

Former local police officer Spillman dies

A former local law enforcement officer was laid to rest Saturday.

Steve Spillman, 59, died Jan. 17 at Centennial Medical Center in Nashville, Tenn., from complications related to back surgery. He served as a deputy and K9 officer with Crittenden County Sheriff's (1994-97) and patrolman with Marion Police departments (1997-2003) before serving with Murray State Police (2003-05) and Calloway County Sheriff's Department (2005-08), where he was injured on the job. He also served as interim Sturgis Police Chief for nine months in 2009. He was serving as innkeeper at Grace House Bed and Breakfast in Marion at the time of his death. (See Page 5 for obituary.)

Kentucky tax refunds on hold until Feb. 15

The IRS and Kentucky Department of Revenue began accepting individual tax returns Monday, but it will still be three more weeks before state refunds will be sent out because of additional screening processes.

This year, filers have three extra days to file, since April 15 is a Saturday and the following Monday is a holiday (Emancipation Day) in Washington, D.C. With federal offices closed that Monday, taxpayers have until Tuesday, April 18 to file their taxes. Even with the extra time, Kentucky Revenue Department staff recommends taxpayers file well before the deadline.

According to the department, filing early benefits taxpayers. The sooner taxpayers file their returns, the quicker staff can process those returns and send out refunds. Electronic filing is the most efficient method for filing returns.

Meantime, Kentucky Attorney General Andy Beshear urges taxpayers to be wary of tax-related scams at this time of year.

"The IRS will never call, text or email asking for your personal or financial information," he said. "If you are contacted by someone claiming to be an IRS agent and requests your Social Security number, hang-up and report it to the actual IRS."

Public meetings

- **Crittenden County Public Library Board of Trustees** will meet at 5 p.m. today (Thursday) at the library.

- **Crittenden County Extension District Board** will meet at 5:45 p.m. today (Thursday) at the Extension office.

What's the plan?
Community leaders, partners look toward future

By **DARYL K. TABOR**
PRESS EDITOR

Community leaders and partners agree, there's room for improvement in Crittenden County. That's why they are gathering today (Thursday) for Part 2 in a series of planning sessions aimed at designing a better future.

About three months ago,

almost 20 individuals from local government, business, education and the community at large joined with representatives of regional planning and development agencies to begin looking at the state of the county. Nothing was off the table for discussion.

"I've been thinking about

this for some time," Terry Bunnell, leader of the November planning session, told those on hand at the Ed-Tech Center in Marion. "There are no rules. No judging. No feelings hurt."

The group identified five major areas that need to be the focus as planning for change begins today. Volun-

teers will hone in on what can be done to address shortcomings in workforce development, local health care, business development, education and overall quality of life.

"It's something we need to do," said Bunnell, who took the initiative to begin the process as both chairman of

Crittenden County Economic Development Corp. and the owner of The Peoples Bank.

Housing was also an area of concern, with substandard dwellings and a lack of senior-friendly accommodations scrutinized. In the end,

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Water work

Work to erect a new Crittenden-Livingston Water District storage tower atop Moore Hill is nearing its end as a crew with Phoenix Fabricators & Erectors of Avon, Ind., continues to piece together the 400,000-gallon tank. At left, Aaron Baker of Princeton and Matt Ashby of Kansas City, Mo., weld leg supports last Thursday about 30 feet off the ground. When complete, according to Phoenix's Mike West, a local man, the tower will rise about 80 feet into the air along U.S. 60 West. The \$1 million tower (below, right) will replace an aging 150,000-gallon standpipe tank (below, left) just across the road. District Superintendent Ronnie Slayden said the current tank loses too much pressure when the water level drops below about half full. Some of the district's 3,500 customers should see increased pressure when the new tower goes into operation in a few months. Construction should be done next month, but the tower must be painted and tested for storage.

PHOTOS BY DARYL K. TABOR, THE PRESS

Orr resigns board of ed post due to health

STAFF REPORT

A search is under way for a new board of education member following the resignation of a fixture on the five-member body.

Crittenden County Board of Education accepted the resignation of Phyllis Orr at Tuesday's monthly meeting. Though no specific reason was publicly cited, Orr has been unable to attend meetings for several months due

to lingering health issues. In fact, she is still recovering at a Paducah long-term care facility after suffering last summer what has been described as a stroke.

"She has been completely committed to the staff and kids in the school system," board member Pam Collins said. "It's heartbreaking,"

Orr, a former elementary school teacher, has served on the board for 15 years. Unopposed, she was elected in November 2014 to a fourth term on the non-partisan board. She represented Education District 5, which consists of voters in Precincts 3, 6 and 12 in the eastern section of the county. Those

precincts typically vote at Marion Baptist Church, St. William Catholic Church and Shady Grove Volunteer Fire Department, respectively.

"I sure hate to see this happen, but we need to move forward," said an emotional Eric Larue, a fellow board member and retired teacher and close friend of Orr's.

"She wasn't afraid to

stand alone on issues she believed in," added board chairman Chris Cook, who was a fifth-grade reading and spelling pupil of Orr's.

Board member Bill Asbridge was unable to attend Tuesday's meeting due to work obligations.

With a vacancy on the board and weighty issues ahead such as a possible

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Wanted since Jan. 16

Livingston County authorities are seeking two men in connection to a Jan. 16 Salem robbery.

Levi BRENNAN
Andrew BRYAN
Believed to be in eastern Tennessee or Georgia

Jamie BRYAN
Located Tuesday in Hampton

Reward possible for information leading to arrest
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Authorities still seeking 2 suspects in Salem robbery

STAFF REPORT

A 19-year-old Marion resident is being sought by authorities in Livingston County for questioning related to a home invasion and armed robbery reported Jan. 16 in Salem. Levi Brennan is one of four suspects in the case.

One female suspect was taken into custody in Knoxville, Tenn., last weekend and another female was arrested in Hampton Tuesday morning.

Destiny Millikan, 18, of Clay was picked up in east Tennessee on a traffic violation and Livingston County Sheriff's Department investigators went to Knoxville to interview her. Based on that interview, warrants were issued for Brennan and two Livingston County residents, Jamie Bryan, 39, and Andrew Bryan, 20, both of Hampton. Jamie Bryan

was located a home on Tennessee Street in Hampton Tuesday. She was taken into custody without incident.

Livingston County Sheriff's Department Detective Devin Brewer said it is believed that the four suspects and perhaps others unlawfully entered a residence on Evelyn Drive in Salem on Jan. 16. A female homeowner was at the residence and was allegedly as-

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FILE PHOTO, THE PRESS

Showtime Saturday

A television segment featuring Wheeler's Antiques and Backroads Gallery will be broadcast at 3:30 p.m. local time Saturday on KET. The piece was taped in Marion in November and will be part of the regular "Kentucky Collectibles" series on the cable television show this weekend. Barbara Wheeler and her son Mike Wheeler (seated above), who own and operate their shops on East Carlisle Street, were interviewed for the program and video was shot in Marion at multiple locations. On the broadcast this weekend, Mike will be discussing a rare furniture item native to this part of Kentucky called a wine press. KET can be found on Channel 29 on Mediacom, Dish Network and DirecTV, the local cable and satellite television providers. For those outside Crittenden County, check your viewer's guide for the public broadcasting channel. If you miss the show, there will be an encore airing on KET at 10 a.m. Sunday or you can watch the entire show online after Sunday at video.ket.org/show/kentucky-collectibles.

Press earns five KPA awards in annual newspaper contest

STAFF REPORT

Editor Daryl K. Tabor of The Crittenden Press earned five awards in the 2016 Excellence in Kentucky Newspapers contest, including first place for a story looking at the welfare of citizens in the state's 1st Congressional District.

Winners were announced Friday in Louisville at the Kentucky Press Association's annual convention. Entries for news, photography and newspaper design from Oct. 1, 2015, to Sept. 30, 2016, were received from member newspapers across the commonwealth. Papers competed against each other in divisions based on circulation.

In the Weekly Class 1 division for newspapers with a circulation of 3,000 or less, Tabor earned first place in Best Enterprise or Analytical Story, second in Best Editorial and Best Graphic and third in Best Column and Best Business/Agribusiness Story.

The first-place story from May 12, 2016, focused on the relatively poor quality of life in Kentucky's 1st Congressional District based on a 65-page study. Geography of Opportunities. The study measured all 435 districts against one another in areas of health, education and economic opportunities, ranking western Kentucky's district among the worst. "Excellent, comprehensive article enhanced by graphics to reinforce key facts," the category's judge wrote.

Tabor was the only person in the division to place for both editorials and columns, ranking The Crittenden Press Opinion page among the best for small weeklies. Each category



The Crittenden Press received five awards last week in the annual Excellence in Kentucky Newspapers contest. Two honors were for the annual pre-Memorial Day "Fallen Heroes" tribute to men from Crittenden County killed in 20th century wars (above left) and an agribusiness story on local beekeeper Rob Stephens' effort to save a bee colony after its hive fell to the ground (above right).

was judged on entries from three separate issues. "(A) lot of great entries in this category," wrote the editorial judge. "Your editorials deserve to be in the top. Good job!" Meantime, the judge of the Best Column category said, "Daryl Tabor handles relevant topics in a succinct, readable manner."

For the second time in the last three years, the newspaper's annual Fallen Heroes page that runs just before Memorial Day placed among the top three in Best Graphics. The page lists the names of each Crittenden County man killed in wartime since World War II and carries the pictures of

those available.

The other third place award was for an Oct. 8, 2015, story on local beekeeper Rob Stephens' effort to save a colony of bees in the Mexico community after their hive was destroyed when the large branch they called home fell to the ground.



VACANCY

Continued from Page 1

vote on a tax increase to fund new school construction, the process to replace Orr will move as quickly as possible. The post must be filled within 90 days of the resignation's acceptance by the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) in Frankfort.

Superintendent Vince Clark said the school district will be advertising the opening, seeking applications for three to four weeks through postings in The Crittenden

Press and online.

Several qualifications must be met by anyone seeking to fill the unexpired term. Applicants must be at least 24 years of age, be a resident of the voting district and be a high school graduate or have received a GED. Among other stipulations set by state statute, having certain family members – spouse, parent, child, sibling, etc. – as an employee of the school district would exclude applicants. The post is paid a nominal amount set by statute.

The appointment will ultimately be made by Kentucky

Education Commissioner Stephen Pruitt. Clark said once the application period ends, KDE's legal team and a committee of select board members from across the state will review the qualifications of applicants and make a recommendation to Pruitt. The appointment will be for the duration of the unexpired term, which ends in 2019. A new member would be elected in November 2018.

Clark said Orr's knowledge, compassion and dedication will be hard to replace.

"She was always an advocate for students and the

staff, and she always listened to the people in the community," he said.

He added that she never forgot a student, past or present.

"Anytime we were out, she always remembered their names," Clark said.

Also at Tuesday's board meeting, Cook was re-elected as chair and Collins as vice chair of the board. Clark remains secretary, school district financial officer Diane Winters stays on as treasurer and Marion attorney Roy Massey's contract as board legal counsel was renewed.

ROBBERY

Continued from Page 1

saulted. Investigators say she was bound, and one assailant held her down while others stole items from the residence. The intruders were armed

with a sword-type weapon.

The homeowner was able to free herself after the assailants left and notified authorities. The unnamed victim was treated for minor injuries at Livingston Hospital.

Investigators were able to determine the suspects'

names shortly after the alleged robbery.

Police believe Brennan and Andrew Bryan remain at large in eastern Tennessee or Georgia. Anyone with information on the whereabouts of any of the men is asked to contact the Livingston County Sheriff

at (270) 928-2196. Crime Stoppers at (270) 442-TELL, Kentucky State Police at (800) 222-5555 or simply dial 911. If your information leads to the arrest of one or more of these subjects, you may be eligible for a cash reward. You may to remain anonymous.

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Frankfort bound

Downtown Marion was beaming with Lady Rockets pride Tuesday morning for a huge send-off as the bus carrying Crittenden County High School's girls' basketball team to the state tournament passed through town. Above, Todd Perryman of Farmers Bank & Trust Co. shows his support by waving a team flag. The team will play at 5:30 p.m. local time Wednesday against Sayre, a private Lexington school, in the All A Classic State Tournament in Frankfort.

Kenergy officials explain jump in bills

By **DARYL K. TABOR**
PRESS EDITOR

When rural Crittenden County residents opened their electric bills over the last few days, many saw the effects of a perfect storm of events that sent their total due to new heights.

Kenergy Corp. member-owners in the electric cooperative's 14-county service area have taken to social media to complain and find answers as to why their monthly bill, in some cases, was as much as 50 percent more than the previous month. Officials with the Henderson-based utility say three significant factors have come into play to put the pinch on customers, the biggest of which is out of their control.

"Weather is a big part of it," said utility spokeswoman Renee Beasley Jones.

The bills Crittenden Countians have gotten this month have included the coldest days of the winter thus far. The billing period, said Travis Siewert, manager of general accounting, includes December, when temperatures plummeted to single digits with highs not breaking the freezing mark for several days.

"On average, members are

comparing their bill this month to the previous," said Siewert, pointing out that the weather was much milder during that earlier billing period. "Usage has gone up about 40 percent."

He added that usage was also up about 30 percent over the same December billing period in 2015.

"The single biggest impact on energy bills is the weather," Jones said.

A second significant factor is a roughly 20 percent increase in rates that has shown up on bills the last couple of months. The bump is from a February 2014 adjustment Kenergy has been able to keep at bay through its reserve funds that ran out around October. The rate increase approved by the Kentucky Public Service Commission is to offset revenue lost when two large smelters in western Kentucky were allowed to exit the cooperative and buy energy on the open market.

"The smelters (leaving) required a rate increase, and reserve funds have now expired," Siewert said.

The final element contributing to the sticker shock of some

of Kenergy's 56,000 member-owners relates to the utility's switch to advanced metering infrastructure (AMI), or smart meters. The transition from customers reading their own meters to the devices that transmit usage data created a three-week billing lag, allowing most members to use three weeks of electricity for which they have yet to be billed.

"In other words, most Kenergy members have used 21 days of electricity they have not paid for," the utility's monthly newsletter, Money Matters, explained in November. "This billing gap amounts to about \$7.5 million in unclaimed revenue."

Instead of asking customers to pay for the entire 21 days at one time, Kenergy is adding a couple of days to each billing cycle in 2017. At the end of the year, the billing lag will be recovered and these gap payments will cease.

"It's stuff we've been talking about more than a year," Jones said of the rate increase and gap billing.

Of course, usage is the determining factor in monthly bills, something customers can con-

State lawmaker pension benefits released to public

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

For the first time, Kentuckians can examine the public pensions of their state legislators.

The Kentucky Judicial Form Retirement System, which oversees pensions for legislators and judges, on Jan. 13 released benefits data for 337 current and former members of the General Assembly, including three who have represented Crittenden County in the last 20 years. The agency was responding to an Open Records Act request filed by The Herald-Leader and other news organizations.

Leading the retirees was former state Rep. Harry Moberly, D-Richmond, a lawmaker for more than 30 years who later served as executive vice president of Eastern Kentucky University until he retired six years ago. Moberly collects \$154,912 in annual pension benefits, according to the newly released data.

Among the current legislative leaders, Senate President Robert Stivers, R-Manchester, can expect to get \$49,067 a year when he retires. House Speaker Jeff Hoover, R-Jamestown, can expect \$22,740, which is more in line with the average mem-

Lawmaker pensions

Retired Rep. Mike CHERRY

\$14,576
drawing

Rep. Lynn BECHLER

\$0
not yet eligible

Sen. Dorsey RIDLEY

\$22,725
eligible

ber. Former House Speaker Greg Stumbo, D-Prestonsburg, who spent four years as the state's attorney general, is eligible for \$66,754.

According to the database, retired House District 4 Rep. Mike Cherry, a Princeton Democrat, is receiving \$14,576 annually in pension benefits from the state. Cherry served the district in Frankfort from 1999 to 2013. Rep. Lynn Bechler, R-Marion, a contributing member to the pension plan who began serving

in 2013, is not yet eligible for benefits. Lawmakers must complete five years in the legislature to be eligible.

Sen. Dorsey Ridley, who has served more than 20 years in the General Assembly as both a representative and senator, is currently eligible for \$22,725 in annual benefits. Ridley, D-Henderson, has served as senator for the 4th District since 2004, when he filled the unexpired term of Paul Herron, who died in office.

Ky. has four months to get Real ID ready

By **DARYL K. TABOR**
PRESS EDITOR

Kentucky has four more months to become compliant with a law that requires all domestic flyers to have a new identification that meets federal standards. But local lawmakers don't see that as a priority in the current legislative session in Frankfort.

Last Thursday, the U.S. Department for Homeland Security granted the state another extension to comply with the Real ID law designed to battle domestic terrorism in the wake of 9/11. Beginning June 6, visitors to military bases like Fort Campbell and Fort Knox cannot enter with a state driver's license. More importantly, starting in 2018, a Real ID will be required to fly domestically or passengers must show an alternative form of identification, most commonly cited as a U.S. Passport.

A passport costs \$135 and takes about six weeks to obtain.

Fort Campbell had already begun requiring the new identification with added security features, and Fort Knox was set to start Jan. 30. Congress passed the Real ID Act in 2005, and Kentucky is one of 25 states not currently compliant.

Crittenden County's two representatives in Frankfort don't see as a top priority of the current legislative session passing a law to make Kentucky's state-issued identification Real ID-compliant. But they have differing views of its importance.

Sen. Dorsey Ridley, D-Henderson, supported a Real ID bill sent to the governor in the 2016, and feels Gov. Matt Bevin's veto after pledging his support for the measure was contradictory.

"It's an oxymoron," Ridley said of the Republican governor's veto.

"How many people have a



Guill

U.S. Passport," argues Ridley, a Senate Transportation Committee member. "It's an issue."

Last year's Senate Bill 245 would have made the price of a Real ID \$48, up from \$20 for the current state-issued driver's license. It would have been optional, though, and good for eight years, double the driver's license period. Receiving a Real ID would have required Kentuckians to provide a birth certificate and two proofs of residency, which is already required to obtain a license but not to renew it.

Rep. Lynn Bechler, R-Marion, voted against the Real ID bill last year. He feels Washington already has too much control and that the added cost would be burdensome.

"It's the fed sticking their nose in state government," Bechler explained.

Crittenden Circuit Clerk Melissa Guill said there have been local people contact her office with questions about the new identification.

"I have had several people ask about this since Kentucky residents will not be able to board a plane next year if something is not passed," Guill said. "There is a bill that is pending in Frankfort. We will have to wait and see what they do this session."

That legislation is House Bill 77 filed by Rep. Jim DuPlessis, R-Elizabethtown. Like last year's legislation, it would make the cost of a Real ID \$48, which would be good for eight years. It has been introduced to the House Transportation Committee.

Bechler doesn't feel the issue is much of a hot topic, at least in his House district, but believes Real ID legislation will pass before the 30-day session ends March 30.

"I think I've had one person contact me," Bechler said recently. "I don't know what I'm going to do this time."

County agrees to pay city third of sewer fix

STAFF REPORT

After three months of negotiations and debate over a sewer problem, Crittenden Fiscal Court last week agreed to pay the City of Marion at least part of what the city wanted for reimbursement on a project at the jail expansion on West Carlisle Street.

Crittenden County Detention Center built a restricted custody (RC) center next door to the jail last summer and due, in part, to heavy volume and foreign objects being flushed down toilets, it almost immediately began causing sewer problems for nearby residents. An inadequately sized line was also a culprit.

In order to alleviate the problem, the City of Marion installed a grinder pump and holding tank just outside the new RC Center. The grinder chews up objects flushed into the system and the tank holds raw sewage and lets it trickle into the system at a slower rate in order to prevent volume issues.

City officials said it cost \$15,403 to fix the sewer problem, and they asked the county to pay for the work, citing ordinances that put such liability on sewer customers.

Date change

Due to a conflict with events in Frankfort for fiscal court members on the third Thursday of February, next month's Crittenden Fiscal Court meeting has been moved to 8:30 a.m. Feb. 21. The meeting will still take place in the judge-executive's office.

County officials contend that RC Center construction plans were submitted to the city's engineer, and they were approved without any special requirements, such as a grinder pump or holding tank.

Following a series of negotiations and discussions at the past three fiscal court meetings, magistrates during last Thursday's regular monthly meeting approved paying \$5,481 to the city, just over one-third of what it had asked.

"We have some responsibility, but the city does, too," Magistrate Dan Wood said when seconding a motion by Magistrate Danny Fowler to make the compromise payment.

In other business:

- Road Foreman Audi Maraman said the county maintenance crew has been conducting routine repairs on a number of rural roads, primarily fixing washouts and tiles where winter rains caused damage. He said the county road grader is repaired and ready to be deployed if winter dumps snow on the area.

- County Jailer Robbie Kirk said revenue is up, as predicted this year because of the opening of the RC Center, where 39 work-release inmates are now housed. Kirk said the jail was holding 196 prisoners on Thursday of last week. Only 19 were county inmates. The rest were "paying customers," as Kirk described them, because the state and federal government or other counties are paying Crittenden County Detention Center to house them. Kirk said estimated housing receipts for this year are \$1.4 million and it appears the jail will actually

be well above that when the fiscal period ends June 30.

- The court approved an amendment to the county clerk's spending plan. Clerk Carolyn Byford had submitted the changes in her office budget because additional funding was necessary to hire and train a new deputy when former deputy clerk Barbara Brown retired.

- Magistrates appointed Darl Henley and Wade Buntin, the father of Magistrate Curt Buntin, to the Crittenden County Extension Board.

- The county declared a pickup truck and boom mower from the county maintenance garage as surplus property and will sell it. Sealed bids will be sought.

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Library adding titles, programs in 2017

STAFF REPORT

There's lots happening at Crittenden County Public Library to start the year, with numerous programs added to the regular rotation of public offerings and new DVDs and books being placed on the shelves.

Library Director Regina Merrick says the library has been adding more television series to its inventory that already includes the complete catalog of shows like "Breaking Bad" and "Madmen." As for books, both large print and regular titles are being added.

Upcoming programs include a Valentine card-making workshop at 10 a.m. Saturday; a Take Off Pounds Sensibly (TOPS) organizational meeting at 6 p.m. Monday; Movie Night ("Groundhog Day") at 6:30 p.m. Friday, Feb. 3; a gardening workshop from the Extension service at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 4; a "tarn," or T-shirt-weaving, class at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 10; and a legal program



PHOTO BY KIMBERLY MAST, CRITTENDEN LIBRARY

Almost 30 people participated Friday evening in Crittenden County Public Library's second Trivia Night, with November's winners holding onto their crown. Team Smith answered the most questions correctly, giving (from left) Todd Merrick and Michele and Brian Hodge a come-from-behind victory over several other teams. Participants had a blast through 10 rounds of pop culture questions. The next trivia night is scheduled for March 17.

at 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 16 from Marion attorney Roy Massey on the rights of land-

lords and tenants. These are in addition to regular programming like Preschool

Story Hour at 10 a.m. Fridays, Lego Club at 3:30 p.m. Tuesdays for first- through fifth-graders and free computer instruction at 10 a.m. Thursdays.

Merrick also reports the top 10 books checked out in 2016 were:

1. "See Me" by Nicholas Sparks
2. "Depraved Heart" by Patricia Cornwell.
3. "Precious Gifts" by Danielle Steel.
4. "Last One Home" by Debbie Macomber.
5. "Shotgun Charlie" by Ralph Compton.
6. "5-minute Princess Stories" from Disney.
7. "Rogue Lawyer" by John Grisham.
8. "Straight to the Noose" by Ralph Compton.
9. "Barbie, I Can Be: Pet Vet" by Mary Man-Kong.
10. "Blue" by Danielle Steel.

For more information on upcoming programs, materials or services, contact the library at (270) 965-3354.

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Widening of U.S. 60 at Henderson starts

A contractor for the Kentucky Transportation Cabinet has begun initial brush clearing and utility work along U.S. 60 near the Henderson Community College campus for a project that will add two lanes to the highway.

This initial work along the right-of-way is the first phase of work to widen U.S. 60 to four lanes from the intersection with Ky. 136 and the Ky. 425 Henderson Bypass and extending westward approximately a mile. It is expected to have little or no impact on traffic flow.

Caution is required where equipment, flaggers and construction personnel are along the roadway in close proximity to traffic. The contractor plans to be on site along the right of way any time weather allows. The contractor will provide advance notice of any lane restrictions that may be required as the work progresses.

Hazex Construction is the prime contractor on this \$6.07 million project. The target completion date is Oct. 17.

3 charged in double Morganfield murder

Three people were arrested Friday in Henderson in connection with the killing of two people in Morganfield earlier that day.

Clarence Smith, 19, of Danville, Ill., and Joevionte Simms, 20, of Centralia, Ill., were arrested Friday at a Henderson elementary school

where they had fled after a pursuit, according to The Gleaner newspaper. A third, Keyontae McGuire, 21, of Morganfield was apprehended Saturday morning, reports WJBD in Salem, Ill.

The three are accused of being involved in the murders of Caesarrae Rapier, 33, and George Black Jr., 28, both of Morganfield. The victims died from gunshot wounds, Union County Coroner Stephen Shouse told The Gleaner. The shooting happened on West O'Bannon Street in Morganfield.

No motive for the killings had been released at press time.

KU rated top utility by J.D. Power study

Kentucky Utilities Co. on Jan. 11 was named a top-ranking utility in the Midwest/Midsize segment when it comes to electric business customer satisfaction. The announcement follows the results of global market research company J.D. Power's 2016 Calendar-Year Electric Business Study.

In the newly released study, KU ranks second among mid-sized utilities in the Midwest Region behind only its sister utility Louisville Gas & Electric.

The survey collects responses from interviews conducted in two phases — from February through November 2016 — with business customers of 87 large and mid-size electric utility brands across the United States. The sampling collectively represents 20,512 businesses

throughout the nation.

"Following our success in 2016 where the company was honored for residential customer satisfaction, we're off to a solid start in the new year thanks to the work of our employees," said LG&E and KU President and Chief Operating Officer Paul W. Thompson. "This achievement is a testament to the ongoing work of our dedicated team in developing the advanced technology and offerings to help meet customers' needs and continue attracting new and expanding businesses to Kentucky."

Princeton ag center getting expansion

Upgrades to the University of Kentucky Research and Education Center at Princeton will bring the facility into the future and help ensure success for future generations of the state's farmers.

Dr. Chad Lee, director of the UK Grain and Forage Center of Excellence, described a planned expansion at the Princeton facility as a \$30 million investment in agriculture in the state and as an idea that began with growers interested in making the center viable for agriculture production, the Kentucky New Era in Hopkinsville reports.

The new facility will be known as the Grain and Forage Center of Excellence at the Research and Education Center. Its construction will add 2,100 square feet to the Princeton structure. Lee said the Kentucky Corn Growers Association bought 294 acres of land adjacent to the center in Princeton, which UK will

lease from the association.

Lee said the work will include an update and expansion of the existing center's laboratories, its meeting rooms, conference areas, classrooms and office space. The expansion will also allow the center to do a better job of investigating intensive agriculture and water quality, along with doing more work in irrigation and in nutrient management, the director said.

Work on the expansion is expected to be complete within another three years, by sometime in 2019, according to Lee. A groundbreaking for the project is expected in August or September.

— Kentucky New Era

Animal shelter focus of Scout candidate

Eagle Scout candidate Jacob Hackney of Marion is drumming up support for Crittenden County Animal Shelter as part of his required Eagle project.

Hackney and a few other Scouts will be at the county animal shelter next to the county maintenance garage on U.S. 60 East Saturday morning. They will be doing repairs at the shelter and accepting contributions of dog food, used towels, blankets or pet toys. Financial contributions will also be accepted.

Anyone interested in helping with donations of the items listed, but cannot make it Saturday may coordinate with the Scout troop by Calling Sandy Urbanowski at (270) 704-6673 or drop donations off at Marion United Methodist Church.

PLANNING

Continued from Page 1

however, it was decided that tackling housing might be best left for another day.

"Housing is a hard nut to crack," said Craig Morris, regional planning coordinator with the nine-county Pennyryle Area Development District (PADD). "It really is."

In fact, Morris led off the all-day discussion with a look at the overall well-being of the county based on data from PADD's extensive research.

"There's good news and bad news," Morris said.

The picture painted by figures and graphs shows an aging agrarian community that is struggling economically. The population has become stagnant and achievements in education are historically poor.

With the bad news out of the way, Morris said the county is little different than the eight others in the development district, and pointed to manufacturing as one of the community's strengths, with more than 600 people employed in the job sector.

"For what you have, you're doing good," he said. "Crittenden is one of two counties in PADD that has a civilian labor force built back up after the recession."

Of the five areas picked to be the focus moving forward, Morris said education and workforce development are key to breaking out of the mire. Both are already being addressed with a focus on college- and career-readiness in the schools and pursuit of Work Ready Community status under way as a collaborative effort of both the local



PHOTO BY DARYL K. TABOR, THE PRESS

A meeting in November at the Ed-Tech Center in Marion brought together almost 20 community leaders and partners to focus on improving the outlook for Crittenden County residents. Above, Crittenden County Superintendent of Schools Vince Clark (right) offers ideas during a breakout session with participants (from left) Randa Berry, Crittenden County Chamber of Commerce president; Holly White, Crittenden County Schools community educator; and Leslea Barnes, Crittenden County Extension Service 4-H Youth Development agent. A second community planning meeting is scheduled to take place today (Thursday).

public and private sectors.

Voids in the local business and health care communities like limited retail shopping opportunities and a lack of wellness services such as dental care and mental health and substance abuse treatment did not come about overnight and will be difficult to fill, the group surmised. All agreed closing gaps in those two areas are musts in order for the community to move ahead and begin thriving as it was prior to a general decline in the 1980s.

The consensus of those hoping to improve the overall

quality of life for residents of the county is that the community as a whole must become

more engaged in shaping the future, a weakness pointed out by multiple volunteers.

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- HISTORICAL 2 Story Home with basement, 3 BR, 2 Bath, detached garage, 251 W Bellville St. \$88,490.
- Hidden in town, 3 Br, 2 bath home with wood floors, sun room, shop with bath inside on 15.72 +- ac. 232 Old Piney Rd., Marion. \$127,900.
- This is a must see!! 3Br, 2 bath home sitting on 18+- ac along with barn, corn crib and storage building. 1961 US 641. \$179,900.
- 3 BR, 1 Bath, brick home located near city park. All appliances stay. City utilities. 262 Country Drive. \$49,900.
- Home on 14+- acres, barn, 3 large buildings, all fenced with a pond. Lafayette Heights \$129,900.
- 2 BR, 1 bath on corner lot close to school, all appliances stay, 306 W. Depot St. \$34,900.
- Quiet location on dead-end street in Marion with 3 lots, large detached garage, 217 W. Central Ave., \$49,900.
- You need too see this one. 4 bed, 2 1/2 bath with 2 car attached and 2 car detached. Big fenced back yard. Absolutely gorgeous. 136 Briarwood Dr., Marion, KY. \$229,900.
- 3 bed, 2 bath brick home, 213 Fords Ferry Rd, city utilities, appliances stay. \$69,900.
- Remodeled house and large lot in town, walk to courthouse, 3 bed, 2 bath 313 East Bellville St. \$79,900.
- Walk to school, great town home 3 bed 2 bath with large rooms and fenced back yard and detached garage \$68,000 hm.

COMMERCIAL

- Store front on Main, recently remodeled and rewired. 106 South Main St., \$55,900.

LOTS

- 110+- Acre tract, All wooded with possible land contract. 9285 US 60 W, Marion. \$199,000.
- 250+- Acre tract, Wooded, food plots, water with possible land contract. 9285 US 60 W, Marion. \$499,000.
- 6.55 acres within city limits, tract #2 is 3.25 ac and tract #3 is 3.30 ac. Can be sold together or separate, Located on Yandell St. in Marion, Ky. Total \$29,800.
- 1.2+ acres, country atmosphere, subdivision lifestyle, Grand View Estates, located on Ky. 506 in Marion, Ky. \$10,000.
- 70 wide x 220 deep city lot with all utilities, located on N. Weldon St., Marion, Ky. \$3,500.
- 11.18 acres +/- minutes out of town on Country View Dr., Marion. \$26,800.
- Large corner with city utilities, 110 Sunset Dr., Marion, Ky...\$9,900.
- 205-Acre Hide Away! This property has 40 open acres and 165 in woods. Three water holes and a new building on the highest point. Hunting property with income potential. Near Ohio River in Crittenden County. Very Secluded. \$389,900.
- 650 acres in Crittenden County, two cabins, one with power and water, spring-fed creek, two ponds, 50+- tillable acres, marketable timber, road frontage on US 60 and Baker Rd. \$1,300,000

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Franklin

Josh “Frank” Franklin, 28, of Paducah died Monday, Jan. 16, 2017 at Vanderbilt Medical Center.

He was a graduate of Crittenden County High School. While there, he was given the nickname “Frank the Tank” for his bruising style of play from the fullback position. He was always competitive in the sports he played, and that competitiveness carried over to all aspects of his life.



Franklin was adventurous by nature, enjoying riding four-wheelers, canoeing, white-water rafting, playing in Massac Creek with his son Brody or any activity that involved being outdoors. His main hobby was wheeling and dealing of both houses and cars where he was always in search of striking the best deal. Franklin was a lineman for Jackson Purchase Energy Corp., and he enjoyed every day that he was granted to be able to provide his service. He was a member of New Hope Cumberland Presbyterian Church in Paducah, and most importantly, he was a devoted son, husband and father.

Surviving are his wife, Christa Bakemeier Franklin; two children, Brody and Lindee Franklin; his parents, Curtis and Dee Ann Franklin of Paducah; a sister, Jenna Franklin of Paducah; his grandparents, Linda and Bill Phelps of Fredonia; and his father and mother-in-law, Doreen and Charlie Bakemeier of Surprise, Ariz.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Thomas and Carolyn Franklin; and grandfather Gary Blackburn.

Funeral services were Saturday, Jan., 21 at Heartland Worship Center with Rev. Drew Gray and John Sutton officiating. Burial was at Fredonia Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the Fallen Lineman Foundation, fallenlinemanfoundation.com or through gofundme.com/injured-lineman-josh-franklin.

Milner & Orr Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Paducah was in charge of arrangements.

Lee

David Lee, 68, of Marion died Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017 at his home. Arrangements were incomplete at press time. Gilbert Funeral Home in Marion is change of arrangements.

Clark

Judith A. Clark, 73, of Valdosta, Ga., died on Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2017 at Langdale Hospice House following a brief illness.

Surviving are a son and daughter-in-law, Thomas Jr., and Susan Clark of Manorville, N.Y.; a daughter and son-in-law, Tracy and James Taylor of Chapin, S.C.; four grandchildren, Thomas Donald Clark III of Columbus, Ohio, Sean Clark and Connor Clark, both of Manorville, N.Y., and Audrey Taylor of Chapin, S.C..

She was preceded in death by her husband and partner of 47 years, Thomas Donald Clark Sr.; and her siblings, Jean Munna and Paul Peterson.

A memorial service for Mr. and Mrs. Clark will be held at a later date in Eastport, N.Y.

Carson McLane Funeral Home in Valdosta, Ga., was in charge of arrangements.

Stucker

Bettie Sue Stucker, 82, of Paducah died Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017 at Baptist Health.

She was self-employed and was of the Baptist faith.

Surviving are her son, Mike Short of Wheatfield, Ind.; three daughters, Dianna O’Shaughnessy of Calvert City, Cheri Bell of Paducah, and Kristi Wilson of Carbondale, Ill.; a sister, Mildred Oliver of Calvert City; nine grandchildren, Beth Lax, Kris Robertson, Ryan O’Shaughnessy, John O’Shaughnessy, Jimmy Joe Dunn, Amber Thorton, Jessa Burkhart, Justin Short, Cassidy Patton; eight great-grandchildren; and three nieces from Calvert City.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Marion Moore and Reba (Kimsey) Dalton; husband, Kenneth Stucker; a brother, John Moore; a son, Danny Lee Short.

Services were Sunday, January 22 at Hughes Funeral Home of Paducah with Bro. Ronnie Blair officiating.

Funkhouser

Garnett T. Funkhouser, 77, of Salem died Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2017 at Crittenden County Health and Rehabilitation Center in Marion.

Per his request, there will be no services.

Arrangements are in care of Boyd Funeral Directors and Cremation Services in Salem.

Area Deaths

Spillman

Steven R. Spillman, 59, of Marion died Tuesday, Jan. 17, 2017 at Centennial Medical Center in Nashville.

He was a member of Life In Christ Church, Fraternal Order of Police, the regional representative for Citizens Foster Care Review Board, Board of Directors for Habitat For Humanity in Union County, innkeeper at Grace House Bed and Breakfast and an avid hunter.

He was a deputy and K9 officer for the Crittenden County Sheriff’s Department from December 1994 to July 1997. Spillman was a Marion Police Department officer from July 1997 to March 2003 and a campus policeman at Murray State University from March 2003 to May 2005. He served as a deputy at the Calloway County Sheriff’s Department from May 2005 to December 2008. While serving as a deputy at Calloway, he was injured on duty but continued to work light duty until September 14, 2009. From January 2009 until September 2009, he was Interim Chief for the Sturgis Police Department.

Survivors include his wife, Karen Woodall of Marion; daughter, Jennifer Ann (Chandler) Nelson of Sturgis; son, Jason Robert (Whitley) Spillman of Marion; stepchildren, John Imboden of Radcliffe, Ky., and Jesse Imboden of Marion; parents, Robert Jerome and Roberta Jeanene Spillman of Chattanooga, Tenn.; grandchildren, Ayden and Levi Spillman and Finlee and Riker Nelson; brothers, Tony Spillman of Hendersonville, Tenn., and David Spillman of Princeton; and sisters, Jeanene Spillman and Julie Grannon, both of Chattanooga, Tenn.

Services were Saturday, Jan. 21 at Life In Christ Church in Marion.

Memorials may be made to Life In Christ Food Handout Ministry, P.O. Box 296, Marion, KY 42064.

Chandler

Tommy “Frog” Chandler, 71, of Marion died Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2017 at Crittenden Hospital. Arrangements were incomplete at press time. Gilbert Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

ONLINE CONDOLENCES
myersfuneralhomeonline.com
boydfuneraldirectors.com
gilbertfunerals.com

Davenport

Denny Davenport, 60, of Kuttawa died Saturday, Jan. 21, 2017 at Vanderbilt Medical Center in Nashville.



He was a member of Twin Lakes Worship Center in Benton, VFW, American Legion and Elks Club. He was a retired truck driver with state and county transportation departments a U.S. Army veteran and a member of Kentucky National Guard with a total of 29 years of service.

Survivors include his wife of 37 years, Bobbie Lee Bellew Davenport, Kuttawa; a brother, Tom Davenport, Kuttawa; two sisters, Debbie Davenport, Kuttawa and Donna Davenport, Navarre, Fla.; and several nieces and nephews.


He was preceded in death by his parents, Lawrence and Robbie Davenport; a son, Dennis Lee Davenport; and a brother, Teddie Davenport.

Visitation is 4-8 p.m., Friday, Jan. 27 at Lakeland Funeral Home and Cremation Services in Eddyville. Funeral services are at 1 p.m., Saturday, Jan. 28 at the funeral home with Rev. Jeremy Short officiating. Burial with military honors will be in Dycusburg Cemetery in Crittenden County.

Memorials may be made to Sunrise Children’s Service for Glendale Center, P.O. Box 1429, Mt. Washington, KY 40047 or Wounded Warriors, P.O. Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675.

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Time may heal wounds, but my broken heart won't go away. I'll see you again someday. In the sky up above the clouds, we'll walk with Jesus, our Lord and Savior and we'll worship him forever. Our hearts will be filled with never ending joy. We will be together for eternity. We'll never have to say good-bye any more. We will never feel pain again. I know we'll see each other soon, but for now I have to say good-bye. It's only temporary, soon I'll be saying hi when we meet up in the sky and we will be with Jesus for eternity!

Written by Alexis Wilson

You were a good husband, a loving dad, a great papaw and wonderful great-papaw. Sadly missed, from all of us.



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TOWN & COUNTRY...3 BR, 1.5 BA brick home. Features: Central heat & air, city utilities, eat-in kitchen, appliances stay w/home, laundry room, garden space, landscaped, paved drive. pa **SALE PENDING**

BRICK HOME...3 BR, 2 1/2 BA, LG den w/fireplace, kitchen w/breakfast area, all appliances stay, Master BR w/LG master BA & walk in closet. Study w/a 1/2 bath. Large attached 2 car garage, covered back porch overlooking yard & remaining acreage. Included w/the sale of this home is a shop building could be used for commercial/ Retail use, building according to PVA is over 3500 SF. Remaining acreage is wooded & is abundant w/ whitetail deer & wild turkey rh

OVERLOOKING THE FAIRWAYS...This beautiful well maintained home sits on 1.12 acres. Features: 4 BR, 3.5 BA, LR, DR, Den w/fireplace, kitchen w/eating area, appliances including the washer/dryer, playroom, enclosed patio & an open patio. Home has wood floors, ceramic tile. Open staircase to the upstairs which has 3 BR upstairs, 2 car attached garage. Jy

RUSTIC LOG HOME...4 BR, 2 BA log home. The inside walls are logs & the outside is vinyl with metal roof. Outside storage buildings on 2.38 acres.

COUNTRY CLUB ESTATE...3 BR, 2.5 BA, fireplace, basement, 2 car attached & 2 car detached garages. Backs up to the golf course. Nw **PRICED REDUCED \$199,900**

GREAT CORNER LOCATION...in Crittenden County, US 60 W and SR 855 N, this 5 acre tract per deed description, has several options available for potential commercial or residential uses. hk

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HOUSE & APPROX. 20 ACRES...If you want your privacy then this is the place for you. House has 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, gravel drive, shed. Call for more details. pa Priced at \$82,500

40 ACRES...Nice hunting tract. Great trails to crop area. Ridges, hollows w/ creek bottom. Several places for good stand location. Frontage on Hwy 60, great place to build your home. **PRICE REDUCED.**

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Calendar

— A free **Family Movie Night** will be held at 5 p.m., Sunday at Sugar Grove Cumberland Presbyterian Church. Woodlawn will be shown, and drinks and snacks will be provided.

— A **card-making class** will be held at 10 a.m., Saturday at the Crittenden County Public Library. Supplies provided for hand-made Valentine cards.

— **Crittenden County Middle School SBDM** will meet at 3:15 p.m., Monday in the principal's office.

— Overdue materials from Crittenden County Public Library may be returned without penalty through next Wednesday during the library's **amnesty period**.

— The public is invited to the Crittenden County Public Library for a free showing of **"Groundhog Day,"** starring Bill Murray at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 3. Snacks provided. Children under 13 must be accompanied by an adult.

Extension events

— 4-H **Pinterest Club** will meet at 9:30 a.m., Saturday at the Crittenden County Extension Annex. All children ages 9-18 are welcome to join this fun, hands on club.

— The public is invited to the next meeting of the **Quilt Club** at 9:30 a.m., Monday at the Crittenden County Extension Annex. Angie York, FCS Agent from Lyon County, will be teaching the group on color coordination. Anyone interested in learning more about quilting and quilting techniques is invited to attend.

— A **crash course in social media** will be offered at the Crittenden County Extension Service at 10 a.m., Jan. 30. Learn more about social media and how to keep yourself safe on the web. Please register by calling (270) 965-5236.

— **Learn to make t-shirt yarn** during a class from 10 a.m.-noon, Feb. 18 at the Crittenden County Public Library. Participants should bring one or two old t-shirts, a large crochet hook or knitting needles, scissors or a toratry mat and cutter. Space is limited. Register by calling (270) 965-5236 or emailing rebecca.zahrte.uky.edu.

Senior Menu

Crittenden County Senior Citizens Center is open weekdays 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Lunch is served at 11:30 a.m. each day and is \$3 for those 60 and older or \$5 for those under 60. Milk, coffee or tea is available each day. Reservations are requested by 9 a.m. Upcoming activities and menu include:

— Thursday (today): Menu is Hamburger, lettuce, tomato and onion on whole wheat bun, vegetable soup, oatmeal raisin cookie and crackers.

— Friday: Menu is catfish, navy beans, cole slaw, ambrosia and cornbread. Bingo begins at 10:30 a.m.

— Monday: Menu is ham and bean soup, hot spiced beets, buttered spinach, cornbread and pear crisp. Ladies exercise with Full Body Fitness Studio begins at 9:45 a.m.

— Tuesday: Menu is spaghetti sauce with meat balls, spaghetti noodles, Brussels sprouts, whole wheat garlic bread and fruit cocktail. Craft Day begins at 10 a.m.

— Wednesday, Feb. 1: Menu is turkey with gravy, cornbread dressing, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, cranberry gelatin and salad.

Every day, the center at 210 N. Walker St. in Marion offers billiards, card games, Wii games and the use of exercise equipment. Call (270) 965-5229 for more information. The center is a service of Pennyrile Allied Community Services. Acting Coordinator Jenny Sosh is director of the center.

Submit your calendar item
Community calendar is designed for individuals, non-profit organizations and government entities to publicize meetings and events that may be of interest to the community. The Crittenden Press reserves the right edit or reject any announcement. To submit your item, call (270) 965-3191, email pressnews@the-press.com or stop by our office at 125 E. Bellville St.

CCES 2ND NINE WEEKS HONOR ROLL

3rd Grade

Ashley Frederick
All-A Honor Roll: Che' Campbell, Allison Day, Georgia Holeman

A-and-B Honor Roll: Aiden Curnel, Grayson Davidson, Taylor Davis, Amelia Johnson, Katherine Kerley, Bristyn Rushing, Levi Suddoth, Junior Vasseur, Landon Woodall

Ramey Payne
All-A Honor Roll: Caleb Riley, Emme Lynch, Macie Conger, Lacey Boone

A-and-B Honor Roll: Kaily Bivin, Quinn Summers, Erika Poston, Elle McDaniel, Jaisen Lineberry, Gavin Grimes, Andrea Federico, Mollie Blazina

Mandy Perez

All-A Honor Roll: Hunter Kirk, Gracie Orr, Chloe Rushing

A-and-B Honor Roll: Devon Carr, Alivia Caudill, Ella Geary, Aubrey Grau, Billy Hazel, Ian Lanham, Cheyenne Lowe, Anna Maness, Glenn Starkey, Trae Taylor

Kinsee Potts
All-A Honor Roll: Anna Boone, Elliot Evans, Brayden Poindexter, Lilah Sherer, Brianna Walker Madison Walker

A-and-B Honor Roll: Braydin Brandsasse, Dixie Hunter, Hadley Myers, Hailey Rose, Dakota Sosh, Katelyn Tabor, Ethan Thomas

Summer Riley

All-A Honor Roll: Chloe Hunt, Kodi Stoner, Addison Hendrickson, Aly Yates

A-and-B Honor Roll: Jordyn Potter, Bobby Hazel, Makayla Harris, Jacob Carder, Peyton Smith, Josie Young, Mason Tramel

4th Grade

Becky Bryant
All-A Honor Roll: Paityne Buckman

A-and-B Honor Roll: Will Jarvis, Baylee Muff, Trinity Parrish, Danielle Riley, Madisyn Switzer, Caleb Whobrey

Johnna Fitch
All-A Honor Roll: Caden Howard, Hannah Mott, Avery White

A-and-B Honor Roll: Caitlin Wood, Brooke Winstead, Rien Tabor, Brady Belt, Gage Beard, Seth Henry, Hayden Hildebrand, Anastazia Ingalls, Mary Rachel Stephens

Victoria Lee

All-A Honor Roll: Jaylea Bivins, Taylor Haire, Carly Porter, Carson Yates

A-and-B Honor Roll: Piper Certain, Jayson Ford, Hattie Hatfield, Riley Kirby, Ethan Long, Austin Martin, Asa McCord, Ellary McKinney, Curtis Smith, Tallyn Tabor, Chaun Tramel, Kayleigh Weathers

Ashley Roberts

A-and-B Honor Roll: Donaven Allison, Andrew Candlerio, Chase Conyer, Hunter Duncan, MaKayla Ford, Rachel Mundy, Braelynn Pate, Zac Purvis, Ally Weatherspoon, Layla Winn

5th Grade

Heather Bloodworth
All-A Honor Roll: Gabe Keller, Addison Mundy, Joey Myers, Karsyn Potter

A-and-B Honor Roll: NoahATCHISON, Jaylee Champion,

Travis Champion, Hurst Miniard, Gabe Rushing, Jaylen Tapp, Johnnathen Warner, Sofie Watson

Cindy Crabtree

All-A Honor Roll: Emily Adams, Jaxon Hatfield, Cutter Singleton, Maddie Travis

A-and-B Honor Roll: Haley Barnhart, Jaycee Champion, Aubre Conyer, Quaid Cook-Brown, Luke Drawdy, Payton Maness, Jayce McDowell, Elijah Shewcraft, Abbey Swinford, Gattin Travis, Jasmine Wooley, Laycee Lynn,

Sara Omer
All-A Honor Roll: Marley Phelps, Jeremiah Foster, Keira Chaney

A-and-B Honor Roll: Tristan Y., Ethan Torres-Abbott, Levi Piper, Tia Stoner, Sophia Madden, Ashayla McDowell

Sarah Riley

All-A Honor Roll: Kiley Croft, Caden DeBoe, Micah Newcom, Katie Perryman

A-and-B Honor Roll: Casey Cates, Hayden Cavanah, Mason Crider, Kaylee Hewitt, Triston Martin, Bennett McDaniel, Jacie Ricketts, Turner Sharp, Riley Smith, Kailyn Stokes, Carly Travis

Mandy Winders

All-A Honor Roll: Tyler Belt, Aria Kirk, Haylee Perrin

A-and-B Honor Roll: Kira Belt, Riley Curnel, Mia Hackney, Ava Henry, Jessenia Medina, Brynn Porter, John Rose, Lane West

**Names are supplied to The Crittenden Press directly from Crittenden County Elementary School.*

Age change for kindergarteners

Beginning with the next school year, children entering kindergarten must be 5 years old on or before Aug. 1. Until now, the cutoff was Oct. 1.

The General Assembly changed the law in 2012 based on the premise that younger students may not be ready for kindergarten. The change takes effect for the 2017-18 school year.

Parents/caretakers may request an early enrollment option for students not meeting entry age requirement.



Mr. and Mrs. Kerry Green

Greens celebrate 50 years

Kerry and Sandy Green will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary from 2-4 p.m., Sunday at Lee S. Jones Park Building in Eddyville.

Sandra Lynn Patton and Kerry Preston Green were united in marriage Dec. 25, 1966 at Caldwell Springs Church in Crittenden County. Rev. James Duncan

officiated. Attendants were Brenda Patton Duncan and Walter Ronnie Green.

The Greens have two children, Chris (Jaime) Green of Kuttawa and Jenni (Shane) Padon of Salem and four grandchildren.

All friends & relatives are invited to attend, no gifts please.



Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Ray Patton

Pattons celebrate 50 years

Mr. and Mrs. Ronnie Ray Patton of Eddyville will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary at a reception in their honor at Eddyville First Baptist Church activities building from 2-4 p.m., Sunday. All friends and relatives are invited to attend. The couple requests no gifts.

The couple was united in marriage on Jan. 27, 1967 at 6:30 in the evening at New Bethel Baptist Church in Eddyville with Rev. Doug "Mac" Anderson officiating the double ring ceremony. Their attendants were Ted Yates and Martha Thomas Yates.

Mrs. Patton is the daughter of the late B.J. and Frances Riley. She worked for 13 years for the Lyon County School District and recently retired after 23 years of service as a funeral

director with Lakeland Funeral home in Eddyville.

Mr. Patton is the son of the late O.K. and Beverly Patton. He worked several years as a chemical operator at B.F. Goodrich in Calvert City and has recently retired after 23 years of service as an embalmer, funeral director and manager of Lakeland Funeral home in Eddyville. He currently serves as the Lyon County Coroner.

The Pattons are the parents of one daughter, Amye and her husband, Quin Sutton of Eddyville. They have three grandchildren, Auburn Sutton Puckett and her husband Miles of Owensboro; and Warron Sutton and Taylor Sutton, both of Eddyville. They have one great-granddaughter, Mae-lynn Beck Puckett.



CCMS speech

Crittenden County Middle School Speech Team placed sixth at the Murray Middle School Invitational Saturday. Individual results were (pictured front from left) Haylee Samuels, competitor in Improvisational Duo; Quinn Templeton, competitor in Prose Interpretation; (middle row) Harli Morris, seventh place in Original Oratory; Kara Fulkerson, fifth place in Duo Acting; Hailey Belt, fifth place in Duo Acting, competitor in Storytelling and Improvisational Duo; (back row) James Crider, second place in Solo Acting; Sara Jones, sixth place in Original Oratory; and Seth Sarles, fourth place in Extemporaneous Speaking.



FCCLA sweep

Crittenden County FCCLA competed in regional star events Saturday. They took first place in every category they entered. Pictured from left are RheaVynn Tabor, first place, Recycle and Redesign; Kassidy Flint, Mackenzie Evans and Alexis Gideon, first place, Entrepreneurship; and FCCLA advisor Mandy York. Not pictured is Kirsten DeBoe, first place, Career Investigation.

CAPITOL
Cinemas

Starts Friday, Jan. 27

The Story of the Women Behind
NASA's Space Launch of John Glenn

Hidden Figures

Fri. 4, 6:45, 9:15
Sat. 1:15, 4, 6:45, 9:15
Sun. 1:30, 4:15, 6:45
Mon.-Thurs. 6:30

PG

Monster Trucks

Fri. 4, 6:45, 9:15
Sat. 1:15, 4, 6:45, 9:15
Sun. 1:30, 4:15, 6:45
Mon.-Thurs. 6:30

PG

Vin Diesel in

XX: Return of
Xavier Cage

Fri. 4, 6:45, 9:15
Sat. 1:15, 4, 6:45, 9:15
Sun. 1:30, 4:15, 6:45
Mon.-Thurs. 6:30

PG-13

We Expect A Dog's Purpose

Friday, Feb. 3

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BASKETBALL

Upcoming Games
FRIDAY

Lady Rockets host Livingston*
Rockets host Livingston

SATURDAY

Lady Rockets host Caldwell Co.*
Rockets hosts Madisonville

MONDAY

Lady Rockets at Lyon County

TUESDAY

Lady Rockets host Webster Co.
Rockets host Webster County
(*If girls are out of All A Classic)

Porter calling state

Jeff Porter of Marion will be refereeing games in the All A Classic State Tournament this week in Frankfort. Porter is a certified Second Region KHSAA official. Alfred “Boogie” Williams of Madisonville will also represent the Second Region officiating crew at the All A state tournament.

OUTDOORS

Hunting seasons

Raccoon Hunting	Oct. 1 - Feb. 28
Squirrel	Nov. 14 - Feb. 28
Fox Hunt/Trap	Nov. 14 - Feb. 28
Rabbit, Quail	Nov. 14 - Feb. 10
Raccoon Trapping	Nov. 14 - Feb. 28
Bobcat	Nov. 26 - Feb. 28
Canada Goose	Nov. 24 - Feb. 15
Snow Goose	Nov. 24 - Feb. 15
Duck	Dec. 5 - Jan. 29
Crow	Jan. 4 - Feb. 28
Coyote Night	Feb. 1 - May 31
Youth Waterfowl	Feb. 4-5
Goose Conservation	Feb. 16 - March 31
Coyote	Year Round
Groundhog	Year Round

Coyote contest coming

Hunters will be able use lights and shine for coyotes at night starting next week. See state regulations in the KDFWR Hunting Guide for the Feb. 1 opening. Also, Hodge’s Outdoor Sports is sponsoring its annual coyote hunting contest Feb. 10-11. Register at the store on Sturgis Road.

MISCELLANEOUS

O’boro hosts cornhole

Owensboro will host the American Cornhole Organization’s world championship this summer. Cornhole is a popular backyard game that is often played at festivals and football tailgate parties. The organization that hosts the worldwide event has held the championships in Knoxville, Tenn., or Charleston, W.Va., the last three years. Cornhole involves tossing a one-pound bean bag into a hole on a slanted board surface 27 feet away. Players earn points like in horse shoes. Owensboro often refers to itself as the sports capital of Kentucky.

TRACK

Crittenden County junior Aaron Lucas continues to make a name for himself in long-distance racing. Lucas finished second in the 3,000 meters and seventh in the 1,600 meters during the West Region Indoor Invitational track meet Saturday at the CFSB Center on Murray State’s campus. Lucas, a First Region Class A champion last spring in the 1,600 and 3,200 meters, is also chasing close behind some Crittenden County school records in track and field. On Saturday, he finished the 3,000 meters in 10:09.40, trailing only Daviess County junior Donta Millay, who finished in 9:50.70. In the 1,600 meters (or one mile race), Lucas turned in a time of 5:22. “He had a lot left in the tank,” Crittenden County track and field coach Angela Starnes said of Lucas’ 3,000-meter finish. Only the top runners in western Kentucky were invited to participate in last week’s indoor races.

RACING

Colton Gilland of Marion was recognized last weekend at the TMXA Supercross Motocross award ceremony in Murray. Gilland finished second overall in points in both the 65cc 10-11 age division and in the 85cc junior division of last year’s racing series.



LADY ROCKETS TO STATE



Girls beat Lyon to capture All A Classic region crown

STAFF REPORT
Crittenden County is in Frankfort this week playing in its sixth All A Classic State Tournament. The Lady Rockets (16-3) punched their ticket to the small-school sweet 16 with a 42-37 victory Saturday over Lyon County in the Second Region Class A championship at Hopkinsville. Crittenden got 17 points from Madison Champion who scored the Lady Rockets’ first six points of the fourth period just before Lyon made its final run. Crittenden led by 11 at one point in the second half, but Lyon trimmed it to three with 1:07 to play. Meredith Evans, off the bench for starter Mauri Collins who fouled out with just over three minutes to play, made four key free throws down the stretch to help close out the Lady Lyons – a team Crittenden has struggled to control over the past four years. Crittenden also got other key foul shots down the stretch in the fourth period from Kiana Nesbitt and Cassidy Moss. The Lady Rockets were 11-of-15 at the line in the last quarter. Lyon concentrated its game plan on stopping Moss, Crittenden’s candidate for player of the year in the Second Region. Lady Lyon defensive specialist Terrianna Johnson was assigned to Moss and every time the Lady Rocket stalwart caught the ball, another defender or two collapsed on her, freeing up Champion and the rest of the Lady Rockets. Champion has taken on a pivotal role in the squad’s scoring burden with Moss drawing so much defensive attention through the All A Classic’s three games. In those matchups, the junior has scored 46 points. Crittenden shot well against Lyon, nailing 5-of-10 field goals in the second half. Champion had Crittenden’s only three fielders in the final period as the girls did most of their late scoring at the line. Johnson was a teammate of the Lady Rocket seniors when they were all in middle school. She

BOYS 2ND REGION ALL A CLASSIC

At Various Sites
Tuesday’s Games
Livingston Central 48, Crittenden Co. 41
University Heights 74, Lyon County 60
Caldwell County 81, Ft. Campbell 62
Dawson Springs, bye
SEMIFINALS
University Heights 71, Livingston Central 41
Caldwell Co. 83, Dawson Springs 43
CHAMPIONSHIP
University Heights 87, Caldwell Co. 64

GIRLS 2ND REGION ALL A CLASSIC

OPENING ROUND
University Heights 50, Caldwell Co. 46
Lyon Co 48, Dawson Springs 27
Crittenden County 67, Ft. Campbell 33
Livingston, bye
SEMIFINALS
Lyon County 51, University Heights 33
Crittenden Co. 60, Livingston Central 43
CHAMPIONSHIP
Crittenden Co. 42, Lyon County 37

moved to Eddyville before her freshman year and has become a top-notch defender. She held Moss to no field goals in the game and led Lyon’s offense with 11 points. Moss needs just 30 points to become the Lady Rockets’ all-time career scoring leader. Ironically, that record is held by Johnson’s great-aunt. Crittenden’s defense was stellar in the regional championship bout, forcing Lyon to settle mostly for outside shots. The Lady Lyons are customarily quite accurate from long range, but struggled most of the game. A couple of late three-pointers helped them close the gap. The game became much more physical in the second half. Each team was whistled for just one personal foul before the break, and Lyon committed 14 fouls and Crittenden eight in the last half. Going into last weekend’s game against Lyon County, Crittenden had lost 14 of the last 15 tries against Lady Lyons, including a

ALL A CLASSIC
State Tournament
Frankfort Civic Center - Times are CST
OPENING ROUND
Murray v Danville
Covington Holy Cross v Monroe Co.
Presentation v Trimble Co.
West Carter v Owensboro Catholic
Paintsville v Harlan
Crittenden Co. v Sayre, 5:30pm
Kentucky Country Day v Leslie Co.
Nicholas Co. v Green Co.
QUARTERFINALS
Friday (Crittenden 10:30am)
SEMIFINALS
Saturday (Crittenden 12:30pm)
CHAMPIONSHIP
Sunday, 11am

district matchup in December. The teams are scheduled to play again Monday at Eddyville. Crittenden can tie for the district’s regular season title with a win. Lyon can win it outright with a victory. Following the Lady Rockets’ trip to the All A Classic State Tournament, the girls will come home to play four games over five days against two district foes – Livingston and Lyon – and two other highly competitive teams – Webster and Caldwell. Of course, a couple of those games would have to be rescheduled if Crittenden continues to advance in the All A tournament. In the state tournament, the Lady Rockets faced Sayre (12-4), a private school from Lexington and the 11th Region champion, Wednesday night at Frankfort’s Civic Center. Crittenden County currently has the best win-loss record in the entire Second Region. Crittenden has been to the All A Classic five times previously, the last being in 2011 when the Lady Rockets also won went the KHSAA Sweet 16. Crittenden has never won a first-round game at the All A Classic State Tournament.

All A semifinal win over Livingston
The Lady Rockets used an 18-3 run in the third quarter to leave Livingston Central in the exhaust last Thursday night en route to an All A Classic semifinal victory at Hopkinsville. Crittenden beat Livingston 60-43, led by Champion’s 20 points and 11 rebounds. Livingston’s intensity was strong in the first half and Crittenden foul trouble allowed the Lady Cardinals to keep the game close. It was tied at 23 at the half. The Lady Rockets got six points and four rebounds from Evans in the first quarter after she came off the bench to fill in for Moss, who picked up two quick fouls. Nesbitt and Moss sat for a good part of the first half due to foul problems. Crittenden dominated the sec-



Seniors Amanda Lynch (41), Kiana Nesbitt and Cassidy Moss all fight for a loose ball during Saturday’s regional championship. Pictured above is junior Madison Champion cutting down the nets and (above left) is the team showing off its trophy. Players are (front from left) Nesbitt, Meredith Evans, Moss, Lynch, (back) coach Jessi Sigler, Champion, manager Landry McKinney, Matthia Long, Nahla Woodward, Chandler Moss, Mauri Collins, Shelby Summers and coach Shannon Hodge.

ond half, using defensive rebounds and its transition game to get going early in the third quarter.

Crittenden 42, Lyon 37				
Crittenden County	8	16	26	42
Lyon County	4	11	19	37
CRITTENDEN - Moss 6, Lynch 6, Collins 4, Champion 17, Nesbitt 5, Evans 4. FG 12. 3-pointers 1 (Champion). FT 17-23. Fouls 9.				
LYON - Ellis 2, Johnson 11, White 5, Doom 2, Holloman 8, Murphy 9. FG 14. 3-pointers 4 (Holloman 2, Murphy, White). FT 5-7. Fouls 15.				

Crittenden 60, Livingston 43				
Livingston	8	24	29	43
Crittenden	10	33	43	60
CRITTENDEN - Moss 12, Lynch 4, Collins 8, Champion 20, Nesbitt 8, Evans 6, Woodward, Summers 2, Ch.Moss, Long. FG 28. 3-pointers 0. FT 4-8. Fouls 15.				
LIVINGSTON - Campbell 6, Padon 19, Wring 5, Adams 2, Stanford 7, Wright, Dudley, Talley, A.Campbell, Williams 8. FG 14 3-pointers (Campbell 2, Stafford) FT 12-17. Fouls 9.				

Stephens’ 4Q flurry is not enough for CCHS at Union

STAFF REPORT
The Rockets lost 48-44 in a close one from start to finish at Union County Tuesday night. Senior point guard Bobby Stephens scored 12 of his team-high 19 points in the fourth quarter, but it wasn’t enough as the Rockets lost a fourth straight. The road ahead isn’t going to be any easier. Crittenden (6-14) hosts Livingston Central (11-9) Friday night in a district matchup then travels to Madisonville (11-7) Saturday. The Rockets have fallen to Livingston twice already this season, but only one counts in the Fifth District standings. The Cardinals knocked off CCHS last in the All A Classic. Both

losses to Livingston have been fewer than 10 points. Saturday’s opponent, Madisonville, is one of the best in the region. The Maroons beat Union by 18 last week and is 6-0 against teams that have beaten CCHS this season. Union 48, Crittenden 44
Crittenden County 12 23 32 44
Union County 12 23 33 48
CRITTENDEN - Stephens 19, Tolley 5, Dickerson 6, Belt 12, Boone, Turley, Steele, Towery. FG 15. 3-pointers 7 (Stephens 2, Belt 3, Tolley, Dickerson). FT 7-12. Fouls 19.
UNION - Gaither 7, Greenwell, Duncan 6, Thomas 20, Steward 4, Dunford, Sisk 2, Brantley 2, King 7. FG 18. 3-pointers 2 (Duncan). FT 10-25. Fouls 14.



Sixth grader Taylor Guess (22) is turning heads in youth league basketball. Here she leaves a group of Lyon County defenders behind.

Signee Washington to visit Marshall

Kentucky signee P.J. Washington will be in west-ern Kentucky to play games Feb. 17-18 as part of The Grind Ses-sion at Marshall County High School.

Findlay Prep (Henderson, Nev.) was not originally scheduled to play in Kentucky this year. However, when the offer to play two games in Kentucky came, Findlay Prep coach Paul Washington knew it was too good an oppor-tunity to decline.

"It's pretty rare for a school like Findlay Prep to add games during the season. That should tell you how im-portant Kentucky and BBN is to us. It would not have hap-pened in any other state," Paul Washington, the UK signee's father, said. "It would have been easy to say no, but this is going to be a good event and we are look-ing forward to it. I hope a lot of Kentucky fans get to see P.J. and he plays well and the team plays well."

Findlay played in a tournament in Phoenix that Dan Hudson helped organ-ize as part of The Grind Session. The Findlay coach was im-pressed both by the tourna-ment and Hudson. Hudson gave Paul Washington pos-sible dates to play and when two games were in Ken-tucky, the coach was con-vinced.

"It will give BBN a sneak peek of what is going on," Paul Washington said. "We are really looking forward to it."

The 6-8, 230-pound Ken-tucky signee is a consensus top 20 player nationally and is considered the best power forward in the 2017 recruit-ing class by Scout.com. P.J. Washington played on the 2016 USA team that won a gold medal at the FIBA Americas Under 18 Champi-onship. He started all five

games and averaged 10 points and 4 rebounds per game. Recently he was named a McDon-ald's All-American. Through 21 games, P.J. Wash-ington is averaging 18.5 points, 9.3 re-bounds, 5.4 as-sists, 2.0 blocks and 2.0 steals per game. He's hitting 53 percent overall from the field and 33 percent from 3-point range.

The coach said his son welcomes chances to play in big events like the one in Kentucky that will be in front of UK fans. He

noted that as a sixth-grade player, he played AAU with players two years older.

"He's been overseas to play and played the highest level of AAU," Paul Washing-ton said. "He's played with and against great players."

That includes Duke signee Gary Trent Jr., who has played in two events in Kentucky this season al-ready. He once played against Washington in an AAU fifth-grade na-tional championship and has been a team-mate on Team USA.

"Kentucky fans are going to embrace him with open arms and nothing but love," Trent Jr. said. "Ken-tucky's fan base is crazy. They love the Wildcats. I hope nothing but the best for him and hope he comes to Kentucky and has 100 points and 100 rebounds and puts on a great show to show what he is bringing to Kentucky next year. Every-thing he is bringing is excep-tional. I am happy for him and UK fans are going to love him."

Washington's father said his son has been doing things this season to help him when he gets to Ken-tucky. "He's allowing the game to come to him. He's really get-ting focused on each quar-ter, really looking at film to see what other teams do,"

Paul Washington said. "He is taking on that alpha dog mentality that Cal wants."

Makayla Epps

Kentucky senior Makayla Epps has been in the media spotlight not only at Ken-tucky but during her career at Marion County High School — or earlier.

She's done so many inter-views that I recently asked her if there was a question she wished someone would ask her that has not been asked.

"Yes. Sort of like how is my day going. The easy stuff. I have gone through a lot of interviews and saw one on Twitter when I was 12 and don't even remember it at all," said Epps. "I have been doing this eight or nine years. I think doing inter-views is cool and fun and gives you something to talk about. All interview ques-tions to me are good ques-tions, but I like the fun questions the most."

What about her getting a chance to interview media members?

"I feel like that would be fun and I could come up with some good questions. Some reporters and media try to get a little deeper and get the dirt and grit behind the scenes," she said. "Just to switch the role on them and see how much they would like it would be a lot of fun."

She's also having a lot of fun after UK rebounded from a skid to win four straight games.

Calipari and 'YOLO'

Sometimes John Calipari admits that his daughters are not thrilled when he takes advice from others and uses phrases like "YOLO" or others on Twitter — even when he admits he does not know what the phrase really means. In fact, his daugh-ters tell him it is embarrass-ing.

"My daughter (Erin) was in an article in the New York Post for some of her re-search. I am pretty proud of her. Megan is getting mar-ried this June and told her fiancé you are going to be

going into the family now and he is going to be embar-rassing you like he embar-rasses us," Calipari said.

"Look, life is too short. I like to have fun with what I am doing. Whether it is the podcast or you know – I do not take myself that serious. I know who I am. I know where I came from. I don't try to, 'I am the best ever.' No, that's not what I think of myself. I do what I do and try to do it for the kids.

"You (media mem-bers) all will judge how I am. Twenty years from now they will try to tell me what kind of job I did. Great. Right now I see myself getting older and I really just want to have fun with what I am doing. Guy grabbed me and said, 'I am getting old. I really want to shake your hand.' I said, 'I am getting old, too. We are both getting old.'"

Vitale: Uoofl 'dangerous'

Count ESPN analyst Dick Vitale as one who believes a national championship con-tender has to be a solid de-fensive team. That's why he says Louisville could be "dangerous" at tournament time.

"When you defend, you have a chance to win. That is my concern with Kentucky and North Carolina. Both have to be much more con-sistent defensively because you can't rely on scoring 95 points every game. Perfect example was (Kentucky's loss to) UCLA. Defend and that doesn't happen," Vitale said.

At times it's almost like Kentucky relies on scoring faster and more often than an opponent without focus on defense. Vitale, a former college and NBA coach, un-derstands why players have that philosophy.

"You have got to do both like they did when they had the national title team (in 2012) with Anthony Davis and those kids. They scored and defended," Vitale said. "It's tough because John al-ways has such a young group that dominated so

easy in high school and now you try to blend them to play defense.

"I think you will see a dif-ferent team come February. I think John is a master at getting kids to buy in. What he has done here I don't think people nationally give enough credit. To take kids

out of high school and have them come in and not worry about stats and minutes is mind boggling. They come here knowing we will win our share of games and I am going to go on to the NBA and he sells that in a very positive way, and it works for him."

Another ESPN analyst, Seth Greenberg, thinks rule changes in college basketball now favor the offense and could help an "offensive team" like UK win a champi-onship.

"But there are flaws in Kentucky's defense now," Greenberg said.

He cited UK's win last week at Mississippi State when the Cats had trouble defending the ball screen, a problem that has cropped up often this season.

"They've got to get better at it, but you know, he's starting four freshmen, and John knows what they have to get better at because as opposed to UCLA and maybe even North Carolina, al-though they can score Ken-tucky, they don't have as many shot makers as UCLA and North Carolina," Green-berg said. "So if you don't have as many shot makers you surely need to probably tighten up that ball screen out of the lane a little bet-ter."

Vitale's current pick to win the title: North Carolina. Greenberg's pick today to win the title: UCLA.

Softball/Baseball Fan Day

Kentucky's Softball/Base-ball Fan Day turned out to be a huge success and shows the growing popular-ity of both sports at Ken-tucky.

Softball coach Rachel Lawson thought it was a bit ambitious to hold spots for

200 youngsters for a clinic during the first preseason fan day the two programs have hosted. However, the spots were filled way early. Another 650 indicated online they would attend and an hour before the event started fans of all ages were lined up to meet the players and coaches.

First-year baseball coach Nick Mingione wants to find a way to do more fan-friendly events before UK gets set to move into a new baseball stadium next year.

"If you want people at the games, you have to find ways to engage with them," he said.

Senior pitcher Meagan Prince was glad to have an opportunity to meet the fans because she knows what they have meant to the soft-ball program.

"It can make you win a game. It is a game changer. If we have the fans in the stadium and it is a packed house, when you walk out and have all that support you are like, 'I don't care who I am facing. Nobody is going to beat me today,'" Prince said.

"If you feel like you are struggling and you look up and all these people came to watch Kentucky softball and to watch me, that gives you extra confidence to be like, 'You know what. I can do this and I am here for a rea-son.' These fans mean a lot to our team."

Quote of the Week

Malik Monk is glad he has Bam Adebayo on his team. "Every team is scared of him when they see him I think. Especially when he comes out to defend guards on the perimeter. Bam is a great player and I'm glad to have him on this team. He brings a lot of energy too so we feed off of that, too," Monk said.

(Editor's note: Larry Vaught, a former sports writer at The Advocate-Mes-senger in Danville, Ky., now covers UK sports on VaughtsViews.com blog and his weekly column appears in many newspapers across Kentucky.)



Larry Vaught
UK Sports Columnist

Vaught's Views



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THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2017

PAGES 9-10, 13-16

Poll: Cancer top health concern

KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

Kentucky adults said cancer is the top health concern for both men and women in the Commonwealth, while obesity is the top concern for children, according to the latest Kentucky Health Issues Poll.

The poll, taken Sept. 11 through Oct. 19, found that 25 percent of Kentucky adults said obesity was the most important health issue facing children, followed by problems with health insurance and health care (10 percent), cancer (8 percent) and hunger or malnutrition (6 percent).

"One in four adults said obesity was biggest health issue for Kentucky's children, and they're right," said Ben Chandler, president and CEO of the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, co-sponsor of the poll.

"Unhealthy weights during childhood lead to a myriad of chronic conditions in adult-

hood, including heart disease, diabetes, high blood pressure, and bone and joint problems," Chandler said. "We've made some progress with our youngest children, but Kentucky ranks near the bottom, 40th out of 43 states reporting, for high school student obesity rates."

As for adults' concerns, cancer was followed by heart disease, problems with health insurance or health care, and obesity. Cancer and heart disease are leading causes of death for both men and women in Kentucky; Kentucky's cancer death rate is the nation's highest.

Kentucky leads the nation in obesity rates for both adults and children, ranking fifth for adult obesity and third for high-school obesity, and the numbers keep rising.

The obesity rate among high-school students increased to 18.5 percent in 2015 from 16.5 percent in 2011, and the

Top four health care issues identified as the most important for men, women and children in Kentucky*

	CHILDREN		WOMEN		MEN	
1	Obesity	25%	Cancer	39%	Cancer	21%
2	Problems with health insurance or health care	10%	Heart disease	11%	Heart disease	20%
3	Cancer	8%	Problems with health insurance or health care	10%	Problems with health insurance or health care	12%
4	Hunger/ malnutrition	6%	Obesity	9%	Obesity	10%

* KHIP asked three open-ended questions: "What is the most important health care issue facing men in Kentucky?"; "What is the most important health care issue facing women in Kentucky?"; and "What is the most important health care issue facing children in Kentucky?"

FOUNDATION FOR A HEALTHY KENTUCKY

KHIP asked this question. The concern was voiced by 6 percent in 2016, up from 1 percent in 2010. This lines up with reported increases in food insecurity for children in the state, at 23 percent in 2014, up from 19 percent in 2010, according to the latest data available from the Annie B. Casey Foundation's national Kids Count data center.

Concerns about health insurance and health care have also increased since 2010, with around 10 percent of respondents saying health insurance and health-care problems were an important issue for each population in 2016. In 2010, 4 percent of women and 2 percent of men said they were concerned about health care or health insurance.

The poll was conducted by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati and was funded by the foundation and Interact for Health, formerly the Health Foundation of Greater Cincinnati. It surveyed a random sample of 1,580 Kentucky adults via landlines and cell phones, and each result has an error margin of plus or minus 2.5 percentage points.

Medicaid expansion boosts adult preventive screenings in Kentucky

NEWS RELEASE

The cost of more than 8,500 breast cancer screenings was covered by the state's Medicaid expansion during the second quarter of 2016. This accounted for 87 percent of the breast cancer screenings covered by Medicaid in that quarter. Similarly, Medicaid expansion has enabled more dental, diabetes, Hepatitis C and colorectal cancer screenings for low-income Kentuckians, according to a report released last year by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

"One of the benefits of getting more people insured is that they take advantage of the preventive services that can lead to improved health and lower health care costs in the long run," said Ben Chandler, president and CEO of the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky. "That positive trend is what we're seeing in Kentucky in terms of breast and colorectal cancer screenings, preventive dental services and diabetes and Hepatitis C screenings for Kentuckians with low incomes."

The report also confirmed the continuation of a steady increase in the number of substance abuse treatment services covered by both traditional and expansion Medicaid, from 5,675

services during the first quarter of 2015, to 15,234 services during the second quarter of 2016. More than 56,600 substance abuse treatment services have been covered by Medicaid in those 18 months.

"Substance abuse is one of the most critical health and safety issues facing Kentuckians," Chandler said. "Overdose deaths continue to climb, and addiction exacts a terrible emotional, financial and physical toll on families."

The findings are included in the latest report from an ongoing study of the impact of the Affordable Care Act in Kentucky, commissioned by the Foundation in 2015. According to the study, 8,597 of the breast cancer screenings in the second quarter of 2016 were conducted for patients who qualified for Medicaid under the expanded eligibility enacted by Kentucky in 2013. The other 1,251 screenings were for patients who qualified under traditional Medicaid eligibility. A similar ratio was found in the second quarter of 2015, when Medicaid expansion

covered 88 percent of the 10,191 breast cancer screenings.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, about 123 of every 100,000 Kentucky women develop or die from breast cancer each year.

"Screenings for breast cancer among those living on lower incomes can be particularly important because, statistically,

The Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky opened its doors in 2001. It has invested more than \$26 million in health policy research and pilot project grants across the Commonwealth. Funded by an endowment, the mission of the Foundation is to address the unmet health care needs of Kentuckians by developing and influencing health policy, improving access to care, reducing health risks and disparities, and promoting health equity.

low-income women have a higher risk of not being diagnosed until the later stages of breast cancer," Chandler said. "If doctors can catch the cancer early with regular mammograms so patients can get treatment at the earlier stages, we're talking about saving lives while also reducing long-term costs."

The report also lists the number of other preventive health screenings covered by both traditional and expansion Medicaid during the quarter: colorectal cancer (6,289, of

which 5,555 were Medicaid expansion patients), Hepatitis C (5,820/3,754), diabetes (4,589/3,641) and dental (43,463/32,968).

According to an earlier report from the ongoing study, when surveyed last spring, 28 percent of Kentucky adults younger than 65 and eligible for Medicaid had not seen a dentist in the past five or more years.

"Oral health screenings play a critical role in improving general health outcomes," said Laura Hancock Jones, chair of the Kentucky Oral Health Coalition

and a member of the Foundation's Community Advisory Committee. "Identifying the risk of cavities and addressing the chronic disease process early can help to prevent more costly procedures required when oral disease progresses. In my experience, Medicaid expansion patients first used their plans at the dentist to address dental neglect in hopes of eliminating pain and getting prepared for the workforce. It is very difficult to concentrate in school or at work with a toothache."

Area doctor speaks out about struggles with depression

By DANIELLE RAY
KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

Dr. Jay Pitman knows what it's like to feel isolated. Pitman spoke out about his battle with depression in a recent essay in The Paducah Sun.

"I'm writing a piece about my depression, about things people don't like to talk about," he told Steve Wilson, editor of the newspaper.

"I'm thinking it might help some people," Wilson wrote in his column about Pitman, whose essay was published a week earlier, along with a story about him.

Pitman's depression deepened after he was the victim of a near-fatal hit-and-run accident in 2013. He was found lying unconscious in a pool of blood. He had suffered a concussion, brain hemorrhage and a broken shoulder. His physical recovery was remarkable. In fact, he recovered well enough to compete in a triathlon the next year. But he has had a much longer



Pitman

road to emotional healing. Pitman is not alone in his struggle. The Anxiety and Depression Association of America estimates that about 18 million Americans suffer

from depression, and notes that depression is the leading cause of disability in people aged 15 to 44. The organization distinguishes two categories of depression: major depression and persistent depressive disorder, which is characterized by symptoms that last at least two years.

Pitman's essay garnered a lot of support, but he's more concerned with opening up an honest dialogue about the issue.

"My hope is that those coping with depression will seek help and talk openly about their disease without feeling ashamed or embarrassed," he told Wilson. "I've lost several friends to suicide."

See PITMAN/Page 14

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Research: An estimated 1.1 million people in Kentucky are believed to have pre-diabetes

Study: Daily soft drink ‘batters’ body’s cells

KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

Drinking a can of sugar-sweetened beverage a day increases your risk of developing pre-diabetes by 46 percent, according to a recent study.

The study by the Jean Mayer USDA Human Nutrition Research Center on Aging at Tufts University in Boston said the daily dose of sugar “batters a person’s body on a cellular level,” reports HealthDay.

“This constant spike in blood glucose over time leads to the cells not becoming able to properly respond, and that’s the beginning of insulin resistance,” senior researcher Nicola McKeown told HealthDay. She added that once insulin resistance starts, blood sugar levels rise to levels that are damaging to every major system in the body.

“As many as one in three Kentucky adults, about 1.1 million people, are estimated to have pre-diabetes, but only 8.6 percent, more than 248,000 people, have reported being diagnosed, according to the Kentucky Department for Public Health and the CDC,” Darla Carter of The Courier-Journal reported in an in-depth look at diabetes in Kentucky.

The study, published in the Journal of Nutrition, analyzed 14 years of self-reported data from nearly 1,700 middle-aged adults on their consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and diet sodas. Participants did not have diabetes or pre-dia-



METRO SERVICES
Drinking a can of sugar-sweetened beverage a day increases your risk of developing pre-diabetes by 46 percent, according to a recent study.

betes when they entered the study. The information came from the Framingham Heart Study, a multi-generational study that measures lifestyle and clinical data that contributes to heart disease.

This study found that a can of diet soda every day does not boost pre-diabetes risk, but notes that other studies have found otherwise.

McKeown told HealthDay that results from this study show that cutting back on sugary drinks is “a modifiable dietary factor that could have an impact on that progression from pre-diabetes to diabetes.”

The American Beverage Association, a lobby for soft-drink

manufacturers, countered that sugar-sweetened beverages aren’t the only risk factor for pre-diabetes.

“Credible health organizations such as the Mayo Clinic note that the risk factors for pre-diabetes include factors such as weight, inactivity, race and family history,” the industry group said in a statement to HealthDay.

The study said that pre-diabetes risk did decline when other factors such as other dietary sources of sugar and weight were considered, but not by much – with the increased risk associated with sugary drinks still amounting to about 27 percent.

1 of 7 in Ky. over 44 have worsening memory loss

KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

Worsening memory loss reported by Kentuckians in a survey could be indicative of a future Alzheimer’s or dementia public health crisis, according to a press release from the Alzheimer’s Association.

A first-time survey about memory loss shows that 14.1 percent of Kentuckians aged 45 and older report that they have confusion or memory loss that has become more frequent or gotten worse over the last 12 months. In the 21 states that participated in the study, the average was 12.5 percent.

The survey indicated a gap between need and care. Nearly 61 percent of Kentuckians who reported worsening memory problems said they need assistance, but only 10.3 percent report getting help. And 25 percent of Kentuckians who reported worsening memory loss live alone.

“The data are indicative of a public-health crisis coming to our region,” Teri Shirk, executive director of the Alzheimer’s Association of Greater Kentucky and Southern Indiana, said in the release.

The report was compiled from data gathered for the first time in the Cognitive Decline Module, part of the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, in 2012.

Of those Kentuckians who reported memory loss in the survey, 75 percent of them haven’t talked to their doctor about it. This is a problem, Shirk said in the release.

“Although the data do not indicate the respondents are cognitively impaired, worsening memory problems are often one of the first warning signs of Alzheimer’s or another



METRO SERVICES
The Alzheimer’s Association estimates that 67,000 Kentuckians have the disease and estimates this number will climb to 86,000 by 2025.

dementia,” she said.

The Alzheimer’s Association estimates that 67,000 Kentuckians have the disease and estimates this number will climb to 86,000 by 2025.

Of those Kentuckians who reported memory loss, 47 percent said it had interfered with household activities, work or social activities, compared to 40 percent of respondents across the 21 states.

“More than 80 percent have at least one other chronic condition, and many – especially in Kentucky – report conditions or behaviors that we know correlate with Alzheimer’s,” Shirk said. For example, more than 31 percent of Kentucky survey respondents reporting memory issues are smokers, and more than 61

percent say they are in fair or poor health, according to the survey.

“Dementia is absolutely not a normal part of aging,” said Shirk. “And worsening memory loss or confusion does not necessarily mean you have Alzheimer’s disease. If the issue is caused by medication, head trauma or other factors, it may be reversible. But if you do have Alzheimer’s, finding out early means you may be able to begin medications that tend to be more effective in the early stages, and it also gives you the opportunity to participate in planning for your future with the disease ... where you will live, how your funds will be used and who will care for you as the disease progresses.” about 27 percent.

Medicaid expansion equals more substance abuse treatment in Ky.

By GREG STOTELMYER
KENTUCKY NEWS CONNECTION

For the more than 400,000 Kentuckians covered by Medicaid expansion, treatment services for substance abuse have increased markedly, according to a new report.

The head of the health organization that commissioned the report says while that’s good, the bad news is the state’s heroin and prescription opioid problem continues to grow.

Ben Chandler, president of the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, says he’s pleased that Gov. Matt Bevin’s plans for Medicaid reform retain drug treatment services.

“The governor’s efforts on the

waiver made it very clear that he wasn’t going to skip on the substance-abuse issue, I think because they understand full well just how bad our problem is here in Kentucky with the opioid situation,” Chandler states.

According to the report, since 2014 drug treatment services for those covered by Medicaid expansion have gone up 740 percent.

According to the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy, in 2015 more than half of Kentucky’s counties had overdose death rates of more than 20 people per 100,000. In 2000, just nine counties nationwide had overdose rates that high.

Chandler says treatment

alone does not fix the state’s massive drug problem.

“Treatment is a piece of the problem, just like law enforcement is a piece of the problem,” he points out. “Neither by themselves can fix the problem, but we’re not going to be able to address the opioid problem without treatment.”

The study compared quarterly numbers over a two-and-a-half year period to illustrate the rise of substance abuse services.

In the second quarter of 2016, Kentuckians who obtained health coverage through Medicaid expansion received 11,000 treatment services compared to 1,500 in the first quarter of 2014.

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Samantha is a 2003 graduate of Crittenden County High School and earned her bachelor's of science from Western Governors University in Salt Lake City, Utah. She received her Master's of Science in Nursing from South University, Savannah, Ga. in 2016 and a Master's of Science in Leadership and Nursing Management, from Western Governors University in 2013.

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notice

Notice is hereby given that on January 18, 2017, Gladys Koons Lancaster of 12306 Holyoke Avenue, Tampa, FL 33624 was appointed administratrix of David N. Koons, deceased, whose address was 3615 S.R. 297, Marion, KY 42064. Hon. Rebecca J. Johnson, attorney. All persons having claims

against said estate are hereby notified to present the same properly proven as required by law to the administratrix before the 18th of July, 2017 and all claims not so proven and presented by that date shall be forever barred. All persons indebted to the estate of the above-named decedent, will please call and settle said debts immediately.

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Ky. unemployment steady at 4.8 percent

STAFF REPORT

Kentucky's preliminary unemployment rate was unchanged from November to December 2016 at 4.8 percent, according to the Kentucky Office of Employment and Training (OET).

The preliminary December 2016 jobless rate was 0.9 percentage points lower than the 5.7 percent rate recorded for

the state in December 2015.

The U.S. jobless rate for December 2016 was 4.7 percent, according to the U.S. Department of Labor.

"In December, our labor force increased by 0.6 percent," said Kentucky Labor Market Information Director Kate Shirley Akers, Ph.D. "Over the last year, Kentucky has seen growth in both the

labor force and the number of employed, with the labor force growing by 3.3 percent and employment increasing by 4.3 percent."

Labor force statistics, including the unemployment rate, are based on estimates from the Current Population Survey of households. It is designed to measure trends rather than to count the ac-

tual number of people working. It includes jobs in agriculture and those classified as self-employed.

In December 2016, Kentucky's civilian labor force was 2,016,835, an increase of 11,903 individuals compared to the previous month. Employment was up by 11,715, while the number of unemployed increased by 188.

NOTICE

The 2016 financial statements for Crittenden-Livingston County Water District can be accessed at the District office located at 620 E. Main St. in Salem during regular office hours.

Legal Notice

City of Marion Publication of FY 06-30-16 Audit

Please take notice that in accordance with KRS 91A.040 the City of Marion FY 06-30-16 Audit Report, including financial statements and supplemental information, is on file at City Hall and is available for public inspection during normal business hours. Any citizen may obtain from City Hall a copy of the complete audit report, including financial statements and supplemental information, for his personal use. Citizens requesting a personal copy of the city audit report will be charged for duplication costs at a rate of \$0.25 per page. Copies of the financial statement prepared in accordance with KRS 424.220 are available to the public at no cost at Marion City Hall, 217 S. Main St., Marion, KY 42064.

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Mayor and City Council
City of Marion, Kentucky

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of City of Marion, Kentucky, as of and for the year ended June 30, 2016 and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the City's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the business-type activities, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the City of Marion, Kentucky, as of June 30, 2016, and the respective changes in financial position and cash flows, where applicable, thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management's discussion and analysis and budgetary comparison information on pages 3 through 10, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise the City of Marion, Kentucky's financial statements as a whole. The introductory section, combining and individual fund statements are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

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

The management discussion and analysis and the schedule of insurance have not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on them.

Walker & Associates CPA's PLLC

Walker & Associates CPA'S PLLC
December 14, 2016

CITY OF MARION, KENTUCKY GENERAL FUND REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 (with comparative actual)				
	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues				
Taxes and related revenues	\$ 310,000	\$ 310,000	\$ 293,335	\$ (16,665)
Licenses and fees	808,085	808,085	777,351	(30,734)
Intergovernmental	508,730	508,730	443,988	(64,742)
Fines and forfeits	-	-	692	692
Miscellaneous	53,045	53,045	154,340	101,295
Total Revenues	1,679,860	1,679,860	1,669,706	(10,154)
Expenditures				
General government	341,850	341,850	418,303	(76,453)
Debt Service	-	-	-	-
Public safety	741,290	741,290	693,179	48,111
Public services	97,055	97,055	97,048	7
Parks and lights	80,650	80,650	75,692	4,958
Planning and zoning	63,125	63,125	54,943	8,182
Public assistance and city affiliations	43,880	43,880	43,689	191
Tourism commission	220,030	220,030	234,269	(14,239)
Capital assets	80,000	80,000	112,529	(32,529)
Total Expenditures	1,667,880	1,667,880	1,729,652	(61,772)
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	11,980	11,980	(59,946)	(71,926)
Other Financing Sources				
Transfers In	-	-	-	-
General Fund investments	-	-	-	-
Transfers Out	-	-	(24,000)	(24,000)
Water systems	-	-	(24,000)	(24,000)
Total Other Financing Sources	-	-	(24,000)	(24,000)
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Other Financing Sources Over Expenditures and Other Financing Uses	\$ 11,980	\$ 11,980	\$ (83,946)	\$ (95,926)

CITY OF MARION, KENTUCKY WATER FUND REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 (with comparative actual)				
	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues				
Charges for services	\$ 666,225	\$ 666,225	\$ 626,067	\$ (40,158)
Other financial sources	66,150	66,150	36,139	(30,011)
Total Revenues	732,375	732,375	662,206	(70,169)
Expenditures				
General and administrative	111,075	112,025	154,033	(42,008)
Water plant	331,475	331,475	329,027	2,448
Maintenance	251,335	251,740	130,490	121,250
Other expenses	30,245	30,245	147,415	(117,170)
Total Expenditures	724,130	725,485	760,965	(35,480)
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	8,245	6,890	(98,759)	(105,649)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Grant revenue	-	-	-	-
Transfers In (Out)	-	-	(3,200)	3,200
General Fund	-	-	-	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	-	-	(3,200)	-
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Other Financing Sources Over Expenditures and Other Financing Uses	\$ 8,245	\$ 6,890	\$ (101,959)	\$ (105,649)

CITY OF MARION, KENTUCKY SEWER FUND REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION SCHEDULE OF REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES - BUDGET AND ACTUAL FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2016 (with comparative actual)				
	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance Favorable (Unfavorable)
Revenues				
Charges for services	\$ 499,670	\$ 499,670	\$ 434,158	\$ (65,512)
Other financial sources	30,525	30,525	5,902	(24,623)
Total Revenues	530,195	530,195	440,060	(90,135)
Expenditures				
General and administrative	65,155	65,155	68,823	(3,668)
Sewer plant	244,175	245,895	249,884	(3,989)
Maintenance	144,510	145,085	123,831	21,254
Other expenses	69,160	69,160	126,571	(57,411)
Total Expenditures	523,000	525,295	569,109	(43,814)
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues Over Expenditures	7,195	4,900	(129,049)	(133,949)
Other Financing Sources (Uses)				
Grant proceeds	-	-	-	-
Transfers In (Out)	-	-	27,200	(27,200)
General Fund	-	-	-	-
Total Other Financing Sources (Uses)	-	-	27,200	(27,200)
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenues and Other Financing Sources Over Expenditures and Other Financing Uses	\$ 7,195	\$ 4,900	\$ (101,849)	\$ (161,149)

See Independent Auditor Report

Medicare Part D prescriptions soaring

By CHARLES ORNSTEIN and RYANN GROCHOWSKI JONES
PROPUBLICA

The number of doctors who each prescribe millions of dollars of medications annually in Medicare's drug program has soared, driven by expensive hepatitis C treatments and rising drug prices overall, federal data obtained by ProPublica shows.

The number of providers who topped the \$5 million mark for prescriptions increased more than tenfold, from 41 in 2011 to 514 in 2015. The number of prescribers—mostly physicians but also nurse practitioners—exceeding \$10 million in drug costs jumped from two to 70 over the same time period, according to the data.

Most of the doctors atop the spending list prescribed Harvoni or Sovaldi, relatively new drugs that cure hepatitis C. Other providers on the list prescribed pricey drugs to treat cancer, multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis.

Medicare's drug program, known as Part D, covers more than 41 million seniors and disabled people. In 2015, it accounted for \$137.4 billion in drug spending, before factoring in rebates from drug companies. That was up from \$121.5 billion a year earlier.

"The trends in this space are troubling and don't show any signs of abating," said Tim Gronniger, deputy chief of staff at the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the federal agency that runs Medicare. "It's going to be a pressure point for patients and the program for the foreseeable future."

During the recent presidential campaign, both Hillary Clinton and Donald Trump pledged to tackle the rising costs of prescription drugs. Since his election, however, President-elect Trump's transition agenda for health care hasn't featured the topic, a shift the Los Angeles Times reported.

Medicare has released top-level data on drug spending for 2015, including the number of doctors who prescribed medications worth more than \$1 million. But the agency has only published data on individual doctors up to 2014.

Dr. Ben Thrower, medical director of the Multiple Sclerosis Institute at the Shepherd Center in Atlanta, was near the top of the list in 2014. He prescribed medications costing \$11.5 million that year, mostly for multiple sclerosis drugs. "We get that it's very expensive," Thrower said. "I think all the MS providers working in the U.S. would like to see the costs go down." But prices have climbed steadily in recent years for drugs used to treat the neurological

condition, even those that have been on the market for quite a while.

Most of the spending on Thrower's prescriptions – \$8.5 million – was for MS drugs Tecfidera and Copaxone, which can slow progression of MS and reduce the chance of relapse. Thrower has received payments from the makers of those and other MS drugs, but said he cut ties with the companies in January of this year.

"It was kind of exciting when the first one came out," Thrower said. "The problem we've seen is the cost for these drugs has just gone up and up and up."

Thrower said he no longer prescribes Tecfidera to new patients because it can lower white blood cell counts, putting them at risk for infections.

Just because a doctor prescribes costly drugs doesn't mean he or she has done anything wrong, Gronniger said. "It's much more about drug pricing ... than it is about the behavior of any individual physician, many of whom are equally concerned about the price of these products as we are."

Today, ProPublica is updating its Prescriber Checkup online tool, which allows you to look up your doctor and see how his or her prescribing in Medicare Part D compares to others in the same specialty and state. Our tool covers the year 2014. You can compare the percentage of each doctor's prescriptions that were for brand-name medications, the average cost per prescription and the average number of prescriptions per patient, among other things.

Allyson Funk, a spokeswoman for the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, the industry trade group, said Medicare's figures leave out important context.

"It is important to note physicians' prescribing patterns are dynamic and based on individual patient needs," she said in a statement. "When looking at Medicare Part D, government data on spending at the point of sale does not include the substantial rebates for brand name medicines negotiated between manufacturers and plans and therefore does not accurately reflect actual prescribing dollars or program spending."

These rebates are confidential by law, but Medicare said this week that the average rebate for brand-name drugs in 2014 was 17.5 percent.

The new data on high-spending prescribers is the latest indication of the burden of drug prices on government health programs.

In the past couple of years,

Prescriber Checkup

The Doctors and Drugs in Medicare Part D

Medicare's popular prescription-drug program serves 41 million people and pays for more than 25 percent of prescriptions written nationwide. Below are area doctors who wrote 50 or more prescriptions for at least one drug in Medicare Part D in 2014, according to a ProPublica database.

PREScriBER	CLAIMS FILED	TOTAL COST	PART D PATIENTS
GARY JAMES, MD	17,877	\$893,000	575
Family Medicine, Marion			
GHASSAN YAZIGI, MD	16,054	\$648,000	632
Internal Medicine, Salem			
HOWARD MADDUX, MD	15,341	\$804,000	579
Family Medicine, Marion			
SCOTT GRAHAM, MD	13,518	\$641,000	381
Family Medicine, Fredonia			
JONATHAN MADDUX, MD	9,577	\$476,000	579
Family Medicine, Marion			
TERRY BOONE, PAC	7,025	\$298,000	351
Physician Assistant, Salem			
STEPHEN BURKHART, MD	6,683	\$347,000	189
Geriatric Medicine, Salem			
WILLIAM BARNES, MD	6,673	\$294,000	408
General Practice, Salem			
JOSEPH DRAWDY, APRN	4,691	\$225,000	178
Nurse Practitioner, Salem			
ALICIA CLARK, APRN	3,584	\$214,000	271
Nurse Practitioner, Marion			
ANTHONY STARKEY MD/DC	2,716	\$103,000	97
Family Medicine, Marion			
LEE BOONE APRN	1,301	\$52,300	194
Nurse Practitioner, Marion			
DEBORAH DUTTON, ARNP	1,227	\$43,100	137
Nurse Practitioner, Salem			
JAMES BERGIN, MD	427	\$32,000	211
Surgery, Salem			
ROBERT WILKINSON, APRN	360	\$5,448	203
Nurse Practitioner, Salem			
DEMETRIUS PATTON, MD	316	\$7,868	88
Surgery, Salem			
ADRIA PORTER, OD	184	\$15,200	52
Optometrist, Marion			

Online database: projects.propublica.org/checkup

About This Data: Prescribing data from Medicare's prescription drug benefit, known as Part D, was compiled and released by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the federal agency that oversees the program. The data for 2014 includes more than 1.4 billion prescriptions written by more than 1.3 million doctors, nurses and other providers. This database lists about 428,000 of those providers who wrote 50 or more prescriptions for at least one drug that year. Almost three-fourths of these prescriptions went to patients 65 and older; the rest were for disabled patients.

What's Not Here: Medications provided at an office visit or hospital aren't included because they are covered by other parts of Medicare. Prescriptions also are not included for Medicare enrollees covered through employers, the Veterans Health Administration or some retiree health plans.

APRN=Advanced Practice Registered Nurse; DC=Doctor of Chiropractic; MD=Doctor of Medicine; OD=Doctor of Optometry; PAC=Physician Assistant-Certified.

Medicare's drug tab has surged, in large part because it picks up the vast majority of the cost of drugs once enrollees exceed a certain threshold each year. In 2015, beneficiaries over the limit, which was \$4,700, spent \$51.3 billion on drugs. In 2013, the figure was \$27.7 billion, government data shows. (Taxpayers, through Medicare, pick up 80 percent of the cost of this so-called catastrophic benefit.) The Associated Press first reported the ballooning cost in July.

Another sign could be seen in a drug

dashboard released by Medicare this week. It showed that 1 percent of drugs prescribed in the Part D program accounted for more than one-third of the program's cost in 2015 (before rebates). Some drugs were incredibly expensive. The drug H.P. Acthar Gel, used to treat several conditions, such as multiple sclerosis relapses and a rare kidney disease, cost an average of \$162,371 for each of its 3,104 users—a higher per-user cost than any other drug in the program. That's up significantly from several years ago, when ProPublica flagged the drug's expense.

Harvoni, used by more than 75,000 people, cost an average of \$92,847 per person, for a total cost of \$7 billion (also before any rebates).

Michael Chernew, a professor of health care policy and director of the Healthcare Markets and Regulation Lab at Harvard Medical School, said the number of high-dollar prescribers in Medicare doesn't surprise him. Given the increased cost of prescription drugs and the latest treatment advances, "the entire distribution is shifting to the right."

Chernew said that, in the long term, Medicare and insurance companies have to examine the total cost of caring for patients with certain diseases, taking into account drugs, hospital visits, medical tests and more. Only then can anyone tell if certain expenses, such as a pricey new drug, are justified.

For now, he said, "How do we know what's good or bad?"

Physicians say their top priority must be the patients in front of them, not the costs to the system.

Dr. Bruce Bacon, a liver specialist at St. Louis University, had the highest total Part D drug costs in 2014, \$22.7 million. He was a frequent prescriber of Sovaldi and Olysio, another expensive hepatitis C medication.

Bacon did not return a call for comment for this story. In a 2015 interview, he said he did not realize his prescriptions were so costly to Medicare.

"I really don't think about the cost," he said. "I think about taking care of the patients. Should I not take care of the patients because the cost is expensive?"

Thrower, the multiple sclerosis specialist, said the high cost of drugs frustrates him and his colleagues, but ultimately the successful treatment of patients comes first.

"On one hand, we get that," he said. "On the other hand, when you're sitting in the exam room and looking someone in the eye, you can't say, 'I'm not going to treat you because of the cost.'"

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Tuesday last chance at fed insurance exchange

By MELISSA PATRICK
KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

Tuesday is the deadline for Kentuckians who did not have health insurance through kynect last year to sign up for health insurance through the federal exchange, now being used for enrollment instead of kynect. If you do not have health insurance, you face a steep penalty when it comes time to file your tax returns.

Kentuckians who had a health insurance plan through kynect in 2016, with coverage ending Dec. 31, have been granted an extension and can sign up on HealthCare.gov until March 1, with coverage beginning April 1. In order to qualify for the extension, applicants must check the "loss of qualifying coverage" box on the HealthCare.gov application, and provide the last date of coverage.

This is the first year Kentuckians have signed up for health insurance on the federal exchange. Gov. Matt Bevin largely dismantled kynect prior to the 2017 enrollment period, calling it redundant, but it still has a website that can be used to find insurance agents or application assisters, formerly called kynectors.

The Cabinet for Health and Family Services told Kentucky Health News in October that application assisters were available in every county to help people sign up for coverage.

You can find an assister in your area by clicking on the "kynectors/Application Assisters" tab on the kynect site or calling kynect's call center at (855) 459-6328, which is also available to help you sign up for coverage. The HealthCare.gov customer service call center at



METRO SERVICES

Tuesday is the deadline for Kentuckians who did not have health insurance through kynect last year to sign up through the federal exchange HealthCare.gov. For 2017, the penalty for not having health insurance is as much as \$2,085 per household.

(800) 318-2596 can also help and is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, requires most people to have health insurance, or pay a penalty. For 2017, the penalty for not having health insurance is 2.5 percent of your income or \$695 per adult and \$347.50 per child, with a maximum of \$2,085 per household, whichever is higher.

There are a few exemptions, including: certain hardships, membership in some groups, some life-changing events, incarceration, if health coverage is considered unaffordable, or if household income is below the threshold for filing a tax return, according to HealthCare.gov.

If you miss the deadlines, the only way to buy health insurance on the federal exchange is if you have a major life event,

like marriage or a change of employment. Those who qualify for Medicaid can apply year round.

Kentucky had 70,542 people sign up for individual health plans on the federal exchange during the regular 2017 open enrollment period, which ran Nov. 1 through Dec. 31, according to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services.

Last year at the same time, 68,319 Kentuckians had signed up for private plans through kynect. Overall, around 82,000 people were enrolled in private plans in Kentucky last year, according to the Cabinet for Health and Family Services.

A separate CMS report said that between Nov. 1 and Christmas, 78 percent of the 67,915 Kentuckians who had signed up for coverage on the federal exchange received a tax credit to help pay for their policy, and the average credit was \$275.

PITMAN

Continued from Page 1B

Despite its prevalence, only about 20 percent of people with depression symptoms seek professional help, according to the online health network Healthline.

Tiffany Bryant, a Lexington counselor who specializes in treating depression, said many people don't seek help or speak out about depression because of a lingering stigma surrounding mental illness. She believes popular culture has created an environment that discourages people from representing themselves honestly, flaws and struggles and all.

"I think you can blame, to a certain extent, social media, because everybody wants to show their very best," she said. "A lot of people have this mask that they wear for other people, and they never really take it off."

Even with a fairly low rate of patients seeking treatment, Healthline estimates that the number of patients diagnosed with depression increases by about 20 percent each year.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends early treatment. If not effectively treated, depression can become a chronic disease. Experiencing just one episode of depression places a person at a 50 percent risk for experiencing another episode in the future, according to the CDC.

While it can affect anyone at



METRO SERVICES

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommends early treatment for depression. If not effectively treated, it can become a chronic disease.

any time, women typically experience higher rates of depression than men. The CDC also noted that nearly 10 percent of people in their 40s and 50s report current depression. The good news is that 60-80 percent of all depression cases can be treated with either psychotherapy ("talk therapy"), antidepressant medication or a combination of both, says Healthline.

The American Psychiatric Association defines depression as a condition with any five of these seven symptoms for a continuous period of at least two weeks:

- Sadness.
- Loss of interest in activities that used to be enjoyable.

- Change in weight or appetite, change in activity level.
- Sleeping too much or too little.
- Loss of energy.
- Feelings of guilt or worthlessness.
- Difficulty concentrating or having thoughts of death or suicide.

Depression has a variety of causes, including genetic, environmental, psychological, and biochemical factors. The CDC notes that everyone gets "down in the dumps" at times, but it becomes pathological when symptoms are persistent and interrupt daily life. To learn more about it, from the National Institute of Mental Health, visit <https://goo.gl/e2ynmC>.

Stay Active and Screen

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Crittenden County physical education teacher and coach Angela Starnes knows first hand the significance of a healthy lifestyle and early screening for breast cancer and other health issues. A mammogram caught her cancer early and she took appropriate measures for a full recovery. Coach Starnes encourages an active and healthy lifestyle including regular exercise and good diet.

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At 39 percent, Kentucky ranks sixth in the number of people diagnosed with hypertension

Obese children should be tested for fatty liver

KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

Obese children from 9 to 11 should be screened for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease, according to new guidelines endorsed by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Fatty liver disease is not a single disease process, but a range of conditions. It affects up to 38 percent of obese children and adolescents, and is commonly associated with other obesity-related conditions such as diabetes and sleep apnea, says a news release from the North American Society for Pediatric Gastroenterology, Hepatology and Nutrition.

"It has rapidly evolved into the most common liver disease seen in the pediatric population and is a management challenge for general pediatric practitioners, subspecialists and for health systems," experts said in a articlein the Journal of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition.

Children with fatty liver disease often have no symptoms. The article's authors write that early screening is important because it can detect the condition



METRO SERVICES

Fatty liver disease is not a single disease process, but a range of conditions. It affects up to 38 percent of obese children and adolescents.

before "the onset of irreversible, end-stage liver disease."

Almost 20 percent of Kentucky's children 10 to 17 are considered obese, the eighth highest rate in the nation, according to the State of Obesity report. The state ranks third for obese high-school-aged children, also at nearly 20 percent.

Screening requires a blood test; if it comes back positive,

the child will need to undergo additional tests to determine if fat deposits are present in the liver and to rule out other conditions.

Treatment of fatty liver disease improves the child's diet, avoiding sugar-sweetened beverages and increasing physical activity. No medicines are available to treat the disease.

Study: Salty foods should be considered treat, like dessert

KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

A person's desire for salty foods may be determined by their genes, and that could spell trouble for their heart, according to a recent study at the University of Kentucky.

The College of Nursing study found that individuals with a certain "taste perception genotype" were more likely to eat more than the recommended amount of daily sodium than people without the genotype, says a UK news release.

This matters because too much salt in your bloodstream can cause high blood pressure, or hypertension, one of the major risk factors for heart disease. And heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States, killing about 610,000 Americans a year, or one in every four deaths, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Kentucky leads the nation in both heart disease and hypertension rates. Its death rate from heart disease is 394 per 100,000 people; the national rate is 328.

Kentucky ranks sixth in the number of people diagnosed with hypertension, at 39 percent, according to the State of Obesity report. The report also projects that about 1.3 million Kentuckians will be diagnosed with heart disease by 2030.

The release notes that the study paves the way toward future prevention opportunities, and that future research will help develop targeted approaches to reduce salt intake by people who are genetically predisposed to salty foods.

The American Heart Association recommends that most people eat no more than 2,300 milligrams of sodium per day (that's one teaspoon of salt) and ideally no more than 1,500 mg. The AHA says about 77 percent of a person's salt intake comes from prepared, packaged and restaurant foods.

Six popular foods to pay attention to if you are watching your salt intake because they can add high levels of salt to your diet, including cold cuts and cured meats, pizza, soup,

bread and rolls, chicken and burritos and tacos.

The UK release also offers some tips on how to reduce your sodium intake:

- Keep a journal of your salt intake.
- Cook with minimal amounts of added salt, using herbs and spices instead.
- Read food labels.
- Opt for home-cooked meals so that you can control salt amounts.
- Consider salty foods a treat, much like you would consider sugary treats.

The AHA adds, "One estimate suggested that if the U.S. population moved to an average intake of 1,500 mg/day sodium from its current level, it could result in a 25.6 percent overall decrease in blood pressure and an estimated \$26.2 billion in health care savings. Another estimate projected that achieving this goal would reduce deaths from cardiovascular disease by anywhere from 500,000 to nearly 1.2 million over the next 10 years."

Oral health impacts overall health

METRO SERVICES

A healthy mouth is good for more than just a pretty smile. Oral health can affect the entire body, making dental care more than just a cosmetic concern.

Many people know that poor oral hygiene can lead to gum disease, tooth decay and even lost teeth. But are you aware that failing to brush or visit the dentist regularly also can lead to more serious health issues? According to Colgate, recent research suggests that there may be an association between oral infections and cardiovascular disease and preterm birth.

Your mouth also can serve as an infection source elsewhere in the body. Bacteria from your mouth can enter the bloodstream through infection sites in the gums. If your immune sys-

tem is compromised, these bacteria can flow to other areas of the body where they can cause infection. An example of this is oral bacteria sticking to the lining of diseased heart valves.

Other links have been found between oral health and overall health. In 2010, researchers from New York University who reviewed 20 years of data on the association concluded that there is a link between gum inflammation and Alzheimer's disease. Harvard researchers found that men with a history of gum disease had a 64 percent increased risk of pancreatic cancer compared with men who had never had gum disease, based on studies of men from 1986 to 2007.

While oral health issues may lead to other conditions over

time, symptoms also may be indicative of underlying conditions of which a person is unaware. Inflammation of gum tissue may be a warning sign of diabetes. Oral problems, such as lesions in the mouth, may indicate the presence of HIV/AIDS. Dentists may be the first people to diagnose illnesses patients don't even know they have.

An important step in maintaining good overall health is to include dental care in your list of preventative measures. Visit the dentist for biannual cleanings or as determined by the doctor. Do not ignore any abnormalities in the mouth. Maintain good oral hygiene at home by brushing twice a day and flossing at least once per day. Mouthwashes and rinses also may help keep teeth and gums healthy.

Rural vets less likely to seek mental health care

KENTUCKY HEALTH NEWS

Rural veterans are less likely than their urban counterparts to receive treatment for mental health conditions, says a study by the federal Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, published in The Journal of Rural Health. About 5.3 million veterans—24 percent of all veterans—live in rural areas, according to Office of Rural Health of the Veterans Health Administration.

The survey, which used data from SAMSHA's 2012-14 National Survey on Drug Use and Health, found that veterans in rural areas were 36 percent less likely than urban veterans to receive any mental health treatment, 33 percent less likely to receive outpatient treatment and 44 percent less likely to be prescribed medications.

Researchers analyzed the past 12 months for five factors:

If patients stayed overnight in a hospital; received outpatient mental health treatment; received psychotropic medication; received any mental health treatment; and whether in the past 12 months they perceived an unmet need for mental health treatment/counseling that was not received. For the last variable respondents were asked, "During the past 12 months, was there any time when you needed mental health treatment or counseling for yourself but didn't get it?"

Overall, 29 percent of rural respondents said they received any mental health treatment in the past 12 months, compared to 45 percent of urban ones. At the same time, 25 percent of rural respondents said they were prescribed medication, compared to 45 percent of urban veterans and 20 percent of rural veterans received outpatient treatment, compared to 33 percent of rural veterans.

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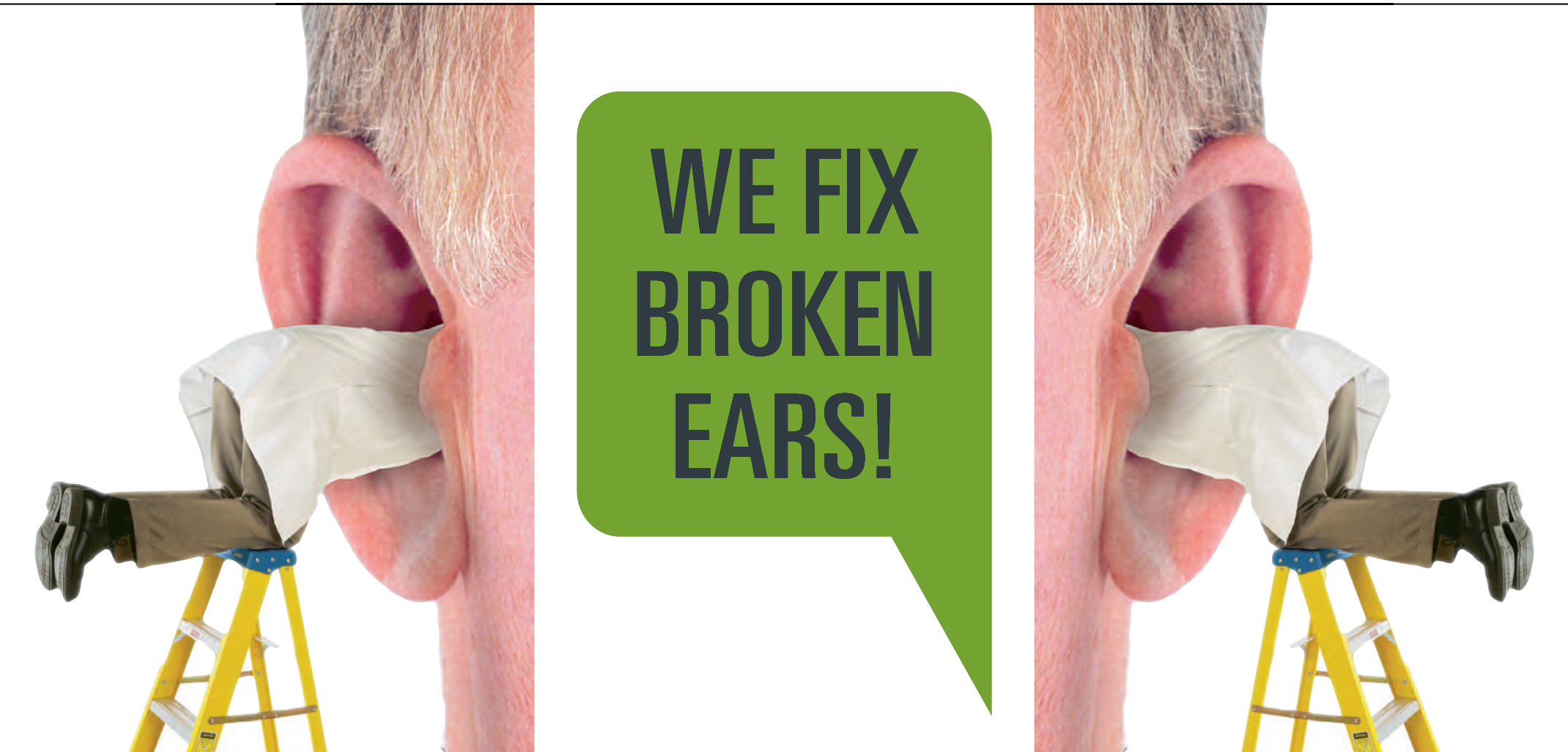
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