



The Crittenden Press

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Another All A Championship Run | Page 9

THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024

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

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ONE DOLLAR



Record Crowds at RA

Records were set last week when Rocket Arena hosted the Second Region Boys All A Classic Basketball Tournament, which featured University of Kentucky commit Travis Perry and his second-ranked Lyon County Lyons. Friday's semifinal round set a record with a paid attendance of 837 and an estimated crowd of nearly 1,000. That mark was broken at Saturday's championship game with an estimated crowd of nearly 1,200, according to Crittenden County Athletic Director Bryan Qualls. Lyon County won the tournament with lopsided victories over Caldwell County and University Heights Academy.

Rare eclipse coming

A total solar eclipse will darken western Kentucky in less than three months, yet unlike a similar event in 2017, there isn't as much fanfare or organized effort in Marion to accommodate tourists. Like the previous eclipse almost seven years ago, the astronomical rarity coming on April 8 will provide a near total eclipse for this part of the country. During a total eclipse, the moon passes between the Sun and Earth, darkening the sky. When the eclipse reaches totality – the point where the Sun and Moon are in perfect alignment – the Sun's corona, the outermost part of its atmosphere, can be seen by the naked eye. For many, witnessing a total solar eclipse is a once-in-a-lifetime event. According to NASA, a single spot on Earth only gets to see a total solar eclipse, on average, once every 375 years. This will be our second. In addition to Crittenden, other Kentucky counties calculated to be in the path of totality include McCracken, Ballard, Fulton, Hickman, Carlisle, Union, Webster and Henderson. Michele Edwards, tourism director in Marion, said the 2017 event didn't bring as many eclipse observers to town as had been expected. The park was designated as an observation area back then and it attracted a few dozen people. The local airport had about 40 fly ins that day. With no more interest anticipated this time, Edwards said there are no organized plans for April, but Marion will be open for business and welcomes observers.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Crittenden County Conservation District will meet at 6:30 p.m., the Thursday, Jan. 18 at its office on East Bellville Street.
- Crittenden-Livingston Water District will meet at 4 p.m., Monday, Jan. 22 at Deer Lakes meeting room.
- Marion Tourism and Recreation Commission will meet at 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, Jan. 23 at the Marion Welcome Center.
- Crittenden County Board of Education meets at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 25 at Rocket Arena.
- Livingston County Fiscal Court meets at 5 p.m., Tuesday, Jan. 23 at the county office complex in Smithland.



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Situation Room

School officials met last week with law enforcement and other community leaders to develop a plan to prevent chaos amid the congestion that's anticipated between the hospital and school on US 60 West when construction projects begin at the school and on the highway where a turning lane will be built.

Weaving Around Construction Plans for school traffic

STAFF REPORT

Big changes are coming next week to traffic patterns on US 60 East at Crittenden County High School and Middle School.

Beginning Monday, Jan. 22, new procedures will be in place that will shake up a long-standing traffic pattern for buses and students going to school and leaving with their parents, or what the district typically calls "car riders."

Change is necessitated by construction of an addition to Crittenden County Middle School. Contractor MP Lawson of Paducah is beginning initial site work in the coming weeks. Further construction at the entrance of the school is expected this spring as Jim Smith Contracting will be building a turning lane on US 60 West, a Kentucky Department of Highways project.

As traffic flows change early next week, school personnel will be on site at various points to direct parents and students during transition to the new system that will send parent dropoffs through the

Parent-student traffic will wrap around behind school from West Elm Street. Bus dropoff in front of school.

back of campus and buses to the front – a flip flop of traditional routing.

Bus traffic will be moved to the front of CCMS and run from east to west.

In both morning and afternoon, buses will enter campus from US 60 at what previously had been the "exit" in front of the high school.

School Transportation Director Wayne Winters said this location for bus traffic is ideal and will allow students to enter and exit buses from the sidewalk in front of the school.

Parents dropping students off for school will enter from West Elm Street off Old Salem Road and drop students off in the oval between Rocket Arena and the rear of Crittenden County High School.

Parents transporting students will not be allowed to enter the school campus from US 60.

A staging area for vehicles

picking up students after school is being established on former state road department property adjacent to Old Salem Road. Vehicles will not be admitted onto campus until 3:10 p.m., when all student drivers have exited the parking lot in front of the football field.

Drivers from the staging area will cross onto campus via a new gravel access leading to the bus garage parking lot. From there, they will be able to proceed to West Elm Street, turn left toward the school parking lot and pick up students at the oval between Rocket Arena and the high school. When exiting the campus, parents must use Elm Street in order to avoid the area beside CCMS and its intersection with U.S. 60.

Drivers picking up students after 3:10 can enter campus off Old Salem Road

See ROUTE/page 8

Locals tapped for leadership program



Dunn



Depsey

Livingston County representatives in the program are Rex Roberts of Pine Bluff Materials and Crissy Carter, Executive Director Livingston Hospital Foundation and Director of Community, Wellness and Nutritional Services.

STAFF REPORT

Rose Dempsey and Rebecca Dunn of Crittenden County are among the 30 members of the West Kentucky Regional Chamber Alliance's 2024 Leadership West Kentucky.

The program is designed to connect individuals in leadership positions from 14 counties and make them aware of government, transportation and development issues throughout western Kentucky.

Dempsey is a cash management specialist at Farmers Bank in Marion. Dunn is the community liaison for Crittenden County Health and Rehab and Salem Springlake Care Center.

Leadership West Kentucky kicked off its six-month program this week with an orientation program, and will begin monthly meetings at various sites throughout the region in February.

Program next week for powering up off the grid

STAFF REPORT

Have you ever thought about going off the grid?

While a wholesale sellout of modern conveniences like electricity might be tough to swallow, there's certain appeal to biting off a smaller piece of self reliance.

For the adventurous spirit, Crittenden County Extension Service has a free less-than-two-hour program starting at 6 p.m., on Monday, Jan. 22.

Extension Agent Dee Heimgartner says the program is a good fit for farmers, outdoors enthusiasts or simply home owners who want to learn about generating power to remote locations.

"It's for off-grid solar systems. This is not the big solar systems, but small off-grid ones for small outbuildings, water systems or similar situations where it is too expensive or hard to get electricity connected," she said.

Presenters will explain basic set-up procedures and technical details for building a small, off-the-grid power plant.

Organizers ask that those planning to attend RSVP the Extension office at 270-965-5236.

Heimgartner says hunting cabins are another place these systems are applicable. "Homesteading has also be-

come popular and we have a lot of questions from people wanting to do that," the agent adds.

While this class is merely a primer for building an off-the-grid power system, Heimgartner says the UK Extension Service offers followup and further assistance for various applications and setups.

An overview of basic costs to start an off-the-grid power supply will also be presented at the program next week.

"As far as total budgets, that's something we can work on with people later on once they decide what components they want," Heimgartner adds.



EDITORIAL

Why water? Why now?

Marion's water crisis is at its most critical juncture since first responders stood overlooking a weeping Lake George in April of 2022.

Unfortunately, city leaders are getting mixed signals – much like they did in those earliest hours of this predicament – which is creating unnecessary fog on a path toward water security, and it is complicating decisions toward that end.

Now is not the time to lean on Yogi Berra logic. Too much is at stake. The future of Marion itself hangs in the balance.

In his unique wit, Yogi once advised that, "If you come to a fork in the road, take it."

Not sure his advice meets the hammer test for soundness, and that's a big problem as Marion struggles to find not only funding sources, but a clear vision forward. It's tough to choose the right direction when traffic signals are blinking mixed colors.

At this fork in the road, which path should Marion take? It cannot take both. It must choose, and it needs guidance from Frankfort.

This community can ill afford to chase two solutions to one problem.

Over the past few weeks, city leaders have arrived at that fork, and committed to both routes. It appears that they feel pressured to hedge their bets because green lights on the road to emergence from this mess have tinted toward yellow.

To borrow another famous quote from a great American, "A house divided against itself cannot stand."

Mr. Lincoln, we sure could use a hand.

And that hand will need to come from a place where old Abe served with great vision. From the center of government.

State and federal dollars are needed to solve Marion's water woes. Left to its own devices, the town could bankrupt itself. Further financial assistance is necessary.

"I think to lose Kentucky is nearly the same as to lose the whole game," Abraham Lincoln also said describing the commonwealth's importance to a nation at the brink of Civil War.

Well, to lose Marion would be a black mark on Kentucky, and on its governor, who stood on the levee of Old City Lake in early summer of 2022 pledging to help the city successfully respond to this water crisis and solve it for generations. Weeks later at a critical early point in the water catastrophe, Gov. Andy Beshear told a group at the National Guard Armory where volunteers and reservists were doling out bottled water that, "There is more money out there for longterm infrastructure than we've ever had. It's never good to have a water crisis like this," the governor said that day, but then again, it couldn't be a better time with unprecedented

See WATER/page 8



PHOTO BY KAILYN STOKES

Young 4-Hers

4-H Cloverbuds, the youngest of the organization’s participants, meet at Crittenden Elementary once a month including (from left) Wren Smith, Serenity Cook, Annales Maraman and Ella Rustin, who did a craft project with using materials in the trademark 4-H green. Cloverbuds are 4-Hers in kindergarten through third grade whose meetings introduce them to the 4-H program and provide them with activities based on learning experience. There are about 50 Cloverbuds in Crittenden County.

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Deaths

Loveless

Robert William “Bobby” Loveless, 83, of Salem, died Monday, Jan. 15, 2024 at Livingston Hospital and Healthcare Services.

He was a retired from the United States Navy, earning the rank of Chief Aviation Boatswain’s Mate H after 30 years of service. After retirement he went to work for Pan-Am. He loved farming and spent many an hour working on his farm.

Surviving are three sons, Michael Loveless and Kevin Loveless, both of Salem and Ron Jones of Nidda, Germany; a sister, Ester Pruett of Omaha, Neb.; a grandchild, Romina; and a great-grandchild.

He was preceded in death by his parents, James and Marie (Tabor) Loveless; a brother, J.F. Loveless; a sister, Mary Jordan; and loving companion, Charlotte Belt

Services are at 2 p.m., Monday, Jan. 22 in the chapel of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation



Services. Burial will follow at Loveless Chapel Cemetery.

Friends may visit with the family from noon until the funeral hour at Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services.

Extension meeting

The Crittenden County Extension Service will host a Vision Board training at 5:30 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 18 at the Extension Annex. Set goals and bring them to life by creating your own vision board.

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Livingston’s central office nears completion

SUBMITTED BY
ANDREW SEXTON

The Livingston County School Board met Monday, Jan. 8 at Livingston County Middle School. The board was led in the Pledge of Allegiance by LCMS student Michael Hillard.

During the meeting, the board selected Christine Thompson to serve another year as board chairperson and David Kitchens as the vice chairperson. The board also approved the 2024 regular meeting schedule. Meetings will remain on the second Monday of all months except for December. However, the meetings will now begin at 5 p.m.

During LiveRED recognitions, the board recognized Tonya Padon for the LiveRED Staff Award for the month of January. Before her retirement in December, Padon served faithfully as a school nurse for 16 years and was the first school nurse contracted in the district. Her contributions to the district go beyond helping with medical needs. She is known for her kindness toward students and staff as well as her will-

ingness to go above and beyond her call of duty.

Superintendent Dr. David Meinschein gave several reports of activities and projects in the district.

The district continues to invest in technology resources for staff and students. There have been 63 interactive panels purchased throughout the district for teachers and students to replace outdated projectors. In the last couple of years, the district has made an investment of \$720,000 in technology updates and upgrades.

During the facility updates, board members were shown images of several key projects. Some of the most notable upgrades include the gym at Livingston Central with a new heating and air unit and lighting upgrades. The LAVEC upgrades on the exterior of the Career and Technical wing of the high school are beginning as well with new sidewalk and drainage for the courtyard and new culvert and drainage behind the ag building. An update was given on the central office project. The central office staff hopes



Tonya Paden (fourth from left) was recognized by the Livingston County Board of Education earlier this month. With her (from left) are Tammy Sayle, Terry Watson, Christine Thompson, Padon, David Kitchens and Superintendent Dr. David Meinschein. At right is the nearly completed board of education office on Cutoff Road in Smithland.



off Road, Smithland. There is a lot of excitement as the project reaches completion.

During the meeting, the board heard from school auditor of Duguid, Gentry and Associates

who gave the district an “unmodified” or “clean” audit rating. The auditor praised the excellent work and accounting procedures followed by the district and financial personnel. The board ac-

cepted the report.

The board approved several motions and approved payments for various projects in the district. The key business items of note include the approval of the retainer for board attorney Bart Frazer, the approval of the 2024-2025 school calendar, and also the setting of preschool tuition for the district at no cost to students for the remainder of the 2023-2024 school year.

The agenda and minutes for board meetings can be found on the district website. The next scheduled meeting is at 5 p.m., Monday, Feb. 12 at the new central office at 840 Cutoff Rd, Smithland.

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Story time

Carter Story, 3, was one of the participants at the first Laugh and Learn program at Crittenden County Public Library for preschool-age children. Coordinated by the Crittenden County Extension Service, Laugh and Learn is held at 11 a.m., the first Friday of each month. The lesson’s January theme was snow and allowed participants to play with fake snow in a sensory bin. All activities align with pre kindergarten standards to prepare preschoolers for school, said coordinator Rebecca Woodall, the Extension Service’s Family and Consumer Service agent.

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Schools lobby for SEEK increase

Increasing public school funding is among priority lobbying efforts by Kentucky superintendents during Kentucky’s 2024 legislative session.

Based on data compiled in the Council for Better Education’s Back on Track report, state funding has increased \$278 per pupil since 2008. Superintendent Tonya Driver told the Crittenden County Board of Education in December that adequately funding public schools is a constitutional requirement, and SEEK (Support Education Excellence in Kentucky) has not matched rises in inflation.

In 2008, SEEK funding per student was \$3,822, inching up to just \$4,100 in 2023. When adjusted for inflation, the actual need is around \$5,400 per student, according to public relations representative Tiffany Blazina.

“The Crittenden County School District has experienced funding insecurities in areas such as textbooks and technology, as well as funding for adequate personnel and resources as a result of learning gaps created by the effects of the (COVID-19) pandemic,” Blazina wrote in a press release.

Underfunding has unfairly placed the financial burden on local districts, Driver told the board of education. She said state funding for essential

services like transportation is at 69 percent, far below the required 100 percent. In Crittenden County Schools, this has led to financial burden, forcing cuts in some areas to compensate the shortfall with transportation, the press release said.

A gradual increase of SEEK funding over a 2- to 4-year period is sought.

According to school officials, salaries are about 25 percent less than other professions requiring similar qualifications. Crittenden County School District faces teacher and workforce shortages, including the recruitment of substitutes.

Education leaders say while SEEK funding has seen modest increases in the last 15 years, Kentucky’s legislature has given tax credits to charter schools and private schools.

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10 Under 40 Program Description: Ten deserving community members will be recognized through The Crittenden Press' 2024 10 Under 40 Community Recognition Program. We want to share the successes of the young professionals in our community, recognize their achievements, excellence in professional development and decisions to practice their trade in our community.

Process: Nominees should be submitted for consideration for The Crittenden Press' 10 Under 40 based on their expertise, competency, integrity, courteousness and achievement in their respective field. Names may be submitted by employees, co-workers, family or friends by Feb. 16, 2024.

Qualifications: The individuals nominated should be considered the best in their field with strong integrity, work ethic and desire to serve Crittenden County. Nominees must work in Crittenden County but may reside outside the community. Nominees must be under age 40 by March 1, 2024.

Recognition: Nomination forms will be received by email or in person at The Crittenden Press through closed of business Feb. 16, 2024. A panel will evaluate nominees in each category and make a selection based on criteria set forth in Program Description and Qualifications. The individual selected in each of the 10 categories will be recognized in The Crittenden Press and on each of our social media platforms during a 10-week 10 Under 40 Recognition feature beginning in March.

Nominee: _____

DOB: _____

Nominee's Occupation: _____

Phone: _____

Nominated by: _____

Phone: _____

On separate paper, attach responses to the following:

What has the nominee done to deserve recognition in their field?

How long has the nominee worked in our community? And in what capacity?

Describe their work ethic, involvement and commitment to improve our community through their trade.

Entry deadline Feb. 16, 2024



Trinity Hayes receiving her award.

Hayes recognized for 911 dispatching in emergency

Marion native Trinity Hayes was recognized in December by Jessamine County E911 for her professionalism during an emergency she dispatched late last year.

Hayes, a student at Eastern Kentucky University, works part time as a Crittenden County E911 dispatcher, and also in Nicholasville at Jessamine County 911 during the school year.

Hayes was presented a challenge coin by Jessamine County E911 for her part in a life-saving emergency call late last year.

“(The patient’s) outcome likely would be very different if not for the recognition of the need for CPR and by the E911 telecommunicator who walked the caller through providing CPR until first responders could arrive,” her supervisors wrote in a Facebook post describing her role in the response.

Hayes is the daughter of John Hayes and Bethany Hubbard of Marion.

Marion man is arrested for meth trafficking in Marshall

A Marion man is one of two individuals facing drug charges after a traffic stop in Marshall County last week.

Jared Mallory, 40, of Kuttawa faces charges of first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance (methamphetamine), possession of drug paraphernalia, operating on a suspended license and having no insurance.

Ryan Renner, 30 of Marion faces charges of first-degree trafficking in a controlled substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

According to reports, a deputy stopped a vehicle being driven Mallory on Jan. 10. It was discovered that Mallory was operating on a suspended operator’s license. Renner was a passenger in the vehicle.

A subsequent search of the car



found alleged methamphetamine, according to the Marshall County Sheriff’s Office.

Fredonia woman faces charges

A Fredonia woman has been charged with fraudulent use of a credit card for allegedly defrauding her Calvert City employer, 3C’s Concrete, out of \$145,212.

Loren Shelby Miller, 32, is facing felony charges in Marshall County and is scheduled to be arranged in Marshall District Court on Jan. 31.

According to an investigation by Marshall County Sheriff’s Department, the owner of the company reported to authorities in October that he had found multiple fraudulent transaction from a fleet credit card to a PayPal account discovered to belong to his office manager. The owner also told authorities that he had confronted the employee, and that she had confessed.

Further investigation by the Marshall County Sheriff’s Department alleges that between February 2023 and September 2023 there were 104 transactions between two different fleet card accounts and PayPal accounts owned by Miller.

UK basketball is No. 1 all-time in AP polling

January marks the 75th anniversary of the Associated Press College Basketball Poll, and Kentucky’s men’s basketball received a remarkable honor in celebration of the anniversary.

The AP dug into its archives to assimilate information about more than 1,200 polls from January 1949 through last season, and hat found Kentucky is the all-time No. 1 team.

North Carolina was second in data from over 75 years. Kentucky had appeared in more than 75 percent of AP’s basketball polls.

The AP Poll tabulates each week votes from 63 college professional basketball reporters using a points system, giving 25 points for a first-place vote, 24 for second place, and so on through the 25th team, which receives one point. Over 75 years, Kentucky totaled 17,852 total points in the poll, almost 600 more than North Car-



Fire Chief Scott Hurley presents Emily Shuecraft with certification.

olina. Duke, Kansas, and UCLA rounded out the top five. Louisville finished sixth.

Shuecraft earns basic certification for CCFVD

Emily Shuecraft has completed essential training and received a Basic I Certification from State Fire Rescue Training.

Shuecraft is an engineer with Crittenden County Volunteer Fire Department. Engineers are department officers who are responsible for operation and maintenance of fire agency equipment. She completed 115 hours of basic training to receive the certificate.

Six-year County Fire Chief Scott Hurley explains that Basic I Certification is entry-level training for certified firefighters. At least half of the fire department’s roster must be certified in order for it to maintain its credentials.

Tinsley accepts position with Louisville law firm

Emily Tinsley of Crayne has accepted a position as associate attorney with Alex R. White, PLLC in Louisville.

Tinsley, daughter of Roger and Pam Tinsley, will sit for the bar exam this spring and graduate from the University of Louisville Louis D. Brandeis School of Law in May. She earned a bachelor’s degree from Western Kentucky University and is a 2017 graduate of Crittenden County High School.

Tinsley has been working as a clerk at the Louisville law firm since May 2022.



Emily Tinsley

Senate wants to give more landowners free hunting rights

Kentucky Senate passed its first bill of the 2024 legislative session last week, one that would make it easier for farm owners and their families to be able to hunt and fish on their property.

Senate Bill 5, sponsored by Sen. Gex Williams, R-Verona, eliminates the five-acre ownership requirement for residential landowners seeking exemptions from having to buy hunting and fishing license to use on their own property. Sen. Robin Webb, D-Grayson, spoke in favor of the bill.

The measure passed the Senate unanimously (35-0) with bipartisan support and now advances to the House for consideration.

If passed, the law would take effect as soon as it is signed by the governor, or if he vetoes it, both chambers vote to override the veto. Either would happen this spring.

Bill aims to improve safety in Kentucky

A group of Republican Kentucky House members announced the filing of the Safer Kentucky Act, an effort to cut down on violent crime in the state.

Rep. Jared Bauman, R-Louisville, is the main sponsor of the legislation, House Bill 5, and described some of its provisions to reporters.

“A three strikes provision that will require any criminal that commits three violent felonies will serve life in prison without the possibility of parole,” Bauman said. “It will create a Kentucky carjacking statute, there are some provisions to reduce recidivism as well, require regular evaluations of our re-entry program, so we can adequately fund ones that are doing well and are worth the investment, and provide group violence intervention for those need it as well.”

A “three strikes” provision would punish a person with life imprisonment or the death penalty for a third violent felony; increases penalties for sale and distribution of fentanyl; makes carjacking a felony; makes

camping in many public areas a crime; putting limits on charitable bail.

The bill would also give shopkeepers and retailers legal and civil protection for protecting their businesses against shoplifters.

A separate bill introduced in the House, HB 38, would abolish the death penalty and replace with life imprisonment without parole. It would also prohibit probation for anyone sentenced to life without parole or life without parole for 25 years.

Election bill would give five years to officials

A bill to move elections from odd-years — including the Kentucky governor’s race — to presidential election years could get some traction this legislative session. It’s a bill that comes up quite regularly in the General Assembly. This one is titled Senate Bill 10.

Proposed legislation already approved by the Senate Committee for State and Local Government aims to amend the Kentucky Constitution so that statewide elections – for governor and other constitutional offices – would be held in even-numbered years, every four years, beginning after the November 2027 elections. The plan would give officials elected in 2027 a five-year term.

It’s not the first time Sen. Chris McDaniel, a Republican from Ryland Heights, has proposed a constitutional amendment to move the state’s off-year elections. In fact, he’s been proposing the constitutional amendment for over a decade. Although the proposal has typically won approval in the Senate, it has stalled in the House. If approved, the proposed amendment would go on the ballot for a statewide referendum.

Critics say the idea would likely result in small savings for the state. However, counties could see a much bigger savings.

Crittenden County Clerk Daryl Tabor said local taxpayers foot the bill for a \$25,000 election every two years right now. The proposed change would save the county that much every four years.

Tabor, however, isn’t a fan. “I don’t like it because of what it does for the straight-party vote,” he said. “The governor’s race becomes a down ticket race, secondary to the presidential race.”

Kentucky’s County Clerks Association is in favor of the proposal.

If approved, Kentucky would save \$2 million and its 120 counties \$15 million in a four-year election cycle.

2023 one of warmest

KY TODAY

Kentucky’s 2023 was one of the warmest years on record, and in some cities the warmest year ever, according to data from the National Weather Service offices that serve the state.

The three cities that had the warmest average annual temperature in 2023 were Louisville at 61.0 degrees (Fahrenheit), Lexington at 59.2 degrees, and Jackson with 59.1 degrees. In addition, both Louisville (1.3 inches) and Lexington (0.9 inches) had their least snowy years on record. Jackson also experienced its 10th driest year on record.

Two cities had their second-warmest year on record: Paducah with an average annual temperature of 60.7 degrees and Bowling Green with 60.8 degrees. Bowling Green also had its least snowy year on record with just a trace of snow measured there, while Paducah never had the temperature drop below 20 degrees during 2023.

Frankfort and the Henderson-Evansville area experienced their fifth warmest year with an average annual temperature of 59.2 degrees at Henderson-Evansville, and 57.6 degrees in the Capital City.

In the Ashland-Huntington area, 2023 was tied for the ninth warmest year, with an average annual temperature of 58.2 degrees.

Covington did not crack the top 10 warmest years in 2023, as its average annual temperature was 56.5 degrees, which was only good for 15th place in the record books.

London, the other climate reporting station in Kentucky, had a sensor outage, leaving its annual data characterized as “Missing.”

Pesticide training courses

Crittenden County Extension Service will be hosting a series of monthly chemical applicator trainings through March. These courses are for anyone who needs to be certified or recertified for spraying pesticides or herbicides at home or on the farm. It also provides those applicators a certification to purchase some restricted chemicals. These three-hour classes are scheduled for 6 p.m., on Jan. 30; at 6 p.m., on Feb. 8; at 8 a.m., on Feb. 21; at 8 a.m., on March 6 and at 6 p.m., on March 19. Training sessions will be at Crittenden County Extension Annex on U.S. 60 East.



Here’s a throw-back photograph from Crittenden County Amish Country 24 years ago this month showing snow-covered cornstalks off of Fords Ferry Road.

50 YEARS AGO

January 17, 1974

- The Corps of Engineers announced a plan to lease the Dam 50 property to the city and county as a recreational area when Smithland Dam was complete and Dam 50 was no longer needed.
- Crittenden County Board of Education hired Roy Cherry of Hiseville in Barren County as the new high school football coach. Cherry was an offensive and defensive lineman at Ft. Campbell where he was twice named most valuable player and made the All-Army team once and honorable mention three times.
- Marion Rotary Club surpassed its \$10,000 goal to buy a cardiac intensive care unit for Crittenden County Hospital. Just over \$11,200 was raised to equip a two-bed coronary care unit with heart monitors and a central nurse’s station.
- Bill Cunningham opened a private law practice in Eddyville. He returned to Lyon County after four years in the U.S. Army, reaching a rank of captain and serving in Germany, Vietnam and Korea.

25 YEARS AGO

January 21, 1999

- City of Marion purchased the Siemens Electromechanical Components property for \$2.5 million as part of an agreement for

- the county’s largest manufacturing employer to bring in four new lines, creating up to 84 jobs. Under the contract, Siemens agreed to lease about three-fourths of the building it would occupy
- The Lady Rockets (8-7) won their second straight Second Region All A championship, beating Lyon County 54-44. CCHS’s leading scorers were Summer Smith with 25 points and Ashley Turley 12.
- Rocket Football’s awards banquet recognized the following varsity players: Doug Campbell, Terry Woodall, Jeremy Wheeler, Brad Madden, Josh Cozart, Adam Young, Austin Turley, Brian Penn and Joey Rich.

10 YEARS AGO

January 16, 2014

- Caldwell County residents voiced concern over the location of the second phase of a new U.S. 641 to connect Marion with either Princeton or Eddyville. Concern arose after a preliminary route showed the road skirting Fredonia to the east and connecting to U.S. 62 near the interchange of I-69 east of Eddyville.
- Marion resident Heath Martin joined the force of Marion Police Department. Martin, minister of Cave Springs General Baptist Church, had been a heavy equipment operator for the county’s road crew.
- Rocket Aaron Owen had 14 points and teammate Landon Young 11 in the Rockets’ 7-point loss to Lyon County.

Keep informed, make good decisions

Amazingly, we’ve done it. The United States has made it to its sixtieth presidential election year. Considering all that has happened from 1789 until today, that is a remarkable achievement. It has happened regularly every four years. There have been times of horrific violence and the country even split apart for a while, but when it came time the president in office conceded and congress effected a peaceful transfer of office.



Sean NIESTRATH
Faith-based columnist
Guest Columnist

other deficit of our nation) to choose who we get to choose from in November. I hesitate to say that our party system (something the framers of our constitution warned against) is broken, but the deficit of courage has certainly made it fragile. Of all the emotions and attitudes that might be involved in making decisions, fear, anger (especially righteous anger), moral superiority, and nationalism must be among the worst. Yet, these are the very triggers that the media (egged on by some candidates) seem pleased to gin up among us.

If you are reading this, you hold in your hands (or are seeing on a screen) the best remedy we possess to regain a firmer footing and set a better course for our nation, and at least for now, the world. Newspapers and other local news sources that are free and independent are among the best antidotes to the nonsense that occasionally overtakes us as a nation.

The majority of what we see on screens is not original reporting. It is often carefully chosen and presented with hyperbolic headlines to provoke a response. This “click-bait” (and it happens with cable news as well) leans our

emotional responses to believing what is said, whether it is accurately presented or not. Local news and newspapers have their flaws, but they are local. The people are in the community and have a stake in what is done and said. They face their readers and listeners daily.

The importance of this cannot be overemphasized. When a town loses its local news reporters, who will go to the public meetings that no one attends unless they have a problem. News aggregators have no accountability, therefore they should be at least discounted and often ignored. If this happened, they would decrease, and local reporters and newspapers could thrive again – online and print. We get what we pay for, and I fear we are paying the wrong people a lot of money to drag all of us through the muck together while we shout at each other.

Thomas Jefferson, one of the more enigmatic architects of our nation, believed that better information would lead people to make better decisions. Here is an excerpt from a letter of Jefferson dated January 16, 1787.

“I am persuaded myself that the good sense of the people will always be found to be the best army. They may be led astray for a moment, but will soon correct themselves. The people are the only censors of their governors; and even their errors will tend to keep these to the true principles of their instruction...

The way to prevent these irregular interpositions of the people is to give them full information of their affairs through the channel of public papers, and to contrive that those papers should penetrate the whole mass of people. The basis of our government being the opinion of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right; and were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter. But I should mean that every [person] should receive those papers, and be capable of reading them.”

I would add that a decent education based on a morality that seeks the good of others and based on the golden rule “to do to others as you would have done to you,” is also necessary. Our morality and thinking about the value of other people is the key to how we discern what we read.

So. Here we go. Another election year – God be with us.

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.

Community Events & News

- Suicidal thoughts? Stop! Email dbrantpc@tds.net and request a video link that hopefully will change your mind.
- 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 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. the third Thursday of each month in Coleman Hall of the church.
- The clothes closet at Mexico Baptist Church is open from 9 to 11:30 a.m. each Monday.

IN MEMORY

of my dear friend

Tommy Tabor

May he rest in peace, from

BUBBY WESTBERRY

Eternal life is a free gift received by faith

Question: At school, my friends have all kinds of opinions about how to get to heaven. Many think if you live a good life and help others, you will eventually make it. Will all people ultimately go to heaven if they try hard enough?

Answer: Unfortunately, many people believe moral living and doing good works will get them to heaven. Others conveniently believe everyone will go to heaven. However, according to God's Word, the Bible, these views are simply wrong. Not all people will end up in heaven. In fact, Jesus said, “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and

Ask the Pastor

By Bob Hardison

many enter through it” (Mt. 7:13).

Since the fall of Adam and Eve in Genesis 3, everyone has inherited from Adam a carnal, fleshly nature that's inclined to sin. People make sinful choices because they are sinners by nature. Because we inherit a sin-nature and we sin, we receive the consequences of sin—death and separation from God and eternal punishment.

God is holy and just and His character requires that

He punishes sin. Jesus paid the price for the sins of the world, and those who trust and follow him, are forgiven. Eternal life with God and other believers is a free gift that's received by faith. The Bible teaches, “It is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast” (Eph. 2:8, 9).

Send your questions to: bob@bobhardison.com

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Rodney Phelps, Pastor
(270) 704-2400
emmausbaptistsalem@outlook.com
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St. William Catholic Church

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

Mexico Baptist Church

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

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: Tracie 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."

PINEY FORK

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

Sugar Grove

Cumberland Presbyterian
585 Sugar Grove Church Rd., Marion, Ky. (270) 704-2455
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. Bro. James LAIBEN
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.

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 -

A visit to the old Crittenden Hotel on East Carlisle Street

After the great fire March 28, 1905 that destroyed all of Marion's business district, it wasn't long until plans were being made to rebuild the businesses district, and that included a much-needed hotel for Marion.

Rebirth of a Street

Mr. T. J. Yandell and J. H. Orme were going to build a fine hotel on the lot where the former hotel stood, which was the Gill House, and it would be called the Twentieth Century Inn.

From items found in The Crittenden Press dated June 1, 1905, Marion Clark has been employed by Mr. Yandell and Orme to oversee the erection of their hotel on Bank Street (E. Carlisle Street), and he has a force of workmen now busy dressing the rough material.

In August 1905, The Press tells us that the brick work on the Yandell & Orme Hotel was complete and the foundation for the kitchen and dining room in the rear was begun.

In November 1905, the new hotel was completed and ready for business. One of the first businesses to be located in one of the ground floor rooms was Metz & Sedberry Barbers.

The name Twentieth Century Inn must not have ever really been official, for in the ad, it is called The Hotel Crittenden, later to be changed to just the Crittenden Hotel, which we all remember it by.

Hotel Memories

In Sept. 30, 1976, the late Mr. Ted Boston shared some of his fond memories about the once popular hotel to The Crittenden Press reporter.

There was a time when it wasn't unusual to have to sit and wait awhile in order to eat at the Crittenden Hotel. In those days there were six passenger trains a day through Marion, three northbound and three southbound. Even though there were two other hotels in Mari-

on, one where the Farmers Bank stands now and another where Williams and Faughn's office is, the Crittenden Hotel was the place to stay.

The hotel kept a horse drawn bus to meet the trains and carry visitors to the hotel, but in 1912 the horse was replaced with an International Auto-buggy, with solid rubber tires about three feet high.

The trains and the traveling salesmen they carried to town were the keys to hotel business. Salesmen had to stay overnight in those years before cars and passable roads. Fluorspar business was in full blast and these traveling businessmen had to have a place to stay. The lodging was \$1.50 a night, and meals were 75 cents. It sure didn't hurt business any knowing what good food waited the visitors.

At this time all the rooms were heated with the fireplaces, and there wasn't any plumbing. All the rooms were equipped with a washstand and a bowl and pitcher.

A young school boy would be hired to come to the hotel each morning before he went to school to clean out the ashes in the fireplaces, take them downstairs to empty the coal bucket and refill it with coal. Then back up the stairs with the coal to restart the fire in each room that had guests. For his pay, a lunch was prepared for him in the kitchen each day.

For the convenience of the salesmen, at the rear of the hotel was a small display building for their wares. Salesmen would open their trunks there, and the town's merchants would come to buy what they wanted.

Then as in later years, part of the lower floor was devoted into shops. J. C. Bourland had a job printing shop and sold office supplies. Moore and Pickens had a dress shop, and Metz & Sedberry barber shop had an ad that



The new post office building was built the same time the Crittenden Hotel was in 1905, right across the street. Besides being Marion's new post office, it had rooms for other businesses to rent. Bank Street, as it was called then, later became East Carlisle Street and was one of Marion's busiest sections of town.



The old Crittenden Hotel had a long and colorful history, from being a busy hotel for businessmen and travelers in the early days to a well-known dining place in later years.

read: Good bath, clean shave and smooth hair cut makes one look gentlemanly and intelligent. Judge Moore's law office was also located here.

In 1924 Mr. A. S. Cannon took charge of the Crittenden Hotel. During his stay he added the former Woods residence as an annex to the hotel. (This is the Wheeler's 2-story home on the corner). His wife Myrtle, ran the boarding house. People would stay there but they would go to the hotel for their meals.

End of an Era

By 1976 the The Crittenden Hotel was a name which had long outlived its function as such. The automobile spelled the death of the hotel. When transient business started to drop off, rooms were rented out to permanent lodgers. And even this came to an abrupt halt when a fire gutted its second floor a few years back.

The building was next

Dry Cleaner's building. Mr. Tink Hicklin told the Press that "it shook the whole building," it reminded him of an earthquake. It broke one of the dry cleaners' front windows on the second floor.

Owners of the old hotel at the time, Norma and Doug Binkley, told that they had put a new metal roof on the old building in 1987 and that the building was mainly used for storage.

The Binkleys had started to tear down the old building soon after the roof was blown off, but on March 10, 1992, just a few months later, a winter storm of rain and snow proved too much for the roof and the weight of it pushed out the back wall.

That was the end of the historical hotel building, and it was torn down in just a few weeks.

Hotels of the past

Marion did have a few other hotels thorough the years, but never really any history written about them as was with the Crittenden Hotel. There was the Cameron House, the Marion Hotel, Cook's Hotel, and the Gill House, although these weren't all operating at the same time.

New Buildings in 1905

During the time in 1905 when the new hotel was being constructed on Bank Street, just across the street other new brick buildings were also being built. The new Post Office building, as it was called, would not only house the new post office but several offices would be available on the second floor. The new Haynes and Taylor Drug Store was also included with the post office building. This building is still standing today. It used to hold the Marion Dry Cleaners and several other businesses have

been in the rooms where the Haynes and Taylor Drug Store was located right next to the dry cleaners.

Upstairs offices would have J. B. Kevil & Co. Insurance; Dr. Fred Nunn, dentist; Dr. J. B. Perry, physician; and Herbert Rodgers, artist of water color and China painting.

Besides the barber shop of Metz & Sedberry, H. F. Foster, would soon be in his new barber shop on Bank Street. Mr. Foster had two chairs his new shop had a bath tub and appliances for hot and cold baths.

The barbers had a meeting and agreed that they would stay open until 8 o'clock Monday through Friday, but on Saturdays they would stay open until midnight.

With all the new buildings and offices becoming available, the future of Bank Street would soon be the busiest street in Marion, with the Crittenden Hotel being the center of the activity.

I guess it's hard for the younger generation today to think of Marion as a once busy town. I remember as a child in the 50s that most all the stores stayed open until at least 8 o'clock at night and later on Saturdays. I remember my father getting a hair cut late on Saturday night and we'd sit in the car and watch the traffic on Main St, and people shopping in the stores until he got through and maybe have some ice cream from the City Drug Store.

(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).



FOHS HALL

MARION, KY

P.O. Box 1, Marion, Kentucky 42064

2023 ANNUAL REPORT AND NOTICE OF 2024 ANNUAL MEETING OF FOHS HALL, INC.

Dear Members, Friends, and Supporters of Fohs Hall:

Thanks to your support, Fohs Hall has completed another successful year. Some of the highlights of 2023 were:

- Kentucky native and country artist J.D. Shelburn appeared with his trio
- Two sold out performances of The Old Kentucky Hayride hosted by Cutter & Cash and Kentucky Grass (formerly Classy & Grassy).
- Four successful performances of Disney's Beauty and The Beast Jr. Produced by Community Arts Foundation (CAF) and under the direction of Corey and Michelle Crider.
- The Annual Ben E. Clement Mineral Show which continues to have strong attendance.
- Once again CAF produced several great events such as the Fall into the Arts, The Arts Extravaganza and The Charcuterie Workshop.
- The Chamber of Commerce Annual Meeting and Masquerade Gala proved to be one of the most successful Chamber events ever!
- CAF Christmas Program was once again a big success
- Presentation of the Grant application for the Fohs Hall Park Rotunda project. This was presented in November to the Ky DLG and the results will be announced in May. Assuming we are approved, this will be first step in development of the "Hayward Property" with walking trails, a colonnade, recreation areas and of course the Rotunda which will be a great outdoor venue unlike anything else in Crittenden County. The matching grant is supported by Fohs Hall, Inc., Crittenden County Fiscal Court, Marion Tourism Commission and Crittenden County Tomorrow, Inc. Our goal is to have this project completed for the 100th Anniversary Centennial Celebration of Fohs Hall in October 2026.

Looking forward to 2024, mark your calendars now for some strong performances already booked:

-The Old Kentucky Hayride hosted by Cutter & Cash & Kentucky Grass is scheduled for March 9, 2024.

-The CAF production of Roald Dahl's Matilda The Musical JR. under the direction of Corey & Michelle Crider is April 26 & 27 and May 3 & 4.

Finally, keep Fohs Hall in mind for your weddings, receptions, family reunions, services and other events. Fohs hall operates on rental revenues, memberships and public and private donations. Enclosed is a membership form. You can always join or donate online at www.fohshall.org. Please send in your dues and donations soon as possible and the Board of Fohs Hall says THANK YOU!

THE ANNUAL MEETING OF FOHS HALL INC. WILL BE 5 p.m., MONDAY JANUARY 29, 2024.

All members, friends and supporters as well as the general public are invited.

Alan C. Stout, President, Fohs Hall, Inc.

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Classifieds The Crittenden Press

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legal notices

Notice is hereby given that La Cantina LLC is applying for a liquor license in Marion, Kentucky. This is an opportunity for public comment. For inquiries or objections, contact Gracie Bruce at graciebruce323@gmail.com. Published on Jan. 11-Feb. 1, 2024. (4t-5-c)

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
CRITTENDEN CIRCUIT COURT
CASE NO. 23-CI-00014
KEVIN MYATT, and his Wife, KIMBERLY MYATT PLAINTIFFS
v.
FLOYD ROBERTSON, SR. JAMES EDGAR ROBERTSON MARSHALL LEE ROBERTSON JAMES R. C. HAZEL ARTHUR LEWIS MARSHALL And unknown husbands, wives, widowers, Widows, heirs, Grantees, devisees, personal Representatives, successors and Assigns; and any unknown owners, Heirs, devisees, legatees, grantees, Representatives, assigns and all persons claiming any right, title or interest in or lien upon any of the lands described; and generally all persons whom it may concern,; CRITTENDEN COUNTY KENTUCKY; DEFENDANTS
NOTICE OF SALE

Pursuant to a Judgment and Order of Sale in the above styled action, the Commissioner will offer for sale on or about the hour of 10:00 a.m., January 23, 2024, at public auction to the highest bidder at the Crittenden County Office Complex at 200 Industrial Drive, Marion, Kentucky, the following described property: Approx. 130.14 acres State Route 365 Crittenden County, Kentucky PVA Parcel Number 077-00-00-008.00 T-1 (Survey dated 7/11/07) Iron pins set are 1/2x24 inch rebar with plastic cap stamped "B J MAY LS 878". Other corners marked as noted. BEGINNING at an iron pin set at the southeast corner of the intersection of Ky. 365 and Chandler Farm Road, being 30 ft. East of the center of Ky. 365 and 15 ft. south of the center of Chandler Farm Road, being about 2 miles north of the junction of Ky. 365 and U.S. 60 and at approximate Kentucky coordinates (south zone) N. 413,300 ft., E. 1,341,600 ft.; thence with the meanders of the south side of Chandler Farm Road S. 45 deg. 10 min. 11 sec. E. 30.07 ft., S. 19 deg. 47 min. 35 sec. W. 210.82 ft., S. 20 deg. 14 min. 56 sec. E. 158.74 ft., and S. 17 deg. 02 min. 41 sec. E. 183.31 ft. to an iron pin set 15 ft. from the center of the road, corner to T-2 (this survey); thence with the lines of T-2 N. 76 deg. 01 min. 19 sec. W. 59.28 ft. to an iron pin set, S. 27 deg. 15 min. 47 sec. E. 841.00 ft. to an iron pin set, S. 34 deg. 35 min. 52 sec. W. 660.58 ft. to an iron pin set, and S. 68 deg. 00 min. 00 sec. E. 890.38 ft. to an iron pin set in Rogers Group line (d.b.113 p.294); thence with their lines S. 21 deg. 56 min. 02 sec. W. 520.01 ft. to an iron pin set, S. 60 deg. 16 min. 19 sec. E. 512.51 ft. to an iron pin found, S. 09 deg. 53 min. 15 sec. E. 85.32 ft. to an iron pin found, and S. 04 deg. 11 min. 24 sec. E. 12.92 ft. to a point in the center of a branch, cor-

ner to Rogers Group (d.b.188 p.493); thence up the center of the branch with its meanders S. 62 deg. 41 min. 50 sec. W. 32.65 ft., S. 31 deg. 26 min. 26 sec. W. 33.02 ft., S. 48 deg. 43 min. 41 sec. W. 34.64 ft., S. 74 deg. 06 min. 22 sec. W. 58.91 ft., S. 73 deg. 06 min. 14 sec. W. 64.37 ft., S. 64 deg. 03 min. 21 sec. W. 122.62 ft., S. 49 deg. 55 min. 32 sec. W. 114.26 ft., S. 01 deg. 29 min. 50 sec. E. 30.01 ft., S. 56 deg. 55 min. 37 sec. W. 73.27 ft., S. 48 deg. 49 min. 42 sec. W. 78.01 ft., S. 26 deg. 22 min. 50 sec. W. 52.69 ft., S. 65 deg. 24 min. 13 sec. W. 40.90 ft., S. 17 deg. 43 min. 32 sec. W. 23.86 ft., and S. 45 deg. 13 min. 14 sec. W. 53.57 ft. to an iron pin found, thence leaving the branch and continuing with Rogers Group lines S. 47 deg. 49 min. 09 sec. W. 1185.30 ft. to an iron rod found, and N. 37 deg. 56 min. 24 sec. W. 88.68 ft. to an iron pin found, corner to Wither-spoon (d.b.157 p.211); thence with his line N. 36 deg. 24 min. 10 sec. W. 156.57 ft. to an iron pin set, corner to McGuffin (d.b.206 p.347); thence with his lines N. 61 deg. 20 min. 19 sec. W. 456.93 ft. to an iron pin set, N. 22 deg. 31 min. 31 sec. E. 412.33 ft. to an iron pin set, N. 02 deg. 18 min. 02 sec. E. 487.92 ft. to an iron pin set, and N. 53 deg. 37 min. 41 sec. W. 965.82 ft. to an iron pin set on the east side of and 30 ft. from the center of Ky. 365; thence with the meanders of the east side of the highway N. 32 deg. 59 min. 18 sec. E. 1321.86 ft. to an iron pin set, N. 32 deg. 58 min. 32 sec. E. 569.53 ft., N. 32 deg. 37 min. 15 sec. E. 348.00 ft. to an iron pin set, N. 26 deg. 44 min. 44 sec. E. 189.58 ft., N. 17 deg. 33 min. 20 sec. E. 241.00 ft., and N. 08 deg. 47 min. 55 sec. E. 124.22 ft. to the beginning containing 112.94 acres more or less according to a survey by Billy J. May of J & J Land Surveys, finished July 10, 2007. This is part of the property described in Deed Book 206 page 769 (all of T-I and part of T-III). T-1 (survey dated 11/7/07) Iron pins set are ½ X 24 inch rebar with plastic cap stamped "BJ MAY LS 878". BEGINNING at an iron pin set in the northwest corner of the intersection of Ky. 365 and Baker Hollow Road, being 30 ft. from the center of Ky. 365 and 15 ft. from the center of Baker Hollow Road, being at approximate Kentucky coordinates (south zone) N. 413,300 ft., E. 1,341,600 ft.; thence with the north line of Baker Hollow Road N. 69 deg. 02 min. 01 sec. W. 248.08 to an iron pin set in the north line of Baker Hollow Road and the center of the old road and being 52.24 ft. east of the southeast corner of the T-2 (this survey); thence with the meanders of the old road and original lines N. 18 deg. 56 min. 22 sec. E. 454.39 ft. to an iron pin set, N. 08 deg. 07 min. 06 sec. W. 336.45 ft. to an iron pin set, N. 17 deg. 30 min. 04 sec. W. 184.99 ft. to an iron pin set, N. 08 deg. 38 min. 13 sec. W. 202.45 ft. to an iron pin set, and N. 13 deg. 14 min. 35 sec. E. 543.02 ft. to an iron pin set in Walker's south line (d.b. 115 p. 494); thence with line S. 83 deg. 31 min. 22 sec. E. 161.18 ft. to an iron pin set in Phillip's west line (d.b. 170 p. 391); thence with her line S. 27 deg. 17 min. 58 sec. E. 926.57 ft. to an iron pin set on the west side of and 30 ft. from the center of Ky. 365; thence with the meanders of the west side of the highway S. 17 deg. 33 min. 20 sec. W. 238.56 ft., S. 26 deg. 44 min. 44 sec. W. 180.07 ft., S. 32 deg. 09 min. 59 sec. W. 163.58 ft., S. 33 deg. 02 min. 21 sec. W. 179.08 ft., and S. 32 deg. 52 min. 28 sec. W. 283.85 ft. to the beginning containing 17.20 acres more or less according to a survey of Billy J. May of J & J Land Surveys, finished Feb. 06, 2007 and revised Nov. 07, 2007. This is part of the property described in deed book 206 page 769, being part of T-III. SOURCE OF TITLE: Being a part of the same property (113 acres) conveyed to E.W. (Edgar Walker) Phillips by Deed dated October 5, 1888 and recorded in Deed Book "W", at Page 236. E.W. Phillips died intestate, See Affidavit of Descent of record in Deed Book 67, at Page 508, and his heirs at law were six in number as follows: L.O. Phillips, Annie Ze Robinson, E.O. Phillips, S.B. Phillips, Dulcie E. Hazel, and John T. Phillips. See Affidavit of Descent of record in Deed Book 67, at Page 508;

L.O. (Lee Otis) Phillips, died intestate November 16, 1963 and his 1/6 interest vested in Bessie L. Phillips. See Affidavit of Descent of record in Deed Book 247, at Page 661. Bessie L. Phillips Scott (same person as Bessie L. Phillips) et vire conveyed her 1/6th undivided interest to E.O. Phillips by Deed dated December 18, 1973 and recorded in Deed Book 127, at Page 241; Annie Z. Robinson (same person as Annie Ze Phillips Robertson) died intestate her - interest vested in her heirs at law which were eight in number (1/48th undivided each) as follows: Velva Irene Robertson Wilson, Acey Floyd Robertson (same person as Floyd Robertson Sr.), James Edgar Robertson, Hobert Kenneth (Kenneth) Robertson, Marshall Lee Robertson, Nelda Leen (Neldalene) Robertson Driskill, Mary Marjorie Robertson Walker, and Betty Doris Robertson Harwell. See Affidavit of Descent of record in Deed Book 185, at Page 319. Mary Marjorie Robertson Walker, a single person, and Betty Doris Robertson Harwell et vire conveyed their undivided interest (1/24th) to Aubrey Phillips by Deed dated December 21, 1999 and recorded in Deed Book 185, at Page 321. Hobert Kenneth Robertson died on February 2, 1993 intestate and his heirs as law were vested with his 1/48th undivided interest which were as follows: Donna Jane Kemp and Pamela Susan Braddock. See Affidavit of Descent of record in Deed Book 186, at Page 186. Donna Jane Kemp et vire and Pamela Susan Braddock et vire conveyed their undivided interest to Aubrey Phillips by Deed dated December 21, 1999 and recorded in Deed Book 185, at Page 321. Velva Irene Wilson died intestate and her 1/48th undivided interest vested in her spouse, James Thomas Wilson, and her children, Linnie Louise Wilson Howerton, Sadie Sue Wilson Little, and Kenneth Jay Wilson. See Affidavit of Descent of record in Deed Book 128, at Page 597. James Thomas Wilson died intestate and his undivided interest vested in Linnie Louise Wilson Howerton, Sadie Sue Wilson Little, and Kenneth Jay Wilson. See Affidavit of Descent of record in Deed Book 182, at Page 636. E.O. (Edgar Ovel) Phillips died intestate on April 16, 1982 and his undivided interest vested in his heirs which were five in number as follows: Vera Phillips, Robert Phillips, Earl Phillips, and Aubrey Phillips. See Affidavit of Descent of record in Deed Book 145, at Page 367. Vera Phillips, a single person, Robert Phillips et ux, Ernest Phillips et ux, and Earl Phillips et ux conveyed their respective undivided interests to Aubrey Phillips by Deed dated July 16, 1982 and recorded in Deed Book 145, at Page 368. Aubrey Phillips, now deceased, died intestate and title

terest vested in Delores Percia and Marion Neibel. See Affidavit of Descent of record in Deed Book 187, at Page 409. Jettie Hazel Kinney et vire (1/30th undivided interest) and Delores Percia et vire and Marion Neibel et ux (1/30th undivided interest) conveyed their respective interests to Aubrey Phillips by Deed dated August 21, 2000 and recorded in Deed Book 187, at Page 410. (conveying a 1/15th undivided interest) Gerald Marshall et ux (1/20th undivided interest) and Bernice Hiene, a single person (1/120th undivided interest), conveyed their respective interests to Aubrey Phillips by Deed dated March __, 2001 and recorded in Deed Book 189, at Page 266. William Hazel died intestate and his 1/30th undivided interest vested in his heirs, Lorene Hazel, spouse, and Daneen Hazel Beaver. See Affidavit of Descent of record in Deed Book 194, at Page 54. Lorene Hazel, a single person, (1/60th undivided interest), Daneen Hazel Beaver et vire (1/60th undivided interest), conveyed their respective interests to Aubrey Phillips by Deed dated August 23, 2002 and recorded in Deed Book 194, at Page 55. (conveying 1/30th undivided interest in total) John T. Phillips (same person as John J. Phillips) died intestate on April 17, 1962 and his 1/6th undivided interest vested in his heirs: Edna Phillips Steward and Buell T. Phillips. See Affidavit of Descent of record in Deed Book 182, at Page 634. Edna Phillips Steward et vire conveyed her 1/12th undivided interest to E.O. Phillips by Deed dated December 18, 1973 and recorded in Deed Book 127, at Page 241. Buell T. Phillips died intestate and his 1/12th undivided interest vested in Buell Timothy Phillips, Jr., Rose Shipp, and Loretta Price. See Affidavit of Descent of record in Deed Book 182, at Page 635. Buell Timothy Phillips Jr., et ux, Rose Shipp, a single person, and Loretta Price et vire conveyed their undivided interest to Aubrey Phillips by Deed dated February 2, 1999 and recorded in Deed Book 182, at Page 636. E.O. (Edgar Ovel) Phillips died intestate on April 16, 1982 and his undivided interest vested in his heirs which were five in number as follows: Vera Phillips, Robert Phillips, Earl Phillips, and Aubrey Phillips. See Affidavit of Descent of record in Deed Book 145, at Page 367. Vera Phillips, a single person, Robert Phillips et ux, Ernest Phillips et ux, and Earl Phillips et ux conveyed their respective undivided interests to Aubrey Phillips by Deed dated July 16, 1982 and recorded in Deed Book 145, at Page 368. Aubrey Phillips, now deceased, died intestate and title



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was vested in his heirs as follows: Linn Phillips, spouse, and Phyllis Hinchee, Janet Phillips Hollis, and Ronnie Phillips. See Affidavit of Descent of record in Deed Book 205, at Page 311. Linn Phillips, a single person, Phyllis Kay Hinchee et vire, Janet Phillips, a single person, and Ronnie Phillips, a single person, conveyed their interest to Phyllis Kay Hinchee and Charles Richard Hinchee, by Alan C. Stout, Trustee, by Deed dated November 10, 2066 and recorded in Deed Book 206, at Page 769. Phyllis Kay Hinchee et vire conveyed to Ronnie Phillips the real property which has outstanding undivided interests to Ronnie Phillips by Deed dated November 13, 2007 and recorded in Deed Book 210, at Page 43. Ronnie Phillips, a single person, having conveyed a part of the property to Kevin Myatt and his wife, Kimberly Myatt, by Deed dated July 22, 2022 and recorded in Deed Book 246, at Page 150. ALL REFERENCES HEREIN TO THE CRITTENDEN COUNTY COURT CLERK'S OFFICE. THE DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY CONVEYED HEREIN WAS PROVIDED TO THE DRAFTSMAN BY THE PLAINTIFF AND THE DRAFTSMAN DOES NOT CERTIFY THE ACCURACY OF THE SAME NOR ANY EXISTING EASEMENTS Terms: The following terms are in effect unless otherwise mentioned above: At the time of sale, the successful bidder shall either pay full cash or make a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price with the balance on credit for thirty (30) days. If the purchase price is not paid in full, the successful bidder shall execute a bond at the time of sale with sufficient surety to secure the unpaid balance of the purchase price. The bond shall bear interest at the rate of

6% from the date of sale until paid. In the event the successful bidder is one of the parties, they shall be allowed a credit against the purchase price of their pro rata interest and pay over to the Master Commissioner the balance. To the extent applicable, the property will be sold subject to the statutory right of redemption. The purchaser shall be responsible for ad valorem taxes for the year 2023 and subsequent years. No written bids are allowed and any announcements made at the sale take precedence over printed matter contained herein. The Master Commissioner does not warrant title. The Master Commissioner only conveys pursuant to the Judgment and Order of Sale. The successful bidder has 10 days after the sale to examine title and file exceptions. Dated this 14th day of Dec, 2023. REBECCA J. JOHNSON MASTER COMMISSIONER 217 WEST BELLVILLE STREET P.O. BOX 415 MARION, KENTUCKY 42064 270-965-2222 CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE I hereby certify that a true copy of the foregoing was electronically filed with the Clerk's office and mailed on this the 14th day of Dec., 2023, to the following: Christopher Stearns Warning Order Attorney 109 South Morgan Street Morganfield, KY 42437 Robert B. Frazer Frazer Law Office P.O. Box 364 Marion, KY 42064 REBECCA JOHNSON MASTER COMMISSIONER (3t-03-c)



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LIVINGSTON COUNTY, KY 118.1 - \$299,000 - This property has the right habitat for deer and turkey hunting, with the added bonus of a rustic one-room hunting cabin located in a qdm neighborhood and has plenty of deer sign throughout!

LIVINGSTON COUNTY, KY 91.09 - \$336,869 - Property has a diverse mix of habitat types, pond system, numerous entry points along road frontage, hunter-friendly topography, a creek, and planted pines.

CRITTENDEN COUNTY, KY 55.78 - \$255,600 - This tract has the right blend of habitat types to grow and hold big bucks with the added bonus of a fully furnished pole barn cabin! Includes a Redneck hunting blind and feeders!

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.

LIVINGSTON COUNTY, KY - 139.95 ACRES - \$318,386 - Great hunting tract with dynamic hunter friendly topography, mast producing timber, security cover, open areas for food plots and a good trail system.



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Second Week of Session

Hunting bill first to pass senate

The second week of the 2024 Legislative Session concluded on Friday and week three began Tuesday following the civil rights leader Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday.

President Ronald Reagan signed the King Holiday Bill into law on Nov. 2, 1983, designating a federal holiday to be observed annually on the third Monday of January. This year, the holiday falls on King's actual birthday as he was born on Jan. 15, 1929. First celebrated in 1986, the holiday has come to commemorate the strides this country has made in civil rights. King was a leader who strived for progress in racial equity and equality during the modern civil rights movement. A world leader who focused on change and progress, King is the only non-president to have a national holiday. State and local offices are closed and many businesses observe this important date.

As outlined in my previous legislative update, the state income tax rate dropped another half percent on Jan. 1. In your next paycheck, you should notice an increase in your take-home pay as a result. I remain committed to the further responsible reduction of the state income tax, which was made possible by 2022 legislation establishing a measured framework to achieve that goal while ensuring we maintain needed state revenue.

The state House of Representatives is still in the process of crafting its biennial budget and road plan proposals. We continue to monitor the effort in the Senate in preparation for our time to offer our own recommendations. I'll keep you informed on budget details as it progresses through the legislative process.

The first bill to pass from the Senate chamber and move to the House was Senate Bill 5, which is a measure we moved swiftly as it was designated as priority legislation. The measure removes the requirement that resident owners of farmlands must own five or more acres of land to be exempt from sport hunting and sport fishing license requirements when hunting or fishing on their property. The measure rectifies the concerns of sportsmen and Kentucky landowners by correcting the statutory language imposing the requirement from the 2023 Regular Session.

Oftentimes in 60-day sessions, legislators remain laser-focused on crafting a conservative, fiscally sound budget. Committee meetings this week have been light, though the Senate Family and Children Committee held an informational meeting specific to Kentucky's child care needs. With federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds expiring in 2023, lawmakers heard from many concerned about early childhood education during the interim. Following COVID-mandated closures, federal funds provided stability for staff wages and relief for child care centers facing financial struggles. Committee members cautioned against proposals for universal public pre-K from the executive branch. This one-size-fits-all approach to a complex issue would be beholden to the traditional school schedule and unable to meet the needs of many families who work the



Jason HOWELL
KENTUCKY STATE SENATOR
FROM FRANKFORT

second shift and need care during the summer months. Over the course of the session, we will continue to work toward practical solutions to this very real problem many of us face.

The Kentucky Senate Republicans and members of our caucus have a more personal website, KYSenateRepublicans.com, where constituents and media members can find additional access and insight into Senate Majority Caucus Members. We have information on committee meetings and floor action and include other important resources. You can find more information about the bills I'm sponsoring and other bills during this session by visiting this website.

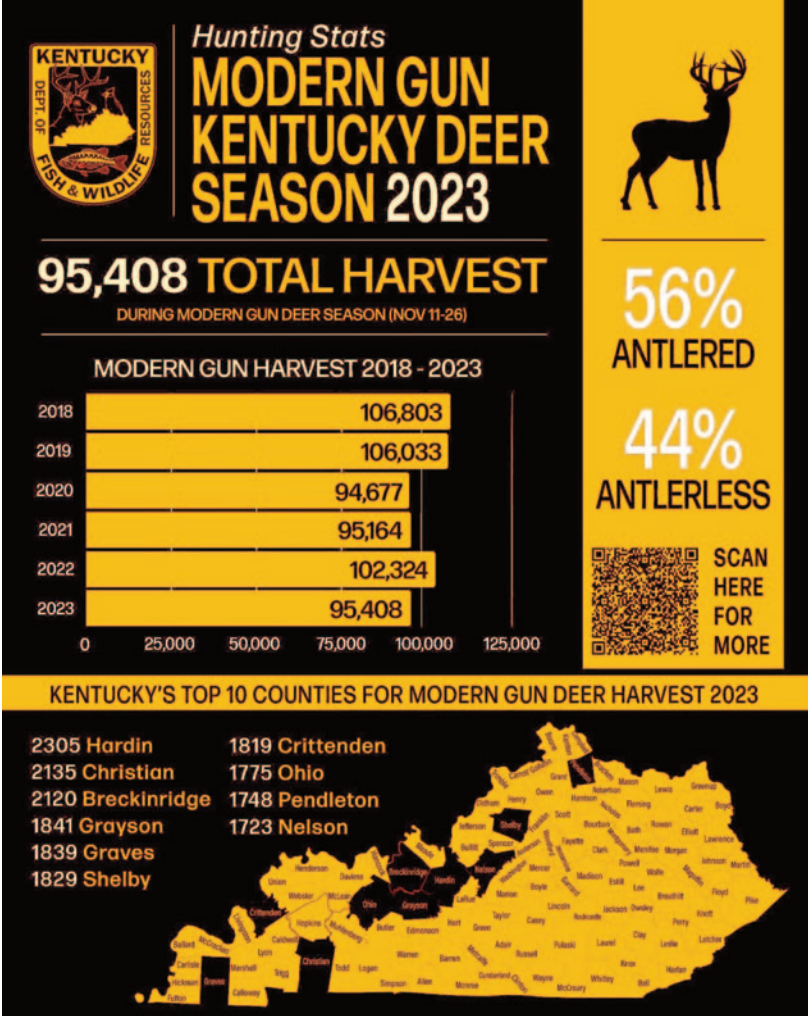
I'm excited for this session and take my responsibilities representing you seriously. You may find the status of any legislation by calling 866-840-2835, get meeting information at 800-633-9650, or leave a message for me at 800-372-7181. You can also watch live legislative activity at <https://ket.org/live/> and follow the process at [Legislature.ky.gov](https://legislature.ky.gov).

Senator Jason Howell, R-Murray, represents the 1st Senate District including Calloway, Crittenden, Fulton, Graves, Hickman, Lyon, and Trigg Counties. As the 2023 Legislative Session convenes, he will serve as Senate Agriculture Committee chair. He will serve as a Banking and Insurance; Economic Development, Tourism and Labor; and Licensing and Occupations committee member. Howell will also serve as a Capital Projects and Bond Oversight Committee and Legislative Oversight and Investigations committee member.



New Chamber Directors Installed

Directors of the Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce recited their service oath last week as they were sworn in to a two-year term. Marion City Administrator Diane Ford-Benningfield administered the oath to (from left) Rebecca Dunn, Andrea Shemwell and Dana Hayes.



Marion Mayor D'Anna Browning has the ear of Sen. Jason Howell (R) Murray during a lunch meeting Saturday in Marion at the Front Porch restaurant alongside Crittenden County Judge-Executive Perry Newcom.

WATER

Continued from page 1 opportunities for funding.

Over the last couple of years, Kentucky has invested more than \$700 million in clean water projects, yet according to a recent Environmental Protection Agency Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey, the commonwealth stills has more than \$7.8 billion in unmet needs for infrastructure. Competition for assistance dollars is brutal at this stage.

"We are going to see that this is solved so that you don't have to ever go through it again," Beshear told Marion leaders in the summer of 2022.

Mr. Governor, we sure could use a hand right now.

The entire legislative team representing Crittenden and Livingston counties, and even Lyon because it is a wholesale customer of Crittenden-Livingston Water District (CLWD), should be fully engaged with the details, the vision and the needs for the region's drinking water future. Reviews of CLWD's system demonstrate a call to action for it to expand in order to meet demand whether Marion is a player in its future or not.

We can't wait for CLWD's figurative dam to break, too, before something is done to shore up the system.

With that in mind,

Kentucky senators Jason Howell and Danny Carroll and state Representatives Jim Gooch, Chris Freeland and Randy Bridges must be dialed in to the situation in their districts. So should any of the individuals seeking their jobs, such as Lynn Bechler from Marion. County and municipality leaders in those communities must make sure their legislative contingent understands the situation and its urgency.

Right now, water is without question the top legislative priority for the districts these men serve. Its importance to sustainability and growth cannot be overstated.

Marion is at a fork in the road. As the Bible says, we cannot serve two masters. Should taxpayer money be spent to chase rabbits along two paths? The town's definable options are whether to fully repair Lake George and rebuild Marion's water plant to modern standards or to fast-track expansion of CLWD so it can viably meet needs of residential and commercial customers in three counties for decades to come.

Smart money says the path to prosperity is along a road to greater regionalization of our drinking water supply chain. We need visionary leadership right now. Who's up to the task?

Yogi's advice on what to do at this fork in the road simply does not hold water.

Outdoors enthusiasts have new opportunities with the recent opening of a wildlife management area bordering Crittenden County in adjacent Webster County.

The public-use area is located about halfway between Montezuma and Fishtrap bridges that span the Tradewater River.

The developing bottomland hardwood forest in western Kentucky is the latest property being opened for public use by hunters, anglers and other outdoor adventurers, the Kentucky Division of Fish and Wildlife Resources announced last week.

Blackford Oaks Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in southwestern Webster County includes 565 acres of former row crop farmland now covered in oak trees planted for wildlife habitat. It offers 2.3 miles of shoreline along the Tradewater River and a small oxbow lake attractive to waterfowl. Winter flooding will submerge a portion of the WMA and create even more waterfowl hunting opportunities.

Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources has opened Blackford Oaks WMA under statewide regulations for all game species. Hunting opportunities will include waterfowl, wild turkey,



squirrel and deer.

Wildlife watchers, including birders, can expect to can encounter numerous species to observe or add to their life-lists.

Wildlife Regional Coordinator Thomas Young III noted some of the oaks are approximately 20 years old and beginning to produce acorns. Species present include swamp white oak, swamp chestnut oak, cypress, overcup oak, shellbark hickory and pin oak.

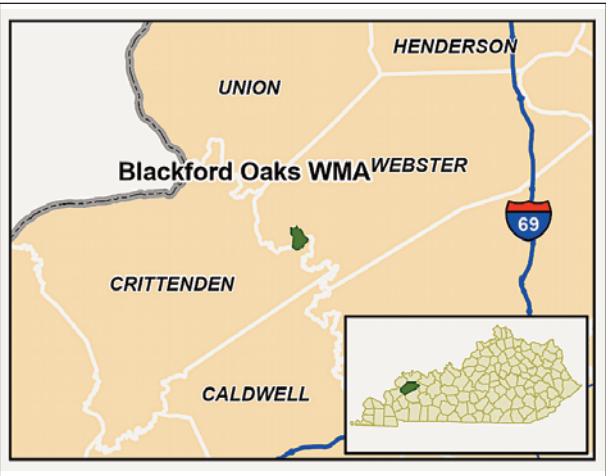
"It's one of the best forest regeneration projects I've ever seen as far as survival of the planted trees," Young stated.

The property's planted mix of hardwood and softwood trees are now 25-35 feet tall. Sedge, rush and buttonbush are present in some of the small open areas.

Blackford Oaks WMA is named for the nearby community of Blackford and the number of oaks planted on the property. Restoration began in the very early 2000s and was eventually released from U.S. Army Corp of Engi-

New Public Access to Outdoors Activities

WMA across Tradewater from Crittenden



neers monitoring in 2014. It was created as a replacement for wetlands lost to surface coal mining operations in Hopkins County in the 1990s.

The area was recently donated to Kentucky Fish and Wildlife for the purpose of wildlife management and to permanently protect aquatic resources and terrestrial wildlife habitat within the property by preserving, restoring and enhancing the property's condition.

The property has two parking areas but does not have boat ramps or interior roads. For boat-in access, there is one ramp two miles downstream of the WMA, off KY 132 (Fishtrap Bridge), and a second ramp located 2.6 miles upstream of the WMA, off KY 120 (Montezuma Bridge). Boundaries of the new

WMA are marked by yellow paint.

Directions: From Providence, take KY 109 North/West to KY 143. Turn left onto KY 143 and travel 2.8 miles to W.A. Henry Road. Turn left onto W.A. Henry Road and travel 0.5 miles to the WMA. The parking area is on the left. A second parking area is located off Jack Brantley Lane.

The WMA is the second in the area to open on the shore of Tradewater River in the last few years. Big Rivers WMA and State Forest, which straddles Crittenden and Union counties along the Tradewater, is almost 7,575 acres. It opened just over a decade ago, providing large and small game hunting, waterfowling, fishing, hiking and wildlife viewing.

ROUTE

Continued from page 1 along West Elm.

Winters said approximately 60-70 vehicles drop off and pick up students at the middle school campus each day.

There will be no change to the traffic pattern for student drivers. They will continue to enter and exit campus along West Elm.

Church of Christ parking lot at the end of Elm Street will be closed to parent pick-up. That parking area will be used for staff parking, as will the parking area near the stand of pine trees near the foot bridge over Rocket Creek.

Superintendent Tonya Driver said the change in traffic patterns may cause confusion initially, but calls it a good problem, because it means construction is nearing on a long-awaited CCMS addition.

Traffic changes were agreed upon after meetings with city and county law enforcement and school officials last week.

"We're obviously excited about the need to make these changes," Driver said. "A new addition to our middle school is long overdue and will create an improved learning environment and resources for our students. With that addition, however, comes changes and our first priority is the safety of our students."

"The modifications to transportation procedures are necessary to protect that, and we appreciate the patience of our students, staff, parents and community as we grow this opportunity for our Rockets," the superintendent added.

Crittenden County Board of Education approved construction of the new middle school addition at its November 2023 meeting. The two-story, \$8.67 million building will include new classrooms, science and computer labs, along with a canopy connecting the new building to the front of the middle school gym. Construction is estimated to take 12-18 months.

Fifth District Standings

Here are the Fifth District standings for 2023-2024 season.

GIRLS		
Team	Dist	Overall
Lyon County	2-1	12-6
Crittenden County	2-1	10-7
Livingston Central	2-1	5-5
Trigg County	0-3	3-10

BOYS		
Team	Dist	Overall
Lyon County	3-0	18-1
Trigg County	2-1	6-7
Livingston Central	1-2	4-10
Crittenden County	0-3	2-10

Round the 5th District

RECENT RESULTS	
Girls	
Muhlenberg Co. 72, Trigg Co. 46	
Union County at Livingston, ppd	
Christian Co. at Lyon Co., ppd	
Crittenden at Trigg County, ppd	
Boys	
Trigg County 80, Hopkins Central 77	
Livingston Cent. 85, Hickman Co. 52	
Union County at Livingston, ppd	
Webster Co. at Lyon County, ppd	
Crittenden at Trigg County, ppd	

UPCOMING GAMES	
Girls	
Jan 19 Lyon at Trigg	
Jan 19 Livingston at Crittenden	
Jan 20 Livingston at Mayfield	
Jan 20 Lyon at Union	
Jan 22 Madisonville at Lyon	
Jan 22 Stewart Co., TN at Livingston	
Jan 23 Trigg at Livingston	
Boys	
Jan 19 Lyon County at Trigg County	
Jan 19 Livingston at Crittenden Co.	
Jan 19 Lyon County at Trigg County	
Jan 20 Lyon Co. vs Woodford County	
Jan 22 Stewart Co. Tenn., at Livingston	
Jan 23 Lyon County at Madisonville	
Jan 23 Trigg Co. at Livingston Central	

GIRLS ALL A CLASSIC	
Opening Round	
Crittenden Co. 50, Dawson Springs 18	
Caldwell Co. 52, Heritage Christian 3	
Lyon County 56, Livingston Central 42	
Ft. Campbell, bye	
Semifinal Results	
Crittenden Co. 63, Caldwell Co. 47	
Lyon County 94, Ft. Campbell 15	
Championship Game	
Crittenden County 60, Lyon County 57	

BOYS ALL A CLASSIC	
Tuesday, Jan. 9	
UHA 63, Heritage Christian 42	
Dawson Springs 74, Ft. Campbell 54	
Lyon County 104, Crittenden Co. 55	
Caldwell Co. 72, Livingston 52	
Semifinal Results	
UHA 73, Dawson Springs 45	
Lyon Co. 92, Caldwell Co. 32	
Championship Game	
Lyon County 114, UHA 68	

OUTDOORS 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
Rabbit	Nov 13 - Feb 10
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 Waterfowl	Feb 10
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

SPECIAL OLYMPICS New coaching staff

Crittenden County Special Olympics has a new volunteer coaching staff for the 2024 track and field season. Serena Dickerson will be leading the team as the new head coach alongside assistant coaches Rose Dempsey and Rebecca Woodall. The team issued a statement expressing gratitude to its former coaches Millie Hughes, Charlene Walker and Bridgett Tharp. Interested parents/guardians of past athletes or new athletes ages 8 and over, should contact Dickerson at (270) 704-1871 to get an athlete medical form and other information. Practice sessions for the team will begin in March.



The Lady Rockets brought home championship hardware last weekend from the All A Second Region Tournament for the second straight season and third in the last four years. They're the winningest team in All A Tournament history.

Make Room for Another Trophy Girls win 2nd straight 'A' crown

STAFF REPORT

Leave it to the coach's kid – the proverbial gym rat – to light up the sky when her team is reaching for the moon.

Eighth-grader Jordyn Hodge scored a career-high 26 points, including four three-pointers and 16 points in the closing minutes as Crittenden County won its second straight Second Region All Classic championship Saturday by holding off Lyon County 60-57.

The daughter of 31-year Lady Rocket skipper Shannon Hodge, the middle school marksman drained six of her team's nine treys as Crittenden struggled to score inside against Lyon's zone defense.

"Before the game we had a really good shoot-around, did a bunch of good drills, then I guess it just fell when we needed it the most," said the eighth-grade guard.

At times this season, Crittenden has struggled to find the bucket from the floor. The girls entered the championship game shooting 36 percent as a team, and Hodge 32 percent from long range.

"Coming in here playing Lyon County, obviously it's a rival game, so you're going to be nervous. But you just have to play to the best of your ability and I think that's what we did," said sophomore Anna Boone, the team's leading scorer this season who dropped 17 in the regional final. "Jordyn scored a whole bunch of threes which helped us a lot."

Neither team led by more than four points until the fourth period when Hodge got hot from the left corner and lifted the Lady Rockets to a nine-point lead with four minutes to play.



While eighth-grader Jordyn Hodge's defense against Lyon's Piper Cotham was excellent, it was her remarkable three-point shooting that helped lift CCHS to victory in the All A regional title game.

"It was a total team effort that's for sure," Coach Hodge said. "You don't win when everybody hadn't played hard, but Jordyn did come up big in the fourth quarter putting the ball in the basket for us. I'm proud of the entire team."

A furious defensive buzz by Lyon got CCHS on its heels for a bit down the home stretch, but accurate foul shooting and a layup bucket in transition by sophomore Bristyn Rushing held off the Lyons.

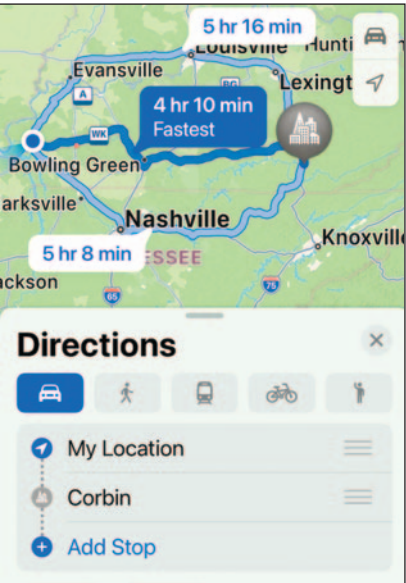
Crittenden County, now 10-7, has won three of the last four All A regional titles

and a Second-Region-best nine championships in tournament history. Lyon County drops to 12-6 and has lost six straight to CCHS since 2022.

The Lady Rockets will play 11th Region champion Lexington Christian at 7 p.m., (CST) Wednesday, Jan. 24 at Corbin in the All A State Championship Tournament.

Opening round All A win	
Crittenden County opened the All A regional tournament beating host Caldwell County 63-47 last Thursday.	
A cool start shooting the ball warmed up in the second period as CCHS went on a 21-10 scoring run and led by a dozen at the half. The Rocket girls led by as many as 21 in the second half.	
Sophomore Anna Boone scored inside and out, finishing with 29 points and moving to within 71 of her 1,000th career point. Sophomore guard Elliot Evans and eighth-grade guard Jordyn Hodge scored 10 apiece.	
Lyon County	21 28 34 57
Crittenden Co.	17 27 38 60
LYON – Taylor 18, Cotham 14, Collins 13, Holland 10, Perry 2.	
CRITTENDEN – Boone 17, Evans 4, Hodge 26, Federico 5, Rushing 6, Holeman 2, Stewart. FG 22. 3-pointers 9 (Hodge 6, Boone 3). FT 7-8.	

Crittenden Co.	12 33 47 63
Caldwell County	9 21 33 47
CRITTENDEN – Boone 29, Evans 10, Hodge 10, Federico 8, Rushing 8, Rushing 4, Holeman. FG 22. 3-pointers 6 (Boone 3, Hodge 2, Evans). FT 13-15.	
CALDWELL – Clark 10, Thomas 3, Butts 9, Sykes 12, Thompson 2, Copeland 5, Williams 2, Williams 4. FG 20. 3-pointers none. FT 7-15.	



Girls hit the road

The Lady Rockets will hit the road Tuesday for a long trip across Kentucky to Corbin where the All A Classic State Tournament will be held Wednesday through Sunday at the Corbin Arena.

CCHS will be taking on Lexington Christian (14-2) in the opening round at 7 p.m., (CST). Live video broadcast of the game will be available for a fee at Go.Prepspin.com. WMJL will carry a live audio feed provided by the tournament's official broadcast team.

Crittenden County (10-7), making its ninth state tournament appearance, is the winningest Second Region team in All A tournament history.

CCHS lost to Bethlehem in last year's All A opener.

The Lady Rockets have played LCA only one other time in history, and that result was a two-point loss in the 2011 All A Classic State Tournament. That was the same year CCHS won the Second Region KHSAA Tournament for the only time in history.

Champion's HS career ended by injury

STAFF REPORT

Not since Crittenden County Hall of Fame athlete Ronnie Moss blew out his knee in a pre-season football scrimmage in 1989 has a sports injury impacted Rocket Nation like Travis Champion's.

A Crittenden County High School senior, Champion is scheduled for knee surgery on Thursday to repair a torn ACL and meniscus.

Widely considered one of the best players in Rocket basketball history, Champion was on track to break the team's career scoring record this winter. Only a catastrophic injury like the one that occurred could have kept him from eclipsing Tim Hill's 1,822 points scored from 2000-2005.

Instead, Champion will settle into the No. 6 spot on the all-time scoring list behind Hill, Bennett Smith (1,596) and Gabe Mott (1,545), Preston Turley (1,496) and Lige Shadowen (1,442).

Champion's high school basketball career ended after playing in just two full games this year. He was injured in the second game of the season at Livingston Central and played parts of three games after that point, including a 25-point effort in his final outing at home earlier this month against Muhlenberg County.

After his initial injury, Champion tried to play in the next game, but was unable to go after only a few minutes on the court. Days

later he was diagnosed with a partially torn ACL. After a period of healing, the senior braced up the knee and returned to action in two January contests.

"His ACL was literally hanging by a thread," his coach said.

Unfortunately, the knee gave way in a Jan. 5 game with one minute left in the contest as Champion planted to make a move on a defender near the basket.

A large crowd assembled at Rocket Arena to see his valiant comeback on his 18th birthday.

"The air was sucked out of the gym," one onlooker said.

As the weight of his injury has begun to sink in across the western Kentucky basketball world, many have tried to make sense of his situation.

Payton Croft, who is a coach at Mayfield and a Rocket alumnus, played alongside Hill during his run to break Smith's scoring record more than 20 years ago. Croft also has coached against Champion and has known his family for decades.

The true measure of Champion's competitive spirit cannot be defined by what happened or what didn't happen, Croft said.

"He's a winner and plays the game the right way," Croft noted. "His priorities



Champion 1,421 pts

were right. I assure you that Travis didn't start playing basketball because he wanted to be the all-time leading scorer. He played because he loved the game, because it was fun. What he did every time he went out there on the court had nothing to do with a record."

Croft said he reached out to Champion's father, who as a kid he had watched playing Rocket basketball, after the injury. Since then Croft has contacted college coaches, putting in plugs for Champion's future.

Croft and Rocket coach Matt Fralix, who played collegiate basketball, say Champion has a future at the next level if he chooses to pursue it.

"Travis is still wanting that opportunity," Fralix said. "I know he will do whatever it takes to work his way back."

A handful of small schools, and some Division I basketball teams, had shown interest in Champion. He had visited Transylvania's campus in Lexington late last year.

"He will have some opportunities if he wants to pursue them," Croft said.

Having been on the cusp of setting a new scoring record only compounds the mental anguish of such an injury, but Croft says Champion will handle it just like, well, a champion.

"That's just the kind of kid he is. He's a winner on and off the court."

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Prosecutor: Federal drug probe isn't over

STAFF REPORT

Pieces of information continue to surface in Crittenden Circuit Court about a broad, ongoing criminal investigation into an alleged major drug-dealing operation that has led to at least six arrests with more possibly coming. At the center of the investigation is Marion resident Brian Fitzgerald, who is jailed without bond in McCracken County on federal drug and weapons charges.

Law enforcement and prosecutors have made it clear that the investigation and its reverberations remain active. A couple of sealed indictments issued last month by the Crittenden County Grand Jury could potentially be tied to the investigation, which began last summer and culminated with the arrest of Fitzgerald in Muhlenberg County. Fitzgerald faces federal indictments on two counts of being a Felon in Possession of a Firearm and two counts of Possession with Intent to Distribute Methamphetamine.

A female defendant arrested as part of the investigation made an emotional plea for release from jail last Thursday during a bond hearing in front Circuit Judge Daniel Heady.

Cody Hooks, attorney for Jessica Sherer, 38, of Marion, asked the court to reduce his client's bond from \$25,000 to \$10,000 cash with bail credit of \$100 for each day she's been incarcerated since her arrest. Hooks said a family member, who was in the courtroom, would put up the balance, \$1,000 cash. Hooks said his client needs professional help for her addiction and longs to be reunited with her three chil-

Circuit Court Pleadings

dren.

Sherer is charged with enhanced trafficking in methamphetamine.

Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Wes Hunt has been steadfast against a bond reduction for Sherer, pointing out last week that a DEA laboratory test just came back authenticating 96 grams of methamphetamine found at Sherer's home last summer in Crayne during the investigation into the whereabouts and alleged drug dealings of Fitzgerald.

"That is 48 times the trafficking enhancement level for methamphetamine," Hunt told the judge. "It was pre-packaged, broken down into three-gram baggies and found in a peanut butter jar."

Hunt also told the judge that phone conversations of both Sherer and Fitzgerald have been monitored by jail authorities.

Sherer is being held at Crittenden County Detention Center.

Hunt told Judge Heady that a third individual who is not in jail — who he characterized as a Fitzgerald family member — has been facilitating messages between Sherer and Fitzgerald. Hunt suggested that release of Sherer could be a threat to the public.

"The commonwealth has made it clear how strongly we feel about Mr. Fitzgerald's threat to the community," Hunt told Judge Heady.

"The commonwealth is very concerned about her relation-

ship with Mr. Fitzgerald. She is still so intertwined with Mr. Fitzgerald, we don't know what her plans would be if she gets out," Hunt said during the bond hearing. "It gives us pause because in (the monitored phone calls) she states her adoration for Mr. Fitzgerald, and he reciprocates.

Law enforcement has not released all it knows about the investigation into what it believes was a wide-ranging, drug-dealing enterprise that included incidence of extreme violence.

"We are not finished digging the rabbit hole in this investigation, and we are not sure how deep it will go in these cases (revolving around Fitzgerald)," Hunt told the judge.

After about 30 minutes of testimony from both sides, Judge Heady denied Sherer's motion for bond reduction. Her case was set for mediation on Jan. 29. If a plea agreement cannot be reached, the case will be set for trial.

•Paul D. Loyd, 67, of Marion pleaded guilty in two cases to four felony drug trafficking offenses that stem from an undercover operation involving a cooperative witness buying methamphetamine from him in March, April and June of last year. He also pleaded guilty to misdemeanor drug charges. The felony charges included two Class C felonies and two Class D felonies, classified by the amount of meth sold.

Loyd was sentenced to five years on each of the felonies.

Three will run consecutively and one will run concurrent to the other sentences for a total of 10 years. The state prosecutor does not oppose shock probation after 90 days so Loyd could be out of jail in April.

•Charles Landen Harbert, 19, of Salem pleaded guilty two separate cases, one involving the damage of a home on North Maple Street last June. He was sentenced to five years for first-degree criminal mischief and three years for possession of methamphetamine. He was also sentenced to lesser time for misdemeanor charges of possession of drug paraphernalia and possession of marijuana. The two felonies will run consecutive for a total of eight years. The commonwealth did not oppose probation for a period of five years. He will be released from custody after serving time for convictions in other misdemeanor cases in District Court.

•Carl Belt Jr., 51, of Marion pleaded guilty to two felony charges for possession of methamphetamine and various other misdemeanors and violations ranging from possession of a legend drug and drug paraphernalia to operating on a suspended license. He was sentenced to three years on each of the felonies and lesser time for the misdemeanors with all time to run concurrent. The commonwealth did not oppose probation and he was placed on a five-year probation sentence.

•Tori A. Hunter, 25, of Marion pleaded guilty to DUI and two amended charges of second-degree wanton endangerment, all are misdemeanors. She had originally been

charged with felony wanton endangerment for allegedly having two children in the car when she had an accident on US 60 East in February 2023. Based on the court's findings, the felony charges were reduced. She was sentenced to 30 days on the DUI and 365 days on both wanton endangerment charges with all time to run concurrently. She was given credit for time served and the balance of the sentence was probated.

•Hannah Collins, 19, of Elizabethtown, Ky., pleaded guilty to a felony charge of first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine) and misdemeanor possession of drug paraphernalia. Collins was a passenger in a vehicle stopped by Sheriff Evan Head for operating without headlights just before midnight on Oct. 1. The car was stopped on North Weldon Street and the driver of the vehicle fled on foot. There was a strong odor of marijuana in the vehicle, the sheriff's citation said. Head found methamphetamine and paraphernalia on the passenger side of the vehicle. Collins was given a two-year pretrial diversion.

•Sara Bivins, 41, of Marion was taken into custody for violating terms of her bond while awaiting adjudication of a case for which she was indicted last summer. Bivins was out on bond for a case in which she is charged with first-degree possession of a controlled substance (methamphetamine), DUI and other less charges. She was ordered to be held until the next court date in February.

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Crittenden County Fiscal Court

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

Judge-executive

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