



The Crittenden Press

Snowball leads Pets on Parade « Page 3

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2025

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

AN INDEPENDENTLY-OWNED, LOCAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1879

ONE DOLLAR

Sheriff investigates shooting in Mexico

Local authorities are investigating an alleged shooting that occurred early Saturday morning along KY 70 in the Mexico community of southern Crittenden County.

According to Sheriff Evan Head, a man in his 30s was driving through the area when he was struck by a bullet around 4 a.m. Despite the injury, the victim managed to drive himself to the hospital with a gunshot wound to his left hip. The bullet is believed to have been fired from a handgun of a small caliber, but larger than a .22, and penetrated the driver's side door of his Ford Mustang.

Sheriff Head said investigators are still piecing together details of the incident. The shooting took place on a sparsely populated stretch of KY 70 near the Dry Creek Bridge.

The victim was hospitalized but is expected to recover. It was not a life-threatening injury, the sheriff said. The investigation remains ongoing, and authorities are working to confirm additional details. Anyone with information is asked to call the sheriff at 270-965-3400.

Ferry is back to full 7-day-week operation

Cave-In-Rock Ferry has returned to its regular operating schedule after securing another licensed pilot. As of Saturday at 6 a.m., the ferry returned to running from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. As always, operations will remain subject to weather and river conditions.

The ferry had temporarily adjusted its schedule last fall due to a pilot shortage. For the past three months, the ferry had operated from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on week-ends, while maintaining its regular 16-hour weekday schedule.

The ferry transports about 500 vehicles across the Ohio River daily, serving as a crucial link for commuters traveling between Kentucky and Illinois.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Marion Planning and Zoning Commission will meet at noon Thursday, Feb. 6 at city hall. The board will hear a request for change of status for a property parcel on the corner of Adams Street and Old Morganfield Road where a proposed fitness center and sports complex wants to locate. The property is currently zoned agriculture.
- Crittenden County Board of Education will meet at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 6 at Rocket Arena for its monthly working session.
- Marion City Council meets at 5 p.m., Monday, Feb. 10 at city hall.
- Caldwell County Fiscal Court meets at 9 a.m., the Tuesday, Feb. 11 at the courthouse.
- Livingston County Board of Education meets at 6 p.m., Monday, Feb. 17 at its central office.



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The Crittenden Press

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Local firemen Scott Hurley and Daniel Newcomb respond to a house fire in Marion back in December.

How fire departments save more than homes What's an ISO Digit Worth

BY CHRIS EVANS
PRESS EDITOR

Over the coming weeks and months, several Crittenden and Livingston County residents will see savings on their home insurance premiums – some have already.

That may seem surprising given the current insurance climate, where rates have soared by 30% or more in some cases due to recent weather-related claims. However, homeowners can largely thank their volunteer fire departments for securing premium reductions through improved fire ratings.

Recent moves by multiple fire districts, including those served by volunteer departments in Mattoon, Caldwell Springs, Crittenden County and Salem, have led to or will soon provide significant cost savings.

The Tolu and Mattoon volunteer fire departments have already received better ratings, directly impacting homeowners' insurance rates. These departments leveraged automatic mutual aid agreements with nearby fire departments, along with other factors, to improve their standing in the Insurance Services Office (ISO) fire rating system.

ISO ratings play a crucial role in determining insurance premiums, as they assess a community's preparedness to prevent and fight fires. Communities with well-equipped fire departments and a reliable water supply generally see reduced insurance costs, while those with less robust fire protection face higher rates.

ISO assigns fire ratings through the Public Protection Classification (PPC) system, evaluating fire departments on multiple criteria. Fire department capabilities – including manpower, training, response times, and equipment – account for about half of the ISO score. Water supply makes up 40%, while emergency telecommunications and



Salem Fire & Rescue Chief Daniel Newcomb thumbs through some of the volumes of paperwork that must be completed for a fire station to improve its ISO rating.

other community efforts contribute to the remainder.

Crittenden County Volunteer Fire Department expects a better ISO rating this spring, shifting to a 5-9-10 classification. Caldwell Springs is moving to a 4-8-10 rating once paperwork is finalized confirming its merger with Salem Fire & Rescue. Salem holds a 4 rating, and is working to lower it further.

In this system, the first number is the most impactful for homeowners within five miles of a fire station and 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant. A lower number in this slot means greater insurance discounts. For example, Caldwell Springs is currently a 9-10, but when its rating im-

See **FIRE**/page 10



TODAY'S ISO RATING

1 is Best | 10 is no department

Below are primary ISO ratings for area fire departments in the two county-area. This number represents the ISO rating for homes or businesses within 5 road miles from the nearest station and within 1,000 feet of a fire hydrant. Departments can have multiple ratings, but to keep things simple, only the primary ISO rating is shown below.

CRITTENDEN LIVINGSTON

Tolu 4	Salem 4
Mattoon 5	Burna 5
Marion 6	Grand Lakes 4
Crittenden County 9*	Ledbetter 4
Caldwell Springs 9*	Smithland 4
Shady Grove 9	
Sheridan 9	

* Indicates that a new rating is coming soon. Caldwell Springs expects to drop to a 4 and Crittenden County to a 5.

Mayor Calls for Talks to Answer Questions

Internet Woes: Frustration mounts over poor service

STAFF REPORT

Businesses and residents across the community continue to struggle with unreliable internet service, with many expressing frustration over frequent outages, slow speeds, and limited provider options. AT&T, HughesNet, and T-Mobile have drawn significant criticism, particularly in rural areas where connectivity issues remain persistent.

Some local businesses are struggling with unreliable service, making daily operations difficult. Staci Hunt, owner of H&H Home and Hardware, said repeated internet outages are crippling her ability to run her business.

"We are frustrated, and we



have frustrated customers," Hunt said. "AT&T says there is nothing they can do for us. I refuse to accept that answer."

The Press contacted AT&T last week and a spokesperson said a field representative was being dispatched to help determine the prob-

lem at the hardware store.

H&H Home and Hardware relies on IP phones, meaning that every internet outage results in dropped calls. When the service goes down, cash registers can still process cash transactions but not credit or debit cards – an inconvenience that has led some customers to abandon purchases altogether.

"We have customers so frustrated when the net goes out that they leave their purchase on the counter and walk out the door," Hunt said.

Hunt reported that over three days recently the store's internet dropped at least 30 times each day. Even on Sundays, when the store is closed, the connection re-

mains unstable.

She said the problem started a year to a year and a half ago and has only worsened. AT&T technicians have been there to reset equipment, but no permanent solution has been found.

"Lately, we have had more problems than ever before," Hunt said. "I can understand issues for a day or two here and there, but this is starting to be a joke. We are trying to be a business – we cannot run a business like this."

Hunt has contacted a different service provider as a possible alternative, but she said representatives would not guarantee better service.

"I need answers, and no

See **NET**/page 9

Deaths

Derby

Peter Andrew Derby, age 66, of Marion died Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025 at Baptist Health Paducah. He was a U.S. Army veteran and a long-haul truck driver.

Surviving are a brother, Daniel Earle Derby of Garner, N.C.; and a special friend of Janet Fleming, Marion.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph Earle Derby and Joy Elizabeth Ostman Derby; and a brother, Patrick Derby.

There will be no visitation or services. Gilbert Funeral Home of Marion is in charge of arrangements.



Corley

Maura Lynn Corley, 79, of Marion, died Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 at her home. She was retired from her career as a math professor at Henderson Community College and Murray State University. She was a member of Union Baptist Church.



Surviving are two sisters, Bonita Crowell of Marion and Karon (Daniel) Schindler of Stone Mountain, Ga.; niece Tracy (Johnny) Phillips of Paducah; nieces Kristen (Patrick) Hines and Jennifer (Peter) Lovassy; and a nephew, Dana (Kelly) Crowell, all of Huntsville, Ala.; nine grand-nieces and nephews; and six great-grand nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Maurice and Evelyn Corley; and a brother-in-law, Charles Crowell.

Funeral services were Sunday, Feb. 2, 2025 at Myers Funeral Home with burial in Maplevue Cemetery.

Driver

Breanna Renee Driver, the five-month-old daughter Albert Walker and Cheyenne Driver of Calvert City, died Thursday, Jan. 23, 2025 at the Monroe Carell, Jr. Children's Hospital at Vanderbilt.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by her maternal grandmother, Darci Driver; paternal grandparents, Rodney Walker and Heather Schmidt; great-grandfathers, Reuben Driver and Greg Holeman; and several uncles.

She was preceded in death by her maternal grandfather, R.L. Driver; and her great-grandmother, Shirley Driver.



Services were Monday, Feb. 3 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services. Burial was in Pinckneyville Cemetery.

Yarbrough

Larry Curtis Yarbrough, 80, of Salem died Wednesday, Jan. 29, 2025 at Baptist Health Paducah.

He worked in the crane maintenance department in the steel mill for 54 years. He was a member of Teamster Local 142. He enjoyed Jeeps, camping, mowing, cooking and playing pool and especially his dog Molly.



Surviving are his precious baby Shellye Conger; a daughter, Wendy (Stan) Sech of Valparaiso, Ind.; two sisters, Debbie (Jay) Morris of Princeton and Sherry Benton of Providence; two grandchildren, Olivia Sech and Austin Sech; and two nephews, Michael (Stephanie) Morris and Matthew (Abby) Benton.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Kathie Yarbrough; a son, Barry Lee Yarbrough; and a stepson, Adam Hutchinson.

Services were Sunday, Feb. 2 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services. Burial was in Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Marion.

Shepherd

Jeffery Lee Shepherd, 52, of Salem died Saturday, Jan. 18, 2025 at his home in Salem.

He was an auto mechanic who enjoyed fishing and caring for his dog Bullet. He was employed at T a m b c o NAPA Auto Parts.

Surviving are a daughter, brother, sister, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.



He was preceded in death by his parents James and Rebecca (Clark) Shepherd.

Arrangements are incomplete at Boyd Funeral Directors.

Love

Rev. Charles "Charlie" Peyton Love, 96, stepped into eternity with his loving God Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025. He was born Sept. 9, 1928 in Marion to John Lockett Love and Mary Evelyn Pogue Love.



The family moved from Kentucky to Boulder, Colo., when Love was nine. He graduated from Boulder High School in 1947. He and his brother, Don, enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1948 where Charles served for six years as an administrative specialist, three of in the U.S. Occupying

Force in Japan.

While serving at the Air Force Base in Amarillo, Texas, he met Mary Elizabeth Leech while playing the roles of Mary and Joseph in the church Christmas play and began dating. As a result of several weeks of study in Sunday School and church training, and prayer about his future, he felt God's calling to dedicate his life to Gospel ministry. No doubt this was to later fit in with his future wife, Mary Elizabeth.

Charles and Mary became engaged in 1953, the same year he decided to leave the USAF to pursue training in church ministry. He received an honorable discharge as a Tech Sgt, E-6, and on Sept. 11, 1953 moved to Abilene to attend Hardin-Simmons University (HSU). The couple were married June 3, 1954 at Fairview Baptist Church in Amarillo.

While a student at HSU, Love served as Associate Pastor and Music Director at North Park Baptist Church. Upon his graduation in 1957 with a BA degree in Bible, he moved his family to Ft. Worth, Texas, where he attended Southwestern Theological Seminary and worked at the US Post Office at night. He also pastored a small church, Bethel Heights Baptist in Gatesville, Texas. He received his Bachelor of Divinity (B.D.) degree in 1962, and moved to Beatrice, Neb., where he was the pastor of Calvary Baptist Church.

In August 1964, the couple were appointed Southern Baptist Missionaries to Guyana, South America and moved there with their family of seven in October of the same year. While serving as career missionaries to Guyana for 28 years, Love helped fellow missionaries start, and then taught at the Guyana Baptist Theological Training Center with a passion for training up local pastors. He also pastored several Guyana Baptist churches, planted many church missions all over the country; mentored, hosted and coordinated numerous volunteer mission teams; and helped build the Guyana Baptist Camp where summer camps were held annually. He also served as the Guyana Baptist Mission Treasurer. Love was, and still is, affectionately referred to as "Brother Love" by the many Guyanese whose lives he changed forever by introducing them to Jesus.

After retiring as missionaries, the Loves moved to Abilene and bought their first home in 1993. However, soon afterwards they felt God calling them back overseas, and moved to St. Lucia, West Indies, for 18 months then moved to China for three years to teach English as a Second Language at a uni-

versity where led many to the Lord.

In Texas, Love became very active at Abilene's First Baptist Church, volunteering at City Lights (homeless ministry), Senior Choir and assisting his wife in the PrayerWorks ministry.

He was a wonderful role model for everyone - so kind, joyful, loving, and hard-working. He was known for being easy-going and fun to be around, always making everyone feel special. He was disciplined, self-controlled and content in any situation he was in. He was up early every morning to exercise and spend quiet time with the Lord. He was also known for his great sense of humor and "wheezing" laugh, which often led to shedding tears like he was crying.

Love loved his family very much and went to great lengths to connect with his five children until the very end, talking to several of them the day before he died. The couple's extended family includes countless worldwide "adopted" children who to this day consider them inspiring and pow-

erful influences.

Charles was well-rounded: he loved distance jogging, which later became distance walking, playing lawn tennis and baseball. He was a huge fan of the St. Louis Cardinals! His favorite foods were Guyanese curry, a good steak, Texas BBQ, pizza with coke and chocolate ice cream ("Is there any other flavor?" he was known to ask). He enjoyed listening to Christian music and Kentucky Bluegrass.

Surviving are children Debi (Richard) Mulkey, Kathy Edwards, David (Ginger) Love, John (Marjorie) Love and Donna Elizabeth Tiemeyer; grandchildren Darrin Love, Melissa Mulkey (Daniel) McCormack, Christy Edwards (Jacob) Bunn, Zachary Love, Christopher (Megan) Love, Caleb (Laura) Tiemeyer, Ben (Catherine) Tiemeyer, Noah (Christen) Tiemeyer, Samuel Love, Jubilee Love (Jacob) Varghese, Seth (Lexi) Tiemeyer, Joel Love and Simeon Love; eight great-grandchildren, August, Oliver and Camilla Kate Bunn, De-

clan and Callum McCormack, and Parker, Kate, and Charlie Tiemeyer; and great-grandchild Varghese is on the way; brothers-in-law Tim (June) Leech, Carey (Rhonda) Leech and Jim (Rosie) Leech.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Elizabeth Love; his parents, his brothers Don Love and Jamie Love; in-laws Rev. Marvin B. Leech and Helen Leech; brothers-in-law Owen (Dorothy) Leech, Marvin (Linda) Leech; and a granddaughter, Michelle Edwards.

Contributions may be made to First Baptist Church, City Lights Program, 1333 North 3rd, Abilene, TX 79601, or Michelle Edwards Memorial Scholarship Fund, Sam Houston State University, Dept. of the University Advancement, P.O. Box 2537, Huntsville, TX 77341-2357.

Elliott-Hamil Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. Celebration of Life is Saturday, Feb. 8 at First Baptist Church Abilene.

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ALLabout PETS

Snowball is a favorite to many

BY KAYLA MAXFIELD
THE CRITTENDEN PRESS

About four years ago during this time of year, a tiny 4-month-old Turkish Angora kitten was obliviously wandering down the middle of Main Street. He had no idea of the dangers posed by the cars speeding past him — but his luck was about to change dramatically.

Melissa Guill, the circuit clerk, was on her way to pay a flower bill when she noticed the kitten. She watched him walk straight down the median and realized he was completely unfazed by the traffic. Concerned for his safety, she quickly got out of her car, halted traffic, scooped him up and brought him back to her vehicle.

Expecting Snowball to create a mess while she briefly visited Louise's Flower Shop, Guill left him in the car. However, the shop owner, Teena York, couldn't help but laugh when she saw the kitten and asked Guill what she planned to name him.

"I guess I'll call him Snowball," Guill replied with a smile.

Guill took Snowball to the vet, where it was discovered that he was deaf. When a foster fam-

ily with another deaf cat fell through, Guill decided to keep Snowball and welcomed him into her home.

Snowball became a beloved member of Guill's family, which now includes 10 cats. Guill, a passionate Barbie collector who attends conventions every year, began sharing pictures of Snowball on Facebook. She called it "the daily dose of Snowball," and soon his following began to grow. Snowball quickly became a favorite among her friends and fellow collectors.

His popularity soared, leading to the creation of his own line of merchandise, including miniature holiday T-shirts and a calendar filled with his photos. Snowball's merchandise has reached fans not just in the United States but also in far-off places like Australia, Italy and Spain.

Guill says that Snowball is the happiest cat alive. "He's given me a new perspective on life. He doesn't care that he's deaf."

Snowball can often be found watching birds or playing with the vacuum cleaner. He loves to shower affection on anyone willing to give him attention, often licking



them to show his love.

His favorite activities include riding freely in the car and soaking up as much affection as he can get.

Snowball's story is a testament to the unexpected joys that can come from a chance encounter, and he continues to bring happiness to everyone he meets.



Hello! My name is Shortcake (AKA Shorty) and I'm a shopaholic! Shorty was found as a stray at the old Crittenden County Courthouse in 2019. She is now in her FURever home and loved by Sue and Reagan Parrent.

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School calendar is adjusted due to missed snow days

Crittenden County Board of Education amended the 2024–25 school calendar at its meeting last week, adjusting for two missed school days.

Students will now attend classes on Feb. 18 and May 23. Previously, Feb. 17 and 18 were designated as non-school days, but only Feb. 17 will remain a day off. The last day of school, originally set for May 22, has been moved to May 23.

State will pause its online system for business tax paying

Kentucky Department of Revenue will temporarily halt operations for two weeks starting at 4 p.m. on Feb. 26 as it transitions to a new business tax portal, MyTaxes, which launches March 14.

During this period, OneStop will no longer be accessible. Business taxpayers should update their email and contact information in OneStop and print any historical return data they need before the shutdown. Once operations resume, MyTaxes will serve as the new platform for business tax filings.

Beginning Feb. 26, archived tax records from OneStop will only be available by request through the department, with retrieval expected to be a lengthy process. New login credentials for MyTaxes will be issued by March 14.

Livingston man is accused of throwing soda can at official

A Livingston County man was arrested last Thursday, two days following an incident during a high school basketball game at Smithland.

Douglas Walker, 47, of Salem was arrested by Livingston County authorities and initially lodged in McCracken County Jail. He is charged with Class A misdemeanors for assault on a sports official, first offense; and for violating the registered sex offender school restrictions under KRS 17.545(2); and a Class B misdemeanor for disorderly conduct.

He is alleged to have thrown a soda pop can at a referee during a boys' basketball game between Livingston and Lyon County at Livingston Central High School.

After being released from McCracken County Jail on bond from the initial case, Walker was arrested again on Saturday following a complaint from Lyon County Sheriff Brent White, alleging that on Dec. 12, 2024, Walker attended a basketball game at Eddyville without prior consent from the Lyon School District, which is required under KRS 17.545(2).

Crittenden County Sheriff Evan Head says a similar investigation is underway here to determine if Walker had attended any high school sporting events in Crittenden County, which could have been in violation of the same law that prohibits sex offenders from being on school campuses or school events without prior approval from the school district.

UK names students on fall Dean’s List

University of Kentucky has released the names of students who were named to the Dean’s List for the fall semester.

Natalie Boone, Ethan Stone and Carly Travis of Crittenden County.

Ashley Adams, Brenden



Mitchell, Isabel Sanches, Mattelyn Thompson and Chelsey Ray of Livingston County.

Rebecca Clements, Lillian Shirel and Jillian Hagedorn of Union County.

Rupp Bell, Whitney Peck, MacKenzie Seibert, Ellie Ramey, Avery Ritchey, Savannah Scott and Kynady Thomas of Caldwell County.

Zoe Board, Cathryn Brown, Wendy Dong, Taylor Jenkins, Morgan McDaniels, Travis Perry, Zachary Radivonyk, Brandon Ray, Cole Schroeder, Lee Schroeder, Kaleigh Haulk and Cracen Wynn of Lyon County.

To make the Dean's List, students must earn a 3.6 or higher GPA as well as 12 credits or more in that semester

WKU announces its Dean, President lists

Several local students have earned academic honors for the Fall 2024 semester at Western Kentucky University. Full-time undergraduate students with a semester GPA of 3.4 to 3.79 were named to the Dean’s List, while those with a GPA of 3.8 to 4.0 earned a place on the President’s List.

From Marion, Ashayla R. McDowell, Nathan M. Boze-

man, Alyssa J. Bozeman, Simon G. Shepard, Raina J. West, Lauryn B. Faulkner, and Samantha A. Tinsley were named to the President's List. Macie K. Conger and Abbey M. Swinford earned Dean's List recognition.

Lindsie F. Oden of Fredonia was named to the President’s List, while Elizabeth N. Martin was recognized on the Dean’s List.

Addison C. Mundy and Keira E. Chaney of Sturgis were named to the Dean’s List.

From Princeton, those earning a spot on the President’s List include Tayjon K. Bumphus, Jacob T. Parrent, Kyndra M. Winters, Emerson M. Englebright, Madison L. Harralson, Ella C. Beshear, Keegan E. Miller, Peyton Currier, and Kania D. Sims. Grayden L. Miller, Cordie Murphy, and Ty’Quan L. Bumphus were named to the Dean’s List.

KY colleges see rise in degrees in 23-24

Kentucky's colleges and universities saw a significant rise in degrees and credentials awarded during the 2023–24 academic year, increasing by 6.4% over the previous year, according to a report prepared for the Council on Postsecondary Education (CPE) Board. Kentucky Today reports that the growth was driven by a 9.9% rise in undergraduate certificates and a 9.4% increase in graduate degrees.

The report also high-



50 YEARS AGO

February 6, 1975

■ Sureway grocery store advertised mac and cheese dinners at four boxes for \$1 and a half-gallon of ice milk for 69 cents. Chili with beans was 69 cents a can, and bleach was 59 cents for a gallon jug.

■ Debbie Fryar Guess won \$100 from the Sureway Treasure Chest awards program.

■ In correspondence news from the Freedom community, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Ackers and Mrs. Vesta Wheeler visited Mr. and Mrs. Wilmer Hughes. Additionally, Mrs. Mildred McEuen visited Mrs. Jimmie Craighead. In Frances news, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Crouch visited Mrs. Grace Crouch. In the Emmaus community, Mr. and Mrs. J.E. Brasher were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Wheeler. Meanwhile, Mrs. Harold Hodge visited her sister, Margaret Myrick, in the Salem hospital.

25 YEARS AGO

February 3, 2000

■ After 27 years of teaching math in Crittenden County schools, Mary Helen Hodges retired. Her career had begun as a special education teacher in 1972 at Fohs Hall Elementary School.

■ Former Crittenden County football star Josh Cozart signed a letter of intent to play collegiately at the University of Louisville.

■ Rep. Mike Cherry and a delegation of Crittenden County leaders met with Gov. Paul Patton in Frankfort to discuss improving transportation between the interstate or parkway and Marion. The leaders cited transportation issues—particularly the narrow, winding U.S. 641 between Marion and Eddyville and KY 91 to Princeton—as a major reason they believed Tyco closed its manufacturing facility in Marion, costing the town about 300 jobs. Local leaders suggested that the state make improvements to U.S. 641 a top priority for the region.

■ Crittenden County’s boys’ basketball team was eliminated 50-47 in the first round of the All A Classic State Tournament in Richmond by Harrodsburg High School. Justin Crider led CCHS with 11 points.

10 YEARS AGO

February 5, 2015

■ Bradley Guess was appointed to the Crittenden County Public Library Board, replacing Brandi Rogers, who resigned after becoming the 5th Judicial Circuit Family Court judge.

■ Leslea Barnes was named the new University of Kentucky Co-operative Extension agent for 4-H. She laid out some aggressive plans for her tenure as the local 4-H agent.

■ Adam Collins and Devin Tanner were recognized as graduates of Crittenden County School District’s Pathway Academy. Since 2008, there had been 60 graduates of the program, which helps students complete work for their diploma even after quitting school.

■ Chris Cook was re-elected chairman of the Crittenden County Board of Education.

■ Maggie Blazina and Maegan Potter were recognized by the Marion Woman’s Club for entries in a poetry and short story writing contest.

■ Crittenden County senior Adam Driver signed a letter of intent to play collegiate baseball at Campbellsville University.

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

lighted progress in closing achievement gaps among underrepresented student populations. Undergraduate awards to low-income students increased by 4.1%, while awards to minority students rose 7.9%.

“Across the board, Kentucky is seeing strong improvement in degree and credential production, a reflection of higher education’s efforts to bolster completion through enhanced student supports and other initiatives,” said CPE President Aaron Thompson. He noted that bachelor’s degree production saw a more modest increase of 0.7%.

In other business, the CPE

Board approved several academic and institutional measures, including a new master’s degree in applied behavior analysis at Murray State University, new doctoral programs at the University of Kentucky and University of Louisville, and an interim capital project to renovate Kentucky State University’s Betty White Health Center.

The Board also reviewed a University of Kentucky study on the economic impact of higher education, which found that tax revenue generated by college graduates is four and a half times greater than the state’s initial investment.

Crittenden Press

USPS 138-260

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Crittenden County, KY – 2.28 Acres - \$244,900
This charming 4-bed, 2-bath home in Crittenden County features a partially finished basement, 2-car garage, large deck, and above-ground pool. Perfect for southern living with modern comfort!

Crittenden County, KY - 71.46 Acres - \$232,250
Situated in an area renowned for its big bucks, this all-timber hunting tract offers an exceptional opportunity for avid hunters seeking their next trophy.

Crittenden County, KY - 115.86 Acres - \$446,000
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PENDING! Crittenden County, KY – 17.3541 Acres - \$169,000
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There is law and there is humanity

About this time last year I was in a car just a little east of Tegucigalpa, Honduras. My Honduran friend pointed out a parking area on the side of the road. There were dozens of people, mostly men, sitting around. There were several charter buses parked there as well. He said most of the people there were Venezuelans on their way to the United States. The migration had put enough pressure on the Honduran government that they needed some way to manage the situation.



Sean NIESTRATH
Faith-based columnist
Guest Columnist

In further discussion, I learned that, given the choice, Hondurans now prefer going to Spain or Italy because they are welcomed there as workers and can further their education. I personally know people who have traveled to the United States and have been sent back. I know a few who are still working here – most legally, some not.

I have heard the stories of many who have come here. I cannot imagine what the border control officers, I.C.E. personnel, attorneys and judges have heard. If it is anything like the experiences of the people I know, it ranges from brutal injustice to horrific.

I am not able to make policy changes. I did not choose that path for my life. I can express opinions based on my experience. I can also do some things to help people build lives that do not cause them to seek such desperate measures.

It is easy for us to focus on one symptomatic solution and move on with our lives. “We must protect our borders!” is the mantra. What gets overlooked are all the systems and circumstances

that we have built in this world that create the situation in the first place. It is moral cowardice and willful blindness that keeps this never-ending stream flowing in all parts of the world.

I live in a small town in western Kentucky. I am a minister. I do not have any security clearances. I am not privy to information that public officials, law enforcement, or military officers possess. What I do have is eyes and ears and compassion for those who are victims of our moral failings, and those of their leadership.

It is always the case that when powerful nations tussle for influence and control (whether it be for a good cause or not), there will be people who, through no fault of their own, are put in intractable and desperate situations. There is little we can do about preventing many of these situations.

But there are things that we can do. Much of the trouble we experience has to do with our own national vices falling on the heads of children. I am a person that believes that if there were no substance abuse there would be no need for the transport of illegal substances. I am not naive enough to believe

that we can get everyone to stop self-medicating. I am, however, a believer in healing, recovery, and courts built to rehabilitate rather than punish. I believe that we need to understand that there are none of us that are immune to the risk of addiction – some of us are simply addicted to things that are legal.

The explosion of pornography in recent decades and the damage that it is doing to our society is nowhere near being fully realized. Sex trafficking would stop if the market were non-existent. Holding ourselves and the people we know accountable is a good place to start. For those who work with the victims of this wretched business – thank you! Stay courageous and may God protect you.

I cannot help but think that our national government and diplomatic corps are constantly working on the problems of corruption in economically challenged nations. Where there is poverty, there is corruption.

I appreciate the effort being made to arrest and deport known criminals. I do not appreciate the genuine fear that the current rhetoric and actions have put into the hearts and minds of children who are here because of decisions made for them. They are human beings. Some of whom have endured in their short lives more than I can imagine. They are children. They need education. They need food and shelter. They need protection.

They are hard workers. Many of them speak three languages. They want better for themselves and their families.

The world needs more mercy for victims and justice for those who victimize. It is one thing to speak abstractly about illegal immigrants. It is another to have a scared

teenager, who has little choice in being here in the first place, in front of you. There is law and there is humanity. Sometimes navigating those two, forces us to decide. Just don't decide having never talked to the people affected.

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.

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Pastor: Morgan Smith
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Sunday Bible Study: 9 a.m.
Sunday Discipleship Training: 6 p.m.
Wednesday Worship Service: 7 p.m.
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87 Freedom Church Rd., Marion
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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.

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Pastor Justin Miller

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

growing in grace

2 Peter 3:18
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Sun. Evening 6 p.m. • Wed. Evening 6 p.m.
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Wed. Bible Study: 7 p.m.

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South College St.

Frances Community Church

Bro. Butch Gray
Worship service: 11 a.m.
Children's Church ages 3 & up ... 11 a.m.
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Sun. Evening services, 6 p.m.
Wed. Evening services, 7 p.m.

Unity General Baptist Church

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Sunday Worship 11 a.m.

Marion Church of Christ

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Early doctors and local medicines

In 1896, Marion and Crittenden County were fortunate to have several caring physicians. They were always interested in the best for their patients and constantly sought to learn new ways to stay informed of the latest remedies and cures.

From the archives of The Crittenden Press, April 1896, we learn of their plans for a medical society for Crittenden County.

The physicians of the city and county met in the courthouse Monday to organize a medical society.

The following physicians were present: John R. Clark, John O. Dixon, James W. Trisler, Audley Shanklin Hamilton Boyd, John H. Boyd, Joseph H. Clark, Thaddus F. Wilburn, Wiley F. Truitt, Emerson E. Newcomb, T. Atchican Frazier, Clarence E. Moreland, Isaac H. Clement, John Willis Crawford, Wm. S. Cain, and Andrew J. Donakey.



Brenda Underdown
County Historian

Forgotten Passages

Dr. John R. Clark was elected permanent president. In addition to his eminent qualifications, he had been the leading spirit in organizing the society and was honored as its chief officer. Dr. Clark was elected, and Dr. E. E. Newcomb was elected secretary. Dr. A. J. Donakey was elected vice president, and Dr. I. H. Clement, treasurer.

The following committees were appointed by the chair:

Bylaws – Drs. J. H. Clark, J. O. Dixon and A. J. Donakey.

Censors – Drs. A. S. H. Boyd, I. H. Clement, James W. Trisler and T. A. Frazier.

Code of Ethics – Drs. T. F. Wilburn, A. J. Donakey and I. H. Clement.

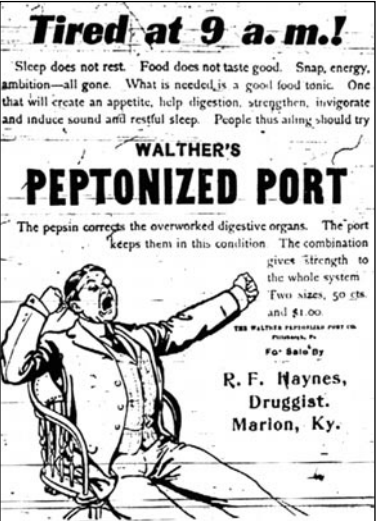
The program for the next meeting included discussions on the following topics: Puerpuri Hoemaragica and treatment – J. H. Clark; Typhoid fever and treatment – A. J. Donakey; Typhomalarial fever and treatment – I. H. Clement; and Diagnosis and treatment of Salpingitis – James W. Trisler.

Cure-All Remedies Available

Besides having these caring and dedicated doctors to serve the citizens of Crittenden County, many other remedies were available for a variety of ailments. Ads in The Crittenden Press detail the many items sold in local stores.

Dr. Miles' Pain Pills were not just for one specific pain but were said to be effective for anything that hurt. Dr. Miles also produced Miles' Nervine, which was recommended for nerves, irritability, difficulty concentrating and even sleeplessness—particularly for the ladies.

For the gentlemen of the house, Walther's Pep-



Two popular cure-alls guaranteed to fix whatever health problem you might have. There advertisements told all the problems they could cure.

tonized Port might have been the answer to whatever problems they faced.

At J. H. Orme's drugstore, one could purchase apple brandy, peach brandy and Old Prentice Progress Club for medicinal purposes. Mr. Orme, a well-known pharmacist, could also prepare a tasty cough and cold syrup said to cure even the worst cough.

Newbro's Herpicide promised to kill dandruff and prevent hair loss.

For stiff joints, Sloan's Liniment was advertised to cure sprains, bruises and joint pain. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery, a tonic and body builder, claimed to rejuvenate all organs and make users feel young again.

Marion also had several local entrepreneurs who developed their own medicinal products.

The Neurine Company was the earliest known local pharmaceutical business, selling home-developed remedies in the early 1870s. Robert Fulton Haynes Sr. and Warren Wagar, a pharmacist from Vermont, organized the company. They manufactured and distributed family medicines, securing patents for their formulas under the name The Warren Wagar Family Remedies.

Marion Medicine Co.

In 1895, Dr. J. W. Skelton developed the Marion Medicine Co. Skelton's remedies were marketed for various ailments. His advertisement in The Crittenden Press in May 1895 read:

"In order that everybody may have an opportunity to try Skelton's remedies, we will sell one 50-cent bottle of Skelton's Tonic and Liver Regulator, one 50-cent



bottle of Skelton's Ready Relief, one 50-cent bottle of Skelton's External Liniment, one 25-cent bottle of Eye Water and one 25-cent box of Corn Salve—making a total value of \$2.00—for just \$1.00. Now is your time to try all our great products at this low price."

Crow's Eureka Salve

Granville P. Crow made and sold Crow's Eureka Salve, advertised as the best corn cure on the market. The ad claimed it was the most pleasant to use and guaranteed to work, or money would be refunded.

The instructions were to bathe the feet and apply the salve for three consecutive nights, which would end the corn and relieve the pain. The price was 25 cents.

Stone's Specific

D. W. Stone Medicine Co. advertised as early as 1915. Stone produced Stone's Healing Oil, a blood purifier and system builder, said to be effective for rheumatism, chills, malaria, torpid liver, indigestion, eczema and stomach issues. The company also sold a chocolate tablet for constipation, stomach, liver and kidney troubles, chills, malaria, la grippe, colds and general weakness. The tablet was said to be made from herbs "like your great-grandfather used," which supposedly contributed to longevity.

Stone's Specific was available in Marion at Haynes & Taylor; in Tolu at R. H. Lowry & Co.; in Salem at Farris Drug Co.; at the Deanwood store at J. N. Dean; and in Sheridan at A. J. Bebout & Son. The D. W. Stone Medicine Co. of Marion, Ky., also offered mail orders.

According to the late Miss Helen Moore, Daniel Webster Stone led this operation. He ordered the tablets in bulk, repackaged them in smaller packages labeled "Stone's

Special Tablets" and sold them in general merchandise and drugstores throughout the county. His business also had a successful mail-order component.

Cross Salve

Created in the early 1930s by James Henry Jr., Cross Salve was marketed as a cure for sores, burns and piles. A 1933 ad claimed that for over a quarter of a century, this locally made salve had a remarkable track record in treating skin conditions, even those resistant to other remedies.

Testimonials included that of Mr. E. L. Guess of Marion, who had suffered an X-ray burn. Two-thirds of the back of one hand had become an open sore, exposing bones and tendons. He sought treatment at two hospitals and from several doctors, enduring extreme pain for over a year. One application of the salve reportedly gave him his first pain-free sleep in weeks, and within a month, his hand was healed.

W. H. Holloman of Crayne claimed to have suffered from piles for 16 years, sometimes being bedridden for a week at a time. Less than one jar of Cross Salve allegedly cured him permanently, allowing him to return to work.

In these stressful and hectic times, perhaps we could all use a bottle or two of these good-feeling tonics, syrups and pills to help us get through the day.

(Brenda Underdown is chair of Crittenden County Historical Society and a member of Crittenden County Genealogical Society. Much more local history can be found at OurForgottenPassages.blogspot.com).

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BASKETBALL UPCOMING GAMES

Around the Fifth District BOYS

Feb 6 Livingston at Fort Campbell
Feb 6 Lyon at Dawson Springs
Feb 7 Crittenden hosts Dawson Springs
Feb 7 Livingston at Hopkins Central
Feb 7 Trigg hosts McLean County
Feb 8 Crittenden hosts Hickman Co.
Feb 8 Lyon hosts Owensboro
Feb 10 Trigg hosts Caldwell County
Feb 11 Crittenden at Caldwell County
Feb 11 Livingston hosts Dawson Springs
Feb 11 Trigg hosts Webster County

GIRLS
Feb 6 Lyon hosts Caldwell County
Feb 6 Livingston hosts Caldwell Co.
Feb 6 Trigg at Muhlenberg County
Feb 7 Livingston at Hopkins Central
Feb 7 Crittenden hosts Dawson Springs
Feb 8 Lyon hosts Hickman County
Feb 8 Trigg at Heritage Christian
Feb 8 Crittenden at Union County
Feb 10 Trigg hosts Caldwell County
Feb 11 Livingston at Union County
Feb 11 Crittenden at Hopkins Central

Fifth District Standings

GIRLS			
Team	Dist	Overall	
Crittenden County	5-1	17-5	
Lyon County	5-1	17-7	
Livingston Central	0-5	6-13	
Trigg County	1-4	5-15	
BOYS			
Team	Dist	Overall	
Lyon County	5-0	16-6	
Trigg County	3-2	8-14	
Livingston Central	3-3	7-14	
Crittenden County	0-6	0-20	
Through Tuesday			

FOOTBALL Tiger McGowan retiring

Longtime Caldwell County football coach Wayne McGowan has announced that he is retiring as a coach. McGowan was a standout player with the Tigers and played collegiately at Murray State University.

Sunday is Super Bowl

Sunday's NFL Super Bowl between the Kansas City Chiefs and the Philadelphia Eagles will begin at 5:30 p.m., on Fox and streaming platforms.

BASEBALL It's straweberry time

Rocket baseball's annual strawberry fundraising sale is underway. Orders are due by Feb. 17 for fresh Florida strawberries that will be deleivered in a few weeks. Prices are \$33 for a full flat and \$18 for a half flat. Contact a player or see Rocket Baseball Facebook page to place an order.

OUTDOORS Hunting Seasons

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

Raccoon	Oct. 1 - Feb. 28
Rabbit	Nov. 11 - Feb. 10
Quail	Nov. 11 - Feb. 10
Raccoon Trapping	Nov. 11 - Feb. 28
Bobcat	Nov. 16 - Feb. 28
Squirrel Fall	Nov. 28 - Feb. 15
Canada Goose	Nov. 28 - Feb. 15
Coyote Night (lights)	Dec. 1 - March 31
Duck	Dec. 7 - Jan. 31
Coyote	Year Round
Ground hog	Year Round

Lady Rockets go down in showdown

STAFF REPORT
On the road in what's always a tough environment at Christian County on Tuesday, the Lady Rockets lost for only the fifth time this season, falling 56-49 to the Lady Colonels in a showdown of two of the region's best teams.
Christian was playing without junior Anaysia Bagwell, the team's leading scorer with 16 points per game. And in the first period, the Lady Rockets found themselves without junior guard Elliot Evans, who went down with a recurring ankle injury.
The game was close the entire way, but Christian's physical strength and rebounding helped it win. The Rocket girls had won nine of their previous 10 games before losing at Christian.

CCHS takes care of Lyon
Relentless defensive pressure by the Lady Rockets had Lyon County scrambling for air early, and when junior guard Elliot Evans drained three treys in the first period, it helped spur Crittenden County's offense into gear. From there, it was off to the races as CCHS won 63-37 Friday night at Rocket Arena.
The victory creates a tie for first place in the Fifth District standings. The teams have split their regular-season games, and CCHS beat Lyon in the All A Classic regional championship. In district standings, Lyon and Crittenden are both 4-1. CCHS is 17-4 overall, and Lyon is 16-6. Neither of the other two teams in the district – Trigg County or Livingston Central – have a chance to upset the apple

cart. However, Trigg does host the district tournament in late February, and their home-court advantage could be something that Lyon or Crittenden might want to avoid in the first round. A coin toss will determine the top seed for postseason play.
Crittenden raced ahead by 16 points by the half as Lyon shot hurriedly and poorly. Junior Anna Boone knocked down a season-high 26 points for Crittenden, and Evans finished with 14. Sophomore guard Piper Cotham scored 23 for Lyon, and no one else had more than seven.

Crittenden Co. 15 27 40 49
Christian Co. 17 31 44 56
CRITTENDEN - Boone 14, Hodge 20, Evans 5, Federico, Rushing 4, Stewart 4, Berry 2, Holeman. 3-pointers 1 (Evans). FT 22-30.
CHRISTIAN - Anderson 10, Smith 2, Day 20, Hopson 4, McGee 2, Daniel 12, Bradley 6. 3-pointers none. FT 9-16.

Lyon County 8 20 30 37
Crittenden Co. 19 36 57 63
LYON – Taylor 7, Cotham 23, Colins 3, Coursey 2, Perry 2, Prow, S.Coatham, Lucas, Akridge. 3-pointers 1 (Collins). FT 4-14.
CRITTENDEN – Boone 26, Evans 14, Hodge 8, Federico 10, Rushing 1, Stewart 2, Holeman 2, Berry, Matthews, Champion, Grau, Rich. 3-pointers 7 (Evans 4, Boone 3). FT 8-14.



Crittenden County's Andrea Federico drives to the basket against Christian County's Lazarie Daniel Tuesday night at Hopkinsville.

Rocket hopes dashed in close encounters

STAFF REPORT
Crittenden County had high hopes for getting its first win of the season Monday or Tuesday when previously 2-16 Fort Campbell and 6-16 Heritage Christian came to Rocket Arena for boys' basketball games on consecutive nights. But it wasn't in the cards for CCHS.
It was close early Monday, with CCHS trailing Fort Campbell 25-21 halfway through the second period before the Falcons went on a 15-3 scoring run, fueled in part by Rocket turnovers against Fort Campbell's full-court defense. By halftime, the Rockets trailed by 16, and the Falcons' lead was extended to 20 in the second half before CCHS scratched it back to near single digits for a time.
On Tuesday, it was even closer. CCHS took Heritage Christian to the wire before losing a heartbreaker 57-54. The game was close the whole way thanks to some intense play by the Rockets.
Hobbled by injuries and defections this season, Crittenden has lost 21 straight games. One of its leading scorers, Coby LaRue, remains out with an injury, and the team is largely relying on freshmen in both starting and reserve roles.
On Friday, the Rockets host Dawson Springs, ranked fifth in the region. It will be the annual homecoming and Hall of Fame game.
Shorthand Lyons get Rockets
Although Lyon County was shorthanded on Friday, Crittenden County was unable to make

a move at home against one of the best teams in the region. The Rockets started four freshmen for the first time this season and lost 75-18.
The Lyons (16-5) improved to 5-0 in Fifth District play while CCHS remains winless and is finished 0-6 against district opponents.
Due an outbreak of illness, Lyon had just eight players, and three starters were out. Rocket leading scorer Coby LaRue was also out.

Crittenden Co. 18 33 46 54
Heritage Christian 18 34 45 57
HCA – Gresham, Leek 35, Travis 3, Wheatcroft 4, Thompson 4, Kirkman 8, Morgan 3. 3-pointers 7 (Leek 5). FT 16-16.
CRITTENDEN – Porter 4, Dayberry, Stokes, Stevenson 6, Young 13, Candelario 12, C.Poindexter. Ellington, B.Poindexter 19. 3-pointers 6 (Young 3, Candelario 2, B.Poindexter). FT 12-13.

Fort Campbell 22 40 51 67
Crittenden Co. 14 24 34 50
FT CAMPBELL – Tow 3, Taylor 2, Wilson 9, Hunt 5, Carolina 3, Dillard 20, Morton 2, Henderson 3. 3-pointers 6. FT 13-26.
CRITTENDEN – Porters 3, Cowser 3, Stokes 4, Stevenson 2, Young 7, Candelario 13, Martin 2, C.Poindexter, Ellington 6, James, B.Poindexter 10. 3-pointers 5 (Ellington , Candelario 3, Young). FT 9-16.

Lyon County 27 43 61 75
Crittenden Co. 8 13 16 18
LYON – Collins 10, Defew 7, Reddick 8, Phillips 12, Thompson 6, Ramey 12, Herring 13, Prow 7. 3-pointers 7. FT 14-21.
CRITTENDEN – Porter, Cowser, Dayberry 3, Stokes, Stevenson, Young 5, Candelario, Martin, C.Poindexter, Ellington 3, Murray 2, Jones, B.Poindexter 5. 3-pointers 3 (Dayberry, Young, Ellington). FT 1-6.



Rocket senior Andrew Candelario (top) led scorers Monday with 13 points against Fort Campbell. Above, Emmitt Ellinton and Brady Dayberry defend the basket.




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FRIDAY NIGHT HALL OF FAME INDUCTION CEREMONY



Billy Mills (65) at linebacker stands behind the Rocket defensive line during a game at Caldwell County during his senior year. Crittenden won the game 7-6 and Mills kicked the extra point to seal the victory.

Two former student-athletes will be enshrined in the Farmers Bank Marion-Crittenden County Athletics Hall of Fame during a ceremony Friday night at Rocket Arena. There will be a memory room for new inductees of the Hall of Fame, their families, friends, well-wishers and former coaches and teammates and a come-and-go reception in the Rocket Arena meeting room. It will be open from 6 p.m., until the end of the boys' varsity game. Friday is also the annual basketball homecoming game. Crowning of a queen and king and recognition of the court will be before the girls' game, which starts at 6. Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be between the girls' and boys' games.



Billy Mills



Aaron Owen

Mills, Owen to be enshrined by Hall on Friday

STAFF REPORT
Two former Crittenden County athletes that left indelible marks on Rocket sports will be enshrined Friday night between the varsity basketball games at Rocket Arena when CCHS hosts Dawson Springs.

Billy Mills 1979-1982

Billy Mills, a 1983 Crittenden County graduate and one of the most tenacious defenders in Rocket football history, will be inducted into the Farmers Bank Marion-Crittenden County Athletics Hall of Fame on Friday night. Despite playing during a difficult era for Crittenden County football, Mills' individual accomplishments remain some of the most impressive in the program's history.

A middle linebacker, offensive guard and tight end, Mills was a force on defense, setting records that have stood for decades. As a junior in 1981, he recorded 139 tackles, a school record for his grade level. When he graduated, Mills had accumulated the second most career tackles in school history. He is currently, No. 12 on the career tackles list.

His ability to find the football was unmatched. He had 20 tackles in a single game twice in 1982, against Calloway County and Webster County, and posted 18-tackle performances against Heath and Trigg County the previous season. His defensive instincts extended to forcing turnovers as well – he set the school record for fumble recoveries in a season with six as a senior. In one game against Reidland, he recovered three fumbles, a feat that remains tied for second in the KHSAA single-game record book.

Mills was recognized for his dominance, earning back-to-back Defensive MVP honors in 1981 and 1982. He was selected to the All-West Kentucky Conference team both years and was named to the All-Area Team by the Evansville



Aaron Owen

Courier as a senior.

Despite being listed at just 5-foot-10, 140 pounds his senior season, Mills played with an intensity that made him stand out.

“We had some pretty lean years,” Mills said. “The best season we had was my sophomore year when we went 4-7. But we were playing in Class 3A back then, which was ridiculous for a school our size. The year after I graduated, they dropped back down, and that helped get things going.”

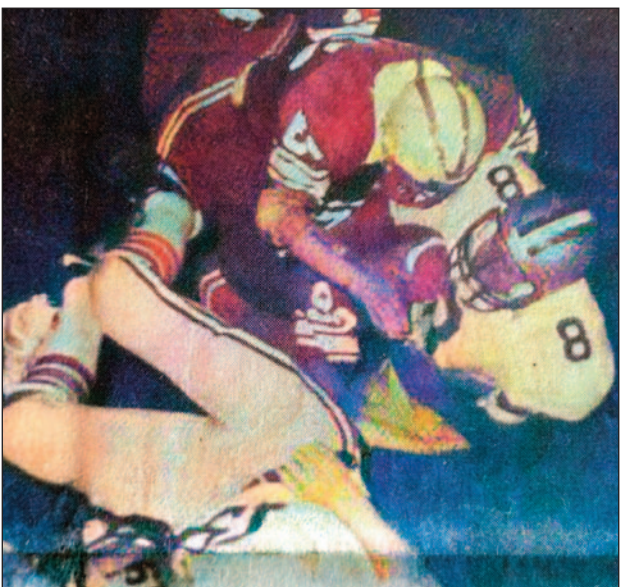
One of his most vivid memories came in 1982 when Crittenden County edged rival Caldwell County 7-6.

“That was the first time we had beaten them in years,” Mills recalled. “I actually kicked the extra point. It was the first time I had ever attempted one. That made it pretty memorable.”

His leadership on and off the field was shaped in part by his upbringing. Mills grew up next door to the school with seven siblings. His father, Jim Fred Mills, was a long-time manager for Henderson-Union power company and played a major role in helping revitalize the community's youth football league.

“Dad was always involved, raising money for football and getting youth league football going again. That made a huge difference in getting the program back on track,” Mills said.

Following high school, Mills played one season of football at Division II



Billy Mills tackling Trigg County's Al Baker who went on to play at UK and was drafted by the New York Jets.

“Football was going through some tough times when I played, so there wasn't a lot to celebrate. But I'm honored and humbled that they thought of me.”



– Billy Mills
On being selected for the hall of fame

University of Evansville before focusing on academics. He earned an electrical engineering degree from the University of Kentucky in 1988 and has spent his career working in the energy sector. He currently lives in Bowling Green, where he works as a TVA transmission service manager.

Mills' involvement in football didn't end after his playing days. He has spent the past 35 years as a referee, officiating high school football across the state. His career highlights include serving as head referee for two state championship games, in 2009 and 2021.

Despite his long list of accomplishments, Mills was caught off guard when he learned he was being inducted into the Hall of Fame.

“It was really surprising – nothing I ever expected,” he said. “Football was going through some tough times when I played, so there wasn't a lot to cele-

brate. But I'm honored and humbled that they thought of me.”

Aaron Owen 2009-2014

Aaron Owen, one of only 13 players in Rocket basketball history to score over 1,000 points, will be inducted into the Farmers Bank Marion-Crittenden County Athletics Hall of Fame on Friday night. Owen, who tallied 1,180 points during his career, was fifth on the school's all-time scoring list at the time of his graduation in 2014 and remains in the top 10 today.

The 28-year-old Elkhart, Ind., resident reflects on his time at Crittenden County High School with fondness. A standout in multiple sports, Owen's athletic resume is as diverse as it is impressive. He was a four-time All-District basketball player, an All-Region baseball selection during his sophomore year, and a strong force in golf, where he earned



Billy Mills wore No. 65 and was all conference his senior year in 1982.

numerous accolades, including All-State honors his junior year.

Owen was the 2013 All-A Classic individual Second Region champion and a key member of the All-A Region team championship squad in 2014 as a senior. On the baseball field, he set a single-season school record with 118 at-bats in 2012 and finished his career with 18 doubles, including 14 in 2012 – the fourth-highest single-season total in school history.

Owen attributes much of his success to the close bonds he shared with his teammates.

“We were such a tight group all the way through elementary and high school. We didn't just play one sport together; we played everything – basketball, baseball, golf – and those friendships made it so special,” Owen said.

He recalled memories of near misses like once in a basketball district championship game and shared triumphs across multiple sports, emphasizing the camaraderie that continues to connect him to his former teammates even today.

“We all still talk a lot,” he said.

One poignant memory dates back to his travel baseball days when the team rallied together shortly after the death of teammate Jake Hodge.

“We went to the World Series right after Jake passed. His jersey hung

in the dugout, and I hit seven home runs in that tournament. I wasn't even a power hitter, but it felt like he was with us,” Owen said.

Though basketball was his first love, Owen's natural talent for golf took him to the collegiate level. He began his college golf career at Transylvania University, where his team won a conference championship during his freshman year, before transferring to Murray State and later pursuing a degree in business and golf course management at a Golf Academy in Orlando, Fla.

Now the vice president of two family-owned companies in Indiana, Owen reflects on his journey with gratitude, especially as he prepares to be inducted into the Hall of Fame.

“I was surprised but happy. It's a special feeling to see all of those early mornings and hard work pay off,” he said.

Owen also acknowledged the support of fans, teammates, and mentors who guided him throughout his career, particularly Coach Denis Hodge and Chad Hayes.

Owen's induction into the Hall of Fame cements his legacy as one of Crittenden County's most accomplished athletes. As he looks back on his achievements, he remains grounded by the memories and friendships formed during his time as a Rocket.

Farmers Bank Hall of Fame Roll Call

Player, Year Inducted, Sport

Andrews, Josh - 2005 - Football
Belt, Bruce - 2001 - Basketball
Austin Berry - 2022 - Football, Track
Beverly, David - 2007 - Football
Brasher, Don "Sucky" - 2002 - Basketball
Bridwell, Lynn "Lefty" - 2009 - Baseball
Brown, Nicky - 2009 - Basketball
Champion, Jamie - 2006 - Football
Conyer, Roy - 2001 - Football
Courtney, Gaige - 2021 - Football, Basketball
Cozart, David - 2019 - Football, Baseball, Basketball
Cozart, Spencer - 2004 - Basketball
Jeremy Croft - 2022 - Track, Basketball
Croft, Jimmy - 2013 - Basketball
Daniels, Markeata Brown - 2009 - Basketball
Davidson, Glen "Ace" - 2003 - Basketball
Morgan Gates - 2015 - Basketball
Easley, Clinton - 2005 - Football
Elder, Houston "Hound" - 2001 - Football
Faith, Leonard - 2008 - Basketball
Franklin, W.A. - 2006 - Basketball
Gates, Pat - 2002 - Football
Grady, Orville "Soupy" - 1998 - Football
Gray, JD - 2003 - Football, Baseball
Gray, Vanessa - 2011 - Basketball
Green, Don - 2001 - Basketball
Hart, Brad - 2017 - Football, Basketball
Hart, George - 1998 - Basketball
Head, Frank - 1998 - Football
Hicklin, Robert "Hickie" - 2002 - Football
Highfill, Hugh - 2002 - Basketball
Hill, Tim - 2016 - Basketball, Track
Hinchee, Jeanee - 2007 - Basketball



Hodge, Denis - 2006 - Football
Hodge, Shannon Collins - 2008 - Basketball
Hopper, Jimmy - 2005 - Football
Hughes, Charles "Turkey" - 1999 - Football
Johnson, Tom - 2001 - Football
Kirk, Melissa - 2021 - Soccer
Knott, Curtis "Gig" - 1998 - Football
Litchfield, Louis - 2007 - Basketball
Little, Dwight - 1998 - Football
Little, Ercel - 2003 - Basketball
Martin, Turner - 2012 - Basketball
Mathieu, Jessica - 2018 - Basketball
McChesney, James "Burlap" - 2003 - Football
Mills, Billy - 2024 - Football
Mills, Jim Fred - 1999 - Football
Moss, Ronnie - 2003 - Football, Basketball, Track
Mott, Chad - 2006 - Football
Mott, Dennis - 2010 - Football
Myers, Kyle - 2017 - Basketball, Football
Myers, Ronnie - 2021 - Support Staff
O'Leary, Angie Hobbs - 2019 - Basketball, Track
Ordway, Bruce - 2008 - Basketball
Aaron Owen - 2024 - Basketball, Golf, Baseball
Perryman, Chad - 2011 - Baseball
Phillips, James - 2000 - Basketball

Rich, Joey - 2014 - Football
Rushing, Woodson "Chuck" - 1999 - Football
Shadowen, Lige - 2003 - Basketball
Sherer, Dwight - 2021 - Support Staff
Shewcraft, Jeff - 2004 - Basketball
Simmons, Ellis - 2005 - Basketball
Smith, Bennett - 1999 - Basketball
Starnes, Al - 2004 - Football
Starnes, Angela - 2018 - Track Coach
Stewart, Wompie - 2007 - Football
Summers, Von - 2014 - Football
Swisher, Bob - 2000 - Football
Tabor, Charles "Bill" - 2003 - Football
Tabor, Gerald "Hoopy" - 2000 - Basketball
Tabor, Melissa Jones - 2009 - Golf
Terry, William "Gander" - 1999 - Football
Thompson, Sean - 2023 - Football
Thurman, Greg - 2002 - Basketball
Towery, Carlisle - 1998 - Basketball
Turley, Curtis - 1999 - Basketball
VanHooser, Carroll - 1998 - Football
Wheeler, Floyd "Rip" - 2010 - Baseball
Wheeler, Clark - 2019 - Track and Field
Willoughby, James - 2012 - Track
Winders, Nicky - 2019 - Basketball, Golf
Woodall, Deller E. - 1998 - Football
Woodall, Jerry - 2004 - Football
Wring, Tommy - 2002 - Basketball
1945 Marion High Football Team - 2008
1963 CC High Football Team - 2008
1985 CC High Football Team - 2000
1942 Marion High Football Team - 2015

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Jury gives drug trafficker 15 years in prison

STAFF REPORT

On a warm, sunny Thursday afternoon two days after the Fourth of July holiday in 2023, Sheriff Evan Head and West Kentucky Violent Crimes Task Force officer Sam Adams fitted a cooperating witness with an audio-visual device, gave him \$1,600 and sent him walking down the highway a short distance to a home near the intersection of U.S. 641 and Mott City Road. The mission for this confidential informant, who wanted concessions in his own drug case, was to buy a large amount of methamphetamine.

The target on that day, according to testimony at last Thursday's trial in Crittenden Circuit Court, was drug dealer Christopher D. Stump, 35, of Marion, who had been out of prison about two months following a previous drug conviction.

In a one-day trial at city hall last week, Stump was convicted by a 12-person jury and sentenced to 15 years. Because the charge was persistent felony offender (PFO) enhanced, Stump will not become parole eligible until he serves 10 years.

While Stump was found guilty and sent to prison, testimony in the case showed that investigators were also that day looking for a potential lead toward catching Kenneth Brian Fitzgerald, who was wanted for various other crimes.

The confidential informant testified that he was using drugs and alcohol during the time period of the buy and said he couldn't remember working with investigators.



Stump



Crittenden County Sheriff Evan Head holds up a bag of methamphetamine that was purchased from Stump on July 6, 2023.

"I was black-out drunk and strung out on meth and fentanyl the whole year," he told the court.

The prosecution showed more than 30 minutes of audio/video recordings. In much of the video it was difficult to determine what was going on, the jury saw enough to believe that the informant, who was reluctant to testify, was indeed there.

The video began with the informant walking quite a distance on a blue-sky day about 4 p.m. He arrived at a house and knocked on the door. Once inside the home, two other individuals – a man and a woman – could be heard and seen on the video. They were identified as Stump and Danielle Davis, both of whom were eventually charged. Stump was not arrested in the case for six months. Investigators said the defendant was not immediately charged because they didn't want to blow the informant's cover and planned to use him on later buys. However, that never happened because he quit cooper-

ating.

On the audio, conversations can be heard about previous arrests, drugs and a "big rock" of meth that was being broken up to fill the order. There was a conversation between Stump and the informant about measurements and scales.

During testimony, the sheriff pointed out that video from such buys is oftentimes not of the highest quality.

"These are not Hollywood-grade cameras like you see on TV," Head told the jury.

While the informant refused on the stand to admit that he conducted the buy, Sheriff Head and the task force officer both confirmed his identity.

Prosecutor Wes Hunt, who is assistant commonwealth's attorney for Crittenden County, used still frames from video as evidence to support testimony that the informant, Stump and Davis were the individuals inside the home when the buy went down. The freeze-frame shots were displayed on a large screen in the courtroom.

In his testimony, Head also described Stump's voice as



Wes Hunt, who prosecuted the case, gives his closing statement to the jury.

very distinguishable. The sheriff said that he and Stump had worked together about 10 years ago at the highway department and that he was familiar with his voice.

Stump's attorney worked to discredit local investigators. He told the jury that the informant was not trustworthy and accused the sheriff and the other investigator from Lyon County of being evasive with answers to his questions while they were on the stand. Preston Wade, the attorney from Henderson, showed frustration at times.

"It was a shoddy investigation, a shoddy audio, a shoddy video and the confidential informant was doing drugs on the video," Wade said during his closing statement. Wade had persistently argued that the videotape showed the informant smoking meth. If so, he pointed out, the entire buy would be null and void based on typical police procedure.

Although the confidential informant was somewhat marginalized based on his less-than-cooperative testimony, the jury was satisfied with the balance of evidence.

In his closing statement, Hunt wrapped up the case by

pointing to multiple frames on the video that were perhaps clearer than some and where the audio was easier to understand. On audio, the prosecutor pointed out that the defendant said the price of the meth he was selling was "probably better than anywhere else around here." The prosecutor also highlighted where the defendant and informant totaled up the weight of drugs, coming to 224 grams. Stump could be heard saying that the scales were weighing "a little over." Hunt said that perfectly illustrated the defendant's experience in the drug trade because when the Kentucky State Police Forensic Laboratory in Madisonville confirmed the powder was methamphetamine and weighed the evidence, the total came to slightly less, 223.8 grams. Hunt said that only a highly experienced drug trafficker would be able to recognize such a slight variance in the scales.

The jury deliberated less than 30 minutes before returning with a unanimous verdict.

During the sentencing phase of the trial, Stump's wife gave emotional testimony, as did another character witness for Stump.

Stump's attorney argued for a sentence that would not involve a PFO enhancement. Prosecutor Hunt went through Stump's extensive criminal history, which included five felony convictions over a 13-year period between 2010 and 2023, before the defendant was caught again only a few weeks after getting out of prison.

A pretrial plea offer made weeks ago would have meant much less prison time for the defendant, but Stump refused it. Formal sentencing will be in April.

FIRE

Continued from page 1 proves to a 4, those within five miles and near a hydrant will likely see lower premiums.

Homes further from hydrants but still within five miles of a fire station are affected by the second number. The third number applies to properties more than five miles away, with a 10 typically meaning no discount, while a 9 may offer slight relief.

Salem Fire & Rescue Chief Daniel Newcomb, one of the region's youngest fire chiefs, has a strong understanding of the ISO grading system. He grew up as the son of a fire chief and became a junior fireman at age 12.

"Sometimes it is a house-by-house situation," Newcomb said, explaining how an individual home's risk mitigation efforts can influence insurance discounts. "If you get deep into ISO, it is actually the protection our department can provide for an individual house. There could be a difference in a 1,000-square-foot house and a 5,000-square-foot house."

Salem is working to secure "hailed water credit" so-to-speak, similar to what Tolu and Mattoon have done, ensuring it can provide ample water anywhere within five miles of the station and lowering the ISO for everyone in that five-mile area. A new station is also planned for Lola, which could further improve fire protection and lower insurance rates for homeowners in northern Livingston County.

Mattoon Fire Chief Buddy Chandler emphasized the importance of mutual aid agreements, where departments assist each other during emergencies.

"Your mutual aid de-

partments can affect your rating, too," Chandler said. "So all departments need to apply and get a new audit."

Such agreements can be strengthened further by automatically dispatching aid for every structure fire.

"We want to get all of our departments to the best ISO rating that we can, within the whole region," Newcomb said. "This is not specific to Salem, or Livingston County, or Crittenden County. This is everywhere. Everyone deserves good quality fire protection."

The details ISO auditors examine – such as water volume, pressure from hydrants, and communications systems – are consistent across many departments. However, water pressure can vary. For example, Tolu Fire Chief Tony Alexander noted that Tolu benefits from a naturally high water pressure due to its geography, contributing to its strong ISO rating.

Several other departments, including Shady Grove and Marion, are also working to improve their ratings.

"We had an inspection last year and I didn't agree with it," said Marion Fire Chief Red Howton, who is appealing the results.

Departments can request a new audit, though they typically occur automatically every five to seven years.

Local insurance agents stress the importance of ISO ratings in determining rates, with potential savings ranging from \$150 to \$500 annually for many homeowners.

Newcomb cited one case where a homeowner stands to save around \$2,000.

Tanner Tabor of YTG Insurance in Marion said insurance companies use electronic systems that

automatically factor in ISO ratings when calculating premiums.

"When you type in an address, the system typically pulls that information in," Tabor said. "It is definitely a factor in how your rate is figured."

Farm Bureau agent

Ricky Brown said the fire departments' efforts to improve their ratings are critical, given rising insurance costs nationwide.

"It's going to be a big plus for people who receive this benefit because rates are going up every-

where," Brown said. "What you need to know is that not everyone will see a savings. You have to be within five miles of a fire station to trigger the deeper savings, and around here, fire stations are not like Dollar General stores where every-

one is within five miles."

While not all homeowners will benefit, those within improved coverage areas stand to see significant savings as more area fire departments work to bring down their ISO ratings.

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Fiscal Court meets in regular session at the courthouse at 8:30 a.m., on the third Thursday of each month