director Jason Hurley said Crittenden County volunteer fire departments have been busy answering calls. A brush fire Monday near Mott City spread and destroyed a home. Firemen were fighting that blaze and another on KY 91 at the same time. Last week, near Lola a brush fire spread to multiple structures, prompting a major response from almost every fire agency in Livingston County and mutual aid from Crittenden. Hurley reminds residents that open burning outdoors is prohibited during what is basically daylight hours during wildfire season, which started earlier this month and runs through April 30. See more about Monday's fire near Mott City and details on the spring wildfire season inside this edition on page 8.



Signs of Downtown Deterioration

## Look Thursday for local Leaplings

Thursday, Feb. 29 is Leap Year Day. It comes around once every four years when an extra day is added to the calendar to adjust the way we track years against the Earth's orbit, which actually takes 365.242190 days to orbit the sun. A typical year is 365 days, so every four we need to add another day. It wasn't until the 16th Century that humans realized this calendar adjustment was needed. Our system is called the Gregorian Calendar. Happy Birthday to all Leaplings, those folks born on Leap Day. Read about a Marion Leaping, page 10.

## Former Rep. Cherry dead at age 81

Former Kentucky state Representative Mike Cherry of Princeton died Wednesday, Feb. 21. He was 81. Cherry was a retired US Navy captain when he first ran for and was elected to the General Assembly. Cherry served in the state House from 1998 to 2012. He was also a Princeton businessman and former owner of the movie theater Capitol Cinemas. The funeral was Saturday at Central Presbyterian Church in Princeton.



## UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Marion-Crittenden County 911 Board will meet at 2 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 29 at Marion City Hall. This will be a special meeting for the purpose of discussing radio room equipment movement to the new radio room.
- Crittenden County Fiscal Court will meet on a different day of the month than normal during March. Magistrates will meet at 8:30 a.m., on Tuesday, March 19 at the County Office Complex.

STAFF REPORT

Recent partial building collapses in Salem are resulting in unanticipated expenses for downtown property owners, and the town's skyline may forever change.

A city of just over 700 people, Salem was founded around 1800 by immigrants from Salem, N.C. It was at one time the government seat of Livingston County, when the county included Crittenden and other territory. Buildings in Salem are all about 100 years old, some are perhaps even older. A few weeks ago, following a hard freeze and heavy rain, a couple of buildings began to crumble. Bricks, mortar and appendages began to fail. Damage has been observed to buildings on both sides of Main Street and the Kentucky Fire Marshal has ordered much of the town closed due to safety concerns. The marshal's order also includes further mandatory inspections.

Last week, the town's city council gave a number of property owners a 30-day deadline to have their buildings inspected by a structural engineer. Like many small towns across the country, most of Salem's buildings along Main Street are conjoined. They share common walls with neighboring buildings. The rooflines appear as one, separated only by an alleyway here or there.

By March 20, Salem City Council should have a better idea which buildings have serious problems.

Business has been shuttered at Bowtanicals on the



Buildings on the south side of Main Street in Salem showing signs of deterioration have been identified for demolition to make way for a Cumberland River Homes project.

north side of Main Street, and renovation work has stopped at two others due to the partial collapse of Cathy's Canine Cuts.

A building next to Salem Post Office collapsed on the south side of Main Street. It has been closed, but the USPS mail center remains open.

Prior to the partial collapse, Cathy Reece, owner of Cathy's Canine Cuts, had already relocated her business because she had noticed structural deterioration. She told the Salem City Council Feb. 20 that she spent \$15,000 last year to repair floor joists beneath the building.

"It's not that I wasn't paying attention. It wasn't neglect, it's just a really old building," she said.

Reece and owners of five other buildings on the north side of Main Street are in the process of hiring

engineers to determine their next steps.

Though her building has no visible damage, Elliot West, owner of Bowtanicals in Salem, was forced to close because the flower shop is next door to Cathy's Canine Cuts and shares an interior wall.

West, who has been in in business in Salem for nine years, prepared Valentine orders in a make-shift florist area in the front lobby of Glenn's Pharmacy. She will not be able to reopen until Reece's building is either repaired or removed.

"I have no damage, or even mortar dust, but I can't be open until every building is inspected and signed off on," she said.

Because each building is connected, the six buildings on that side of the street are

See SALEM/page 10

## CRH coming to town's rescue

STAFF REPORT

Salem hopes to benefit from a government-subsidized program that will offer a win-win type situation for a special sector of the population and the city itself.

Cumberland River Homes (CRH) has experience in making the best out of every situation, and its sights are now set on downtown Salem.

A non-profit, adult living and training program for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities or acquired brain injuries, CRH needs room to expand. Livingston County's small town needs a warmhearted shepherd to help it emerge from what could be a town-crippling problem. Together, they have grand plans.

Safety and condition of several downtown Salem buildings have been called into question in light of some recent partial collapses. Last week, the town's city council gave a number of property owners a 30-day deadline to have their buildings inspected by a structural engineer. Like many small towns across the country, most of Salem's buildings along Main Street are conjoined. They share common walls with neighboring buildings. The rooflines appear as one, separated only by an occasional alley.

City officials fear that studies



See RESCUE/page 10

## Lights project gets final funding

STAFF REPORT

In a special city council meeting last Thursday, Marion leaders unanimously approved a plan to financially support a project to replace some lighting at City-County Park and for the first time install lights on the youth soccer field.

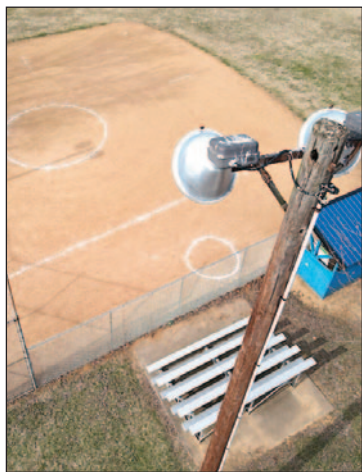
Various local agencies and private donors are participating in funding the more than \$400,000 project.

Mayor D'Anna Browning and city council members signaled their willingness to support the project by paying all or most of its share of the financial obligation up front. The city recently realized a cash windfall when it sold the former hospital laundry building for just over \$130,000. The city plans to set that money aside to help fund the park lights project.

Built in the early 1980s, park infrastructure had begun to deteriorate after 40 years and was in need of renovation or replacement, Park Board Chairman Chris Evans had told the council and other funding partners in requesting resources to complete the lighting project. Over the past nine years, most of the lighting and fencing at the park has been replaced.

"Thanks to a strong partnership that includes the city, county, tourism commission, school district and community, we think the park will now be set to continue its service for two or three generations to come," Evans said.

Work to install the new lights is expected to begin in July and to be complete in time for fall youth soccer, football, baseball and softball seasons.



Aged wooden light poles and fixtures will be replaced at the park this summer thanks to approval by local funding partners.

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### CITY OF MARION

Tax bills for the year 2023, being unpaid, will be offered for sale on April 1, 2024 at 1 p.m. to the highest bidder for cash. The list of delinquent tax bills will be published in The Crittenden Press, March 7, 2024. Price of real assessment appearing will include the amount plus penalty, interest and advertising cost.

**Tax Year Range 2023 To 2023 • Calculated As Of 03/04/2024**



# Deaths

## Cherry

It is with a warm remembrance and profound respect that we announce the passing of Mike Cherry, 81 of Princeton,



who left us on Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024 at Dawson Springs Health and Rehabilitation. He was born in Princeton Feb. 6, 1943 to his late parents, Everett and Winnie Cherry.

Cherry embarked upon the path of higher education and attained a Bachelor of Science from Murray State University, a Master of Science from the University of Louisville, and further enhanced his academic portfolio with Master Equivalency from both the Naval War College and the National Defense University. His thirst for knowledge was evident in each aspect of his illustrious career and personal endeavors.

He proudly served his nation as a Captain in the United States Navy, bringing honor to his family and country through his service in the Vietnam War. His service took him and his family from Guantanamo Bay and Honolulu to Italy. He served as the public affairs officer for the Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean, spokesman for the Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet and ended his service in Norfolk, Va., as Chief of Public Information for the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's (NATO) Supreme Allied Commander Atlantic.

After retiring from naval life, he channeled his entrepreneurial spirit into the rejuvenation of his beloved hometown. In the 1990s, he pioneered the downtown Princeton renaissance, renovating six business district storefronts, opening the Big Springs Antique Mall, and reviving the Capitol Theater, once again offering silver screen entertainment to the smallest county in Kentucky with a cinema.

His political journey began in high school as president of the Kentucky Young Democrats and the youngest delegate for the 1960 Democratic Convention that nominated John F. Kennedy. In November 1998 he was elected as Kentucky State Representative (D), serving the 4th Legislative District of Caldwell, Crittenden, Livingston and part of McCracken counties until his retirement in 2012. His tenure was characterized by dedication and groundbreaking achievements, such as being the first person from Caldwell County to be elected to the legislature in nearly 40 years

and maintaining the honor of being one of the longest-serving members in recent history.

Cherry's legislative legacy included serving as chairman of the State Government Committee, the Agriculture and Small Business Committee, the Veterans, Military Affairs and Public Safety Committee, the Education Committee, and leadership as Vice Chair of the Appropriations & Resources Committee. He was instrumental in enacting over 40 bills, including the first reform bill of the State Pension System and Kentucky's inaugural Bullying Bill, earning him accolades such as the "Kids First Advocacy Award" and the "Heavy Hitter" Award. His impacts include securing millions of dollars for local infrastructure improvements and community projects, thus aid in transforming Caldwell County.

Beyond his political ventures, Cherry's community engagement was substantial. His passion for community advancement led to his roles including elder and former treasurer of Central Presbyterian Church, participation in the Caldwell County High School Site-Based Decision-Making Council, founding member of Caldwell County Free Clinic, member of the Princeton Tourism Commission, and the Kentucky School-to-Work Council.

His profound ability to inspire change was echoed in County Judge Van Knight's compliment, attesting to the unprecedented level of state support Cherry garnered for the area. Numerous awards celebrated his contributions, including Citizen of the Year titles from organizations like Kiwanis and Woodmen of the World, and community distinctions such as the Chamber of Commerce Achievement Award for Outstanding Community Service. His pride shone brightly when he led as Grand Marshal in the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Parade and upon receiving the Key to the City from former Mayor Danny Beavers.

Cherry was an interesting, spirited and endlessly funny man whose legacy is imprinted on the community he served with such commitment. His influence will resonate within the community and in the hearts of those who cherished him. His life stands as a testament to the extraordinary impact one person can have on the world around them.

Cherry is lovingly survived by his devoted wife of 53 years, Dixie Gale Cherry; a son, Davis Rudd Cherry of Brooklyn, NY; and a sister, Dinah Sue Marshall of Alexandria, Va.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Everett and Winnie Davis Cherry.

Services were Saturday, Feb. 24 at Central Presbyterian Church in Princeton with Pastor

Steve Fortenberry officiating.

Expressions of sympathy may be made in Mike's honor to Central Presbyterian Church, 206 West Main Street, Princeton, KY 42445.

*Paid obituary*

## Barrett

Robert Keith Barrett, 79, of Salem, died Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024 at Livingston Hospital and Healthcare Services.

He was born Dec. 21, 1944 to James and Elaine (May) Barrett in Lola. He worked as a brick mason the majority of his life and was a member of Lola Missionary Baptist Church. He loved fishing, hunting, and watching UK basketball. But above all, he loved his family and friends.

Surviving are his wife of 58 years, Pat Barrett; two daughters, Shelly (Curt) Swinford of Paducah and Tiffeny (Wade) Ramage of Burna; a sister, Pat "Sister" Hall of Salem; a brother, Louie Barrett of Smithland; five grandchildren, Barrett Ramage, Hannah Ramage, Keely Hall, Sydnie Swinford and Carter Swinford; and four great-grandchildren, Charlee Munday, Bode Ramage, Lydia Hearell, and Henry Hall.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by two brothers, James Alan Barrett and Charlie Barrett.

Services were Sunday, February 25 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services. Burial was in Carrsville Cemetery.

*Paid obituary*

## Armstrong

Charlene Armstrong, 82, of Marion, died Wednesday, Feb. 21, 2024 at Crittenden County Health and Rehab. She was a member of Glendale General Baptist Church.

Surviving are a brother, Billy Carter of Marion; a grandson, Shane Armstrong of Marion; a granddaughter, Maggie Tabor of Louisville; a sister-in-law, Agnes Armstrong Brown of Marion; a nephew, Tracy Armstrong of Murray; and a great-nephew, Landon Tracy Armstrong of Murray.

She was preceded by her husband, Gary Armstrong; two sons, Troy and Tony Armstrong; and her parents, Virgil and Edith Carter.

Services were Sunday Feb. 25 at Gilbert Funeral Home with burial in Love Cemetery.

## Peck

Timothy Alan Peck, 55, of Salem, died Saturday, Feb. 24, 2024 at his home.

He was a member of Faith Church in Salem, and was an ac-



tive churchgoer. It didn't matter the denomination; he was always happy to praise the Lord. He would go to the nursing home and preach to the residents whenever he could. He was employed by Salem Food Market for more than 30 years, working in various rolls. He was always eager to help and always greeted people with a cheerful word and a smile on his face.

Surviving are his father, Rell (Pat) Peck, Sr. of Salem; a sister, Rhonda (Mark) Wiman of Paducah; a brother, Rell (Debbie) Peck, Jr. of Salem; several nieces and nephews, Brandon and Jordan Wilson, Rachelle (Todd) Korves, Ron Hansen, and Bill McNarmara; and a great-niece, Lona Kay Korves.

He was preceded in death by his mother, Lona Guess Peck; and a nephew Jim Hansen.

Funeral services were Wednesday, Feb. 28 at Faith Church, with Rev. Israel Sanders and Rev. Phillip Sanders officiating. Burial was in Salem Cemetery.

Boyd Funeral Directors was in charge of arrangements.

## Booth

Kimberly Rosa Booth, 58, of Marion, died Tuesday, Feb. 20, 2024 at University of Kentucky Medical Center. She was a member of Ambassadors For Christ Church.

Surviving are her husband, Dale Booth of Marion; a daughter, Jessica (Jason) Fox of Marion; five grandchildren, Shyla, Matthew, Miranda, Jada and Micah; a brother, Ralph; and three sisters, Gladys, Paula and Sandra.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Eugene and Pauline Broughton; two daughters, Opal and Amanda; three sisters, Eulonda, Barbara and Tammy; and a brother, Larry.

Services were Saturday Feb. 24 at Gilbert Funeral Home with burial in Maplevue Cemetery.

## Hamilton

Bradley Glenn Hamilton, 71, of Salem, died Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024 at Mercy Health Lourdes.

He was of the Baptist faith and attended Deer Creek Baptist Church where he was a member of the cemetery board. He was born Aug. 10, 1952 to the late Boyce Hamilton and Margery Bell Beard Slayton.

Surviving are his stepfather, Jimmy Slayton; and three nephews, Scott McKinney, Shawn Slayton and Ty Slayton.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Teresa Mae McKinney; a brother Tony Slayton; and his parents.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Deer Creek Cemetery Fund, 69 Deer Creek Church Rd, Marion, KY 42064

There are no services



scheduled at this time.

Milner & Orr Funeral Homes and Cremation Services of Paducah is in charge of arrangements.

*Paid obituary*

## Guess

Ricky Dean Guess, a loving husband, dad and dadaw, 68, of Bartlett, Tenn., gained his wings on Saturday, February 24, 2024.

He leaves behind his wife of 50 years, Cindy Guess; a daughter, Nicole (Todd) Musso; three granddaughters, Shaylee (Sammy) Kadhim and Ensley and Sadie Musso; a son, Nathan (Carey) Guess; and three grandsons, Maverick, Max and Christian.

He was preceded in death by his father, Paul Guess; and mother, Vanda Williams.

He was a friend to all that knew him and he will be greatly missed by all.

Graveside services are at 1 p.m., Saturday, March 2 at Maplevue Cemetery. The family will receive visitors from 11 a.m., until service time at Gilbert Funeral Home.

*Paid obituary*

## Online Condolences

myersfuneralhomeonline.com  
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gilbertfunerals.com

Most obituaries in this newspaper are free. Ask your funeral director about custom, fee-based obituaries.

## English serves as interim Marion Methodist pastor

Nearly 40 years after he preached his first sermon in a Crittenden County church, Marion native Steve English returned to a local pulpit this month.

English, 54, is serving a three-month interim pastoral position at Marion United Methodist Church. He delivered his first sermon at Hurricane Church when he was 17 years old.

English has resided in Guatemala with is wife Pam for 30 years. As founders of The World Our Parish, the missionaries operated an orphanage and school and now train individuals from Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti, and Cuba to be pastors and missionaries.

"It feels good to come home," said English, who briefly is stepping away from his responsibilities in Guatemala. "I felt a deep responsibility to give back to my home church in this transition between pastors."

In his time here, English said his mission is to preach the word of God, provide opportunities for spiritual growth and grow the church.

Marion United Method-

# LH tests trauma response

A test of Livingston Hospital's trauma response will take place Saturday in front of the hospital on U.S. 60 in Salem.

Salem Fire Department and Livingston EMS will be assisting at the site of a simulated car accident by performing a mock extrication of patients.

Since the trauma drill will be visible from U.S. 60, hospital officials are alerting the public to the fact that the event motorists may witness is just a drill.

Trauma simulations help hospital officials and assisting agencies to practice and evaluate response procedures.

Questions about this drill may be directed to (270) 988-7208.

## Sheriff notice sent to taxpayers

Letters were mailed to Crittenden County homeowners this week as a reminder that taxes not paid by April 15 will be turned over to the Crittenden County Clerk's Office.

Unpaid tax bills may be sold to third-party companies later this year resulting in liens being placed on the property.

ist Church has been without a full-time minister since the first of the year.

A new appointment to the church will be made in June.



English



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Community Calendar

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

Thursday, Feb. 29

- Line dancing beings at 9:30 a.m., at the Crittenden County PACS Senior Citizens Center.
- A class titled Positive Employability: Preparing for Financial Success will be offered at 5:30 p.m., at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.

Tuesday, March 5

- Kinship Care meets at 5:30 p.m., at the Crittenden County Extension Annex.



CCMS STLP team competitors are (from left) Miles Yates, Brooklyn Lovell, Adley Sutton, Brinley Tramble, Karlee Jent, Raylee Millikan and Kate Epley. (Not pictured is Daisy Mireles.)

## Project upgrades Fohs communication

STAFF REPORT

A Marion landmark will benefit from a Crittenden County senior's technology competition project.

Tanner Crawford has created a system to increase communication between the balcony audio visual booth and the stage during productions at Fohs Hall. His project is also taking him to the state STLP (Student Technology Leadership Program) competition March 27 in Lexington. Crittenden County elementary and middle schools' STLP teams also are state-bound.

Crawford identified the need for the system while working as a technician in the AV booth at Fohs Hall for numerous community events and productions.

Crawford said his love of the audio visual field led him to create the communication system, which he is donating to Fohs Hall.

"It is a passion project as I love the community and what we have done (at Fohs Hall)," Crawford said. "I've spent many hours in Fohs Hall, both working in the booth and performing on stage, and I'm doing my part to make it the best that it can be."

Crawford's Creative Community Communications System (3CS) uses custom software to connect two computers by wifi – one on the stage and one in the AV booth.

The program allows individuals side stage and in the AV booth to communicate and solve issues before they become a problem during a production, improving both attendees' and performers' experience at Fohs Hall.

Crawford will attend Murray State University this fall, majoring in computer science and minoring in music.

**CCMS**

Crittenden County Middle School's STLP team is showcasing their



Tanner Crawford

new podcast and video project titled "The Four on the Floor History Podcast."

Club advisor Ben Thompson said students will interview historians, seeking their knowledge on four questions about ancient civilizations.

"We will be interviewing a paleontology student next week (for our first interview, and we will also be making videos about ancient mysteries using artificial intelligence," Thompson said.

**CCES**

CCES will be represented in Lexington by two STLP showcases, one focusing on water conservation and the other using 3D printing technology.

"Launch Into the Future," created a 3D prototype of a bracket for an airplane pedal. The idea took flight at the suggestion of STLP student Bode Merrill, whose dad Lester has spent the last couple of years building his own airplane. Markham said a bracket prototype created with a 3D printer helped Merrill design a metal bracket needed for his plane.

Advisor Kara Markham said the "Rockets Love to Conserve" was designed by the team as a way to educate their peers and community about water conservation. The topic was chosen following the City of Marion's 2022 water crisis.



CCES STLP members are (from left) Mela Kate Penn, Kallen Millikan, Melina Keller, Sydney Keller, Mattie Moss, London McCord, Bode Merrill and Addie Nelson.

## CCHS senior vouches for CTE impact

Submitted

An interest in health-care prompted Avery Johnson to choose the biomedical pathway as a high school freshman at Crittenden County High School. Now, as a senior, she's representing her school at the state level, serving as the vice president of KY HOSA (Health Occupations Students of America), advocating for career and technical education for future students.

"I took the principles of biomedical sciences class, because I had always been interested in healthcare, having been surrounded by it my entire life," said Johnson. "I was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at seven years old, and it wasn't long after my diagnosis that I knew I wanted to become a pediatric endocrinologist."

Johnson said her first biomedical class opened



Avery Johnson

a pathway to her career goals and introduced her to HOSA, the national student organization aligned with the biomedical pathway. It was here, Johnson says, that she honed leadership skills to prepare her for her post-secondary education.

"HOSA has broken me out of my shell and given

me skills that I can take with me for the rest of my life," she said. "I have learned how to successfully work with a team during my state competitions, as well as working as a state officer."

Johnson put those skills to work during Student Leadership Day in Frankfort, where she met with state Sen. Jason Howell and state Rep. Jim Gooch, advocating for continued CTE funding and explaining the impact of such programs on high school students.

Casey Evans, Johnson's biomedical pathway instructor, praised Johnson's poise and confidence.

"Avery did a phenomenal job representing our school, CTE, the biomedical program, and our local and state HOSA chapter," said Evans. "It is truly inspirational to see a student I have taught for four years in

the biomedical pathway become just as passionate about the program as myself."

Likewise, Johnson celebrates her teacher for the impact she's had on her education.

"I don't think high school would have been the same for me without her and her guidance," she said. "Mrs. Evans has been nothing but amazing."

Johnson plans to attend college in the fall and major in pre-medicine as she works toward becoming a pediatric endocrinologist.

February is CTE Month. In addition to the biomedical pathway, Crittenden County High School offers pathways in agriculture, family and consumer sciences, business and marketing, teaching and learning, technology, and skilled programs at the Caldwell Regional Career Center.

## Census reveals uptick in most KY ag sectors

With 69,425 farms dotting Kentucky's landscape and more than 12.4 million of the state's 25 million acres dedicated to some form of farming, it's evident Kentucky's roots are still very much agricultural. These numbers were just some of the statistics that came out of the recently released 2022 Census of Agriculture.

"It's no surprise agriculture is still very much a part of what makes Kentucky so special," Agriculture Commissioner Jonathan Shell said. "The numbers released by the Census solidifies Kentucky's agricultural hold. We know agriculture is a large part of our history, but these numbers show it is also moving our future forward."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) conducts the Census of Agriculture every five years. The latest census data, which was collected in 2022, was released last week. The Census is a complete count of U.S. farms and ranches and the people who operate them. The Census looks at land use and ownership, operator characteristics, production practices, income, and expenditures. Using more than 6 million data points about America's farms and ranches and the people who operate them, information is gathered and calculating for every state down to the county level.

agriculture shines through with the reported Census numbers. The resiliency of farmers across our state and nation provide a stability we all rely on."

The market value of specific agricultural commodities sold in 2022 included:

- Poultry and eggs – \$1.79 billion, up 36 percent from 2017
- Corn – \$1.46 billion, up 76 percent
- Soybeans – \$1.38 billion, up 48 percent
- Cattle – \$1.08 billion, up 8 percent
- Equine - \$736 million, up 58 percent
- Wheat – \$262 million,

up 133 percent

- Tobacco – \$225 million, down 36 percent
- Hogs and pigs – \$207 million, up 61 percent

The value of crops sold in 2022 does not necessarily represent the sales from crops harvested in 2022. NASS explained data may include sales from crops produced in earlier years and may exclude some crops produced in 2022 but held in storage and not sold.

The market value of equine sold in 2022 was nearly \$763 million, an increase of 58 percent from 2017.

Income from farm-re-

lated sources totaled \$466 million in 2022, an increase of 11 percent from 2017. Total income from farm-related sources includes cash rent; crop and livestock insurance payments; custom work such as planting, plowing, and spraying; tobacco quota buyouts; agritourism; and sales of forest products.

The census shows an 8.6 percent decrease in the number of farms. Kentucky acreage used in agricultural pursuits also declined from 13 million in 2017 to 12.4 million in 2022.

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# KYTC says haulers must keep payloads covered

KY TODAY

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC) is reminding truck drivers who are hauling trash or debris to properly secure their loads while traveling along state highways, as required by state law.

While it is true highway crews have seen an increase in roadside litter across the state, one area that has been especially bad is in western Kentucky, along a 10-mile section of Interstate 69 in northern Marshall County. Crews recently removed a large amount of debris between the U.S. 641-Spur Benton Exit 41 interchange and the I-69 Exit 51 flyover ramp at the I-24 Exit 25 interchange near Calvert City.

"It appears that the litter is likely due to higher travel speeds causing more debris to blow out of trucks and trailers that aren't properly covered," said KYTC District 1 Chief Engineer Kyle Poat. "We ask for the public's cooperation to ensure all loads are properly secured to keep our highways clean and safe."

Under Kentucky law (KRS 189.150), loads of debris or trash must be "covered with a device suitable for prevention of spillage." Violators of that law as well as any other littering or open dumping statute could face criminal or civil fines.

The Kentucky State Police and Marshall County Sheriff's Department are aware of the I-69 problem area and will aid with enforcement, Poat said.

While litter pickup is part of the state's three mowing cycles each year,



KYTC says additional litter pickup work would be costly and can divert funds from other needed maintenance projects.

## How to reserve for an event at park or farmers market

As warmer weather approaches and folks begin to spend more time outdoors, Marion Tourism and Recreation Commission and Marion-Crittenden County Park Board remind citizens that organized use of the farmers market and/or park requires an approved reservation. There is a small fee for commercial vendors at Imogene Stout Market on Main and a small cost for groups or individuals who charge an entry fee for organized events at Marion-Crittenden County Park. Call Marion Welcome Center at (270) 965-5015 to make a reservation.

## Legislator wants to boost \$12.50 pay for jury duty

Some legislators are working to raise pay for jury duty. The Senate Appropriations and Revenue Committee heard testimony on the measure, but members did not take a vote on the bill.

Senate Bill 22 is sponsored by Sen. Whitney Westerfield (R-Fruit Hill). He says pay needs to be raised from \$12.50 to \$125 per day.

"The statute, which was last changed in 1978, pays a whopping five bucks, although we also throw in \$7.50 for their expenses," he testified. "That doesn't cover what you pay that day to park in our bigger cities. You may have to buy a meal that you can hardly get for \$12.50."

Westerfield's bill would eliminate the breakdown between juror pay and expenses. He believes the increase would cost the state \$17 million per year.

Sen. Christian McDaniel, R-Ryland Heights, said the measure should be rolled into the state budget.

## Union County student is charged in campus murder

A high school wrestling champ from Union County has been charged in connection with a murder at a dorm on the Campbellsville University Campus last weekend. The crime has gained national attention.

A motive has not been made public, but Charles Escalera, 21, was arrested Saturday after allegedly hiding out in a barn following the killing of an 18-year-old freshman student, Josiah Malachi Kilman.

According to reports by major news outlets, Kilman was found unresponsive in a dorm room just before 1 a.m., Saturday.

Escalera was located later that day at around 5:15 p.m., after police received a call about a suspicious male hiding out in a nearby barn. Kentucky State Police responded and made the arrest.

Escalera was a state champion wrestler in 2017. He also wrestled for Campbellsville University, according to a 2021 roster. Kilman was a member of the current university wrestling team.

## Chamber planning viewing party for April's eclipse

Marion's proximity to the path of totality is prompting the Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce to plan a viewing party of the April 8 solar eclipse.

President Shanna West hopes the event will create an influx of people and give Marion businesses a showcase opportunity.

"We have a definite geographic advantage being this close to I-69, being

on the very edge of totality and being only one of a handful of Kentucky towns even in totality," West said.

She said geographically, Marion is the easiest and closest route for nearly all Kentuckians to reach the path of totality.

She thinks there are many people interested in seeing the eclipse who will appreciate seeing it in a small town with small-town activities and avoid additional driving to hectic, larger cities.

The chamber plans to have a viewing party from 11 a.m.-3 p.m., Monday, Aug. 8 and is offering booth space to organizations looking to offer food or other types of sales. She encourages businesses in the community to have special sales as well to attract visitors.

Booth reservations can be made at <https://crittcochamber.ticketleap.com/eclipse/>.



## Sheriff seeks information on stolen, burned vehicle

Crittenden County Sheriff's Department is investigating a vehicle that was found burned early Sunday near the Tradewater River boat ramp at the intersection of KY 132 and Cool Springs Road.

Sheriff Evan Head said the vehicle was damaged to the point that most identifying marks were destroyed, including the Vehicle Identification Number. However, the sheriff believes the SUV is one that was reported missing from Marion about an hour earlier.

Kevin and Wendy Bingham reported that their GMC Acadia was stolen from their home on North College Street about 3:30 a.m.

A passing motorist discovered the burning vehicle around 4:30 a.m., and called authorities.

Anyone with information can contact Crittenden County TipLine at 270-965-3500. Information leading to an arrest could result in a reward. Tipsters can remain anonymous.



The late Rep. Mike Cherry and the late County Judge Pippi Hardin on the House Floor at the Capitol in Frankfort when Hardin was county judge in 2001. Also pictured is Hardin's wife Phillis. Cherry passed away last week. Judge Hardin passed away in 2012. Below is a list of county judges for the past 50-plus years.

Crittenden County Judge-Executives Years they first took office	1962 JE Keeling (R)	1982 Roni Asbridge (R)
	1966 JD Orr (R)	1986 John May (D)
	1970 John Chandler (R)	1999 Pippi Hardin (R)
	1974 JE Keeling (R)	2004 Fred Brown (R)
	1978 RC Hamilton (D)	2011 Perry Newcom (R)



## 50 YEARS AGO

**February 28, 2074**

■ Crittenden County's gas shortage took an abrupt turn for the better as distributors began calling customers telling them more gas was on the way as Frankfort allocated 55,700 more gallons. Marion's stations had either received additional gas or had been informed that more was on the way.

■ Marion volunteer firemen were summoned to the Crittenden Hotel on Marion's East Carlisle Street to contain a fire which erupted on the hotel's second floor. The firemen were able to save the hotel building shortly after the fire started.

■ The Crittenden County High School girls' basketball team finished its first season with nine wins and no losses as both the JV and the varsity teams defeated St. Mary by scores of 20-14 and 46-22, respectively.

## 25 YEARS AGO

**March 4, 1999**

■ The last of the three performances of the play Soapy Murder Case came to a close at Fohs Hall where the final performance drew a big crowd. Members of the cast included B.J Myrick, Paula Miniard, Becky Tyner-Belt and Ronnie Heady.

■ Ray Agent joined the Crittenden County Sheriff's Department as a deputy after completing the Peace Officer's Professional Standards (POPS) Test. This marked the first time that the county had had more than one field deputy in the department.

■ The Hall of Fame Game at Rocket

Gym made players from yesteryear feel young again as they got to run up and down the court with their former teammates. Carlisle Towery, a 1937 graduate of Shady Grove High School, at 79, was the oldest player to compete in the event.

## 10 YEARS AGO

**February 27, 2014**

■ Many in his flock can't imagine Rev. Mike Jones delivering a sermon without using his hands to make gestures and drive home important points; however, the sixth-year pastor at Marion Baptist Church literally was handcuffed in the pulpit. He told church members the previous week that if 230 would show up for Sunday school, he'd preach in handcuffs, and they did. Crittenden County Sheriff Wayne Agent was on hand to make sure that the preacher lived up to his promise.

■ Two elementary schoolers served as legislative pages for state Sen. Dorsey Ridley. Lily Perryman and Kenlee McDaniel performed various duties as attendants for the Henderson Democrat on the floor of the Kentucky Senate.

■ As high school students prepared to visit and explore China in spring of 2014, elementary preschool students got the opportunity to explore Chinese culture and customs. Preschool teachers Angel McDonald and Denise Guess introduced students to the country's food and language, and students enjoyed dressing up and forming their own dragon as a part of the lesson.

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

## Letters to Editor

### KY needs vet school

The Kentucky Senate held a hearing Friday to discuss the legislative proposal for Murray State University (MSU) to open a School of Veterinary Medicine. Both the Senate and the House have bills to change existing state law and more than half the members in each chamber are in favor of the proposal. In fact, the House has already passed its bill. Unfortunately, no vote was taken in the Senate. Why the hold up?

Dr. Bob Jackson, MSU president, and Dr. Brian Parr, Dean of the MSU Hutson School of Agriculture, attended the hearing and laid out the reasons a veterinary school is needed in the commonwealth and why MSU should be that school. They pointed out the synergy with the Breathitt Veterinary Center and how the existing MSU Vet Tech program would also benefit.

MSU first started the process over 50 years ago. Now is the time for our laws to be changed to allow the program to begin. Even the University of Kentucky indicated it would not stand in the way.

Kentucky needs to have a School of Veterinary Medicine. It is a disgrace that our agriculture and equine industries must rely on non-Kentucky trained veterinarians. Our Senators must no longer stand idle and let this obviously needed opportunity pass by.

Lynn Bechler  
Marion, Ky.

### Local school superintendent responds on homeschools

As the superintendent of Crittenden County Schools, I want to make a couple of points to follow up on the home-schooling article in The Press last week.

I am proud to serve Crittenden County students, alongside our school board and staff every single day. However, I want to be clear that we support the homeschools that do an excellent job in our county.

The public schools and the dedicated homeschools are working to achieve the same results - to educate the students of our county to become productive citizens. As was brought to my attention last week, homeschools were negatively stereotyped through the

article, and my quotes attributed to that.

We have a range of homeschools across the country, and they cannot be stereotyped as good or bad. Each stands on its own merit, and we just want all of our children to become educated, informed citizens.

I want to invite anyone with questions to feel free to reach out to me. Our county is a wonderful place to live, and my goal is for all students, whether educated through homeschooling or through public education, to be prepared for a future full of success and promise.

School Superintendent  
Tonya Driver  
Marion, Ky.

## Letters Policy

The Crittenden Press accepts and encourages letters to the editor on a variety of subjects. Letters should be submitted by 5 p.m., Friday the week before publication. Submissions must include only the author's name (no multiple names or groups), address, including hometown, phone number and signature. Neither phone numbers nor exact addresses will be published. They are for our records only in order to authenticate a letter's author. Letters should typically not exceed 300 words. No letters will be accepted supporting or opposing political candidates in the week prior to the election. Email your letters to us at [thepress@the-press.com](mailto:thepress@the-press.com).

## Crittenden Press

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# Seperate content and process

I got into a rather lengthy and somewhat ugly discussion a couple of weeks ago with four people with whom I agreed. If I told you this was in a social media interest group with people I do not know personally you might understand how this happened at the same time you are questioning my wisdom and maturity. It was a Christian group, so there was no profanity. I was however called a “heretic,” “a teacher of false doctrine,” “a failure,” and “not a true Christian.” I was also told to “shut up,” and “move on.” Let me repeat, this all happened with people whom I had no disagreement with what they were saying.

There is an old song titled, “T’ain’t What Cha Do (It’s the way that cha do it)” that applies to the situation I jumped into. (I didn’t “find myself” there because I knew exactly what I was doing and what might happen.) My criticism had to do with the unkind way they were making their point. It was, in my opinion, condescending, rude, and made fun of the “stupidity” of others. My suggestion was that there might be a better way to say what they were saying. “T’ain’t what you say it’s the way that you say it.”

The problem they had

with my response was the classic response from a defensive and anxious group of people. They could not separate content (what they were saying) from process (how they were saying it). They assumed that since I was challenging the second, I was dismissing the first. It was impossible to convince them otherwise. The more I tried, the worse it got.

Our nation is absolutely full of anger and anxiety right now. We will never be able to find good solutions to the problems we face so long as we are unable to separate content and process. Those who are running for public office (on both sides and independents) who attempt to separate them in a mature way either do not get a hearing or are excoriated for their efforts. We have courageous people willing to step in and lead, but they cannot break through the wall of anger and anxiety to improve the process.

Process matters. It matters how we say things. It matters how

we go about making decisions as a nation because every decision our nation makes will affect billions of people. I had a conversation a couple of years ago with someone from Belize. They were expressing despair at a recent supreme court decision because of the impact it was having on their country. Our anger and anxiety get exported to other places and lands harder on the lives of people we do not know than it does us. It is the nature of things. The vehicle for some of these exports has to do with process. Would it not be better for us and the world if we were an exporter of level-headed maturity rather than childish, churlish bullying and name-calling so rampant on the left and the right?

However, it is not politics which is most concerning. It is the process that many believers use to get their message across. It is saddening that the thing that should be the most inclusive movement on the planet takes pride in being so ready to ex-

clude anyone who doesn’t fall in line. I need to emphasize that there does need to be agreement on who the leader is – for Christians that would be God through the Christ. There are too many who put party politics or ethnicity first. There are too many who cannot seem to separate content from process and in so doing cannot hear what others are saying. In our nation, different forms of Christianity have done as much to divide and exclude as any other group. We need to improve our process.

The book of Proverbs says a lot about how we answer (process).

Here is a sampling:

“A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.” (15:1)

“The mind of the righteous ponders how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours out evil things.” (15:28)

“If one gives answer before he hears, it is his folly and shame.” (18:13)

“The poor use entreaties, but the rich answer roughly.” (18:23)

*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.*

# God strengthens us for the spiritual battles we fight

**Question:** When I think I’m doing well and I can handle every situation that may arise throughout my day, I find myself in a spiritual struggle. Why is that?

**Answer:** Though we might not always be aware of it, God’s people are involved in spiritual battles every day. Scripture teaches that when we have struggles it is often a spiritual issue. In these common trials, we aren’t striving with people but with spiritual forces. “For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms” (Eph. 6:12).

We need spiritual weapons to fight spiritual battles. The pieces of armor God makes available to us are truth, righteousness, a ready witness to share the gospel, faith, salvation, the Word of God and

**ASK the PASTOR**  
By Bob Hardison

prayer (Eph. 6:14-18).

When we face spiritual trials, we should devote ourselves to praying. God strengthens us as we pray and shows us the way through temptations. “God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it” (1 Cor. 10:13b).

Spiritual warfare is not something we should dwell on or overemphasize. Yet we confront it daily. Prepare for battle by praying continually. The best time to prepare for warfare is before we are attacked.

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

# Marion native returns to Methodist pulpit

Nearly 40 years after he preached his first sermon in a Crittenden County church, Marion native Steve English returned to a local pulpit this month.

English, 54, is serving a three-month interim pastoral position at Marion United Methodist Church. He delivered his first sermon at Hurricane Church when he was 17 years old.

English

English has resided in Guatemala with his wife Pam for 30 years. As founders of The World Our Parish, the missionaries operated an orphanage and school and now train individuals from

Mexico, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Haiti, and Cuba to be pastors and missionaries.

“It feels good to come home,” said English, who temporarily is stepping away from his responsibilities in Guatemala. “I felt a deep responsibility to give back to my home church in this transition between pastors.”

In his time here, English said his mission is to preach the word of God, provide opportunities for spiritual growth and grow the church.

Marion United Methodist Church has been without a full-time minister since the first of the year. A new appointment to the church will be made in June.

## Religious Outreach

- Crooked Creek Cemetery Association will meet at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 3 at Crooked Creek Church located at 261 Crooked Creek Church Rd., Marion.
- Old Salem Baptist Church has a Blessing Box located next to the church at 117 Old Salem Church Rd. Everyone is welcome to take items or place them in the box for others to enjoy.
- Suicidal thoughts? Stop! Email dbrantpc@tds.net and request a video link that hopefully will change your mind.
- Salem Baptist Celebrate Recovery meets Monday’s 5:30 p.m. with a meal at 6 p.m., at 209 Highland Street, opposite side of the building from the Thrift Store.
- The Clothes Closet of the First Baptist Church in Fredonia is open to serve the area with free clothes. The Clothes Closet

- is operated from 1-3 p.m. each Thursday. The Clothes Closet will be closed in case of rain.
- Fredonia Unity Baptist Church’s clothes closet is open from 9 a.m. to noon on the second and fourth Saturday of every month.
  - First Baptist Church of Fredonia food pantry is open from 4-5:30 p.m., third Wednesday of each month in Coleman Hall of the church.
  - The clothes closet at Mexico Baptist Church is open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each Monday.
  - Cave Springs Baptist Church between Lola and Joy in Livingston County offers food 24 hours a day, 7 days week at its outdoor Blessing Box in front of the church.

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Rodney Phelps, Pastor  
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emmausbaptistsalem@outlook.com  
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**St. William Catholic Church**

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

**Mexico Baptist Church**

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

**DEER CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH**

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

**Emmanuel Baptist Church**

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

**Tolu United Methodist Church**

**Pastor: David Brown** *We invite you to be our guest*  
Open hearts. Open minds. Open doors.  
**The People of The United Methodist Church**  
Sunday School 10 a.m. • Service 11 a.m.  
Wednesday Night Youth 6:30 p.m.

**Barnett Chapel General Baptist**

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

**Freedom General Baptist Church**

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

**Marion Baptist Church**

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

**SEVEN SPRINGS MISSIONARY BAPTIST CHURCH**

219 Seven Springs Rd., Marion, Ky. 42064  
Sun. School for all ages: 10 a.m.  
Sun. Worship: 11 a.m., 6 p.m. • Wed.: 7 p.m.  
*- We are an Independent Baptist Church seeking to know Christ, and to make Him known to the community around us. -*

**Crayne Community Church**

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

**FIRST CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

**growing in grace PLEASANT GROVE General Baptist Church**

*2 Peter 3:18*  
**Pastor: Traci Gaudin**  
Located on Ky. 723, 4 miles north of Salem  
Sunday School 10 a.m. | Sunday Worship 11 a.m., 6 p.m. | Wed. 7 p.m.

**Marion Church of God**

334 Fords Ferry Road, Marion, Ky.  
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 -*

**PINEY FORK CUMBERLAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

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

**Sugar Grove Cumberland Presbyterian**

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

**Marion United Methodist Church**

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

**Frances Community Church**

Bro. Butch Gray  
Worship service:..... 11 a.m.  
Children’s Church ages 3 & up... 11 a.m.  
*“The little church with a big heart”*

**Hurricane Church**

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

**Unity General Baptist Church**

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



# Boston and Sons built many local establishments

What a history there is to the old respected firm of J. N. Boston and Sons. There are still many local buildings still standing to give credit to their fine work and craftsmanship. Most likely the two best known are Fohs Hall and the Woman's Club building.

Here is some interesting history, dated Oct. 22, 1926, found in the archives of The Crittenden Press, of the men that built the firm and some of their contributions to our community and also in other counties. We should all be proud of is this respected firm that started here in Marion. "Better Built By Boston" was a good motto.

### The Beginning

J. N. Boston, the senior member of the firm, has gradually built up the business from a very modest beginning made with a very meager capital. J. N. Boston and Sons have built and sold more new residences in Marion than any other firm.

Born Jan. 21, 1863 at Hillman's Rolling Mill near Eddyville, Boston spent his early life on a farm, part of the time near where the Siloam Church now stands.

It was in 1899 that he left the farm to venture for the first time into business, that of furniture and undertaking with a stock of \$1,000.

The next year he made his start into what he has since developed into a prosperous business. Together with R. C. Walker, Boston bought from Jesse Olive his furniture and lumber business.

The new firm grew steadily, and in 1902 they were able to buy out another competitor, the J. R. Clark Planing Mill Company and their lumber business.

The following year Boston and Walker decided to dissolve partnership and so divided the business, which by this time had grown to good proportions.

The mill and lumber business were taken over by Boston and the furniture and undertaking department by Walker.

From the year, 1903, Boston remained in the planning mill, lumber and contracting business, conducting it on such a sound economical basis that it grew into a substantial business.

J. N. Boston has since been joined in the firm, first, by his elder son, Maurie N. Boston, who now has charge of the architectural and contracting division, then the younger son, Ted, who joined the firm after his return from Army service during the World War, and now has charge of the office.

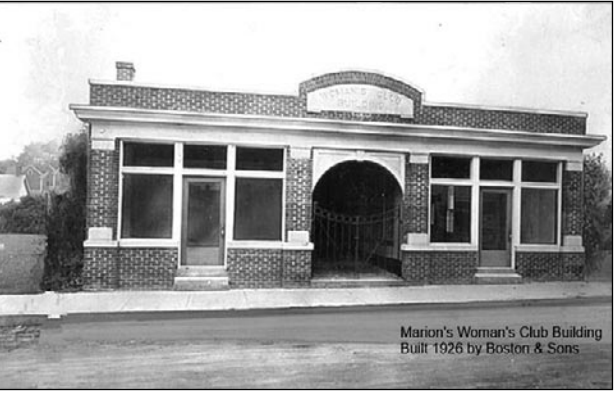
Both Maurie and Ted Boston obtained their elementary and high school education in the city schools of Marion and have spent their entire business life among Marion people.

Since becoming members of the firm they have been connected with their father in a number of very large and very important building contracts.

J. N. Boston and Sons' modern planning mill, lumber yard and offices are located on Mill Street and are completely equipped and prepared for the very best work in their line of business. They carry a large and complete stock of building material of every description.

**Buildings they have constructed**

Besides the many homes and buildings, both large and small, that they have built in Marion and over the county, they have constructed residences and business houses in Salem, Princ-



FohsHall (top) and Marion's Woman Club (bottom) are two of the best known and remembered buildings built by Boston & Sons that still remain beautiful today.

eton, Fredonia, Morganfield, Sturgis, Waverly and Clay.

Some of the larger of the local buildings for which they have had the contracts are:

■ First Baptist Church, a brick building that was, at the time it was built, one of the nicest in town.

■ The E. J. Hayward, J. H. Orme, T. H. Cochran and L. H. James business buildings, all of which in the years that have passed since proved

that they were well constructed (on South Main Street, Frazer Law office building, the Marion Cafe building and Cochran Hardware building).

■ The new armory, the attractive business building built last year (the yellow brick building that was torn down on West Bellville Street for the new fire station).

■ Two buildings for the Masonic Lodge, both of them completed this spring. One is a handsome addition to the business section of Main

Street. The architecture of the building is in conformity with the present Lodge building, making it have the appearance of only one building. It is two stories high and the front harmonizes beautifully with the original Masonic building. The plan is at some future time adding another story to the new rooms, enlarging it to be a three story. The main floor is now the home of D. B. "Dave" Moore's grocery (later to become the home of the City Drug Store).

■ The second new building is located behind the Masonic Lodge facing Bellville Street. It is a two-story building, well lighted and ventilated, with concrete floor downstairs. This building will be occupied by The Crittenden Press on the ground floor and the studio of George Travis on the second. The studio will be modern in every respect.

■ The addition to the graded school building, consisting of the auditorium and extra classrooms.

■ The Woman's Club building, which has become known as one of the most modern buildings of its sort in the state.

■ Fohs Hall, a \$100,000 building, that has been pronounced by experts as

one of the most beautiful buildings of its kind in western Kentucky.

The construction of these buildings and the favorable comment that they have created have brought the Bostons into prominence in their filed of business.

Their success in carrying out the plans of Julius Fohs and his architects has met with approval on every hand, so that while Fohs is being praised for his wonderfully generous gift, a part of the honor will go to the J. N. Boston and Sons for their faithfulness in carrying out Fohs' plan in a way that will bring credit to the firm, to the town and to Julius Fohs.

### Buildings in other counties

Outstanding buildings built by the Boston firm in other place are; the new high school at Sturgis, the Christian and the Cumberland Presbyterian churches in Sturgis; the two new bank buildings at Morganfield; and the combined Catholic school and church at Waverly, a \$60,000 building.

### The Boston Family

J. N. Boston is one of the leading members of the Methodist Church and serves on the Board of Stewards. He has been a member of the board for many years. During the years he has been connected with the church here, he not only has been more than ordinarily liberal with the church in a financial way, but has given freely of his time in his efforts to help the church maintain its place in the community. Not only is he interested in the church, but in other worthwhile things in the community life of Marion.

Maurie N. Boston is also prominent in the activities of the town. One of the most noteworthy things he has done was the part he took in bringing water works to Marion during his administration as mayor. Not only in working for a water system but in other things for the best interests of his town has he been very active.

Ted Boston is one of the leaders in the organizations of which he is a member, especially in the Epworth League of the Methodist Church. He is a member of the commu-

nity orchestra and at the church of which he is a member.

John Noble Boston died October 1939 at age 77. Son Maurie N. died in 1968 and son Ted died Nov. 17, 1990. All are buried in Maplevue Cemetery.

The Boston family left a legacy for generations to come by the outstanding

buildings that they constructed that are still a vital part of our community today.

(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).



**Dr. Robert Knox**  
*Chiropractor*

.....

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**SOLD**

**CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KY 55.78 - \$275,000** - This tract has the right blend of habitat types and topography to grow and hold big bucks with the added bonus of a fully furnished pole barn cabin! Includes a Redneck hunting blind and feeders!

**PENDING**

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

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

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


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

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

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

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

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for sale

Antique Victorian bedroom suite, burl walnut, full size bed with tall headboard carved dog heads on ends, wash stand, dresser with mirror, both have marble tops, complete with Sleep Number mattress, all in great condition, \$4,000. Sturgis (270) 333-4638. (2t-10-p)

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notice

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bid notice

INVITATION FOR SEALED BID FOR VEHICLES The City of Marion, Kentucky, a City of the Home Rule Class, has declared as surplus property the following: 2003 Chevrolet S-10 Blazer 4x4, VIN (1GNDT13X83K175295), needs brakes and brake lines, Brown, Miles (102,000) have maintenance record. 2003 Dodge Grand Caravan, VIN (1D4GP24383B266856), Silver/Grey, Miles (163,324), 3.3L V6 engine. 2007 F150 XL, VIN (1FTRF12227WA77606), White, 4.2L engine, Truck runs but needs work, very rough idling. \$2000 reserve. Sealed bids will be accepted in person at City Hall or by US Mail, postage prepaid, at 217 South Main Street, Marion, Kentucky 42064. Sealed Bids must be received at City Hall no later than 12:00 P.M. (Noon) Central Standard Time March 14, 2024. The bid opening shall occur in public at 12:05 P.M. Central Standard Time same date. Bidders or an authorized representative must be present at the bid opening. In the event the bidding is successful, the prevailing bidder must be prepared to deposit no less than 20% of the bid to the City on that day and to close and tender balance of funds in full to the City by April 1, 2024. The City of Marion reserves the right to reject any and all bids. (2t-10-c)

legal notice

LaDelicia Mexican Restaurant, dba La Cantina with an address of 109 Morningside Drive, Marion, KY 42064 hereby declares intention(s) to apply for a NQ2 retail drink license(s) and special Sunday sales license no later than March 15, 2024. The business to be licensed will be located at 109 Morningside Drive, Marion, KY. 42064. Doing business as La Cantina. The owner, Graciela Bruce of 346 Rail Road Hill Road, Grand Rivers, Ky. 42045. Any person, association, corporation, or body politic may protest the granting of license(s) by writing the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control, 500 Mero Street 2NE3, Frankfort, Ky. 40601-8400, within 30 days (KRS 243.430) of the date of this legal publication. (4t-12-c)

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What was originally reported as a brush fire turned into much more before firefighters could get on scene and control the blaze. A home, motorcycle and vehicle were lost in this blaze near Mott City on Monday. Although the occupant was home at the time, no one was injured.

# FIRE SEASON

October 1 to December 15

February 15 to April 30

During the official fire seasons it shall be unlawful for any person to set fire to, or procure another to set fire to any flammable material capable of spreading fire, located in or within 150 feet of any woodland or brushland, except between the hours of 6 p.m. and 6 a.m. or when the ground is covered with snow. KRS 149.400.

DO NOT BURN

No burning between 6 am and 6 pm.

**Why?**Higher daytime temperatures dry out the fuels that feed wildfires.

Wind speed picks up during the day and can spread flames faster.

Humidity drops during the day, drying out the fuels that feed wildfires.

OKAY TO BURN

Okay to burn between 6 pm and 6 am.

**Why?**Temperatures drop at night and fuels won't dry out as fast.

Wind speed drops and is less likely to reignite embers or spread sparks.

Humidity levels rise at night and fuels absorb the moisture.

If your burn pile starts a wildfire, you may have to pay for the cost of putting it out.

# Trash burning gets out of control, destroys county home

STAFF REPORT

Firemen from various agencies were dispatched to a brush fire that spread into a home shortly after noon on Monday.

Windy, dry conditions, firefighters warn, have created a volatile situation.

Crittenden County Volunteer Fire Chief Scott Hurley recom-

mends avoiding any type of outdoor burning until spring does its work and greens up vegetation.

Monday's fire just south of Mott City was first reported as a "vegetation fire threatening a structure." Within minutes of the dispatch, Hurley said, a structure was also involved. Firemen from every county de-

partment were dispatched to the scene and some from Caldwell County also assisted.

The home, which belonged to Gordon Dickey, was almost completely destroyed. The fire chief said the person occupying the home also lost a motorcycle and car.

Hurley said the brush fire began when a blaze being used

to burn trash got out of control. Firemen were at the scene more than four hours.

At 1:41 p.m., while firemen were still at the Mott City blaze another field fire was reported on the opposite side of the county along KY 91 North.

Firemen from Marion, Sheridan and Wheatcroft were sent to the second fire.

According to Kentucky law, most materials are illegal to burn outdoors because they emit harmful air pollutants. Plastics, food scraps, treated or painted wood, tires and most household trash items are illegal to dispose of by burning. It is also illegal to burn during daylight hours between 6 a.m., to 6 p.m., at this time of year.

Week 8 Legislative Review from State Senator

# Hearings have begun in earnest as second half of session begins

After a long weekend observing Presidents' Day, the Kentucky General Assembly returned to Frankfort a week ago Tuesday, energized and ready to tackle the second half of the 2024 Regular Session with renewed enthusiasm and a few extra cups of coffee. The deadline for Senate bill filings was Wednesday of this week (Feb. 28) and the Senate has begun hearing House bills in earnest.

Momentum picked up last week and we passed the following bills which will now be taken up by the House for further consideration. If approved, they will be delivered to the governor's desk to be signed, vetoed, or left to become law without a signature.

•Senate Bill 74 (SB 74) would establish a state maternal fatality review team to enhance the monitoring of child and maternal fatalities. It would define the team's jurisdiction and require cooperation with an external child fatality review panel. It would also direct the Cabinet for Health and Family Services to publish an annual report on hospital delivery procedures starting Dec. 1, 2024.

•SB 89 would mandate the Department for Medicaid Services and any managed care organization contracted for Medicaid services to offer coverage provided by licensed certified professional midwives. The aim would be to ensure that certified professional midwifery services are included in the scope of Medicaid coverage and allow for the pursuit of federal approval when required. The Cabinet for Health and Family Services or the Department for Medicaid Services must seek federal approval if they determine it necessary to implement this coverage.

•SB 14 would address Kentucky Cosmetology Board issues and remove barriers for nail technicians. The legislation would mandate a warning notice before an immediate salon shutdown unless there's an immediate public health threat. It would require detailed violation descriptions and specific remedies in the notice. SB 14 would also mandate administrative hear-

ings post-emergency order for salons to resume operations. Additionally, the bill would add two new board members—an esthetician and a nail technician.

•SB 45, if enacted, would establish the Kentucky Ashanti Alert System to promptly alert the public when a "missing adult" is believed to be in immediate danger of abduction or kidnapping. Developed by the Kentucky State Police (KSP), it would use existing resources like electronic highway signs and the Amber Alert System. The system would encourage law enforcement cooperation, operate within existing budgets, and activate based on KSP's assessment for public safety and secure recovery.

•SB 48 would increase the time in which two separate offenses of theft by unlawful taking must occur for the offenses to be combined and the value of the property aggregated to determine the appropriate charge.

•SB 65 would nullify administrative regulations found deficient by the Administrative Regulations Review Committee in 2023. It would prevent any administrative body from creating similar regulations until 2025.

•SB 91 would streamline Kentucky driver's licensing services establishing at least one regional office in each senatorial district by July 1, 2025. The bill would allow county clerks to choose to provide operator's licenses or personal ID cards. It would also permit third-party entities to issue licenses, with associated costs and a potential convenience fee. Additionally, the bill would initiate a KSP pilot project for skills testing, reducing travel for high school students in five counties without a regional office. The pilot program would operate from September 1, 2024, to June 30, 2026.

•SB 107 would address various transportation issues, including restricting semi-trucks from the

left lane except in certain conditions, streamlining commercial vehicle registration, enforcing towing regulations, adding organ donation information to driver education, and allowing for adjustments to certain fees.

•SB 126 would propose amending the Constitution of Kentucky to limit a governor's ability to issue pardons or sentence commutations before an election. The aim would be to enhance accountability and prevent potential misuse of executive power during sensitive political periods. If passed by the House with the approved three-fifths majority, it would be included in a future general election ballot.

•SB 131 addresses the tricky business of manipulated content through the rapid rise of Artificial Intelligence (AI). This includes altered videos or audio in political messages during elections. The measure aims to ensure more honest and fair elections. It would allow for a candidate whose appearance, action, or speech is altered through the use of altered media in an electioneering communication to seek legal action and damages against developers and owners of the software, and the individual or entity responsible for creating the content. The bill defines "electioneering communication" as any communication broadcast, mail piece, or telephone call that refers to any candidate for any state, county, city, or district office or to any ballot measure. It also defines "synthetic media" as an image, audio recording, or video recording of an individual's appearance, action, or speech that has been intentionally altered with AI software and bars its use in electioneering without disclosure.

•SB 140, addressing COVID-19-related unemployment insurance benefit overpayments (Jan. 27, 2020 - Dec. 31, 2020), would require the Secretary of Education and Labor Cabinet to send new notices by July 1, 2024, giving recipients an additional chance to request a waiver. Recipients would have one year from the notice to request a waiver, ensuring a

allow reimbursement if recipients prove entitlement to the waiver based on specified statute standards.

•SB 155 would implement the first total update to bring the Uniform Commercial Code into the digital world. The bill would establish new rules for commercial transactions to ensure interstate commerce operates efficiently. It would create a new Article 12 that governs "controllable electronic records" and would address new forms of collateral, including cryptocurrency and non-fungible tokens. The bill would clarify that nothing in it should be construed to support, endorse, create, or implement a national digital currency.

•SB 162 would facilitate access to vehicle history and accident reports for consumers considering purchasing a vehicle. The bill would allow law enforcement agencies to retain and provide these reports to interested parties, enhancing transparency and consumer confidence in the used car market. Additionally, the bill enables local law

enforcement agencies to retain copies of police reports related to vehicles, fostering collaboration with third-party vendors like Carfax to provide essential vehicle history data. By doing so, local law enforcement agencies will have access to cutting-edge investigatory tools currently utilized by thousands of agencies nationwide. These resources have aided investigators in finding vehicles, either stolen or used in a crime and aided law enforcement in identifying and locating vehicles used in kidnapping cases by leveraging partial license plate readers.

•SB 191 would make minor adjustments to Kentucky's public post-secondary education system's performance-based funding model. The bill would redefine "nontraditional age students" as individuals aged 25 to 64. The aim would be to narrow achievement gaps by enhancing credential and degree attainment in this demographic. Proposed changes include revised funding percentages for public universities, introducing a

weighted premium for credentials aligned with the state's economic needs in the Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) funding formula, and incorporating nontraditional-age students into outcomes credit. The Council on Postsecondary Education would be directed to implement these changes by April 1, 2024, with an emergency declaration for immediate enactment upon filing with the Kentucky Secretary of State's Office.

You can find the status of these bills and other legislation by calling 866-840-2835 or receive legislative meeting information at 800-633-9650. You can watch and follow legislative activity at [KET.org/legislature](https://KET.org/legislature) and [Legislature.ky.gov](https://Legislature.ky.gov).

Contact my office if I can assist you in any way. Email me at [jason.howell@lrc.ky.gov](mailto:jason.howell@lrc.ky.gov) or reach my office toll-free at 1-800-372-7181.

Sen. Howell, R-Murray, represents the 1st Senate District including Calloway, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Lyon and Trigg counties.

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**BASKETBALL**

**5th District Tournament**

**GIRLS AT LYON COUNTY**  
**MONDAY'S FIRST ROUND**  
Lyon County 80, Trigg County 31  
Crittenden 52, Livingston Cent. 44

**THURSDAY'S CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Crittenden Co. vs Lyon County, 6pm

**BOYS AT LYON COUNTY**  
**TUESDAY'S FIRST ROUND**  
Lyon County 88, Crittenden Co. 48  
Trigg Co. 73, Livingston Central 48

**FRIDAY'S CHAMPIONSHIP**  
Lyon County vs Trigg County, 6pm

**2nd Region starts Monday**

The girls' Second Region Basketball Tournament will be hosted by Trigg County March 4-9 while the boys' Second Region Tournament will be March 6-12 at Hopkinsville. Coaches will draw for pairings this weekend following the end of the region's four district tournaments.

**Walker's quarter record**

Crittenden County sophomore guard Bryson Walker's 24 points in the fourth quarter of a recent basketball game against Hopkins Central has earned him a spot in two record books. For starters, his scoring is tops in the CCHS Basketball Record Book. His name will also be listed in the KHSAA Record Book. In Kentucky, the most points ever scored in a quarter was 50 in 1976 by Billy Miller of Nancy High School. Walker's 24 is tied for the eighth most in a game. Walker made four three-pointers, three two-point baskets and six foul shots in the last quarter and finished the game with 34 points.

**Joiner gets 1,000th board**

Livingston Central junior Victoria Joiner reached a basketball milestone last week, recording her 1,000th career rebound in the Lady Cardinals' final regular season game. In the 40-27 win over Caldwell County, Joiner had 17 rebounds. She was already a member of the Livingston Central 1,000 Points Club.

**SOCCER**

**Youth sign up Saturday**

Crittenden County Youth Soccer Association's registration deadline is Friday, March 1. Call for more information 270-625-4634.

**BASEBALL | SOFTBALL**

**Youth league sign ups**

Deadline is March 9 for boys and girls who want to play youth baseball and softball in Marion. For more information call Tanner Tabor at 859-333-9751.

**CCHS 7th, Boone picked**

Crittenden County's Lady Rockets are pre-season ranked No. 7 in the Second Region and sophomore pitcher Anna Boone was named to the pre-season all-region team by coaches.

**Hunting Seasons**

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

Raccoon hunting	Oct 1 - Feb 29
Squirrel	Nov 13 - Feb 29
Quail	Nov 13 - Feb 29
Raccoon trapping	Nov 13 - Feb 29
Gray or red fox	Nov 13 - Feb 29
Beaver	Nov 13 - Feb 29
Bobcat	Nov 18 - Feb 29
Canada goose	Nov 23 - Feb 15
Youth Turkey	April 6-7
Turkey	April 13 - May 5
Bullfrog	May 17 - Oct. 31
Squirrel	May 18 - June 21
Coyote	Year Round
Ground hog	Year Round

**Corn, feed up by Friday**

Hunters who typically feed wild animals must know that all feeding must stop and all grain eliminated from a hunting area by March 1. In Kentucky, feeding grain, seed or manufactured animal feed outside the curtilage of the home is prohibited.

# Lady Rockets vying for 5th threPEAT



It was a tough game Monday as CCHS beat Livingston. Pictured at top are CCHS's Elliot Evans and Andrea Federico battling LCHS's Emersyn Ramage for the ball, and (above) Anna Boone and Georgia Holeman with LCHS's Maggie Downey.

## Win over Livingston sets up showdown with Lyons

STAFF REPORT

Sophomore forward Andrea Federico exchanged some early frustrations for a bit of heavy lifting down the stretch as Crittenden County beat Livingston Central 52-44 in the Fifth District Tournament opener at Lyon County.

Federico, who had been sidelined for about two weeks under concession protocol, hadn't scored a point until she reeled off three straight buckets to crack open a tie game and break Livingston's back.

"I'm glad I hit them at the end because I didn't hit anything at the beginning," she said.

With just over three minutes to play, Federico made a 12 foot jumper. During her scoring run, she also benefited from a couple of nice assists that found her free on the block.

"I just slowed it down in my head and didn't rush my shot," she said. "My outside shot wasn't going in so I tried to get close to the rim. I didn't want our season to end, especially since this was my first game back since Hopkins Central."

Neither team led by more than six points in the playoff opener, and it was much closer than that the entire second half until Federico put some distance between her team and the persistent Livingston girls.

"She came up big, had a couple of rebounds and hit some big shots," CCHS coach Shannon Hodge said about "Fed's" effort in the fourth quarter.

Sophomore Anna Boone led CCHS

with 20 points while Elliot Evans and Jordyn Hodge had 13 apiece. Federico scored the team's other half dozen.

The victory – over a Livingston team that had defeated Crittenden in overtime way back in December – propels CCHS into Thursday's fourth encounter this season with Lyon County. This one will be on the Lady Lyons' home hardwood with a district championship in the balance. CCHS has beaten Lyon twice this year. The only loss to them came on the Lyons' home floor a few weeks ago. CCHS has defeated Lyon in a regular-season matchup at Crittenden and in the All A Classic Second Region championship game on a neutral floor at Princeton.

The Lady Rockets are 19-12 on the season while Livingston's season came to a close at 13-11.

Lyon beat Trigg County 80-31 in the other Fifth District opener on Monday. The district title game will be played at 6 p.m., Thursday. Both Crittenden and Lyon will advance to the Second Region Tournament next week at Trigg County.

CCHS has won the last two Fifth District crowns and could claim an unprecedented third straight this week. The Lady Rockets have won seven district tournament titles in school history, half of them in the past seven seasons.

Livingston Central	11	22	39	44
Crittenden County	14	24	38	52

LYON – A.Leahy 13, Joiner 4, Downey 9, J.Leahy 14, Ramage 4. FG 17. 3-pointers 5 (J.Leahy 4, Downey). FT 5-8.

CRITTENDEN – Boone 20, Evans 13, Hodge 13, Federico 6, Rushing, Holeman, Stewart. FG 18. 3-pointers 8 (Hodge 4, Evans 2, Boone 2). FT 8-14.

# Rocket season ends against mighty Lyons

STAFF REPORT

One of the best Fifth District teams in basketball history had little trouble ending one of Crittenden County's most difficult seasons on Tuesday.

Ranked among the state's top five teams all season long, Lyon County dispatched the Rockets 88-44 on their home floor.

For Crittenden, an enormous underdog, it signaled the end to a frustrating season filled with injuries that left insurmountable challenges for a winning season.

Crittenden finished with three victories in 28 games.

Over the past five or six years, Lyon has held an incredible advantage over the entire Fifth District with perhaps its best team in history, led by UK commit Travis Perry and two other Division I basketball recruits – Jack Reddick and Brady Shoulders. Reddick has offers from The Citadel and Florida Gulf Coast. Shoulders is headed to UT-Martin.

Lyon has beaten the Rockets in 24 of the last 26 encounters, and 13 in a row dating back to 2020 when Crittenden won by surprising Lyon with incredible shooting at Rocket Arena.

Crittenden's historic troubles in dealing with their neighbors to the south are well documented, but in the last few years Lyon has dominated much of the region dur-

ing its celebrated run as Perry has become Kentucky's career scoring leader.

For first-year head coach Matt Fraliex, the playoff loss was certainly not a surprise, and as he's done all throughout his inaugural campaign, the coach has remained positive and encouraging despite some difficult odds. When senior Travis Champion – who was on a trajectory to become CCHS's all-time leading scorer – tore his ACL in the season's second game, it left an unfillable void in the Rocket psyche, and its scorebook. What Fraliex did find was the character of his team that stayed together, and sophomore Bryson Walker emerged as the Rocket star of now. His talents were clear before having to take a leadership role this season, but in the absence of another consistent offensive weapon, Walker stepped up with a 19-point scoring average over the course of the season.

Crittenden Co.	3	20	35	44
Lyon County	25	48	76	88

CRITTENDEN – Belcher 2, Walker 13, Hatfield 5, Sharp 5, Keller 13, Reddick 6, Travis, Poindexter. FG 15. 3-pointers 3 (Walker 2, Sharp). FT 11-25.

LYON – Perryman 31, Shoulders 7, Reddick 11, Kirk 8, Breedlove 8, DeFew 2, Ca.Collins 7, Crawford 5, Co.Collins 6, Burchett, Herring, Ramey, Je.Reddick, Phillips 3, Prow. FG 33. 3-pointers 16. (Perry 9, Reddick, Kirk, Ca.Collins, Crawford, Co.Collins 2, Phillips). FT 6-9



Rocket senior Gabe Keller scores over UK commit Travis Perry during the Rockets' opening-round loss Tuesday in the Fifth District Basketball Tournament at Lyon County. Keller scored 13 points in the game.

# CCHS closes regular season full of challenging injuries

STAFF REPORT

Although the Rocket basketball team's struggles continued as it closed out the regular season on the road Friday, sophomore Bryson Walker continued to put up big numbers.

In an 81-51 loss at Carlisle County, Walker dropped 36 points, including seven three-pointers.

Only four other players scored for CCHS as the team finished 3-24 on the season. Carlisle closed out at 19-10.

Walker has averaged almost 19 points a game this season.

For the Rockets, hampered by injuries, it was a season full of challenges, particularly the early loss of leading scorer Travis Champion to a knee injury.

CCHS's three wins are the fewest in a season since the team was 3-22 in 1992-93. Since consolidation in 1957, Crittenden has turned in eight seasons with three or fewer wins, including an 0-24 campaign in 1990-91.

**Former Rocket beats CCHS**

On the road against former

Rocket and Mayfield head coach Payton Croft, Crittenden County lost 71-37, falling to 3-23 on the season.

Walker led all scorers with 21. Mayfield( 16-9) is ranked sixth in the First Region based on KHSAA power rankings.

Crittenden Co.	17	28	35	51
Carlisle County	20	39	52	81

CRITTENDEN – Walker 36, Belcher 1, Hatfield 6, Sharp 5, Keller 3, LaRue, Reddick, Travis, Poindexter, Rhodes. FG 15. 3-pointers 9 (Walker 7, Sharp, Hatfield). FT 18-24.

CARLISLE – Williams 7, Burgess 2, Bowles 6, Burnett 17, Perez, Bruer 3, Arnold 11, Grogan 16, King 2, J.Willams 2, Garrett 6, Richard 8, McBride 1. FG 24. 3-pointers 8. FT 21-27.

Crittenden	7	26	30	37
Mayfield	18	44	60	71

CRITTENDEN – Belcher 2, Walker 21, Hatfield 5, Keller 2, Reddick 2, Travis 2, Poindexter 3, FG 14. 3-pointers 7 (Walker 5, Hatfield, Poindexter) FT 2-4.

MAYFIELD - Webb 10, Pate 8, Morris 4, Gibson 10, O.Byrd 13, Flint 5, Cash 2, Hoover 5, Byrd 2, Richardson 8, Dowell 3. FG 26. 3-pointers 11 (Webb 2, Pate 2, O.Byrd 3, Flint, Morton, Richardson, Dowell) FT 8-14

## Evans nets 18 in win at McLean

STAFF REPORT

On the road to close out the regular season last Thursday, the Lady Rockets outpaced host McLean County 55-37.

Crittenden County finished the regular-season with 18 wins in 30 games. McLean fell to 8-17 on the season.

Sophomore guard Elliot Evans led the Lady Rockets in scoring with 18 as McLean focused its defense on the team's leading scorer Anna Boone. Boone scored 13 and Jordyn Hodge 12.

Andrea Federico missed her third-straight

game, recovering from a Grade 2 concussion.

Although McLean County was within nine points just before the half, the game was never any closer.

Crittenden Co.	16	31	43	55
McLean Co.	12	20	25	37

CRITTENDEN - Boone 13, Evans 18, Hodge 12, Holeman 4, Rushing 4, Walker 2, Stewart 2, Champion, Munday. FT 22. 3-pointers 6 (Boone 3, Evans 2, Hodge). FT 8-10.

McLEAN - Larkin 1, Level 6, Miller 8, McCoy 3, Miller 10, Lan-num 9. FG 14l 3-pointers 2. FT 5-8.

GOOD LUCK

ROCKETS

Best wishes on a winning season.

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# Sharp Leapling counting birthdays on one hand

Marion resident Tucker Sharp will be celebrating the rarest birthday of all this week.

On Thursday, he turns five... well, actually he's been on earth 20 full years, tramping around as a "Leapling."

Also known as Leapers, Sharp is among about 5 million Americans celebrating Leap Year birthdays on Feb. 29. He's hoping this one is extra special like the rest of his "real" birthdays before, all four of them on Leap Year.

"It's fun to watch people do the math trying to figure out how old I really am when I tell



them I was born on Leap Year," says Sharp, a college student at Murray State studying occupational safety and health. "Back in elementary school and middle school I would get a lot of jokes, but as I have gotten older it doesn't come up as much."

Mothers have a 1 in 1,461 chance of giving birth on Feb. 29, which adds the 266th day to the calendar every four years. Some believe Leaplings have special powers. After all, Superman was born on Leap Year's catchup day.

"My parents always tried to do something really special when my birthday actually fell on Feb. 29," Sharp recalls. "I remember one we had a Marion Baptist Church, a whole lot

of friends came. I was probably eight."

From humorous birthday cards to teachers wanting to nominate him for an Honor Society of Leap Year Babies, Sharp says it's been kind of fun to have a special birthday. On the off years, he said he family would typically celebrate Feb. 28, but it really depended on where the weekend fell.

"It was easier to celebrate on a Saturday or Sunday and that's what we did," he recalls.

Sharp says he has never encountered anyone else with a Leap Year birthday. He's



Sharp

clearly never been to Anthony, Texas, the self-proclaimed Leap Year Capital of the World that hosts the Quadrennial Leap Year Festival. There, people from all over the world go to celebrate with a festival, including live music, attractions for kids, food, crafts and more.

Leap Day also has special meaning for the unmarried. An Irish tradition known as Bachelor's Day – sometimes called Ladies' Privilege – is on Feb. 29 every four years, allowing women to propose to men. It is based on a legend of Saint Bridget and Saint Patrick, and once had legal basis in Scotland and England.

For Sharp, he's not expecting too much fanfare this year, nor too many gifts although he re-

calls quite fondly those big ticket items and birthday bashes of the past. Now, he's just grateful.

"I'm getting a college education now. That's a pretty big gift in itself so I don't expect much more," he said.

And, just in case you're interested, it might be a good idea to have an extra copy of this week's newspaper, which is published on Leap Day. It's an instant collector's item. There are only 97 Leap Days every 400 years, which means The Crittenden Press is published on Leap Day only 13 times over that period. The Press' publication day was also on Leap Day in 2018 and 2012.

## City approves 911 dispatcher move

STAFF REPORT

Marion City Council last week voted unanimously to endorse a recommendation by the Marion-Crittenden County 911 Board to migrate all emergency dispatchers from the city payroll to the county payroll.

For many years, county government and city government split the cost of paying dispatchers who answer 911 and other emergency calls. For a time, half were employed by the county and half by the city. However, that became cumbersome and the employees were eventually consolidated on

the city payroll.

In 2021, community leaders from across local government and law enforcement formed a cooperative 911 board to oversee the dispatching center.

Also, beginning in 2021, a \$36 fee began being charged on each residential or commercial dwelling in the county. The fee is collected on top of county tax bills and administered by Crittenden County Fiscal Court.

Since the county handles the 911 money, city leaders agreed that it should be handling payroll, just to simplify administration of

the service and its employees.

Most other personnel matters – including hiring, retention and termination – will be under the direction of the 911 coordinator and the seven board of directors who oversee management of MCC911.

The disptach center has two full-time telecommunicators and other part-timers. Applications are currently being accepted and the board is about to hire a new coordinator.

Migrating the employees to the county payroll will not be finalized until ratified by the fiscal court, which meets in March.

## RESCUE

Continued from page 1

will find at least some downtown buildings to be too far gone for repair. Other owners may determine that required renovations would be too costly.

Through negotiations, owners of five buildings and two vacant lots on the south side of Main Street (US Highway 60) and Cumberland River Homes (CRH) have reached an agreement that allows CRH to acquire all of the properties. Although transactions have not been finalized, CRH believes deeds will soon be secured then all five structures will be torn down.

Jim Wring is president and CEO of CRH, which was founded more than 20 years ago and currently has 27 individuals for whom it provides residential or foster services. He says there are big plans which will help CRH grow to meet a high demand for its services. Wring said the group's Medicaid-funded programs cannot keep up with demand.

"We get two referrals a day, sometimes four or five," Wring said about

the growing need for more space and programming to provide further assistance to individuals that meet special requirements. "Folks have slots in the (Medicaid) waiver program and need a provider, a place to go. In Kentucky alone there are 5,000 people waiting to get into a slot. For a lack of a better term, we need more beds."

Where there's a need there's a way and Cumberland River Homes has already begun the process of accessing a USDA low-interest loan to help it acquire the properties in Salem and construct a new building to house work-training programs, open a coffee shop and restaurant and relocate its administrative offices. Moving the administrative functions to a new location would free up space in its current facility on North Hayden Avenue in Salem for more adult day training.

Plans area already being made in earnest.

"We have staff in training right now so we can begin the supported employment program," said Darla Drawdy, executive director of CRH.

Wring said an architect

has been retained and a contractor is on stand by to begin the initial demo work. While current plans are aimed at the south side of Main Street, Wring said CRH is open to negotiations with regard to buildings on the opposite side of the street that could also be facing grim futures.

Salem Mayor Gary Damron calls the Cumberland River Home project a potential for a rebirth of downtown. Co-operation from property owners is helping Salem facilitate a quick response to a serious problem.

"Tashena Hill deserves credit. She was a big asset in getting this done. She basically donated her buildings just to have a refurbished downtown, so that was a tremendous help," the mayor said.

Hill owns Glenn's Prescription Center and some of the other buildings between the pharmacy and post office that will be razed in the Cumberland River Homes project. She's donating them to the project and Cumberland River Homes says it would be willing to take buildings on the north side of the

street under similar deals. Then it would pay to have the buildings demolished. Such arrangements could save current owners thousands of dollars if they're willing to give up whatever equity they have in those buildings. Inspections will determine whether buildings can be saved through mandatory repairs or whether they will have to be razed.

## SALEM

Continued from page 1

being treated like a single unit. West was at the city council meeting in Marion earlier this month urging leaders here to consider protections for downtown property owners that could be affected by deterioration of adjoining buildings. West also operates Bowtanicals on Main Street in Marion.

Daniel Newcomb, Salem Fire and Rescue Chief, said structural soundness of one building determines the structural soundness of its neighbors.

"If Cathy's building collapses the rest of the way, it will have a Domino effect, and that is why each individual building needs to be in on this," Newcomb said. "The status of her building can change the status of your building in an instant, that's why they are all condemned until the structural engineer signs off on each one."

Newcomb and about 15 Salem property owners were at the Salem City Council meeting last week to share information about progress in the matter. A 30-day timeline was agreed upon for having building inspections completed. One property owner said

her structural engineer's estimate was \$700.

A solution to potentially unstable buildings on the south side of Main Street appears at hand. Cumberland River Homes is in the process of acquiring them to make room for an expansion of its services. See related article in this issue of the newspaper.

Salem Mayor Gary Damon said property owners are liable for their building's repairs or demolition. At least two building owners say they do not have any type of insurance that might help with costs. Their buildings are vacant. It's unclear whether those with common lines of insurance on their buildings will get any relief either.

West doesn't foresee her building being condemned, but believes others might.

"If that is the case, I think we will have to wait until they are torn down or repaired to open," she said. "I still have a mortgage, but it has been a good business, we have good clients. My plan all depends on what the (inspector) says."

Damron said there are two scenarios.

"If a building passes inspection, great, and there are a couple that have potential to pass. But

honestly, the cheapest and best thing to do may be to tear down buildings with structural damage. At least the owners will have a lot to sell to recoup losses. Whatever the engineers' determination is will determine what needs to be done," the mayor said.

Damron said he hates the effects on business owners.

"We don't have a lot of business in town, but every little bit helps and we need everything we can get."

Property owners Christine Hunter and Erin Ledbetter own buildings west of Bowtanicals.

Ledbetter isn't optimistic that his building will meet safety requirements.

"No way a 200-year-old building will pass codes of today, even though I see no stress fractures," he said.

"I'm on fixed income and money doesn't run as deep as it used to," he added.

Nikki Croft was on the verge of completing a remodeling project of a former beauty salon on Main Street when the structural integrity of downtown buildings was questioned. That is all on pause now as is normal commerce in downtown Salem.

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March 1

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